



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Trumpet Sounds | December 2021



The Path Continues

Well done, good and faithful disciples of Sellersburg UMC!

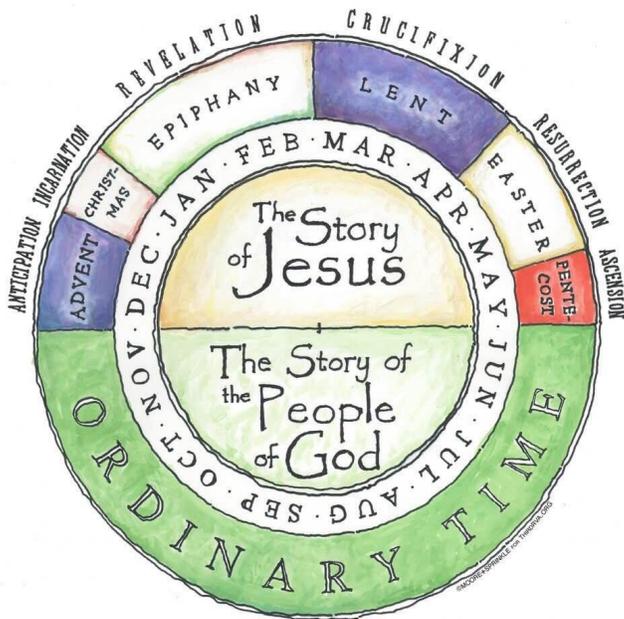
We covered some serious ground over the last several weeks as we reflected upon 150 years of ministry and mission for our community as the body of Christ. We, as an entire body, reflected upon our Wesleyan heritage and tradition as we shared in fellowship, study, and conversation about how we are committed to the continuing ministry and mission through our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. We have much to be proud of from the past, much to celebrate in our present, and much to anticipate for our future as followers of Jesus whose lives are centering on loving God and loving others.

As you know, our faith is thousands of years in the making. From the origins of the Hebrew people, to the Israelites, to Judaism, to the branching of Christianity from Judaism to catholicism, to Roman/Eastern Catholicism, to the Protestant Reformation, to the Anglican Church, to the Methodist Church...we have come a long way in our progression.

One of our oldest traditions as Christians goes back to the 4th Century. During the time of the official creation of the Christian Bible, creation of creeds, and official formation of Christianity as the main religion of the Roman Empire, the liturgical year was created. We begin with Advent (anticipating the birth of Jesus), and then move through Christ's birth (Christmas), life as Christ (Epiphany), journey toward the cross (Lent), resurrection (Easter), and ascension/gifting of the Holy Spirit to the church (Pentecost).

This journey through the story of Jesus takes us through half of the year. The second half of the year is about the story of the people of God. We reflect upon the work of God *through* Jesus followed by the work of God *through* us. While the work of God through Jesus IS huge, our work is just as important.

As you can see in the diagram, the different steps of the season are designated by colors. The change of color gives us a visible indication of the change for our worship space. Much of the year is green (ordinary time) to remind us of the life we are called to live as disciples. We remember the work of the Kingdom/Reign of God in Jesus to guide us in the work of the Kingdom/Reign of God set before us.



For those new to the Methodist tradition, you may wonder about some of the things we do that haven't been discussed yet. For instance, what is the deal with changing colors in the sanctuary and what are the liturgical seasons? Where does that come from? What does it mean? (And don't worry, many long-time members may not be familiar with the details either.)

We appropriately ended the 2021 liturgical year with our journey through "A Disciple's Path" work and sense of call and identity as United Methodists. So...the new liturgical year has begun! The disciple's path continues for us all.

We begin the new year with Advent where we anticipate the coming of Jesus both then and now. Yes, we

tell the story of Jesus' birth *then* during this time through Christmas, but the story is just as much about the birth of something new in Christ in us *now*.

This Advent season begins as the darkness of each day is growing--this is no accident. Christmas occurs on December 25th, not because that is Jesus' actual birthday, but because it falls near the winter solstice (the longest night of the year). In those ancient days of the past, light (like color) was used to tell the story of Jesus to the church. We light candles as a sign of the growing presence of Light amidst the Night.

We can all relate to the presence of Night in this season, can't we? The division, disaster, despair, and disease of our day is nothing new. The difficulties of our 21st Century walk are just another line in the story of humanity. But there is hope in the anticipation of the dawning of the new Day. That new Day begins with the birth of Christ long ago and continues with the new birth of us all today.

We will sing our Christmas carols and enjoy our Christmas lights and trees plenty this season. But remember, this is Advent. We await in the Night for the the new Day. We wait in hopeful anticipation for the continuation of our story through the work of the Kingdom/Reign of God in the person Jesus Christ as well as the body of Jesus Christ (the church). We have much to celebrate in the Night, because we *know* the Day is coming. *This* is what Advent is all about.

Let us open our eyes and hearts to the story of Jesus as we begin this new liturgical year.

Let us hear the Word with fresh ears as it was revealed in flesh in Jesus Christ.

Let the centering of our lives in love of God and neighbor continue in this Advent season as we anticipate what God is going to do in, for, and through us next for our ministry and mission to the people of Sellersburg.

Merry Advent, friends!

Rev. Joseph Sanford

UMC Doorway Class

Interested in becoming a member of The United Methodist Church or the UMC of Sellersburg?

Pastor Joe will offer a Doorway Class beginning January 9th at 9am (Sunday School hour) in Fellowship Hall to learn what it means to be a member of the church. We will walk through Wesleyan tradition and our understanding of various elements of our faith and practice.

Anyone is welcome to come and be a part of this opportunity. Please email Pastor Joe if you plan to attend: joe.sanford@inumc.org

Ordination Stole: Explanation & Gratitude



In June I had the immensely humbling privilege of being ordained as an Elder in Full Connection with the United Methodist Church. The process had begun in 2014 with my certification as a candidate for ordained ministry. Two church charges, a Master of Divinity, and three years in Residency in Ministry later I knelt before the denomination and received the blessing ordination from Bishop Julius Trimble this spring.

Part of my celebration was being recognized by YOU. I received many cards with blessings of encouragement and affirmation as well as a cross which I had in my pocket during my ordination. Furthermore, in your generosity and support, you gave me a certificate to purchase a personalized stole. The stole is significant because it is only worn by Elders in Full Connection--I had never worn one prior to my ordination. The certificate was to the same creator as the unique

pentecost stole I received during my ordination ceremony. My two ordained colleagues and I received a stole designed identically to each other, but uniquely compared to every other stole out in the world. It matched all other ordination stoles from years past, but with an entirely unique design.

The Trumpet Sounds | December 2021 Sellersburg United Methodist Church

I was excited to work with this creator, Joan, to create a one-of-a-kind stole I could add to my new collection. I connected with her and shared my ideas for a design based upon several things. As some of you know well, if you've participated in Bible study with me, I have a deep and strong connection to the Hebrew/Jewish history of our faith. The scriptures are steeped in Jewish tradition which, when understood, unlock entire worlds of meaning which first captured my heart when my path towards ministry first began. It's been a true joy to share this love with you all during studies and sermons.

In my final year of seminary I completed a project at my field site (the church I was appointed to in Darlington, IN) about The Kingdom of God in the Gospel of Mark. I took an upper-level class which focused on The Kingdom in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) which captivated my heart and mind. I built a Lenten sermon series and Bible study series focused on exploring The Kingdom of God--truly one of the most exciting and rewarding pieces of my seminary education.

Prior to my final semester in seminary I took a class that was held in Israel for two weeks. We explored both Israeli and Palestinian territory connecting with local leaders of different perspectives and faith traditions. We learned from three christian leaders (each approached the reality of conflict in that area differently), an Israeli leader, and a Muslim leader. The time we spent exploring the popular sites as well as some of the lesser-visited sites was life-changing. My studies of the Hebrew/Jewish tradition and meaning came to life in entirely new ways.

One of our stops in Israel was in Capernaum. One of the earliest churches is there--the home of Simon Peter's mother-in-law. Also in the area was the museum featuring the 1st century fishing boat found in the Sea of Galilee. Jesus would have been in a boat very similar to the one found.

While exploring these sites I came across a gift shop. In the gift shop I saw a collection of tallits (prayer shawls). I had seen many people wearing these tallits and knew that Jesus would have certainly worn one as well. As I was admiring the more expensive handmade tallits, a woman approached me to tell me about them. She was a wonderful salesperson and showed me several of them and explained the meaning of each of the tallit's elements of design.

We came across a tallit that was different from most of the rest. Instead of the traditional blue, it was purple. At this point I was already sold on acquiring one; their beauty and meaning had connected deeply with me. To have a handmade tallit from the town where Jesus had spent so

much time in ministry was beyond enticing. But...then she pushed me well over the edge of love when she told me purple represents The Kingdom of God. I asked her if it would be inappropriate for a christian to buy a tallit and she not only assured me it was not, but helped me put the garment on correctly (there is a very specific process).

Needless to say, she made the sale. This tallit is one of my most treasured possessions. The sad part is, there is almost never a time to appropriately wear it. So...it sits draped across a bookshelf in my office reminding me of my roots in ministry and the roots of our faith in Christ as the herald and king of the Kingdom/Reign of God. When it came time to design a one-of-a-kind stole, I knew exactly what I wanted.

I connected with Joan about the tallit and its meaning. I sent her pictures to let her see the intricate stitching, color, and design. Together, over the course of months, we found the appropriate elements and worked out the right design. Below are pictures of the beautiful stole which you provided for me.



Here we have the throne and crown of our King Jesus. Clearly christian elements are connected directly to The Kingdom of God through the obvious throne/crown connected with the color purple.

The ornate stitching and tallit design on my stole is



seen below. Joan completed this work using her own technique and



The Trumpet Sounds | December 2021 Sellersburg United Methodist Church

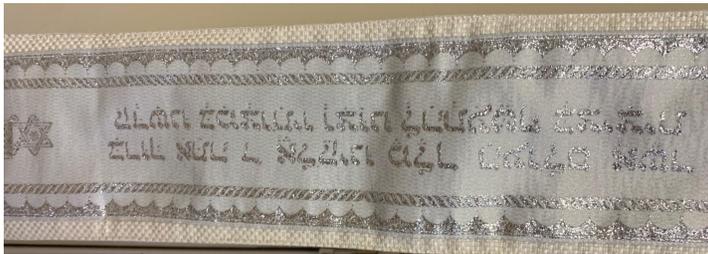
effort. As a comparison, to the right are pictures of the tallit.

There are two very traditional elements to a tallit. One is the prayer blessing (seen below). When putting on a tallit, the wearer is to recite the prayer in Hebrew:

(english translation)

“Blessed are You, L-rd our [G-d](#), King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to enwrap ourselves in Tzitzit.”

We located actual blessing elements and have placed an authentic one on the stole.



The other traditional element are the tzitzit. Each corner of a tallit features the longer fringe which reminds the wearer of the commandments of God.



The final element of the stole is the piece that hangs around the back of the neck. Here we clearly tied together The Kingdom of God through the Jewish Messiah. Bringing together these two symbols ties the two faith expressions together in a way that honors both traditions. The Jewish tradition envelops the Christian scriptures and provides their meaning through context.

I am beyond grateful to have the opportunity to serve as an ordained Elder at Sellersburg UMC. All of you have walked with me through the final

stage of the process. You have given me space and support as I continue to learn and grow as a clergyperson. The joy of expressing my deep connection to Hebrew/Jewish tradition and the way it brings so much life to my Christian faith is not something I could fully express in words. This stole bears much meaning of which I am honored to share in my many years of ministry ahead of me.

Thank you all for being my church family through this significant time. Thank you for supporting me through the opportunity to create a one-of-a-kind stole which expresses a significant part of my heart and soul. Thank you for being the church for me and my family through the season of ordination.

And, if you are not aware, Lauren is now in her own process of ordination. She is a Certified Candidate on the Deacon track and is attending Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. SUMC is supporting her in your process as well which is a great honor both Lauren and I. You all are a very significant part of our lives and calling.

Rev. Joseph Sanford.

p.s. When you see me wearing the stole, come have a look!

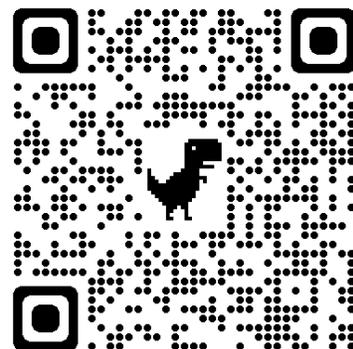


Church Directory Photos

Wed 12/8 and Thurs 12/9

Sign-up for the new church directory. You will get a free 8x10 photo for your session and the option to purchase more pictures.

Schedule at www.ucdir.com - click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **in1762** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Or call the church office.



SUMC Women's Christmas Celebration

This year will be a Pitch-in Salad Supper in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 12, at 4 p.m. The 2022 officers will also be installed. All ladies of the church are invited. For more information and/or transportation, contact Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696 or phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com).



Service Opportunity - Community Kitchen in Jeffersonville



In the Disciple lesson that emphasized service from us believers, I thought of the Community Kitchen on Spring Street in Jeffersonville. George and I have been on a team at the Kitchen for about 20 years, 2 Mondays a month, and have found the team relationships and the work both fun and very gratifying. However, we are retiring next month, along with 2 other long-time men on the team. So this leaves openings for new volunteers on these Mondays; and there are openings on several other days.

This is an ideal opportunity for a person who likes to cook for a crowd (100-150), or ones who have a gift of helping. Service would be Monday thru Friday, 8:30-1:00 approximately. You can also call Rich at 502-644-7508.

Blessings all around!
Marilyn Brenner

Donations to Exit 0.

They need blankets, tents, thermal underwear sizes L - 4XL, winter gloves, hot chocolate packages, etc. Drop off at 403 W. Maple St., Jeffersonville on

- Wed. 7-8 pm
- Fri. 3-4:30 pm
- Sun. 2-3 pm.

Meijer Points Match - Dec 11th



Dec. 11 is **DOUBLE MATCH** day at (Jeffersonville) Meijer to support the Center for Lay Ministries.

Holiday Stress

Prior to the pandemic I had the opportunity to attend a Youth Mental Health First Aid training program sponsored by Purdue University. At Purdue I work with kids grade K-12 and as Director of Youth Services I work with grades 6-12. I of course jumped on the opportunity to learn more about ways to help the kids and youth I encounter daily. Part of that process was learning what direction to point the kids and their families when it is beyond my scope of help. One of the things I learned is how we as adults falsely believe our kids don't recognize when something changes, like our stress level during the holidays. If we continually stress ourselves out over the holidays, our kids will learn from example that it is normal to feel that way. I recently received an article called "7 ways to prevent holiday stress – for your children" from the trainers from my Youth Mental Health First Aid program and it had a lot of good information I thought I would share. Merry Christmas and relax and enjoy the holidays!!!

~ Lori Rice

7 Ways to Prevent Holiday Stress — for Your Children

By Claire McCarthy, MD, Senior Faculty Editor, Harvard Health Publishing

The holidays can be hectic — and tense. Between buying presents (expensive and nerve-racking), holiday events (how many holiday concerts can there be?), entertaining (so much cooking), traveling, and family gatherings (which are not always as pleasant as we might like), what should theoretically be fun has a way of becoming stressful. It can be stressful for kids, too.

Okay, they aren't driving long distances, dealing with office parties, or managing a credit card bill. But it is stressful nonetheless. Routines are off, there are so many expectations, and the ambient stress has a way of affecting children too.

Here are seven ways to prevent and reduce holiday stress for children this season.

1. Manage your own stress. Not only are you setting an example, there's just no way to stop your children from sensing your stress and being affected by it. It's kind of like the safety message we hear every time we get on an airplane: if you are flying with a child and the oxygen masks drop, you should put yours on first and then put on the child's. You're no good to anyone if you can't function. Try to be self-aware. Set aside time for yourself. Create code words that your partner and friends can use to let you know when you are starting to act like a snippy, crazy person. Practice self-care. Get enough sleep. Speaking of sleep...

2. As much as possible, keep routines the same. Kids do best when routines are predictable — and healthy. This is particularly true for sleep. As tempting as it may be to let kids stay up late and sleep late throughout the holidays, try to stay within an hour of usual times, except for special occasions (like New

Year's Eve). We all do better when we stick to our sleep routines. Same goes for mealtimes (be sure your kids get three healthy meals a day, preferably with you and not in front of the television). As you think about how your children will spend the holidays...

3. Manage expectations. My youngest child has a way of getting incredibly excited for Christmas, expecting that he will get that incredibly expensive and hard-to-find Lego set, and that we will spend every day of vacation visiting museums and doing other activities, preferably with his friends — and then getting sad when he gets something slightly different and has to amuse himself some days. This is true for lots of kids, and is very preventable. Up front, let kids know what they can and can't expect. You don't have to give away the surprise, but you could, as a family, say that everyone gets one big but not break-the-bank gift (and otherwise set parameters on gifts). And you can sit together, look at the calendar, and let your kids know what you can and cannot pull off when it comes to vacation activities. As you think about activities...

4. Keep kids active. Speaking of television, sitting in front of it (or a gaming console or an iPad or phone) all day isn't good for anyone, and exercise is a known stress-buster. Kick them outside. Go to the park. Take advantage of free swim time at the local Y. Go for walks together. That together part is key...

5. Spend some time together. Real time, where you are sharing an activity. Going to the movies or having a family movie night is fine (and a nice way to end a crazy day), but try to do things that involve actual interaction. Play games together. Visit a museum together. Bake cookies. Which is a good example of how you can...

6. Build some family holiday rituals, if you don't have them already. Whether it's holiday baking, or making homemade gifts together, or a particular concert you always attend, or some friends you invite

The Trumpet Sounds | December 2021 Sellersburg United Methodist Church

every year, create things you can do together every year that are meaningful and fun. There are plenty of things you *have* to do. Make your family rituals things you *want* to do. And as you build your rituals...

7. Choose something to do as a family that helps

others. Choose toys for a toy drive. Go through clothes in the closet and bring gently used ones to a shelter or clothing drive. Donating money to causes is always great, but look for things that your children can actively participate in, preferably that you can do as a family. Try not to think of it as another family chore. Instead, think of it as a way to not only teach kindness, but to keep perspective on the holidays — and on what's way more important than presents or parties.

That's a perspective we all need — and the perspective that could save all of us a lot of stress.

Children's Ministry Update

Below are the fun activities we are doing in the children's ministry.

Sunday School: David C. Cook - Bible in life curriculum

Children's Church - Cokesbury Kids Advent - Amplify Media - themed videos and activities.

- DECEMBER 5, WE WILL LOOK AT THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT CHURCH.
- DECEMBER 12, CELEBRATE THE WINTER SEASON AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BY WEARING YOUR FAVORITE SOCKS, SWEATER OR HOUSE SHOES.
- DECEMBER 19 WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS PAJAMAS TO CHURCH AND CLASS.
- DECEMBER 24 WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS OUTFIT TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR.

KIDS WOW (Worship on Wednesday) for the fall and winter months have been temporary suspended, but come join us on Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 Children's Church and 10:00 for Sunday School!

I want to Thank Everyone for your Support, Prayers and Encouragement to me and the Children's Ministry!

I want to Wish all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Blessing, Love & Hugs!
Brenda Croucher
Children's Ministry Director

Prayer List

1. Joyce Adams
2. Don & Janet Broady
3. Mark Ritter's Grandfather
4. Patricia Wallace, friend of Elda Myers
5. Shirley Barnhart
6. Denny Jones (health issues)
7. Frank, Nora Pritchett's brother
8. Doris Smith and family
9. Haiti ongoing humanitarian & kidnapping crisis
10. Afghanistan refugees
11. Jan Johnson (cancer treatment)
12. Dena Werle (recovery and treatments)
13. Dianne Merillat
14. Jessie Vogler (high risk pregnancy)
15. Mary Waterman (eye problem)
16. Steve Frederick (recovery from surgery)
17. Connie Schleicher (death of Sister in Law)
18. Ollie Miller
19. Lisa Hall (recovery from surgery)

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

Name	Birthday
Rev. Cheryl Garbe	Dec 1
Melville Miller	Dec 2
William Nunn	Dec 3
Lois Pickel	Dec 12
Sylvia Liburd	Dec 14
Terry Sims	Dec 15
Darrell Boman	Dec 15
Barb Koehler	Dec 18
Joyce Adams	Dec 19
Jennifer Potts	Dec 25
Lillian Curtis	Dec 25

Name	Birthday
James Wells	Jan 1
Laura Roberts	Jan 2
Nancy Elrod	Jan 6
Elda Myers	Jan 7
Shelly Reiter	Jan 10
Connie Nunn	Jan 15
John Scannapieco Jr.	Jan 21
Marilyn McClure	Jan 23
Gloria Hutchinson	Jan 24
Nora Pritchett	Jan 28
Leone Carter	Jan 31