



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Words to the Wise

February | 2024

Pastor's Pen...

February brings together 2 holidays steeped in tradition within the Christian Church. Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day. The way we celebrate Valentine's Day these days may not seem to have much to do with the church, outside of its connection generally to love. Perhaps we should revisit the story of St Valentine and Lent.

One story of a St Valentine comes from the 3rd century when Rome was still persecuting Christians. Valentine had been put in jail for his Christian beliefs, and there it is said he performed a miracle by restoring sight to the jailer's daughter. He also performed Christian marriages for those the Roman government had forbidden to marry. The story then concludes that right before his death he sent a note to the jailer's daughter and signed it, "Your Valentine." Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent which is a season of the church year leading up to Easter. It is roughly 40 days long and is based on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted. Both of these stories are about people who are separated from society, suffer, and yet stay committed to worshipping God.

We may not think of Valentine's day in terms of suffering for our love of Christ. Yet, we must acknowledge that loving God and loving our neighbors can require sacrifice.

Traditionally, Christians are asked to suffer by giving up something for the 40 days of Lent. Choices often include things like TV, Chocolate, or Coffee. I want to suggest, however, that we think of Lent in a slightly different way. Rather than focusing on the bad habits you want to give up, focus on the good habits you want to start. Below is a list of things to fast from and to. If we can make these changes, I believe this Lent will truly be a transformative experience for you and for our church.

FASTING FOR LENT

Fast from hurting words and speak kind words.

Fast from jealousy and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and be filled with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

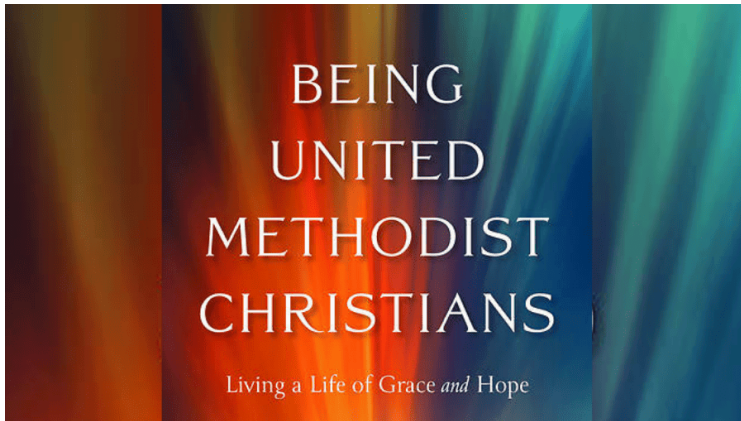
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Pastor John



SPECIAL EVENING LENTEN STUDY SERIES



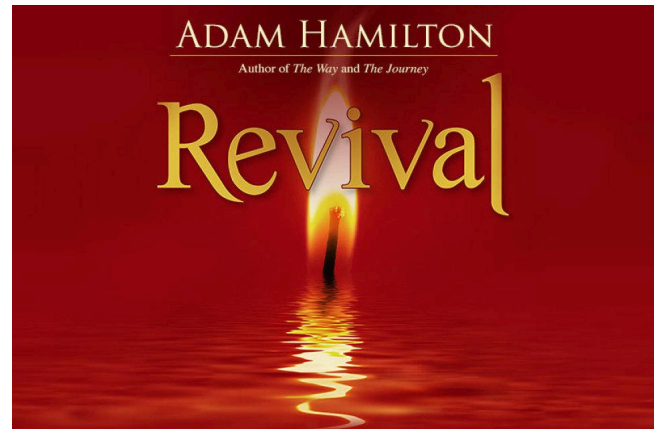
Wednesday evenings starting February 21st at 6:45pm Pastor John will be leading a special Lenten series in room 2. The series is titled "Being United Methodist Christians" For those new to the United Methodist Church, and those who have been members for decades this will be a class of remembering our roots, what makes us distinctive, and how the love of Christ works through our church to transform lives and communities. We will use the video series "Being a United Methodist Christian" as a starting place each week and then dive 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.



Are you
receiving
Pastor John's
weekly email?

If not, email the
office and let
Tony know!

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Every Friday morning at 10:00 am Pastor John holds a weekly Bible study in room 2. Starting Friday, February 16th, they will continue their study of John Wesley with Adam Hamilton's series, "Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It." In this series Adam Hamilton travels around England to the places Wesley studied, preached, and taught. We will learn about John Wesley's history and the defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian.



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. They always appreciate receiving cards and phone calls.

**Kathy Waterman -
812-256-5298**





United Women in Faith

Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)

Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)



United
Women
in Faith

Sellersburg Meeting
Sunday, February 11, 2024
2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



Monica Sorg, RN
will speak about her mission trips

All ladies of the church are invited
Refreshments will be served



Young at Heart

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the Young-At-Heart Pitch-in on Wednesday, February 7, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This month beer battered fish is on the menu, and we'll play BINGO for fun with marvelous prizes for the winners. As always, there will be great food and fellowship.

If you know of any entertaining or informative programs for Young-At-Heart, please advise Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696) or Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119). If schools are canceled, YAH will also be canceled.

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



SAVE
the
DATE

WESLEYAN HYMN SING
FEB. 18 2024
4:00-5:00 PM

WALL STREET UMC
240 WALL ST. JEFFERSONVILLE
PASTOR NANCY @502-553-7189



Music Ministry

A prayer for protection, for wisdom and guidance, these are the themes of the popular hymn *Be Thou My Vision*. A translation of an Irish hymn dating to the 6th or 8th century often attributed to Saint Dallán, an English language translation was published by Mary E. Byrne in 1905 and set to verse by Eleanor Hull in 1912. This version was later set to the tune of the Irish folk song *Slane*. This version became the standard put into hymnary.

The third verse of the 1912 version opens "Be Thou my battle shield, sword for the fight". This line is derived from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, imploring them to take up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit as part of the whole armor of God that they would be defended and bolstered against evil. These armaments aren't literal steel and bronze, but a metaphor for the security that trust and faith in God provides. This was an important passage to the medieval Irish, harried as they were by enemies of the flesh both Christian and pagan. It is still important to us today.

Though the Methodist hymnal does not include the third verse, and the English translations already reduce the original 8 Gaelic verses to 5, it is a worthy exercise to dig into the meanings and scripture present in the songs we sing.

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



Collin Daily



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FEBRUARY 14th, 6:45 pm

Join us for a special evening worship service on Wednesday, February 14th at 6:45 pm. Ash Wednesday is the traditional beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is roughly 40 days before Easter. It is a time connected to Jesus and Moses who both went into the wilderness for 40 days to fast, be tested, and grow in their faith and love of God. For those who are committed to experiencing Lent in this way, Ash Wednesday is the perfect starting place. At the center of this service is the receiving of ashes as a symbol of our connection and complete dependence on God's love and grace.



It's Back and It's Time to Party!

"Soup"er Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 11th Fellowship Hall

- People can bring soups in starting at 9am
- After service people can enjoy fellowship and soups where you vote for your favorite soup with money that then is donated to the Silver Creek Food Pantry.
- Vote for your favorite with your cash donation!
- Everyone is encouraged to bring soup donations with money attached to the cans

Come have fun for a good cause!!

All donations go to Silver Creek Food Pantry

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

Pick up Your Name Tag in the entreway by the Fellowship Hall or request one on the form there.



Please wear your name tag to help everyone remember your name.



Our Prayer Cross is located at the right front of the sanctuary. You can add, public or private prayers to it any Sunday and/or lift up your prayers during the service.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturdays at 9am in Fellowship Hall

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

Pastor Staff Parish Relations

With the dawn of a New Year, this article is written to help our congregation better understand how we, as the *Laity*, can serve Jesus Christ. The information lists two ways we can serve and an educational opportunity.

First, at our Indiana Annual Conference in June each year, there must be a balance of Clergy and Lay Members who attend or at least register. There are a number of retired clergy persons who have full rights, so a layperson is needed to add balance. In the South District we do not have a balance and therefore need an additional 11 laypersons to attend as Equalizing Lay Members. Conference dates this year are June 6-8 at St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis, IN. Food, hotel accommodations and travel are at the lay member's expense but there are South District funds that can help anyone requesting a stipend.

To secure these laity members, there is a District Conference meeting where we vote on those who wish to serve as an equalizing member. Anyone who would like to be considered for one of the Equalizing positions and attend Annual Conference with voting privileges must fill out a "Willingness to Serve" form. Go to inumc.org/annual-conference and click on the Equalization Member Equalization Willingness to Serve. The registration deadline is February 1, 2024.

By filling out the Registration Form, you are volunteering to serve as a South District Equalizing member, but you won't know until the district votes on March 3rd. If there are 20 volunteers from the South District and only 11 needed, then some will not be elected. If you have questions please contact Janet Werle or Pastor John Demaree.

At the Annual Conference there is worship, training, plenary sessions, dinners and fellowship

times to share where you can hear, see and feel God's spirit in action with the United Methodist Church.

Another opportunity to better serve our Lord comes with the decision to further your training through the Lay Servant Academy. Lay Servants are those individuals who wish to serve in ministry areas such as serving children, visitation, lay speaking and many other ways.

Throughout The Indiana Conference there are classes offered for Certified Lay Servants (basic), Certified Lay Speakers (advanced) and Certified Lay Ministers (advanced). These classes start with the Basic Course and depending on the certification level desired, additional classes may be taken. Many classes are offered on ZOOM, require 10 hours of classwork and result in the certification of Lay persons better equipped to serve Jesus Christ and his church. There are costs of time and money but the costs outweigh the benefits of serving God. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish but not for every date on the calendar.

FYI: Mark your calendars now for District Staff Parish Training! CS Mitch Gieselman will be offering one more opportunity in January to attend a training session for Pastors, Staff Parish Committee members and anyone interested in the work of our PSPR Team, via Zoom. Please make plans now to attend this meeting:

Saturday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m. (ET) This training will last no longer than two hours. If reading our SUMC online Newsletter, [Click here for the Zoom link.](#)

Meeting ID: 878 4460 4565

Passcode: 938481

Or contact Janet Werle for the registrations for Willingness to Serve or attend the

Pastor Staff Relations workshop.

Janet Werle, PSPR Chair

Birthday List

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

February

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

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

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
3. Jan Johnson
4. Alice & Denny Jones
5. Janice Jones
6. Harlo Hardy's sister Heather for healing
7. Larry Dewitt
8. Pastor John's parents
9. Brenda Croucher and her family
10. The people of Ukraine
11. Jennifer Demaree's cousin Eddie
12. Paulette Davison
13. Bob Johnson
14. Pam Gaines daughter, Brittany
15. Gloria Hutchinson's recovery
16. Lori Shields friend, Janae
17. Jodie Goforth's recovery from surgery
18. Monica Sorg & sister
19. Tony Goforth family in their sorrow
20. The people suffering in the Israel/Hamas War



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2023

Below is the Financial Report for Sellersburg United Methodist Church for Year Ending 2023:

- **Giving in 2023.** Total Giving for the Year 2023 was **\$210,395.84**. The Total Giving for the previous year of 2022 was \$243,729.31, which was less than 2022 by \$33,333.47. It should be noted that the 2022 total included the proceeds from the annual Pig Roast of \$4,329, whereas 2023 did not include these totals.

The Giving for 2023 was the lowest giving since before 2010, the last year that giving records are readily available.

- **Giving in 2023 in Comparison to Budget.** The Budget for 2023 was **\$240,671.78** as established by the church's Governing Board on 23Jan23. Giving was \$ 30,275.94 less than the required Budget.
- **Giving vs. Expenses in 2023.** For the year 2023, Expenses exceeded Giving by \$756.97.

The church remains current in their obligations to the United Methodist Church as well as other bills and obligations.

- **Gift from an Estate.** The church received a gift from an Estate of a long-time church member. The gift was approximately \$16,000 received in late November and was placed temporarily in the Trust and Memorial Designated Fund of the church, until directed otherwise by the family.

If you should have any questions or comments concerning the above report or any other SUMC financial item, please feel free to e-mail me.

R Waterman

bobwaterman@msn.com

Finance

January 17, 2024