



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Trumpet Sounds | May 2022



759 days from today (April 12th), SUMC held its last worship services before the first shutdown for COVID-19. Looking back, it feels like the world we had then is different than the one we have now. Back then we had no idea about positivity rates, MRNA vaccines, PPE, etc. We knuckled down and learned more than we'd ever cared to learn about pandemics, viruses, and loving our neighbor by wearing masks and social-distancing.

BUT...we are seeing the pandemic wane a bit. It's not over and we'll have more variants and surges, I'm sure. BUT...we are closer to the time when COVID will be like the flu and we will not be so incredibly impacted by it all... which has the ministry staff thinking... what's next?

Clark County case numbers are at an all-time low. The vaccination rates continue to climb. We are ready to begin programming and events we haven't done in over 2 years. While we are excited and eager, we are also left wondering what the new normal will be. What comes next?

The exciting part of this time of discernment is that we get to make decisions that are not tailored to the pandemic. The intimidating part is that even the normal things feel new after such a long hiatus. The inspiring part

of it all is people are returning to church and getting more and more involved.

Luke 14:28-33 is Jesus giving instruction about discipleship. "If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. They will say, 'Here's the person who began construction and couldn't complete it!'"

More or less, Jesus is saying, "If you, Sellersburg UMC, are going to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, you've got to have a plan; you've got to think it through." Now that we can get back to our mission without the hindrance of protocols and mandates, we need to reassess our method of living out our mission. We need to knock the rust off of our routines and gifts and passions and vision for how we live out our mission for our community... which is exactly what we, as a ministry staff, are doing. We are evaluating every aspect of the things we already do to ensure we are doing these things in a way that fulfills our mission. If they don't, then we have to evaluate why we are doing them. If we aren't calculating every aspect of the work and service we do for the Kingdom, then we are building a tower without a plan.

So...where do you envision the work of the church in our community going forward? How do you see the current things we are doing drawing people to Jesus Christ as disciples? How do you see our ministries working for the transformation of our community? These are the questions we are to be asking of ourselves and our church. If we have been doing things which do not help us accomplish our mission—which do not help us in building the Kingdom—then it is our duty to wonder if we are to continue doing them. Change is never easy, but it is inevitable. Venturing into new territory is always hard, but it's the only way to discover the new thing God is doing.

The good news is we are following in the footsteps of many before us. We will use every capacity and gift God has given this congregation to develop a plan as we set out, in faith, to what God has prepared us and called us to this next season of ministry. I cannot wait to see what God has next for us. I am eager to learn where the Spirit is already moving in the hearts of our members and leaders. I am encouraged by the conversations and visions I have been a part of thus far. Join in the conversation and mission, friends. Let the Spirit move through you by sharing what you see from your perspective to help shape and form the ministries of the church so that we might continue to improve how we accomplish our mission each and every season of church life going forward. I hope you are encouraged by what we read in this newsletter about the gearing up of our ministries.

—Rev. Joseph Sanford



Sunday Morning Worship Services update:

With COVID mandates not being a part of our routine, your Governing Board had discussion about Sunday morning worship services during our March meeting.

In the past, we have had a traditional service at 9am and a contemporary service at 11am. As a part of our COVID adjustments and protocol, we created identical blended services to allow people the opportunity to choose which time they wanted to attend—if someone wanted to attend a smaller-crowded service, they wouldn't be "giving up" their worship style to do so. This adjustment was a wonderful success for many.

While it seems COVID is behind us, we know that it is not. We are still in a pandemic. The most difficult aspect of the pandemic, as far as the church is concerned, is making changes. Every time there is a change, there is frustration and confusion; when things start changing, we all grow weary.

The Governing Board, with guidance by our Creative Worship Team, discussed multiple options for Sunday morning worship schedules and routines. The Board unanimously voted to continue offering our identical blended service. The reason for this decision is because there will be surges of COVID cases in the future. We don't want to make changes now only to change things back when the next surge comes.

We are confident the time will come when surges and "pandemic" are no longer regular realities we are facing, but that may be another year or so away. Until we are no longer in a pandemic and facing the probability/possibility of distancing and masking, we will continue with our current approach. This way, when a surge comes, we will not have to make any changes to what we are already doing other than wearing masks and distancing. This allows us all to endure fewer changes.

We appreciate the faithful service of our worship teams as they bring their passion for worshiping and serving God to every effort and choice they make. We are beyond blessed to have the talent and creativity of our staff, volunteers, and Creative Worship Team. We deeply appreciate everyone's flexibility over the last two years and lean upon that for the days ahead. The Creative Worship Team, along with many other people connected to Sunday worship, have been delighted by the dozens of positive responses to finding joy and meaning while engaging with elements of worship that were not the norm for many people prior to the blending of styles.

Thank you, everyone, for putting God first on Sunday mornings. There is so much joy when we gather as the body to lift up our praise and worship for Jesus Christ. The Spirit is working in many people every week as we join our voices and hearts in adoration.

My prayer is that we all continue to glean all we can from the opportunities before us. May God's blessing, through our Spirit-filled gatherings, continue to provide an abundance of deep and meaningful opportunities for us to grow as disciples. May those same blessings be embodied by all of us so that new people, searching for a church family and home, witness the hospitality, love, care, and connection that makes SUMC the beautiful place we have all come to know.



Beyond the Walls Ministry

A Note from our Financial Director

Thanks to all the church family, who have continued to faithfully support the church financially. Below is the report for March:

- **Income Comparison 2021 vs. 2022**

Income for first 13 Weeks in 2022 (through 27Mar22):
\$62,059.90

Income for first 13 Weeks in 2021 (through 28Mar21):
\$61,811.03

Difference: \$248.87

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

Income: \$62,059.90 Weeks: 13
AVG Giving Per Week: \$4,773.84
Projection to Years End (52 weeks): **\$ 248,239.60**

Since mid-March, the Church has been blessed with several special gifts from members of the congregation, in support of the General Fund, Sanctuary HVAC Replacement, and other.

Currently, the 2022 Budget is being prepared by the Governing Board of the Church. As indicated in the March Newsletter, if you have any thoughts on how the church can increase Budget Giving or lower expenses, please contact one of the Governing Board members. Remember, that “everything is on the table” at this point. Every idea is being carefully considered by the board, when developing the new General Fund 2022 Budget.

In closing, continue to remember your church in your prayers as we face tough financial decisions. Continue to remember that He is still in control.

R Waterman - Finance

Now that the pandemic seems to have slowed down, I would like to start visiting in your homes on a more regular basis – if you feel comfortable having me in your home. Let me know when would be a good time for me to come visit.



Kathy Waterman - 812-256-5298



Young at Heart

YAH will meet Wednesday, May 4th at 11:30am

Ham will be served. Plan on playing BINGO and having a great time of fellowship. Reservations are not needed.



Hospitality Team

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





United Women in Faith



Sunday May 15 at 2 p.m.

SUMC Fellowship Hall

Join us for an afternoon of

togetherness as you sip tea and enjoy finger sandwiches, scones, pastries and more! All ladies of the church and their guests are invited. Little tables will be set up for little girls. Bring a memento and/or story of your mother to share. Pink boxes and forms are located at the front and back entrances of the sanctuary to deposit your RSVP's or you may contact Phyllis Hunefeld at 502-693-3696 (call or text) or email her at Phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com with the information.

The May 8 meeting is canceled.

Enjoy Mother's Day with your family.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 12 Join us as Anita Tackett and Elda Myers talk about the books that are available in the Sellersburg United Women in Faith library, review some books, and explain how the reading program works.

July 10 Phyllis Hunefeld will give a review of the Mission u study she attended in 2021 entitled "Pushout—the Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools."

Aug. 13 Sellersburg UWF will host the South District 6-Hour Study. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the

study will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Mark your calendar and watch for more information.

Aug 14 This meeting is canceled, as many members will attend or help with the 6-Hour Study.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION

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 "@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.

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).



YOUTH MINISTRY

Now that the world is getting back to “normal” ... I’m not exactly sure what that means anymore, but I’m sure we will all figure it out with much prayer and flexibility. Part of normal for the youth group means getting back to a regular schedule and hopefully adding some new faces. Part of what Harlo Hardy and I learned from our conference I talked about in last month’s newsletter is that kids need us now more than ever. Not just their youth group leaders, pastors and parents, but they need to get back with their friends, especially their youth group friends.

I would like to invite you to bring your kids, grand kids, nieces, nephews and neighbors to visit our youth group. We will meet Wednesday nights from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, beginning May 4th. The first few weeks we plan to do some get to know you again fun items while continuing to share the Word. We will have our own version of the Kentucky Derby on May 4th. Come join in the FUN!!!

We have also started a Young Adult group that will be meeting the third Thursday of every month to start. Our next meeting is May 18th. We are opening the group to any single person over the age of 18 that would like to join us. We believe everyone has something to add that we can all learn from and would love for others to share their knowledge and help all of us grow. The group has chosen the name “Logos” for the group. In Greek it means word. In the Gospel of John, Christ is identified as “the Word” incarnated, or made flesh or Logos. What an awesome name for a group of young adults that want to spread the word of God. We plan to increase the number of meeting days, but right now they have requested once a month to get things going. Our plans are to do community and volunteer projects, spend time in the Word and I’m sure we

will squeeze in plenty of fun!!! We currently have 5 young adults attending and hope to see more join us in the coming months.

I cannot thank my church family enough for their continued support and ask that you please remember us in prayer as we start this new venture and get the Youth group geared up again. It has been a challenging time for everyone, but we know GOD’S GOT THIS!!!

Love and Blessings,

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to email me at loririce27@gmail.com.

Lori Rice





Gearing up in the children's ministry to get back into full swing, we ask that you help join us in the following...

1. Pray for the children.

- Pray for children as they develop spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.
- Pray they come to know Christ and grow in their faith.
- Pray they would boldly share Jesus with friends.
- Pray for godly friendships. Pray relationships built during the children's ministry years will continue to build in future years; giving them Christian community and accountability through the teenage years.
- Pray for authentic, lasting heart transformation in the lives of the children in the church.

2. Pray for parents and guardians of children.

- Pray parents would grow in their relationship with Christ. For parents who have yet to accept Christ, pray they would understand their need for a Savior and become a Christian.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit as they seek to be the spiritual leaders and provide a godly home for their family.
- Pray for opportunities for spiritual conversations with their children during the week; intentionally recognizing teachable moments and continuing spiritual conversations.
- Pray that in the busyness of life, they would make church a priority in their family's life.
- Pray parents have wisdom to understand and guidance of how to parent each child the way God has created.



3. Pray for children's ministry teachers and volunteers.

- Pray they would hear God's voice as they read His Word and prepare the lessons. Pray for their spiritual growth and relationship with Christ.
- Pray they will see ways God is using them to make a difference in children's lives.
- Pray for renewed strength, energy, and health as they teach each week. Include their family members' strength, energy, and health in your prayers, as well.
- Pray God would encourage them with time of fellowship and godly friendships. Children's Ministry teachers need adult fellowship and community with other believers.
- Pray for teachers as they seek to build relationships with the families of the children they teach and partner with parents in the child's spiritual development.

4. Pray for the children's minister.

- Pray for wisdom as they communicate their heart for ministry to children and families.
- Pray their relationship with Christ grows and deepens. Pray for spiritual protection for his or her family from the enemy.
- Pray for renewed strength, energy, and health as they lead the children's ministry. Include their family members' strength, energy, and health in your prayers, too.
- Pray they will build relationships with other adults including church staff members, children's ministry volunteers, parents and children's ministers from other churches.
- Pray they are encouraged as God works in and through them in the lives of children and families in the church.

Brenda Croucher - Children's Minister



Thank you to the adults and children who are participating in our Pen Pal writing.

Welcome Our New Members



Sonya Tawney and Candace Weston are two sisters, born nine days less than one year apart. Together, they both moved their memberships to our church on Easter Sunday. Sonya and Candace have a long history with the church. Their grandparents, Wallace and Elsie Jones and Reuben and Beatrice Hamelman all lived in Sellersburg and attended this church. The Jones family owned a little candy store on Utica St where young people would go to buy candy and soft drinks. After their daughter joined this church, the Hamelman' also joined. Sonya and Candace's parents, Jerry Jones and Emma Jean Hamelman were united in marriage in the church in 1950 and Sonya and Candace were both christened here on Christmas Eve in 1952 and 1953 respectively. The family later moved from the area but in the early 1980's their mother returned to the church where she attended until she died in 1984. Pastor Underwood officiated her service. After returning to Sellersburg in 2015, Sonya and Candace began searching for a church to attend. They visited several churches over the next few years but started watching services online when Covid hit in 2020. During this period Sonya began watching our church online service. She immediately felt drawn to the church and the pastor's

delivery of the service. She watched a few weeks and then told Candace. They decided they wanted to visit this church. They did and they never went anywhere else. Sonya and Candace are the first two of six siblings. Sonya has one son (David) and Candace has one daughter (Stephanie). Sonya worked 40 years as a federal employee (20 years with the Dept of Commerce and 20 years with Dept of Defense). Candace spent her 40 year career working at General Electric. Sonya lives in Sellersburg and Candace in Jeffersonville. They are both very excited to be welcomed back to the church.



Saturday, June 4th, the church will hold a yard sale. Volunteers and donations are needed. If you would like to donate items, please bring those to the church beforehand and leave them in the Fellowship Hall in the designated area. **Clothing will not be accepted.** If you would like to volunteer, there will be a planning meeting on June 2nd at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All proceeds will go to the general fund.

See **Sonya Tawney** for more information or to volunteer.

sftawney@gmail.com or 812-786-7850



Our own Connie Ford, Elda Myers, and Phyllis Hunefeld helped serve a meal to the crew with Habitat for Humanity.



Miss Brenda and Miss Kathy making Empty Tomb Rolls with the kids on Easter Sunday morning! YUM!!



Janice Jones and family



Easter Sunday





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



ALPHA is Coming...

If you could ask God one question, what would you ask? Have you ever wondered about the purpose of your life? Have you ever wondered why did Jesus have to die? Would you like to brush-up on your Christian faith? Perhaps, you have no faith at all. The Alpha class answers these questions of life.

The Alpha Course is for people who have NO knowledge of Jesus, Bible, or Church. It is Christianity 101. Alpha is for those who have never been to church before and for those that have always been in Church, but feel that they need to brush-up. Alpha is for new Christians and old Christians. Alpha is for those who feel that they have never really got going as a Christian, and it is for newcomers to our church.

Alpha is for you, your neighbor, your relatives, your friends... Alpha is for those wanting to investigate Christianity for the first time, or for old-timers in the faith. Alpha is for singles or married, young or old. Alpha is for everyone.

Alpha will change your life.

Alpha programs are running in 169 countries and are being held in all 50 states. Over 19 million people have attended an Alpha program. Alpha is a non-denominational program. Over sixty people have attended Alpha classes at SUMC, since the first class in Spring 2005.

Alpha is a ten-week program. The class is free and child care is provided at no cost. A light meal is provided during each class. For more information, check the Alpha website at www.alphausa.org.

Plan to join us for the next Alpha Course, currently being planned for later this summer. Watch for more information. To sign-up or for questions, contact Pastor Joe or call the church office for more information.

Join us as we explore the Questions of Life together.

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Don & Janet Broady
3. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
4. Patricia Wallace, friend of Elda Myers
5. Shirley Barnhart family in their grief
6. Frank, Nora Pritchett's brother
7. Jan Johnson (cancer treatment)
8. Dianne Merillat
9. Doug Reiter
10. Caden Elrod - eye surgery and recovery
11. Carolyn Curtis
12. The people of Ukraine and world leaders
13. Tim Johnson - waiting for heart transplant
14. Dallas Kopp family in their grief
15. John Abbott family in their grief
16. Harlo Hardy family grieving the loss of Uncle Rob



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

May

- Betty McMillin May 2
- Mark Ritter May 3
- Deb Sappenfield May 4
- Kathy Waterman May 4
- Dalton Daily May 5
- Ellen Money May 7
- Tom Elrod May 9
- Sam Goodwin May 12
- Lilly Hardy May 13
- Jason Werle May 14
- Rev. Joseph Sanford May 15
- Grace Whobrey May 18
- Janet Broady May 19
- Stephanie Beyl May 21
- Ron Sappenfield May 27
- Bill Koehler May 30
- Darryl Moore May 30



June

- Tracey Beyl Jun 3
- Debbie Riley Jun 5
- Mary Daily Jun 8
- Lisa Goodwin Jun 9
- Estherline Dessime Jun 14
- Phyllis Snow Jun 15
- Brenda Croucher Jun 18
- Lloyd Hunefeld Jun 19
- Jo Ann Haley Jun 21
- Hobson Kahl Jun 25