Words to the Wise

August | 2022



1. The ability to judge well
2. (In Christian contexts)
perception in the absence
of judgment with a view
to obtaining spiritual
guidance & understanding.

There is a great deal to say about discernment. This ancient biblical practice has been a major part of the stories we have come to know, study, and emulate. Defining the word for ourselves can be difficult because we have a voice in the process. We all have a voice. We all have a perspective. We all contribute. As a church, it is crucial for us to be in regular discernment about everything we do. Taking time to prayerfully discern not only our actions and choices but the motivations and intentions behind those actions and choices can open us up to realizations that lie beyond our awareness.

We have all committed to one another in a beautiful and unique way in our baptism. We weren't baptized into God, but, in recognition of what God has done for us, into the Church. While we certainly entrust the church to the movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit, our commitment is to do our part in community with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Specifically in the United Methodist Church of Sellersburg, we have committed to be the church we are called to be in 2022 in the location of 226 N. New Albany St. That is where our church body meets and from where we operate in ministry to the people whom God has appointed us to serve. To do this well, we need to know our community and we need to know ourselves every bit as much as we need to know how God is leading us. We always have work to do in all three of these arenas. It's life-giving, meaningful, and inspiring work, but it does require our attention and commitment in the harder days as much as the easier days.



So...here we are in 2022 facing realities of which we hold a variety of perspectives and feelings. Some of us have no interest in facing this reality. Some of us have seen it coming for a while and have braced for the inevitable. Some are welcoming the process as an opportunity to grow in our expression of faith and ministry. We are all bringing our unique perspectives, gifts, and goals into the situation. This is an historic time in the life of this faithful congregation celebrating 151 years of ministry. What is happening in our time will be reflected upon for centuries.

Recognizing the need for discernment and the impact the next several months can have on the life of this church in Sellersburg and how we all live out our commitment to our baptismal vows is important for us each to consider. How we feel about what is being discussed is important. Taking time to sort through mountains of misinformation that is circulating around us is important. Discerning for ourselves what Charles Spurgeon describes as "determining the difference not between what is right and wrong, but what is right and almost right" is only part of the work for us to do as the body of Christ in Sellersburg.

Yes, we are asking a great deal from everyone who feels led to participate in the steps that will determine the direction of SUMC for the next 150 years. Yes, we are trusting our valuable time and energy to the hands of some of our sisters and brothers whom we might not see eye-to-eye with on everything. Yes, we might feel we already have discerned for ourselves where we "stand" on

the matter. The Discernment Process of 2022 for SUMC will not be about making a decision regarding the church's affiliation with The United Methodist Church. **The** distinction of the goal of this process is vital.

The Discernment Process is about all of us coming together to share our feelings, perspectives, and leadings on the present/future mission and calling of this congregation. We will all come together in small groups and spend time openly sharing while others listen. We will also spend time listening as others openly share. The goal is not to convince each other of anything, but to hear each other on everything. Knowing the heart of the bigger church is the only way we can all discern where The Holy Spirit is guiding us.

No matter what is ultimately decided about one opinion concerning one conversation, the church can emerge from this process with a stronger sense of self and direction. But we need everyone to contribute to the process. Everyone is part of the church. Every perspective, opinion, conviction, and preference is a part of the larger body and, therefore, worthy of our consideration and prayerful discernment. We will all be offering a great deal of ourselves to see this process through, but the life and perspective we will gain is worth the investment.

The Discernment Team, appointed by the Governing Board, has crafted a process that is specific to our location and context. We have worked hard to plan and prepare a meaningful and important process. We have opened the process up to anyone who calls this church their home—you don't need to be a member to attend. Each of the five sessions takes us deeper into the heart of the church as we each discern and understand it.

The final sessions will go over the particulars of the option to disaffiliate. Once we have shared in conversation, shared factual information, then we will be invited to share our understanding of our mission and values as well as our individual discernment as to whether we can live into our mission and values as a part of The United Methodist Church. The final session (offered both 11/6 and 11/13) will offer the chance for those who have attended all five sessions to vote on whether the church Governing Board will call upon the Conference to conduct a Charge Conference for the purpose of gathering members to vote on whether the church will approve disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church.

While the official Charge Conference vote requires a 66% approval for the church to disaffiliate, the Discernment Process vote (which decides if we ask the Conference to invest the time and resources to host a Charge Conference vote) will only require 51%. The Discernment Team feels a simple majority is a sufficient threshold for us to call for that official Conference vote. While anyone can participate in all five sessions and vote, it will be only members who can vote if/when an official Charge Conference vote is held.

Given the gravity of the voting result, we ask all voters to fully invest themselves in The Discernment Process. Come and sit with your sisters and brothers. Share your hearts and listen as others share theirs. Offer your insight, knowledge, and perspectives and allow others to offer theirs. God will bless this gift we offer each other. The Holy Spirit will speak when we fully attune our ears. Jesus Christ will lead us when we open our hearts. While there are certainly anxieties about the reality we face, I am greatly encouraged by the hope and life this process offers us.

The Discernment Process is organized as follows:

Session 1 will be held at 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall on both Sept. 11th and 18th. (choose 1)
Session 2 will be held at the same time and place on Sept. 25th and Oct. 2nd. (choose 1)
Session 3 will be held on Oct. 9th and 16th. (choose 1)
Session 4 will be held on Oct. 23rd and 30th. (choose 1)
Session 5 will be held on Nov. 6th and 13th. (choose 1)
- If you cannot attend either week of a session, let us know so we can arrange an alternative form of

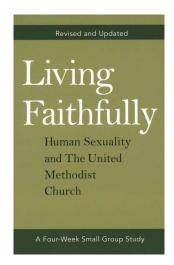
participation for the missed session. We will work with you to ensure you are able to fully participate.

As always, if you have any questions, let me know.

-Rev. Joseph Sanford

joe.sanford@inumc.org





Living Faithfully Study

Do you have questions about what we are discussing as a denomination, Conference, and church body regarding human sexuality and our Book of Discipline?

Do you have questions regarding the specific language that is the source of the

debate?

Do you wonder how people could see things any differently than you and point to the Bible, Wesleyan Theology, and their own life experience as the source of their perspective?

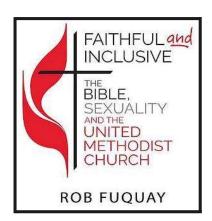
Living Faithfully is a resource that speaks directly to the conversation at-hand. The book has no interest in trying to sway your thinking or convince you of a particular perspective. Rather, it walks through each of the three contentious lines of The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline (our denominational governing authority) and shows how people have used The Bible, Wesleyan Theology, and life experience to either agree or disagree with them.

The goal of the study is to help us all understand that every person at the table, no matter their perspective, is living faithfully to God the best way they know how. The goal is that we can all give each other grace, respect, and love through disagreement. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion so that we may all better understand one another. With better understanding comes the opportunity for us to focus on what brings us together rather than way divides us (Romans 14-15).

Pastor Joe will lead this study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in Room 2 beginning August 9th through 30th. Copies of the book are available in the narthex for \$12. You can leave your book money on the table where you pick up a book. If you drop payment into a tithe box, please mark the payment "Book Money."

Faithful & Inclusive (video study)

- How do you make decisions about how you read The Bible?
- How do we know which stories and commands were meant for all time obedience?
- How do we know which stories and commands were only for the audience of their time?



- Should we stop wearing two kinds of fabric?
- Should we stop eating shrimp?
- Should we stone our sons if they talk back?
- Is there ever a time when it's okay to kill someone?
- Is there ever a time when it's okay to steal or lie?

Faithful and Inclusive helps us understand our decision-making process when reading, interpreting, and applying scripture to our lives as individuals and as a congregation. We make many more decisions than we may even realize. This study helps us walk through *how* we make those decisions. This study also helps us understand how other people make different kinds of decisions while being equally faithful to the text.

Drawing conclusions about human sexuality and the church is not a question of faithfulness. We make the same conclusions about a variety of questions and conversations. If you take The Bible very seriously and wish to understand how we can remain faithful to God's Word while also considering how we can be the church amid the discussion of fully including LGBTQIA+ people, this study is for you.

Pastor Joe will lead this study on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in Room 2 and on ZOOM beginning September 6th through October 11th. The study is a video series, so no reading or preparation is necessary. Rather, the study involves time for small group discussion and sharing while being led by Rev. Rob Fuquay of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Sacred Places Indiana

The Ministers of Maintenance recently met with a representative

from Sacred Places – a program offered by Indiana Landmarks. This program offers churches like us the opportunity to strengthen our ability to maintain and utilize our church building. They specialize in helping churches with older buildings keep up with the maintenance. This help comes in the form of four training sessions followed by grant money offered as well as future grant opportunities.

What this requires from us is a handful of people willing to invest four Saturdays over seven months to travel to Indianapolis and sit with several other churches of varying denominations. The Saturday trainings help us to better know our own history, develop ways to utilize assets (people, programs, vacant space, money, etc.) we already have on-hand, learn how to run effective capital campaigns, as well as explore other avenues for support.

As we approach 100 years in our beautiful sanctuary, we recognize the need for expert help to ensure 100 more years of ministry from within our walls. If you love your church, have interest in exploring creative solutions, and have a heart for ministry and history, please contact Pastor Joe about attending a Saturday session along with he and a handful of others later this summer.

To begin our work with this program, we need only 4-5 people to travel with Pastor Joe and a \$500 investment from the church. At the conclusion of this training, we will be offered a grant of up to \$7,500 to begin our work for the future of our sacred space. Come and join us as we explore new visions for the life of our building.



If you want to be part of the Welcome Team (which includes greeters, ushers, and additional help) please see our

administrative assistant, Tony Goforth today or call the church office at 812-246-2502



YAH will meet Wednesday, August 3rd at 11:30am Ham will be served. We will have lasagna and play BINGO and have a great time of fellowship. Reservations are not needed. Please bring items for prizes. See you there!!



Beyond the Walls Ministry

You are encouraged to keep in contact with your fellow churchgoers in any of the following ways:

Send a card

Make a phone call

Stop by for a visit

If you need information, let me know and I will help you with names, addresses and phone numbers.



Kathy Waterman - 812-256-5298



Sellersburg Meetings

- August 13 Sellersburg UWF will host the South
 District 6-Hour Mission Study. All ladies are
 encouraged to attend.
 - August 14 Meeting cancelled.
- September 11 "Finding Peace in an Anxious
 World." by Flora Childers. Meeting will be in Room
 2 in Basement. October 8 Sellersburg UWF will
 make apple dumplings in the SUMC kitchen for sale
 to church on Sunday,
 - October 9. October 9 Meeting cancelled.
 - November 13 UWF World Thank Offering Program.

Meeting will be in room 2 in Basement.

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



6-HOUR MISSION STUDY

August 13, 2022

Sellersburg United Methodist Church

8:30 a.m. EST - light breakfast/check in 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Study (Lunch included)

STUDY OF LUKE 13 "Who Can We Be Together?"

Led by La Donna Weber

Registration Fee is \$15 - Deadline is August 6

If you are interested, notify Phyllis Hunefeld at

502-693-3696 or

Phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com



SUMC Prayer Chain

If you'd like to be a part of our prayer chain, you can join by sending the message "@sumcprayr" 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.

August 2022

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 smart phone, 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).





Tips to Prepare Middle Schoolers for High School

As your middle schooler begins to approach high school, they are usually filled with a certain sense of excitement. After all, high school brings so many new experiences and opportunities to learn, grow, develop new friendships, and become more independent. What's not to be excited about?

Of course, high school also brings its own challenges, typically in the form of a heavier workload, more homework and other forms of independent learning, and a pressure to begin preparing for college. These challenges

are a normal part of the high school process, and something that all students must learn to handle in their own way.

For that reason, the transition from middle school to high school can sometimes come with growing pains.

Fortunately, there are many ways you as parents can help prepare your middle schooler for the road ahead and guide your teen on this new journey.

There are some easy ways to help your middle schooler prepare for high school. You can visit the school before the school year begins so that your teen can become better acquainted with the facilities and attending freshman orientation can go a long way in helping you help them in this new world. Being prepared with materials and items on the supply lists can ensure they begin day one on solid footing. But there are also long-term habits and skills you can help your teen develop that will keep them successful in high school and beyond.

1. Promote good study habits.

Helping your teen develop the ability to plan and organize can go a long way to helping them feel better prepared for high school. Just as you set routines when they were a young child to keep them grounded and stable, routines can now help them to feel in control of their new surroundings. This is especially important when so much is changing.

Working with your middle schooler to develop good study habits and time management skills can proactively help them handle the increased workload and harder coursework as it comes, keeping them from feeling overwhelmed. Something as simple as getting them a daily planner and showing them how to organize it can help them keep track of assignments, due dates, extracurricular activities, and allows them to feel a sense of calm and control when it comes to tackling their new responsibilities.

These skills—the ability to effectively manage time and good study habits—will help your teen in high school and beyond. And the ability to manage their daily lives, both personal and educational, will help to foster their development into calm, confident adults.

2. Focus on relationships.

So often, we focus on the new friendships and relationships our teens will find and develop as they leave middle school and enter high school. And ultimately, these relationships will build their sense of self and social awareness as they grow and develop. Students should also be encouraged to develop healthy relationships with their teachers, educators, and mentors as well.

Parents should encourage their soon-to-be high schoolers to regularly and openly communicate with their teachers. This can help lay the foundation for mentorships that can help them in secondary education and beyond. Developing these communication skills will also allow them to stay focused on their progress and get a good idea of where, and more importantly, how they can improve in their studies. A strong student-teacher relationship can give young learners a unique insight into their strengths and weaknesses and the ability to identify ways to improve on those abilities.

3. Encourage independent learning.

As your teen enters high school, you want to be sure they are prepared to learn at increasingly challenging levels. You also want to make sure they can apply that knowledge to their education and performance in the real world. For this reason, it's crucial to take the time to encourage your child to become an independent learner.

While it can be tempting to immediately turn the focus of high school to preparing for college, students should also focus on finding the joy in learning, and figuring out where their strengths and weaknesses lie. With the new, less structured learning environment of high school, and the increased sense of independence they will enjoy as they move onto higher education, their success will be greatly impacted by their ability to take ownership of their education and learn independently.

One great way to foster this ability is to encourage them to read independently, and to help them discover where their passions lie. Students that are encouraged to read for fun and follow their interests soon develop the self-motivation to keep that learning going, and naturally begin to push themselves to learn more. This sense of personal responsibility for their learning and education will help them better adjust to the increasing workload and difficulty of material.

Raising Prepared Learners

Ultimately, your teen is going to experience an entirely new world as they enter high school. They will have new surroundings, new friends, new lessons, and new experiences. They will be expected to take ownership of their studies and experience a level of responsibility and independence in their lives that will feel entirely new.

And while this new journey can at times be challenging, it is absolutely manageable. Taking simple steps now, as your child prepares for the transition—such as helping them create a routine, stay organized, and take responsibility for their studies—will help to make them more prepared, capable individuals, in and out of school.

Love and Blessings,

Lori Rice





CHRUDEEN'S MARKETEY

Calling all kids to join SUMC Kids club! Join us in the fellowship hall for food, fellowship, and activities on the Fruit of the Spirit. Kids club will meet monthly for the remainder of 2022: 8/13 @ 5:30-6:30, 9/14, 10/19 and 11/16 @6-7pm. Mark your calendars for SUMC Kids Club Christmas caroling 12/18 @ noon.

Contact Brenda if you'd like to get involved or support this ministry.

SUMC KIDS CLUB in June 29th planted flower seeds in cups. SUMC KIDS CLUB in July 13th made bird seed feeders. Next SUMC KIDS CLUB will be August 17th from 5:30 - 6:30

Back to school prayer

Loving God,

Watch over our children as they begin their new school year. Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and love of learning.

Guide and protect all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace and tiredness with energy.

Give wisdom, patience and joy to teachers as they serve their students.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen









Summer Music Ministry Opportunities

The Sellersburg United Methodist Church sanctuary choir will be taking time off over the summer to be with families, travel and relax from serving in the music ministry. Our choir will not meet for any rehearsals during the months of July and August. We will resume our choir rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 in the sanctuary at 5:00PM.

While our sanctuary choir is away over the summer months, our music ministry will still be active. Our praise team will continue to rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 5:00PM in the sanctuary, and we are continually looking for new voices and talents to join in our ministry! Please prayerfully consider if God is leading you to use your talents in helping lead worship with our praise team group! We currently need a percussionist. The required skill level can be as simple as tapping a box and shaking a tambourine or as advanced as using a full drum set!

In addition to the praise team continuing to lead worship on Sunday mornings, several church members are eager to share their gifts with the church in worship over the summer months. So far we have vocal soloists, trios and instrumental arrangements lined up to participate in Sunday worship. If you have a desire to get involved, please see Mark Ritter!

If you or anyone you know might have a knack for keeping time and is willing and able to worship with our praise team in this capacity, please reach out to Pastor Joe Sanford or Mark Ritter. If you or anyone you know is interested in singing or incorporating any other musical gifts into the music ministry, please get involved — it is a rewarding experience!

You can join the church's notification system Remind to receive updates and announcements from the church, as well as getting messages specific to the choir. Please see Pastor Joe Sanford or Mark Ritter for help in downloading the app, joining the program and enrolling in mobile notifications.

"Hymn of Promise"

Over the past half-decade or so that I have been privileged enough to serve at Sellersburg United Methodist Church, I have asked the members of our congregation to let me know their favorite worship music. Of course, I have ended up with a list that is pages long. It seems, once we begin to really think about our favorite songs, it is difficult to stop! This past week I received a list of hymns that included a song I only became familiar with a few years back, when I was introduced to it by several of the women in our church.

This song I have come to love is called "Hymn of Promise." When faced with all of the challenges of life, it is important to remember what we are promised, as well as what we promise to be and do. Friends, it is oftentimes hard to remember all of these promises when life is at its worst. When we are confronted with rising daily cases of COVID, economic hardships, political divisiveness at every turn, and all of the many other struggles of life, it is sometimes easy to feel abandoned and alone. It is easy to abandon others and hide from our calling.

I ask that as you consider all of the constraints of life that you also remember the richness of life we are offered.

Please remember that, sure, "this, too, shall pass," but also that you are called. As we are called to serve God by serving others, let us strive to honor our promises to God and others. We can glorify God by being a vessel for God's service.

Enjoy the beauty of God's promises as you read this beloved hymn. May you renew your commitment to God and others as you take in the words of this "Hymn of Promise:"

"Hymn of Promise"

In the bulb, there is a flower
In the seed, an apple tree
In cocoons, a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me
From the past will come the future
What it holds, a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning
In our time, infinity
In our doubt, there is believing
In our life, eternity
In our death, a resurrection
At the last, a victory
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

Music Updates:

July is over and August is here! Many of the kids are going back to school, and families are cramming in as many vacations and staycations as possible before getting back into the grind of reality! Many plans have been revised and scrapped as COVID stubbornly refuses to be a thing of the past. Amidst all of this, here are some reminders about the music ministry!

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If you or anyone you know might have a knack for keeping time and is willing and able to worship with our praise team in this capacity, please reach out to Pastor Joe Sanford or Mark Ritter. If you or anyone you know is interested in singing or incorporating any other musical gifts into the music ministry, please get involved — it is a rewarding experience!

Finally, friends, if you have any favorite hymns or worship music you would like to share, please see Mark Ritter after church, or drop a line to mritter.Cpa@Gmail.Com







Pilgrim Sunday School Class May 2022 Events

Over the next two weeks the Pilgrim Class will be finalizing the Bible study, "24 Hours That Changed the World" as we read scripture highlighting the last 24 hours that Jesus spent in human form. The book and video by Rev. Adam Hamilton, provides the framework for our discussion based on various scriptures and in particular the Gospel according to St. Mark. This study has truly been amazing by sharing scenes from the Holy Land where Jesus walked.

Please join after the 9:00 service each Sunday in Room 2 for fellowship, prayer, discussion, and insight into God's message for our daily walk. We welcome all, no matter where you currently are in your faith walk. The women and men of our class would love to welcome you into our Bible study. We welcome the novice and the experienced Bible student.

In a few weeks, we will select a new study using the excellent resources of amplifymedia.com for the next enlightening Bible study. We hope that each of us will be challenged and encouraged as we open our hearts to God's message of love and hope.

Grace and Peace,

Janet Werle - 502-376-9934



Prayer List

- 1. Joyce Adams
- 2. Don & Janet Broady
- 3. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
- 4. Patricia Wallace, friend of Elda Myers
- 5. Sonya Tawney
- 6. Jan Johnson (cancer treatment)
- 7. Dianne Merillat
- 8. Phyllis & Lloyd Hunefeld and granddaughter, Olivia in their sorrow
- 9. Sylvia Liburd recovering from surgery
- 10. Carolyn Curtis
- 11. The people of Ukraine and world leaders
- 12. Tim Johnson waiting for heart transplant
- 13. Monica Sorg's sister Marcella
- 14. Unspoken Prayer Requests
- 15. Tony Goforth's father health issues
- 16. Alice & Denny Jones
- 17. Scott Bliss, Yvonne Frederick's nephew
- 18. Kathy Waterman
- 19. Leroy Coulter-had a stroke and COVID
- Per Sheila Jerry not feeling well. Tim waiting on prosthetic leg
- 21. Ayden Hampton-had COVID and stomach issues



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

August

- William Durham Aug 1
 - Allison Sims Aug 1
 - Lori Rice Aug 1
 - Betsy Boman Aug 2
 - Janice Jones Aug 2
- Marcia Schiller Aug 3
- Alan Pritchett Aug 5
- Judy Lewis Aug 5
- Ollie Miller Aug 6
- Sheila Mapes Aug 8
- Lois Lewis Aug 10
- Carolyn Curtis Aug 11
- Rodney Lewis Aug 12
- Ralph Raeinhardt Aug 16
- Danielle Moore Aug 18
 - Alice Jones Aug 22
- Juliette Sanford Aug 22
 - Lyla Sanford Aug 22
 - Jim Lewis Aug 27

September

- David Broady Sep 4
- Abigail Hart Sep 6
- Meredith Sims Sep 9
- Marilyn Brenner Sep 15
- Dwight Elrod Sep 16
- Dorothy Scannapieco Sep 18
 - Marc Lomax Sep 19
 - Becky Elrod Sep 21
 - Paulette Davison Sep 22
 - Collin Daily Sep 24
 - Phyllis Hunefeld Sep 24
 - John Koerner Sep 27
 - Scott Goodwin Sep 28
 - Sue Smith Sep 29
 - Jim McMillin Sep 29

The July Game - ANSWERS!!!

Below each name are three statements about that person. 2 are true and one is not. Can you pick which one isn't true???

Connie Schlieker

I was a writer for radio shows.

I love peanut butter and banana sandwiches.

I graduated from Transylvania University.

Bob Waterman

Played varsity basketball all four years in high school

Stood on the furthest Northwest Corner of the continental United States, located in Washington State.

While on a date at a movie, I accidentally fell asleep. My date was NOT impressed, however, she later married me!

The one that isn't true is highlighted



Jim Lewis

Took piano lessons when I was a child.

I was a meat cutter at an IGA grocery store.

Used to drag race my car almost every Sunday at a drag strip.