



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Words to the Wise

January | 2023



Taking in the Moment

Luke 2:19 - ...and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

This is one of the most interesting verses in our biblical narrative of the birth of Jesus. I know the song by Mark Lowry has become one of much conversation/controversy. Mark meant well when he composed his song, but we can be assured that “YES, Mark, Mary knew much more than any of us can comprehend.” While it’s quite trendy to share our opinions concerning just about anything, we could all use a lesson from the very first believer on the planet Earth. *(If you want to continue to like the song, “Mary, Did You Know?” please do so with no regrets. If you want to challenge the song, there is much to be affirmed from this perspective, too. As John Wesley said, “Think and let think.”)*

But let’s get back to the scripture, shall we? Mary has been through an incredible ordeal in her early teenage years. While most of us were/are dealing with the rules of our parents/guardians and whether we were being accepted by the right people in school... Mary was processing her encounter with Gabriel (God’s messenger/angel), an untimely pregnancy, anticipating the meaning of her son-to-be, and managing the physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental demands of growing a human being in her body.

Once she’s had her message confirmed by her once barren cousin (or aunt?), Elizabeth, and then managed to help her betrothed, Joseph, reconcile what was happening,

she then journeys on a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem late in her pregnancy. *(If we read the Matthew story, she was already in Bethlehem...but that’s beside the point)* Then, there was no room in the guest quarters of whomever they were staying with, so she’s had to quickly make a home out of a room next to the animals and then, oh yeah, BIRTH A SON! To top it all off, a crowd of shepherds arrive on the scene.

Now...you may not know this about shepherds, but they were not the most accepted group of people. In fact, it’s widely known that shepherding was reserved for the outcasts of the community. If a person was to commit some kind of act of particular disgust, they would be relegated to the work of shepherding. This accomplished a few goals: 1. Somebody had to do it, 2. That someone who would then spend their days sweating and stinking would not be someone of reputation, and 3. If said individual was entering a town, everyone would be warned of exactly what type of person they were long before they got close because of the smell of sheep upon them.

*Knowing this about shepherding makes it all the more interesting that the host (army) of angels appeared to **them** out in the fields over any other group of people. The shepherds were the ones who were sent to find Jesus and tell the news to the community about what had happened. In a way, this makes perfect sense considering the way the Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus.*

The tired, depleted, sensitive, protective, and vulnerable Mary has her early hours with her brand new son interrupted by the presence of a bunch of smelly and disreputable shepherds; they have come to see and honor her son. They tell her of what happened in the night as they dwelt under the stars with their sheep. They tell the whole community, in fact, and amaze everyone. **...and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.**

Mary, in her incredible wisdom, chooses a silent reflection in response to the miraculous and beautiful chaos of the evening’s events. She treasured and pondered the words. What I wouldn’t give to have been there in that moment to ask Mary, “What do you know?” I’m confident

she would have much to share with us all...eventually.

Perhaps she did not know what to make of the evening in the moment. Perhaps she needed to spend time in prayerful meditation and thought to discern all that she was a part of...all that was happening in and through her and her new son...all that would come to be through her newly forming family. How could anyone wrap their head around it on top of everything else she needed to focus on right then? Mary possessed a strength few could ever understand.

Patience, silence, pondering, and treasuring are such remarkable responses to the movement of God in her life. We would all do well to follow suit no matter what we are facing today. Whether we do this as individuals, as a family, as a church body, or as a community/nation... taking more time to think (and let think) is NEVER a bad idea. How much better off would we be if being "quick to think and slow to speak" were our go-to response to life?

Let's begin a routine of this type of response this Christmas season. Let's take time to soak up each and every moment. If you're with a family member, or a whole crew of relatives, take time during your gathering to just ponder and take it all in. Stop, sit down, and look around. Notice who is there and what they are wearing. Notice their facial expressions. Close your eyes and take in the sounds. Breathe deeply and process the array of aromas. Focus on what you feel in the moment: the chair you are sitting in, the warmth/cool of the air in the room, or the softness/roughness of your ugly Christmas sweater against your skin. Take time to savor your food as you eat: consider the texture, the flavor, the temperature, and whatever else you might discover. Be sure to treasure the moments and ponder them in your heart. Take it all in and be fully present to the moment and all of the joy and wisdom it offers.

Let's continue with the spiritual routines of the Christmas season. Prayerfully reflect on the meaning of light during this season; there is a reason Christmas was set, originally, for the moment when the nights stopped growing longer and began to grow shorter (12/22). Consider why HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE are the preceding candles before we light the CHRIST candle on Christmas Eve. Why these words and not others? Where are you finding these themes in the story? Where are you finding them in your own celebrations?

However you come to celebrate Christmas Day and the New Year, may they be blessed and joyful. May they be treasured and pondered. May they become the source of a new birth in your own heart. May they become the source of new life and meaning for our church body as we

continue the story in all that we say, in all that we do, and in all that we are for our community and mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

May we be "quick to think and slow to speak" for a change so that we might take in the moment and come to receive the wisdom of a young teenage Nazarene whose obedience and faith changed the world forever.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- Rev. Joseph Sanford

A Note from our finance chair...

Financial Update November 2022

Below is the SUMC financial report for November, 2022:

- Income Comparison 2021 vs. 2022

Income for first 44 Weeks in 2022 (through 30Oct22):	\$202,334.08**
Income for first 44 Weeks in 2021 (through 31Oct21):	<u>\$212,569.40</u>
Difference:	\$ -10,235.32

**Includes contribution from Pig Roast Committee received in September.

- Projected Giving to End of 2022 at Current Rate of Giving

Income:	\$202,334.08
Weeks:	44
Average Giving Per Week:	\$ 4,598.50
Projection to Years End (52 weeks):	\$239,122.09

- Income versus Expenses through end of September:

The Income versus Expenses Report for October is not yet available; however, Expenses exceeded Income through the end of <u>September</u> as shown below:	
Income through End of September:	\$181,011.44
Expenses through End of September:	<u>\$189,765.20</u>
Difference (Net Income):	\$ - 8,753.76

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 call or e-mail me.

R Waterman
Finance
Nov 14, 2022

Bob Waterman - Finance Chair

bobwaterman@msn.com



Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet Wednesday, January 4th at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. YOU are invited. See Elda Myers for more information.



Exit 0 Hygiene Bags



Exit 0 is a faith-based organization that has been serving The Southern Indiana area homeless population since November 2008. Meals and basic human needs

are provided to The Jeffersonville area homeless and very low income families.

We are collecting supplies for male and female hygiene bags. Please drop donations in the designated bin in the sanctuary.

On January 15, 2023 at 1:00PM in SUMC Fellowship hall for pizza and packing hygiene bags.

What to add in a Female Hygiene Bag.....

- Bible Track or Encouragement letter
 - 1 Wash rag
 - 1 Body wash 2-1
 - 1 Bar of soap
 - 1 Deodorant
 - 2 Razors
 - 25 Q-Tips
 - 12 Tampons
 - 12 Pads
 - 1 Toothbrush
 - 1 Toothpaste
 - 1 Comb
 - 1 Pair of Socks
 - 1 Travel Size Lotion
- 1 Travel Size Hand Sanitizer
- 1 Travel Size First Aid Kit



Beyond the Walls Ministry

Thank you to United Women in Faith for putting together cookie boxes for those members who are no longer able to attend church. These boxes were really appreciated, as well as the visit from the lady who delivered them. Communion has been taken to most of our shut-ins, with the remainder to be finished up soon.

Kathy Waterman -
812-256-5298



What to add in a Male Hygiene Bag.....

- Bible Track or Encouragement letter
 - 1 Washrag
 - 1 Body wash 2-1
 - 1 Bar of soap
 - 1 Deodorant
 - 2 Razors
 - 25 Q-Tips
 - 1 Toothbrush
 - 1 Toothpaste
 - 1 Comb
 - 1 Pair of Socks
 - 1 Travel Size Lotion
- 1 Travel Size Hand Sanitizer
- 1 Travel Size First Aid Kit



United Women in Faith

2022 SUMC UWF

6 MONTH SCHEDULE

Sunday at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

January 8

United Methodist Church Programs
Lauren Sanford

February 12

Call to Prayer Program (Racial Justice)
Phyllis Hunefeld

March 12

Speaker from Hospirus Health
Flora Childers

April 16 TBD

May 21

Mothers Day Celebration
(no other meeting this month)

June 4

United Women in Faith Sunday
at Both Services
(no other meeting this month)



Phyllis Hunefeld at 502-693-3696 or
Phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com





UMC WOW Kids is now **SUMC Kids Club!**

Calling all kids to join SUMC Kids Club!

We are meeting monthly on Wednesdays from 6pm - 7pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

Come join us for food, fellowship and activities!

Come join us for Sunday Services:

9:00 am Children's Church

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Children's Church

Nursery available for all services.



**In 2023 Kids Club will meet monthly on the second
Wednesday of the month at 6-7PM**

We will study *What Really Matters!* Curriculum- Using
Philippians 4:8 as a guide, kids will learn to live their faith
more fully right now by fixing their thoughts and actions on
What Really Matters!

January 11, 2023 the theme is "What is True!"
Join us for a meal, Bible discussion, craft, and fellowship!

February 8, 2023 - "What is Honorable!"

SUMC Student Ministries Monthly Family Weekend Events

Alternating between Mission and Fellowship gatherings

January 15, 2023- We are collecting supplies for male and female hygiene bags. Join us on January 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM in SUMC Fellowship hall for pizza and packing hygiene bags.

February 11, 2023- Bowling at Clarksville Strike and Spare at 10:00 AM. Bring \$5 per bowler for shoes.

Souperbowl Sunday

Souperbowl Sunday is **February 12, 2023**. Bring your can donations or prepare a crockpot soup for our Souperbowl cookoff! This event raises money for Center for Lay 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



A special thanks to everyone in attendance on December 10th for Tony's solo concert!



Music Ministry

As we consider the new year, many people are making resolutions that will invariably become overwhelmingly challenging, some before February even hits the calendars and others later. Countless people resolve to lose weight, to read more, to get their spending under control, or to undertake some other Herculean feat.

I will not speak for everyone who has attempted to hold onto these resolutions, but from my own experiences, I admit that the grander the resolution, the less likely the desired outcome tends to be. I suspect that most readers can empathize with this sentiment and know where I am coming from. If you can't and you don't, please come see me in a few months.

It's from this perspective and mindset that I want to present the underlying reason for my article this month. We often all but acknowledge defeat before even trying — and this extends beyond the new gym membership, books you'll eventually get to on your shelf, and paying off all the credit cards from last month's Christmas shopping spree. I want to ask you to look inward at where else you might be giving up prematurely with respect to the family and kingdom of God!

As a worship leader and music director, I am privileged to be a part of many ministries within the church. I see the various ministries of the church helping people and glorifying God. I witness many of the eager participants who serve across countless areas of the church. At the same time, however, I often see empty pews and sparsely filled sign up sheets. For all of the amazing volunteers and servants I witness each week,

it is apparent how many opportunities go unnoticed and unfulfilled.

I want to take a moment to highlight just a few of the many amazing areas needing volunteers within our church. I certainly do not want to look lightly on or take for granted those who dutifully and faithfully serve already, whether in these ministries or elsewhere. Instead, I want to shed light on places that God may be calling you to serve in, too.

I ask that whatever you do and however you serve, that you sincerely pray for God to reveal God's will to you. You may be surprised when after prayerful consideration you receive an answer.

Welcome Team

- We need greeters and ushers to welcome our brothers and sisters as well as assist with elements of worship. This includes things like turning on lights, making coffee, setting out food for fellowship, and placing our "Welcome!" flags outside. We have multiple services on Sundays, so there will almost always be needs in this area.

Tech Booth

- We need help running the sound board and slides on Sunday mornings. Since we offer services at multiple times on Sundays, the needs are great in this ministry. Fortunately, the work is not heavy and our team provides the simple training needed to serve.

Liturgists

- Each month our church rotates a team of readers for each service to welcome our church and make announcements, lead the church's call to worship, and other liturgical readings. All of the scripts are pre-printed and provided with ample time to practice before Sunday services. However, each liturgist is welcome to make their own edits to add their own voice to the readings as they feel called.

As described before, there are multiple Sunday services, which requires multiple readers each week.

Creative Worship Team

- Every quarter a team of people invested in worship will gather to discuss how to better define and meet our goals in worship. We discuss creative ways to engage the church as we consider activities and reflect on seasons and services. From the decorations and visual aids to the actual elements of worship, this team meets only four times a year, but contributes greatly to the worship environment.

Music Ministries

- Our sanctuary choir is composed of men and women from all ages and musical backgrounds. We joyfully sing each week on Wednesdays at 5:30pm as we fellowship & rehearse, and on Sundays as we lead worship for the 9:00am service.
- Our praise team meets each Wednesday after choir rehearsal (usually 6:30p) to rehearse the songs we lead for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00a and 11:00a. We have vocalists and instrumentalists. In particular we have a need for a percussionist. The church even owns a “cajón,” which is the name of the instrument that you sit atop and tap. It is named after the very box that it resembles

Fortunately, for all of these opportunities, you do not need any background or experience to serve. You simply must have the willingness and desire to serve with a heart of worship and be eager to glorify God.

Do not look at this list of opportunities as a list of resolutions— just a box for you to tick or a feat that you can accomplish. Instead, consider the words of a

wonderfully pointed prayer in the worship song “Change My Heart O God” when you ask God to mold and shape your life for God’s glory. Ask the Lord to lead, guide, and direct your life throughout this new year, and pray for God’s will to be revealed.

Who knows? Maybe you will be called to serve in one of these positions. Maybe God will call you to serve in an unsung capacity, where no one will ever know that you did something special. Whatever the result, please prayerfully do all things for God’s honor and glory.

“Change my Heart, O God”

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.

You are the potter,
I am the clay;
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like you.

Mark Ritter



Choir Rehearsals

Wednesday - 5:30 PM

Praise Team Rehearsals

Wednesday - 6:30 PM

All are welcome to join; no prior experience is necessary, only a joyful heart willing to sing praises.

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.

A special thanks...

Thanks so much for the prayers, visits, calls, cards, and food following my accident and hospitalization. Everything was so much appreciated. Love my church family. -Peggy Sayre



SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

Thank you SO much to each family who supported the Angel Tree this year. We were able to support 50 children and give them a very Merry Christmas!



SUMC Missions

The Missions Team has continued the year 2022 following the 2021 supported projects. The committee met in May to determine what projects we would like to support and how much we wanted to give to each project. We support local charities: S.O.A.R., Child Place North, Clark County Youth, Jesus Cares at Exit Zero, Bliss House, Salvation Army Angel Tree and New Life International. We support state charities: UM Children's Home in Evansville, Indiana Children's Home, and Habitat for Humanity. We support national charities: Samaritan's Purse, CRU (Kelly Burch) and Open Doors. We support international charities: Mission Guatemala, Voice of the Martyrs, and Remember the Children.

If you are interested in joining the Missions Committee, we welcome you. If you have a particular mission project that you would like our church to support, please feel free to let Pastor Joe know so that he can pass this information on to the Committee.

Please keep in prayer that our funding will be increased next year, so that we can give more support to these charities, as well as additional ones, if suggested.

A Note from PSPR...

The Pastor Staff Parish Relations Committee has been very active during 2022 and looks forward to continuing to support for our pastor and paid staff in 2023. Early in the year we reviewed applications for Administrative Assistant and have been blessed to work with Tony Goforth in the Church Office. Tony goes beyond the job description as he has assumed several responsibilities that are greatly appreciated by those in the know.

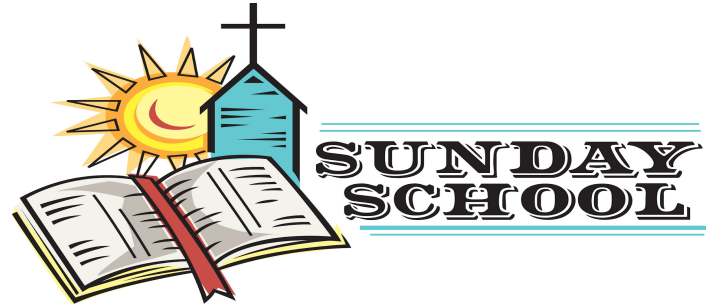
In June and July, we held job reviews with all of our paid staff and discussed job descriptions, their contributions, expectations and how we can provide support to them throughout the year. Each staff member is dedicated to their ministry area, serves the Lord with love and works well as a team to keep our ministry outreach thriving. We are so blessed that most of our staff have served for numerous years. In October, we honored Rev. Joe Sanford on Clergy Appreciation Sunday with a video, reception and card shower that our congregation heartily supported. We were pleased and blessed to recommend Pastor Joe's continued appointment here at SUMC in 2023.

Lori Rice, formally our Youth Minister, was honored with a reception, video and words of appreciation for her 17 years of working with our youth. She is an active member and has expanded her ministry focus as a volunteer.

In 2023 Connie, Pastor Joe and I will welcome two new PSPR team members. We look forward to working with Lisa Nale and Sonya Tawney for the next several years.

We appreciate the support and encouragement provided by each member and friend of our congregation during the past year. In 2023 we look forward to working with each staff member and reaching even more people for Jesus Christ through our combined efforts as your ministry team and staff.

Grace and peace,
Janet Werle, Chair
Connie Schleiker, Lay Leader
Rev. Joe. Sanford



The Pilgrim Adult Class is more than a Sunday Morning Bible Class at SUMC. We welcome those seeking fellowship and exploring Biblical truths in a comfortable setting with other women and men. Throughout the year we enjoy supporting community projects with our gifts of time, talent and financial support.

We have donated to the SOAR Ministry, The Angel Tree Children and the Helping Hand Fund to name a few ministries.

We also enjoy getting together for dinners with great food and fellowship especially at Christmas. Exchanging "White Elephant" gifts is a special highlight at our Christmas Party.

In January 2023, we look forward to studying Four Minor Characters reported in the Book of Acts. Professor Matt Skinner discusses the disciple Tabitha in the first of a four-part Amplify Video Bible Study beginning January 8. We meet in Room 2 on the Lower Level. We look forward to extending a welcome to you!!!

Janet Werle - 502-376-9934

Advertisingdiva10@gmail.com



Birthday List

See a mistake or omission? Need a mailing address for a card? Call the church office (812) 246-2502 or email

sellersburgumc@gmail.com

January

- James Wells Jan 1
- Nancy Elrod Jan 6
- Elda Myers Jan 7
- Connie Nunn Jan 15
- John Scannapieco Jr. Jan 21
- Marilyn McClure Jan 23
 - Andy Beyl Jan 23
- Gloria Hutchinson Jan 24
- Nora Pritchett Jan 28
- Leone Carter Jan 31

February

- John Scannapieco Feb 2
 - Dennis Wood Feb 3
 - Liz Hardy Feb 3
- Pamela Gaines Feb 3
- Lauren Sanford Feb 6
- Shannon Hart Feb 7
- Anita Tackett Feb 9
- Susan Riley Feb 19
- Janet Werle Feb 20
- Janine Lickliter Feb 20
- Kathlynn Kahl Feb 21
- Aiden Potts Feb 22
- Harlo Hardy Feb 22
- Connie Schlieker Feb 22
 - Jodie Engle Feb 26
 - Donna Moore Feb 27
 - Trudy Landers Feb 27
 - Joan Holloway Feb 28

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
 2. Don & Janet Broady
 3. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
 4. Patricia Wallace, friend of Elda Myers
 5. Jan Johnson (cancer treatment)
 6. Dianne Merillat
 7. Carolyn Curtis
 8. The people of Ukraine and world leaders
 9. Tim Johnson - waiting for heart transplant
- Unspoken Prayer Requests
10. Alice & Denny Jones
 11. Kathy Waterman's brother Paul Powell
 12. Leroy Coulter-had a stroke and COVID
 13. Tony's friends mother-Bonnie-has cancer
 14. Shannon Hart & family
 15. Janice Jones
 16. Sabrina Raab
 17. Harlo Hardy's sister Heather for healing
 18. David heart issues & pneumonia
 19. Larry Dewitt
 20. Monte & Anna (Carol Voyles' brother)
 21. Tyler Rice
 22. Phil Davison
 23. Ralph Raeinhardt
 24. Larry Risk, Nunn's son in law

