



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Words to the Wise

November | 2023

Pastor's Pen...

November is a month of reflection, looking back and taking stock. It is also a month of looking forward. Looking forward to the birth of Christ. Looking forward to a New Year filled with hope and promise.

Thanksgiving, of course, is the most well-known holiday this month, but it is not the only one. As I describe more fully below, we will begin the month with All Saints Sunday. The following week (on Veteran's Day weekend), we will hold our annual Charge Conference meeting. Then, we will work on collecting and distributing Thanksgiving baskets to families in our community and celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday. Finally, at the end of the month, we will prepare for the coming of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

All Saints Sunday is a chance for us to remember that when we worship or celebrate communion, we do not do it alone. We are surrounded by all the saints who have gone on before us. In the mystery of worship and sacrament, we intermingle with the divine. On All Saints Sunday, we specifically lift up those in our congregation who are now absent from our midst yet fully present with the Lord. We will light candles on our altar and remember them in our hearts.

Our annual Charge Conference will be Sunday, November 12th at 2pm. It will be online and we will celebrate along with all of the other United Methodist churches of the South District. It will be on Zoom, so you can attend from the comfort of your home computer or smartphone. At this important meeting, we will vote for our new leadership team for 2024, and we will vote on budget items for next year as well. The Charge Conference is an opportunity to look back over

the past year and celebrate all that we have accomplished and at the same time plan for the future.

We are once again planning to have Thanksgiving Food baskets (see article in this newsletter). We are currently looking for families who are in need and would benefit from receiving one of these baskets. We are also looking for individuals and families who would be willing to sponsor one or more of these baskets. This is a great opportunity to reflect on all of the blessings we have received this year, and take a moment to remember and help those who are in need.

Thanksgiving for some is a large turkey meal at a large table surrounded by family and friends. For others, it is a day of football and movies. For others, it is a day of remembering those who are no longer around the table. For me, it is a day of remembering and counting my blessings. It is a day of taking stock of the year and remembering all of the small and large ways that God has worked in my life. Even in years with not much to celebrate, I strive to remember that God is there, too, in the valleys as well as on the mountain tops.

November is a month of reflection, but it is also a month of hope. We find hope as we look toward the coming of Christmas and the New Year, and we find

hope in sharing our blessings with others right here and now. Take time all month to reflect on the blessings in your own life, and look for ways to share God's love in everything you do.

Blessings, **Pastor John**



Bible Study



Pastor John will be leading a Bible study Friday mornings at 10:00am. They will meet in room 2.

Everyone is welcome to join the Bible study, even if you can't come every week.



Beyond the Walls Ministry

Pastor John and I are continuing to visit the members of the church who can no longer attend our services. If you know of someone who would like a visit, please contact us.



Kathy Waterman - 812-256-5298



Young at Heart

Young-At-Heart Pitch-In Luncheon

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

SUMC Fellowship Hall

Fried chicken and ham BINGO for fun and prizes

For more information contact

Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)

Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)



United Women in Faith

**Sellersburg United Women in Faith
World Thank Offering meeting will be Sunday,
November 12 at 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall.**

We will remember some of the ministries around the world that are supported through your gifts to the World Thank Offering. We offer gratitude for God's blessings in our own lives as we work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth through United Women in Faith.

You are invited to come join us in this time of business and fellowship of UWF!

For more information please contact **Phyllis Hunefeld** at 502-693-3696 or phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com.





This year's BBQ Dinner event was great and my 1st one both attending or being involved. A big thank you to everyone who donated their time, skills, and ideas, or purchased items from the bake sale or dinner. People raved about the potato salad and baked beans, not to mention all the bake sale items to choose from. Our entire bake sale was organized and managed by Jan and was amazing. The skit written by Janet and Allison was a great way to kick off the week.

Phyllis and Willie handed over the planning event after a decade, so there was a lot to learn. We had new faces participating in every aspect due to former members leaving. A few changes from previous years included different recipes, configuration and set-up, reduced quantities to limit cost, implemented an additional payment system and the overall event name.

- Delivered dinners to our shut-in members or others who could not attend.
- Fed the Sellersburg Police and dispatch on the Friday evening shift.



- Donated a lot of chocolate chip cookies to the Children's place.
- Supplied several pans of dinner sides, coleslaw, and baked beans to
- The event made over \$3,000 after expenses.

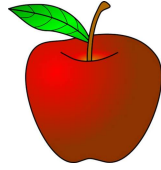
Most importantly, it allowed the congregation to interact by eating and working together. This was especially important with the new members or older members who were not able to in the past. Personally, I was able to connect and learn about other members more than just attending Sunday service with them. Pastor John had said to me, "Remember, it's nice to make a profit, but there are more important things. Like connecting the congregation and participation along with the community."

Next year's event we will begin planning mid-April. Anyone who would like to join the planning, or just wants to attend to listen in, or share ideas, please come out to the initial meeting. I hope to have others help with more of the planning now that I know what is needed. Please come out and join the fun.

John Scannapieco Jr.



SELLERSBURG UNITED
WOMEN OF FAITH



APPLE DUMPLINGS



Yes Pastor John, apple dumplings are baked!
The Apple Dumpling Gang made 88 dumplings and sold them all! The profit was \$472.14 for missions. Many of the members who could not help on Saturday did their part by donating money to pay for the apples and ingredients. But we had to have buyers, and the church came through for us. Thanks to all who helped make this Sellersburg United Women in Faith fundraiser a success!



Pastor Staff Parish Relations Report

The United Methodist Church Celebrates Pastors in October

Traditionally, the SUMC congregation has recognized our pastors in October each year for their service and dedication. Pastor Appreciation Month gives us an opportunity to say a special word of thanks with a card, a text or a phone call. Across Indiana and around the world, we celebrate and lift up our pastors each year.

Rev. John Demaree assumed his appointment in July this year and we are pleased to celebrate him by affirming his work and ministry with us and among us. The dedication with which he serves his congregation at SUMC is a blessing to all who have learned from him, been comforted by him and lead on paths of righteousness in only a few short months of worship times.

The congregation and Pastor John have experienced many changes in only a few months. It's not always easy to follow a popular pastor or to take on a number of staff changes in a short amount of time. Moving his family across the country was challenging and then having his parents in need of additional care and hospitalizations have also added stress. We celebrate the skills Pastor John brings with over 30 Years of ministry behind him and prayerfully many more years added to his lengthy resume' of work and accomplishments. His calm assessment of various situations is a great example of allowing God to work in his life. Pastor John acts with measured insight and confidence as he has navigated the uncharted waters since arriving. We thank God for his perfect timing by sending a wonderful leader and pastor.

As a mentor and spiritual leader he is open and willing to meeting with members of his congregation to offer guidance and support. As our friend, he has supported and participated in the activities of the

various ministries of SUMC such as the BBQ Dinner in September and the August River Ridge Cluster Picnic. We celebrate that our children are drawn to Pastor John's loving demeanor and clever stories when they are in attendance at worship.

We appreciate and honor Rev. John Demaree, not only in October, but throughout the year as he leads us closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

With grace and peace,

Janet Werle, PSPR Chair



SUMC Prayer Chain

If you'd like to be a part of our prayer chain, you can join by sending the message "@sumcprayer" to the number "81010" in a text using your phone. If you'd like to sign up for emails, then you can send an email to sellersburgumc@gmail.com and let us know so we can get you signed up.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturdays at 9am in Fellowship Hall

Join us for prayer, praise, food, and fellowship.
All are welcome here.



Music Ministry

"When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home what joy will fill my heart." reads the opening line of the final verse of the hymn *How Great Thou Art*. Written originally in Swedish by Carl Boberg and later popularized in English by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows, the hymn is primarily a poetic honoring of God's Creation. In its original form the lyrics are inspired by and take their imagery from a short summer thunderstorm and the fullness of the wonder of God's works that are found within that event.

The last verse of the most popular English version holds a particular meaning to us in this time so near to the celebration of departed saints. How great our God really is that he neither died the death of a sinner, nor that he lived deathlessly as some pagan entity. Our God descended to death and conquered it to rise again through Christ Jesus and guarantee eternal life to all those who'd follow him. If the soul would not sing "how great Thou art!" with that news it may not ever sing.

You can reach me at 502-741-3965 or at collindaily41@gmail.com.



Feel free to approach me after service as well.

The Weather is changing...

Please make sure your events are on the church calendar. This is the resource Darryl uses to make sure heat is on at those times. If your event is not on the church calendar, please contact Tony in the church office at sellersburgumc@gmail.com.

ANGEL TREE



Once again, the Missions Committee will be supporting

The Salvation Army in its effort to help the underprivileged children in our community have a happier Christmas. We have 40 angels who need to be adopted. The Angels will be available by Sunday, November 5th, so that you will have plenty of time to choose your Angel and do the shopping involved. The gifts need to be turned in by Sunday, December 3rd. The Salvation Army requests that you do NOT wrap the presents this year. Please make sure that there is at least one complete outfit. The children's parents will be able to pick appropriate toys for their children prior to the party where they will receive their gifts.

Thank you so much for your willingness to help a needy child have a Merry Christmas. As Jesus said "what you do for others, you do for me".

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

This year, we will continue the church's tradition of providing Thanksgiving food baskets to Sellersburg families in need. There are five ways you can help us with this outreach project.

1 - We are still looking for more families to help. If you know of a family who could use a Thanksgiving food basket, please let Pastor John (john.demare@inumc.org) or Tony (sellersburgumc@gmail.com) know. You can also call the church office to talk to Tony or leave a message for either of them.

2 - We will also be collecting food for the baskets. You can buy any of the needed items at the store and bring them to the designated bin in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning. If you plan to donate items, please have a look at what has been donated already to see what is still needed. The following items are needed for the baskets:

- Canned ham or cooked ham
- Canned green beans
- Can french onion soup
- Crispy onion toppers
- Canned yams
- Instant potatoes
- Bag of marshmallows
- Canned corn
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Corn bread mix
- Box stuffing mix
- Canned or packet of gravy
- Boxed macaroni and cheese
- Cake or cookie mix
- Tea or lemonade mix
- Hot chocolate or coffee

3 - You can also decide to fill an entire basket on your own or with another family in the church or give money towards filling a basket.

4 - You can help group all of the items into the individual baskets.

5 - You can help deliver the baskets.

Please let **Pastor John** or **Tony** know if you have any questions or if you'd like to help.



Birthday List

See a mistake or omission? Need a mailing address for a card? Contact the church office sellersburgumc@gmail.com

November

- Lisa Nale Nov 9
- Jerry Landers Nov 11
- Connie Ford Nov 12
- Jan Raeinhardt Nov 14
- Ariana Dessime Nov 14
- Betty Haas Nov 14
- Beva Caines Nov 17
- Jonathan Zentmyer Nov 19
- Tony Kummer Nov 20
- Lori Carmichael-Shields Nov 20
- Lois Cook Nov 23
- Shelby Riley Nov 30

December

- Bill Nunn Dec 3
- Jacob Loppnow Dec 12
- Lois Pickel Dec 12
- Sylvia Liburd Dec 14
- Terry Sims Dec 15
- Darrell Boman Dec 15
- Barb Koehler Dec 18
- Joyce Adams Dec 19
- Jennifer Potts Dec 25
- Lillian Curtis Dec 25

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Don & Janet Broady
3. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
4. Jan Johnson
5. Dianne Merillat
6. Alice & Denny Jones
7. Janice Jones
8. Harlo Hardy's sister Heather for healing
9. Larry Dewitt
10. Monte & Anna (Carol Voyles' brother)
11. Danny Mills - cancer
12. Monty Stewart
13. Pastor John's parents in their recovery
14. Brenda Croucher's dad
15. The people of Ukraine
16. Jennifer Demaree's cousin Eddie
17. Noah Bridges, Waterman's grandson
18. Paulette Davison
19. Jennifer Parr's dad
20. David & Grace Moore
21. Anna Voyles recovery
22. Sawyer Dunn
23. The people suffering in the Israel/Hamas War



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is the SUMC financial report for September, 2023:

- **Income Comparison 2022 vs. 2023 per ChurchTrac:**

Income for first 39 weeks in 2023 (24Sep23):	\$158,842.75
Income for first 39 weeks in 2022 (25Sep22):	<u>\$181,015.03*</u>
Difference:	\$ -22,172.28

**Includes \$4,329 from the proceeds of the Pig Roast in 2022.*

- **Projected Giving for 2023**

Income for first 39 weeks in 2023 (24Sep23) from above:	\$158,842.75
Number of Sundays:	39
Average Giving per Sunday:	\$ 4,072.89
Projected Giving at this Rate to End of Year:	\$211,790.33
Approved Budget per Governing Board, 23Jan23:	<u>\$240,671.76</u>
Projected Giving in Comparison to Budget:	\$ -28,881.43

- **Income versus Expenses**

The Income versus Expense Report for the end of September, 2023, per Treasurer's report is shown below.

Income through End of September, 2023:	\$158,893.64
Expenses through End of September, 2023:	<u>\$157,957.99</u>
Net Income:	\$ 935.65

The church remains current in their obligations to the United Methodist Church. All other bills are also current.

If you should have any questions or comments, please e-mail me.

R Waterman

Finance

October 15, 2023

Online Giving

<https://sumc.churchtrac.com>



We use "Church Trac" to facilitate online giving and member directory

If you are unfamiliar with a QR code, you can use a smartphone, pull up the camera on the phone, put this code into view of the camera, and a website link should automatically pop up on your device. You can then simply click the link and it will take you directly to the churchtrac website where you can securely give online (one time gift or set up automatic giving at a schedule of your choosing).

Amplify Media - Anyone who worships with us has free access to a wonderful online resource from Cokesbury. Amplify Media offers an extensive library of videos: material for studies and learning for adults, youth, and children. Books, bible studies, and videos from some of the leading authors and pastors from across the world...all yours for free. You can access this library from any smart phone or tablet as well as a variety of smart TVs and Roku. Just visit

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/sellersburgumc>
[sellersburgin](https://my.amplifymedia.com/sellersburgumc) and use the code: **MKGPRL** to get logged on and plugged in today.

SellersburgUMC.com - Visit our church website to view the worship service, set up online giving, or learn more about the church ministries.

Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due by the 17th of each month. Please submit any and all articles by then to the church office.

sellersburgumc@gmail.com



Interested in joining the choir?

See Diana after our Sunday service for more information.

dholman@ius.edu

