



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Words to the Wise

March | 2024

Pastor's Pen...

We are now in the middle of the season of Lent. If you have not been around or are still wrapping your head around what Lent means, let me help. At its basic level, it is simply a period of time including the 6 Sundays leading up to Easter. Because Easter moves from year to year, Lent moves as well. Lent is 40 days long. This is based on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted. However, Lent is actually 40 days out of 46 days before Easter. Now did that make it more confusing? The 6 Sundays within Lent do NOT count as part of Lent. So when you back up 46 days before Easter Sunday that turns out to be a Wednesday. (NOTE: On Leap Years, like this one, there are 47 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Perhaps every 4 years, we should have Ash Thursday.)

As I mentioned, the 40 (41) days that are not Sundays are based on the 40 days that Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted. During that time, Jesus fasted. For that reason, it is common for Christians observing Lent to also fast during this time. Fasting is probably the thing that most people think of when they think of Lent. However, Lent has also been a time of preparing new members by teaching the basics of faith. We are doing all of this. Please see the February Newsletter for a lot more information about fasting, including some positive ways of fasting that can help you grow closer to God.

Now that we are in Lent, we have started several classes about the basics of faith. The Friday

Morning Bible Study is studying the work and faith of John Wesley. In this study, we are looking at the beliefs and practices that started the Methodist movement in the world. Janet Werele and her Sunday school class in room 2 are studying the problem of good and evil, a very basic part of our Christian beliefs and how we see God in the world around us. On Wednesday evenings, we have added a special Lenten study about the basics of Christianity from the unique perspective of United Methodists. All of these classes are wonderful ways of living out the full meaning and purpose of Lent.

Blessings,

Pastor John

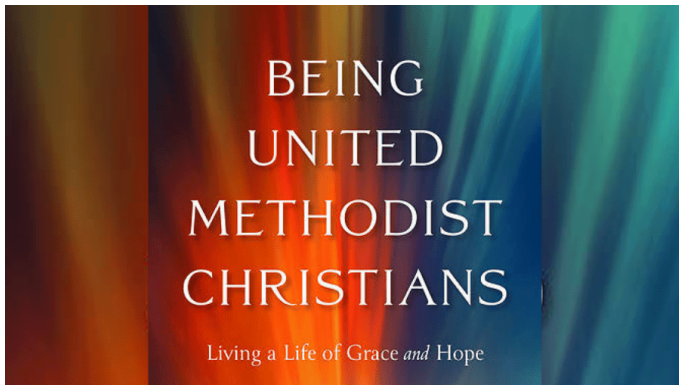
john.demaree@inumc.org



GROW PRAY SERVE

Are you
receiving
Pastor John's
weekly email?

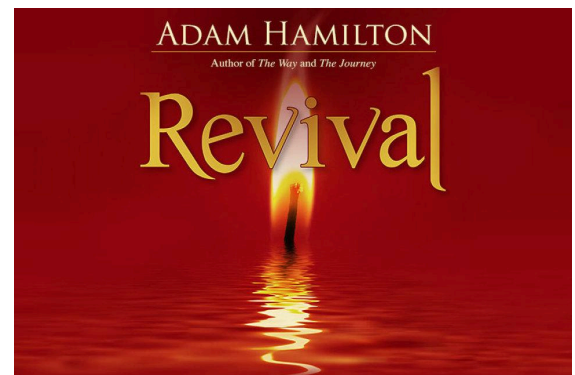
If not, email the
office and let
Tony know!

SPECIAL EVENING LENTEN STUDY SERIES

On Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm through March 27th, Pastor John is leading a special Lenten series in room 2. The series is titled "Being United Methodist Christians." For those new to the United Methodist Church, and those who have been members for decades, this is a class of remembering our roots, what makes us distinctive, and how the love of Christ works through our church to transform lives and communities. We are using the video series "Being a United Methodist Christian" as a starting place each week and then diving into our history, our beliefs, our traditions, and our call to social justice. Whether you are thinking about joining our church, or want a deeper, richer understanding of our connection as United Methodist, this Lenten study is for you. The series began on February 21st but please come join us any week!

**FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Every Friday morning at 10:00 am, Pastor John holds a weekly Bible study in room 2. This month, they will continue their study of John Wesley with Adam Hamilton's series, "Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It" which they started on February 16th. In this series, Adam Hamilton travels around England to the places Wesley lived, studied, preached, and taught. We will learn about John Wesley's history and the defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian. Even if you have missed a week or so, you are welcome to come!

**HOLY THURSDAY and GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES**

The week leading up to Easter is historically known as Holy Week. It begins with Palm Sunday and each of these days commemorate a specific event or series of events from the final days of Jesus life, and his crucifixion. This year, we are celebrating with worship services on two of these evenings, Holy Thursday (3/28) and Good Friday (3/29). Even more exciting, we will be worshipping along with several local United Methodist Churches in our River Ridge Cluster group.

While both services will be held at Sellersburg UMC at 7pm, we will have pastors, church members, and musicians representing 7 different churches coming together to share in worship together. This will include a combined choir directed by our own pianist Dianna. We are blessed to be able to join with others in worship. Please plan on coming to one or both of these services and welcoming the others to our church.



United Women in Faith

Attention All Ladies:

The United Women in Faith meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. At this meeting we'll prepare Easter Baskets for our friends who are in nursing homes or unable to attend church. Plans for the Women's Celebration and future events will be discussed and delicious refreshments will be served. And, by the way, if you've never been to a meeting before, try us out. You'll love the fellowship of a group of wonderful ladies.

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



Beyond the Walls Ministry

Please keep our shut-ins in your prayers. If you know of someone who needs to be added to our list, please let me know. Communion will be taken to our shut-ins during the weeks before Easter.



Kathy Waterman 812-256-5298



Young at Heart

Young At Heart Pitch-in Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: SUMC Fellowship Hall

Meat: JayC Chicken and Ham

Fun: BINGO

If you have any questions, contact Phyllis or Maureen

Everyone is invited!

Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)

Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)





EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

This year we were very grateful to receive a grant from United Methodist Communications for \$200 in free Easter Outreach materials. The grant includes a larger banner, yard, signs, posters, and more. We are very excited to unveil our theme and to be able to have a unified theme for our Easter Celebration.

Easter this year is on March 31st. Our theme for this year is "What are YOU searching for this Easter?" It is a question that resonates with everyone whether you go to church regularly or not at all. Everyone is searching for something in their lives. This Easter, we will show how the Good News of the resurrection connects with the things we most desperately need in our lives like hope, peace, connection, and love. In the coming weeks look for signs with this Easter message. There will be opportunities as well for you to directly share this message with your friends and neighbors.



Music Ministry

God's gift of life everlasting is truly one of the most wondrous gifts of grace. What love it is to offer that which soothes that fundamentally mortal fear: that being to die. The 1780 hymn *And Am I Born To Die* by Charles Wesley, also commonly referred to as *Idumea* after the 1816 tune by Ananias Davisson that is often sung to, plays on that fear, asking the question of what will become of one's soul after death.

The question is that of whether one's soul is doomed to die as their body must. "And must my trembling spirit fly, into a world unknown" is one such line. The place where the dead descend, wholly unknowable to a living man, is a great terror on the heart of the unsure. But the question is answered and a song of fear becomes one of hope and resolution in faith. The final verse beseeches the Lord to show the way to shun wrath and know Him at the end of life. It echoes a sentiment often shown in psalms and hymns, that despite our mortal fears and doubts God knows these things and freely gives us a shield of love and a place at His heavenly table.

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

Collin Daily





River Ridge Cluster March Services 2024

Holy Week Services

The River Ridge Cluster was formed in 2010 with 9 Clark County UMC Churches working together to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in various ways in our collective communities. Currently the active members are from the congregations of Emmanuel, Vienna, Old Capital, Pleasant Grove, St. James, Memphis, Utica and Sellersburg United Methodist Churches.

For several years we worked a booth at the Clark County 4-H Fair in Charlestown. Many Christian themed coloring books, crayons, Teen Bibles and bottles of water were given to children, teens and their families during the five days of the fair. We have hosted a week of services when each night the service was in a different church with spirited preaching and lively music.

The most well-attended services have been the joint Holy Week Services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Sellersburg UMC has always hosted due to the size of the sanctuary. This year Maundy Thursday will be a service of reflection as we commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. There will be music and scripture readings of the last hours with Jesus and his followers before he is arrested. We will hear about the stirring events that took place before he walked to the cross and we will be reminded of God's great love for each of us. The Good Friday worship will be in the order of a Tenebrae service when after each scripture reading, a candle will be snuffed until all is finished and we leave in darkness and solemn

silence. There will be a combined choir singing the Via Dolorosa translated as "The Way of Sorrow" as we are reminded of the path Christ took through Jerusalem to the Cross of Crucifixion.

Please plan to join us for these meaningful services of remembrance and introspection as God's love for all is proclaimed from the cross on which Jesus bore our sin. Maundy Thursday is on March 28, and Good Friday is on March 29; both services begin at 7:00, Sellersburg United Methodist Church.

With grace and peace,

Janet Werle

River Ridge Cluster Chair



Souper Bowl Sunday 2024

And the winner is...

The Silver Creek Food Pantry!

On Sunday, February 11th, the SUMC annual Souper Bowl Party and Contest was held. The congregation collected canned goods and money for our community food pantry. A request for donations of canned goods and money had been made on previous Sundays and each Sunday the collection grew. As a result, a grocery cart full of canned goods and \$313.00 in cash were given!

On that Sunday, our annual Souper Bowl Contest was held in Fellowship Hall. This year we had 11 entries of delicious soups. There was a great variety ranging from homemade chicken noodle to spicy chilis. We also had vegetarian and gluten free soups. Each year our cooks outdo themselves in making tried and true to unusual

unique recipes. Our members were able to sample any or all the soups they wished and vote for their favorites. Voting was done by money donations with the winner being the soup that raised the most money. A large crowd of people met in Fellowship Hall and voted and of course ate soup. We had take-out for those who could not stay.



This year's winner was Maureen Atkinson's delicious Sweet Potato Chowder! Our soup contest raised \$321.00 for the Silver Creek Food Pantry.

Thank you to all who participated in our Souper Bowl Sunday event. We were able to raise \$634.00 in total. Your donations of canned goods, pots of soup, and/or money

benefited children and families in our Sellersburg community. The event allowed our congregation to gather in mission, food, and fellowship to support a needed community resource. SUMC is a loving generous church and being used by God to feed people in our community. Looking forward to next year!

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.

Interested in singing with the choir?

Choir has rehearsal on Wednesdays at 5:00pm for 1 hour. **All are welcome.**

See Diana after our Sunday service for more information.

dholman@ius.edu

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



Sunday School Opportunities

Sunday School is offered to all age groups before our service downstairs and in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00am



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturdays at 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall

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

Birthday List

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

March

- Margaret Ross Mar 2
- Kim Scannapieco Mar 4
- Joyce Hecker Mar 10
- Janet Sims Mar 13
- Regina Lucas Mar 17
- Debby Wood Mar 17
- Yvonne Frederick Mar 19
- Flora Childers Mar 21
- Matthew Werle Mar 22
- Dena Werle Mar 24
- Bob Hess Mar 25
- Denman Jones Mar 28
- Mallory Webster Mar 28

April

- Janet Smith Apr 2
- Elizabeth Wells Apr 3
- Fred Smith Apr 5
- Dorothy Meyer Apr 9
- Gary Appell Apr 12
- Carol Voyles Apr 16
- John Demaree Apr 17
- Johnny Potts Apr 17
- Belinda Martin Apr 17
- Evelyn Tuttle Apr 18
- Tony Goforth Apr 30

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
3. Jan Johnson
4. Alice & Denny Jones
5. Janice Jones
6. Carol Voyles nephew Josh
7. Pastor John's parents
8. Brenda Croucher and her family
9. The people of Ukraine
10. Jennifer Demaree's cousin Eddie
11. Lillian Curtis fall recovery
12. Bob Johnson
13. Pam Gaines daughter, Brittany
14. Ralph Raeinhardt
15. Lori Shields friend, Janae
16. Dallas Carroll Family
17. Monica Sorg & sister
18. Carol Voyles recovery
19. The people suffering in the Israel/Hamas War



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is the SUMC financial report for January, 2024:

- **Income Comparison 2023 vs. 2024 per Church Treasurer Report:**

Income through 31Jan24:		\$ 15,289.02
Income through 31Jan23	:	<u>\$ 24,583.90</u>
Difference:		\$ -9,294.88 (deficit)

- **Income versus Expenses**

The Income versus Expense Report for the end of January, 2024, per Church Treasurer Report:

Income through End of January, 2024:	\$ 15,289.02
Expenses through End of January, 2024:	<u>\$ 16,225.94</u>
Net Income:	\$ - 936.92 (deficit)

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
February 19, 2024