



# SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *Words to the Wise*

---

June | 2025

### *Pastor's Pen...*

June is always a busy month for me. I will be attending 2 Annual Conference Sessions. The first week of June, I will be in Indianapolis attending the Indiana Conference along with Janet Werle, Pastor Gary, and others. The 2nd week, I will be attending the California-Pacific Annual Conference in Palm Springs.

There is a lot of talk about the Annual Conferences this year. That is because last year at the worldwide United Methodist meeting called General Conference, they passed 4 different Constitutional Amendments. The Methodist church was formed about the same time as the United States Government. Because of that, they are set up in similar ways. One similarity is that they both have a constitution. Ours contains the main rules and beliefs about what it means to be a United Methodist. Changing these rules, like the US Constitution, requires more than just a simple vote.

To change the United Methodist Constitution, every Annual Conference around the world will vote on the 4 amendments. They will then tally all of the votes from every single Annual Conference and come up with the total number of yes votes versus the total number of no votes. If the percentage of yes votes is high enough, then the amendment passes and becomes part of the constitution. It takes a long time for all of the different Annual Conferences to meet and vote. That means that they will not know whether any of them passed until likely sometime in 2026.

You may be wondering what is in the constitutional amendments. There are 4, but the

main amendment revolves around something called "Regionalization." Methodism started in the United States, but in the last 50 or so years it has grown very quickly in places like Asia and Africa. In order to give these new regions some flexibility, they were allowed to make changes to the general rules, what we call the Discipline, that only affected their particular region. What this meant was that while delegates from around the world voted on the rules for the US, only members from the African regions got to vote on the specific rules for Africa and the same for Asia.

The "Regionalization" amendment seeks to even the playing field by making the US a region equal to Africa, Asia, and others. This way, each Region, including the US, could make some changes to the Discipline without affecting the other regions. This would allow more flexibility for each Region to address their cultural and sometimes legal realities without impinging on other Regions. The downside is that there would be multiple different Disciplines around the world. The upside is that people of different lands, histories, and cultures, will be able to live together under one umbrella called The United Methodist Church.

There will be a special Webinar presentation on Wednesday evening, May 28th at 7pm. All are invited to Room 2 to watch this webinar together and learn more about all of the Constitutional Amendments.

Blessings,

**Pastor John**

[john.demaree@inumc.org](mailto:john.demaree@inumc.org)



**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Both the Wednesday Night and Friday Morning Bible studies will be on break throughout the month of June. Pastor John has several commitments, and then the last week of June is Vacation Bible Study. The Friday Evening Bible study has already concluded, and the final meeting of the Friday Morning study will be May 30th. They will both return later in the summer. Watch your upcoming Newsletters for more information.



GROW PRAY SERVE

Are you receiving Pastor John's weekly email?

If not, email the office and let Tony know!

*Available on Facebook and through our website*

**Updated History of the Church Coming Soon**

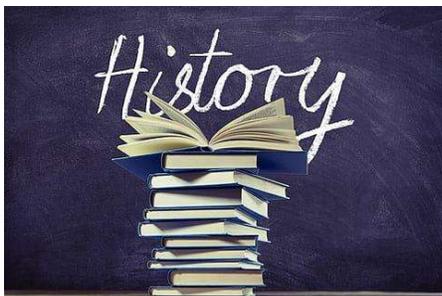
We are working on updating our church history. The hope is to put out an updated booklet with a complete history of the 154+ years that Sellersburg UMC has been a part of this wonderful community. As we prepared for the 100th anniversary of the sanctuary we noticed there are limited photos of the church and its ministries before the year 2000. There are very few to no pictures of big events like the building of the fellowship hall in the 1950s etc.

If you have been a long time member of the church, we ask that you take a look back through your photo albums and see if you have pictures perhaps of the church basement when it was still a fellowship hall, or any other places around the building over the years. Collecting and digitizing these now means we can incorporate them into the digital history file we are creating. This will make sure the history is available for generations to come.



Check out What's Up Wednesday...

We have multiple adult Sunday School classes, classes for children, and nursery care starting at 9am, downstairs and in the Fellowship Hall.





Young at Heart

The Young-At-Heart pitch-in luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. On the menu is meatloaf and mashed potatoes. Join us for fun, fellowship and a delicious meal, and don't forget to put YAH on your calendar on the first Wednesday of every month.

Items for **Exit 0** are still being collected.

Everyone is invited!

Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)

Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)



message which will introduce the concept of moral distress and how to best manage it through hope and other Christian practices. We hope you can make it!

There will be no other UWF meeting in June.

A Note from the Governing Board...

The Governing Board wishes to express our deepest appreciation to those who worked to ensure a wonderful and successful Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Sanctuary Dedication.

To **Kathlynn Kahl and her Team** for organizing and implementing the Fellowship Dinner. The decorations, food and beautiful cakes added a very special touch to our celebration.

To **Janet Sims and Tony Goforth** for gleaning through the Church Directories and sending many invitations to current and past members. They worked many hours on designing the beautiful card and publicity materials.

To **Peggy Sayre** for sending notifications to the News and Tribune.

To **Pastor John** for many hours of research and planning to make the day very memorable. He is also compiling the substantial amount of materials gathered throughout the decades into a document format for future generations. He has worked with all of the teams to make certain all aspects were addressed.

To **Nora Pritchett** for compiling the digital data into two separate programs highlighting the ministry and mission of SUMC. She and Pastor John created wonderful videos that will give testimony to our past and current work to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

To **Mark Ritter** for playing the organ and piano during the worship service and for the love he has expressed for God's people here at SUMC. To all who attended the service and dinner and made the effort to connect with our church family. Many thanks to all for making the 100th

Celebration of success.

**Janet Werle - Chairperson**



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Sunday, June 22nd

Please come enjoy this special worship service coordinated and presented by the women of Sellersburg UMC. The theme of the service is *Practicing Hope Together* (Romans 12:4-12). Many women will be involved in the worship service. Jennifer Demaree is delivering the

**Sellersburg Prayer Quilt Ministry News**

We are having our next gathering of the Prayer Quilt Ministry team on Monday, June 2nd, at 6:00 pm in Room 2 in the church basement (enter through the back door of the church off of the parking lot). We are looking for anyone who wants to help with this budding ministry whether they attend our church or not. Helping can be as simple as threading on the prayer ties, cutting up fabric, or fringing fleece among other tasks. We will also gladly accept finished lap quilts (around 3' by 4') or prayer squares (12" by 12") and we will add the ties. In addition, we are accepting donations of:

- Any cotton, fleece, or blended fabric (including any size scraps or even quilt tops if you have one laying around you will never finish)
- Embroidery floss, yarn, or pearl crochet cotton for prayer ties
- Used or new flannel back tablecloths to cover the work tables
- Well-loved or new fabric scissors
- Monetary donations for us to buy any of the above are also accepted (write Prayer Quilt Ministry in the memo section of the check or the offering envelope)

Prayer Quilts can be requested by anyone for anyone, whether they attend our church or not. The quilts are gifts from the church to the recipients—they are all about the prayers that are attached to them. There are forms in the entryway by the Fellowship Hall on the table in the brown folder. Please take a blank form from the Blank Forms folder. *Please complete it after you ensure that the person you would like to receive a prayer quilt is willing to accept it.* Once the form is completed, please put it into the folder for Completed Forms, also on the table.

If you have any questions, please ask Jennifer Demaree or Flora Childers at worship or email the office at [SellersburgUMC@gmail.com](mailto:SellersburgUMC@gmail.com). If you would like to request a form but cannot make it to church, please email the office as well..

SUMC Prayer Quilt Ministry

**MEN'S WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP**

As we get closer to Father's Day, I recall an article I found in Turning Points, June 2025 Devotional, where it has something that Fathers can benefit from. "Being rich and famous isn't necessary to be a good father or a noble person. It's far more vital to be honest, hardworking, and mostly to be obedient to the voice of the Lord.

We need to make sure we are honest, hardworking, and obedient today.

Always Praying for You,

MENS BREAKFAST and PRAYER GROUP

**See Rob Lamb for more information.**

[roblamb2567@gmail.com](mailto:roblamb2567@gmail.com)



**COMMUNITY NEEDS**

**Silver Creek Food Pantry**

First off, thank you so much for your generosity so far this year! The Missions Team still needs your help with donations for Silver Creek Food Pantry and Exit 0. As summer approaches, the Silver Creek Food Pantry will be accessible to students throughout the summer months. Many families do not have the means to supply 3 meals a day or those everyday toiletries. Here is a list of especially needed items:

Pasta - Pasta sauce - Kraft Mac-n-cheese (Easy Mac as well) - Peanut Butter (all types) -

Feminine hygiene products - Deodorant (all types)

There is a donation container for this charity in the entry hall between the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary.

**Exit 0**

For Exit 0, we need supplies for the Snack Bags and toiletries. Here are the lists as a refresher:

**Snack Bags:**

The following items are needed for each snack bag:

A gallon size plastic bag - 1 can of meat (Tuna or chicken salad kits, potted meat, Spam, Vienna Sausage - pop top cans) - 1 granola breakfast bar - 1 bottle of water - 1 flavored drink packet - 1 Pop Tart (Donuts, Little Debbie's, Snack Cakes, etc.) - 1 Slim Jim - 1 Variety Snack Bag (Chips, Gold Fish, Cheese Nips, Pretzels, etc.) - 1 Peanut Butter Cracker or Cheese Cracker packet - 1 Fruit Cup including plastic spoon or fork - 5 pieces of wrapped hard candy - 1 Pair of socks

**Hygiene Products:**

While we are no longer making bags or kits of Hygiene products, we are still collecting the items and delivering them in bulk. Here are some of the products that they need:

Wash Rags - Body Wash (2 in 1) - Bars of soap - Deodorant - Disposable Razors, Q Tips - Tampons/Pads - Toothbrushes - Toothpaste - Combs - Pairs of Socks - Travel size Lotion - Travel size Hand Sanitizer - Travel size First Aid Kits

In the Fellowship Hall, there are totes labeled Snack Bags and Hygiene Bags in which people can drop their donated items or the bags which

they have assembled. You can buy one thing or lots of things. Every little bit helps the homeless Exit 0 serves. When we have enough finished bags to fill boxes, they will be delivered to Exit 0 for distribution. This will be an ongoing mission project for 2025, so donations will be needed all year.

**SUMC Missions Team**



**Project Exit 0 Update**

On Wednesday, May 7th those attending our monthly Young at Heart

luncheon once again joined together to assemble snack bags for Exit 0 shelter. We were unsure that we would have enough donated items to assemble entire snack bags. But the generosity of our congregation allowed us to make 50 bags. We used all the supplies and now need to rebuild our donations. We hope to make this a yearlong mission project. Please continue to donate needed items as you can. The assembled bags were delivered to Exit 0, on West Maple Street Baptist Church in Jeff. The people there were very appreciative of the donations.

The mission team has decided to provide the 5th Sunday of the month meals to Exit 0 for the remainder of 2025. SUMC will deliver and serve the Sunday afternoon meal at the shelter. Our first meal will be on Sunday, June 29 at 2:00 pm. We need volunteers to cook, assemble, deliver, and serve the meals at the shelter. If you are interested in helping this mission project, please let Pastor John or Janet Sims know. We will also provide meals in August and November on the last Sundays of these months.

On July 3rd the director of Exit 0, Paul Stensrud will attend and talk to YAH attendees about his project. He will tell us about their work with the homeless in Clark County and their needs. We invite everyone interested in this mission to attend this luncheon and talk. We invite anyone who would like to support this mission project to join us on Wednesday, June 4th for hands-on involvement. Please continue to contribute snack items or hygiene items. There is a table in Fellowship Hall with totes for the collection of any donated items.

Since we started this project in March, we have delivered 150 bags and a large amount of hygiene products. SUMC continues to show Christ's love to people in our community!

**Birthday List**

See a mistake or omission? Need a mailing address for a card? Contact the church office [sellersburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com)



**June**

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

**July**

- Audrey Sanford Jul 2
- Vicki Carmichael Jul 6
- Charles Daily Jul 8
- Stewart Daily Jul 9
- Lawrence Kerber Jul 10
- Walter Tuttle Jul 15
- Gary Hawn Jul 18
- Rachel Wells Jul 19
- Fairen Hardy Jul 19
- Amber Loppnow Jul 19
- Jennifer Demaree Jul 20
- Sophie Potts Jul 22
- Sonya Tawney Jul 23
- Nancy Koerner Jul 26
- Rebecca Lomax Jul 31

**Prayer List**

1. Alice & Denny Jones
2. Janice Jones
3. Ralph Raeinhardt
4. Brenda Croucher
5. Jennifer (Maureen's daughter)
6. Donna West (Tony's friend that has cancer)
7. John Scannapieco
8. Connie Ford
9. Peace in Ukraine & the Middle East
10. Sharon (Maureen's sister)
11. Fred & Sue Smith
12. Bishop Malone & Derrick



**A special thank you...**

While having a beautiful old building for a church is a wonderful blessing, the upkeep is constant and expensive to keep in pristine condition. I would like to thank several people for their “hands on” help with keeping our church in good repair. Thanks to Carol Voyles for all her work with Prosser Vocational School to renovate the prayer garden. Thanks to Hobson and Kathlynn Kahl for supervising the huge undertaking of having the plaster and water leakage problems addressed. Thanks to Rob and Stephanie Lam for refurbishing the prayer room into a beautiful, inviting meditative room. Thanks to Willie Durham for helping with the changing of various A/C filters throughout the building and numerous other jobs. Thanks to the Daily family for their work of keeping us “live” each week. Thanks to Pastor John Demaree for using his skills to repair numerous problems throughout the property. (Installing new bell rope , new hand railing, various leaks, and problems throughout the building, projector problems, and the list goes on). Thanks as well to our support staff, Tony Goforth for keeping track of so much “stuff” for us. Special thanks to Darryl Moore who keeps it all together for us daily. He is our “frontline man” and does countless things to keep our church safe, clean, and comfortable. No doubt I have missed many we need to thank. So, whatever you do to keep our church building a beautiful and inviting place to worship, THANK YOU! You and your work are very much appreciated.



**Peggy Sayre, Trustee**



**What a Joy!**

On Sunday, May 18 th SUMC celebrated the 100 th anniversary of the dedication of our beautiful sanctuary. We came together to remember people and events that had shaped and led our congregation through the years. There was an air of excitement in the sanctuary as we greeted new and old members, who joined for worship. Pastor John reminded us of the history of SUMC with many pictures and facts of significant days in the life of our church. His sermon also challenged us to expect great things in the future of SUMC as we are not done serving the Lord and our community. There was wonderful music provided by our choir and special guest, pianist Mark Ritter. The choir always adds a beautiful moment to our worship services. Mark has the ability to make our piano come alive with joyous music! It was so nice to have him share his talent and join our worship service. The service was followed by a great pitch-in meal and fellowship time. Kathlynn Kahl and her team of workers did a wonderful job of creating a beautiful environment with delicious food for everyone to enjoy. SUMC has always had and continues to have great cooks! Thank you to everyone who provided food and served the meal. Nora Pritchett provided videos of SUMC’s history of events and people for the worship service and for the fellowship time. She also took many photographs of the day including a photograph of everyone in attendance. Thank you, Nora, for your work on this celebration. One of the largest thank yous needs to be to Hobson Kahl, who led the efforts to repair and make our sanctuary and church look so wonderful. The repaired plaster and refreshed paint in the sanctuary and on the building made our church look ready for the next 100 years! Thank you Hobson, for all you do for SUMC. It was a day filled with joy, gratitude for the past and excitement for the future and all that SUMC has yet to accomplish.

**Check out some great pictures on the next page.**



**A Century of Faith: Celebrating  
Sellersburg United Methodist Church**

*This year marks a significant milestone in the life of Sellersburg United Methodist Church as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our sanctuary—a testament to generations of faith, fellowship, and service.*

**Our Beginnings**

*Sellersburg UMC was established in 1871 as the Sellersburg Methodist Episcopal Church, beginning with just eleven charter members under the leadership of Rev. John Green. The original church building was completed and dedicated on August 25, 1882, becoming a central place of worship and community in the growing town of Sellersburg.*

**A New Sanctuary for a New Century**

*As the congregation grew, so did the need for a larger space. Construction of our current sanctuary began in June 1924 and was completed in the spring of 1925. The first worship service in the new building was held on May 17, 1925, and for the past 100 years, it has remained a place where faith is nurtured and God is glorified.*

**A Living Legacy**

*Throughout its history, Sellersburg United Methodist Church has been a cornerstone in the community—offering Sunday worship, Christian education, missions, music, youth ministry, and support to families and individuals. Our story is one of*

*perseverance, love, and commitment to living out the gospel in both word and deed.*





Join us June 23-27 for a Fun-Filled Road Trip to Exciting Destinations

We are inviting you and your friends to join us for five nights of fun. We will have music, games, snacks, and Bible lessons.

Questions? Want to volunteer?

Contact Lori Shields at [burgstudentministry.com](http://burgstudentministry.com) or via text/phone call at 502.298.2727.

Registration details coming soon!