



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Words to the Wise

May | 2024

Pastor's Pen...

When I arrived in Sellersburg last July, the church had long been organized in a simple board governance model. Since COVID closed everything down and we are, even now, just getting our feet back under us, I thought it might be good to take a look at how the church is organized and remember how we each fit into the work of its ministries.

For a very long time, every United Methodist Church was set up the same way, with 3 or 4 main committees. No matter whether the size of the church was 300 or 30, they all worked the same. Each committee had 9 positions on it, so there were 27 to 36 spots that had to be filled every year. You can see how this would be an issue in smaller churches. Some people had to be on several committees and when a new year started there were no people left to take their place. Even if there was a great project idea, no one had time to see it succeed because they were all too busy having meetings.

So, how does a simple board governance model take care of these issues? Our Governing Board is a combination of 4 committees: Staff/Church Relations (similar to a company's HR), Finance, Trustees (oversee the facilities), and the Administrative Board. By combining all of these into one, they reduced the number of people needed by two-thirds. They saved time by meeting once a month instead of spread out over 4 meetings a month. Finally, they can discuss, change, and approve all aspects of an issue in one meeting.

Sounds great, so what's the catch? There are a couple. Those not on the board can feel like they are either not needed anymore or they are being left out of the decisions. Either way people slowly stop being involved. Ironically, this is the exact opposite of what a simple board model is supposed to create. Instead of simply consolidating power into a small group, the idea is that this small group takes care of the business parts of the church allowing everyone else to focus on the actual work of ministry.

There are three important points that make this relationship work. First, the Governing Board cannot be a gatekeeper for every ministry of the church. If they have that power then everything stops and waits for them to make a decision. Their job instead should be to set boundaries and a vision, and then help resource the ministries when needed. Second, everyone not on the Governing Board has to get involved in the ministries of the church. Third, the people actually doing the ministry must be allowed to make their own choices about where to serve and how to accomplish their work. When ministries are empowered to make their own decisions, they thrive.

None of this works, if you and I are not willing to get involved. Not being on the Governing Board does not mean that you have a year off from responsibilities. It means, instead, that you are now called to support or create the ministries of our church. We all need to ask, "Where am I called to serve?" and then we all need to respond to God's call with our hands, our feet, and our voice. Everyone being actively involved

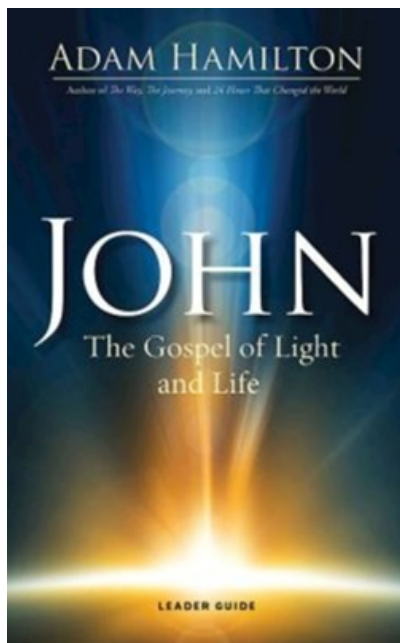
is what makes a church thrive. Where are you being called? If you have ideas or need help let me know.



Blessings,
Pastor John
john.demaree@inumc.org

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Friday morning Bible Study group started a new series entitled John: The Gospel of the Light and Life. This 6-week study ends May 17th. It looks deeply into the message and meaning of the Gospel of John. John's gospel is different in many ways from the other 3 gospels. Come learn why that is and the special place the Gospel of John has in the Bible and our understanding of Jesus. All are welcome to attend the study. We meet every Friday morning at 10am in room 2, which is in the basement of the church. Entry is easiest through the back door which faces the parking lot behind the church.



The Wednesday evening Lenten Study Group has decided to continue meeting on Wednesday evenings. In April we will started a new study called "The Bible Project." This study takes a close look at the first 5 books of the Old Testament and how the themes and stories connect to each other and tell an overall story about God and our relationship with God. The class meets every **Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm downstairs in room 2**. Visitors are always welcome, even if you can't come every week. The current study ends May 22nd.



Beyond the Walls Ministry

Thank you to the ladies of United Women of Faith for delivering Easter Baskets to our members who are no longer able to attend church. I know that these baskets were greatly appreciated.

Communion is being taken to our shut-ins during the Easter Season.

Kathy Waterman 812-256-5298



Young at Heart

YOUNG-AT-HEART Pitch-In Luncheon
Wednesday, May 1 at 11:30 a.m.
SUMC Fellowship Hall
JayC Fried Chicken and Ham
BINGO with new prizes
Bring a dish and come join us for great food, fun, and fellowship!



Everyone is invited!

Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)
Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)

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



GROW PRAY SERVE

Are you receiving Pastor John's weekly email?

If not, email the office and let Tony know!



United Women in Faith

Ladies Celebration of Our Life Journeys!

On Sunday, May 19th at 2:00 p.m. all women in SUMC's congregation and the women in their families and friends are invited to a celebration of personal journeys and life experiences. Our United Women of Faith circle wants to celebrate and share ours and our guests' life journeys. The circle is hosting a dessert party where we will share photos and memories of our lives through the decades as we enjoy wonderful tasting treats. What a delightful way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

We would like each attendee to bring photos of each decade of their life. This means a thirty-year-old would bring 3 photos and an eighty-year-old would bring 8 photos to the celebration. An example of photos might be a grade school picture, a teenager picture, wedding picture, one of your twenties, one of each decade after, etc. We will share our photos and memories of those times in our lives and how they represent our journey.

We also want every attendee to bring a baby picture of themselves for a game we will play. Each of us have experiences and accomplishments that make our life journeys unique but relatable to other women. We want to get to know each other better and to support each other in our journeys.

So, Ladies get out the photo albums, and/or print out pictures from your phones and make plans to attend on May 19th. Reflect on how your life has changed from decade to decade and all

that you have experienced. Come and share and learn of others' journeys.

Our journeys are not done, and we can support each other as we experience them.

Looking forward to celebrating with you!

For more information or if you have questions, please contact:

Janet Sims (502-494-1271 or ttsims@hotmail.com) or

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





We petition our Father weekly with faith and obedience, and he continues to show himself to us, through the answer of prayers.

We share with you, Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

It's no surprise to you by now that we hold on to the truth that—WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER, so join us on Saturday Mornings at 8:45.

MEN'S WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

We continue to meet every **Saturday morning at 8:45 AM**, for a time of breakfast, prayer, and fellowship.

We look forward to seeing you there.

May Our Prayers Be With You,

HAVING YOU THERE, MAKES US BETTER.

Always Praying for You, Men's Prayer Group



Bowing our head in reverence to our God and Lord Savior Jesus Christ, as we bring requests for healing, and praise for answered prayers.



This is Jack Foley in the center with his radiation team around him as they have the bell ringing ceremony at his last radiation treatment. We have been praying for Jack and his family constantly, and the Lord has heard our prayers. As he goes into remission, we continue to pray that these non malignant nodules on his spine never return.

Birthday List

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

May

- Betty McMillin May 2
- Mark Ritter May 3
- Deb Sappenfield May 4
- Kathy Waterman May 4
- Dalton Daily May 5
- Shawn Riley May 7
- Ellen Money May 7
- Sam Goodwin May 12
- Lilly Hardy May 13
- Jason Werle May 14
- Rev. Joseph Sanford May 15
- Janet Broady May 19
- Stephanie Beyl May 21
- Ron Sappenfield May 27
- Bill Koehler May 30 Darryl
- Moore May 30

June

- Tracey Beyl June 3
- Debbie Riley June 5
- Maureen Atkinson June 8
- Mary Daily June 8
- Lisa Goodwin June 9
- Estherline Dessime June 14
- Brenda Croucher June 18
- Lloyd Hunefeld June 19
- Jo Ann Haley June 21
- Hobson Kahl June 25

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
3. Jan Johnson
4. Alice & Denny Jones
5. Janice Jones
6. John Scannapieco
7. Pastor John's parents
8. Yvonne Frederick
9. The people of Ukraine
10. Jennifer Demaree's cousin Eddie
11. Lois Ketterer
12. Josh Caldwell Family
13. Ralph Raeinhardt
14. Lori Shields friend, Janae
15. Monica Sorg & sister
16. Carol Voyles recovery
17. The people suffering in the Israel/Hamas War
18. Bobby & Laquata Jones
19. Twins, James & Dakota Villier





Mark your calendars for F-U-N!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

As we start planning for Vacation Bible School, we need Y-O-U! We are looking for registration gurus, dynamic teachers, crafty people, game lovers, and snack makers.

If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions, please send an email to burgstudentministry@gmail.com

REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN)::

When you are ready to register your child(ren) for VBS, you may do so through this link: [REGISTER](https://sellersburgumccom.myanswers.com/jungle-journey/) (<https://sellersburgumccom.myanswers.com/jungle-journey/>)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is the SUMC financial report for March, 2024:

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

Income through 31Mar24:	\$ 57,422.07
Income through 31Mar23:	<u>\$ 62,936.09</u>
Difference:	\$ -5,514.02 (deficit)

- **Income Projection to the End of the Year**

Income through 31Mar24 from above:	\$ 57,422.07
Number of Sundays:	13
Average Giving Per Sunday:	\$ 4,417.08
Projection of Income to 31Dec24:	\$229,688.28

- **Income versus Expenses**

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

Income through End of February, 2024:	\$ 57,422.07
Expenses through End of February, 2024:	<u>\$ 46,081.12</u>
Net Income:	\$ 11,340.95

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

R Waterman
Finance
April 17, 2024