



SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Trumpet Sounds | March 2022



Kind & Light

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



This passage is an oft quoted word from Jesus to his disciples and followers. It can be read on its own and applied to your devotional thoughts in a number of ways. I'd like to share one of mine.

I have many memories of churches and Christians across my life in the United Methodist Church. I was baptized in a small country church (Otterbein UMC) in Greenfield, Indiana. I was raised in a larger church (Mt. Comfort UMC) just a few miles away. I have worked for several churches (Scipio UMC, St. Paul UMC in Bloomington, Honey Creek UMC in Greenwood, Lawrence UMC, Grace UMC in Franklin) prior to my career in parish ministry. I've been fortunate enough to travel around the country and world in a variety of ways during my time in children and youth ministry. I've encountered a plethora of people from a myriad of perspectives and opinions about our beautiful faith.

Having experienced so many views, many of which stand opposed to one another, I have experienced moments of disorientation. I worked with a Baptist group in Nashville, TN in 2003 where a woman berated me for

suggesting that women should be equals in the work of the church. I was floored at her response and disappointed that the “conversation” immediately ended. I was 23 at the time and still forming my own understanding in my recovery from a fairly oppressive experience as a youth. (I'll never forget being absolutely scolded in our church sanctuary during our VBS week because I wore a baseball cap in the room—I can still see the scowl on the woman's face who let me have it.)

In my post-teen years, I lived in Evansville, Indianapolis, and Bloomington. During this time I visited churches from all different kinds of denominational affiliations: Congregational, Community, Vineyard, Baptist, Presbyterian, Non-denominational, and post-denominational. I wondered what all was out there beyond the traditions I grew up with.

More often than I wish, I encountered groups of people who had very specific expectations of me and other people who attended. I got “Bible-thumped” several times. I saw exploitation of power and authority too many times to count. BUT...I also saw an incredible amount of varying perspective which led a wide range of people into a life of faith and community. Good people come from all sorts of opinions and views and practices and traditions. Kind-hearted and loving people are found in almost every kind of faith community.

The truth is...we are all wandering and wondering in this beautiful faith. Sometimes it takes a while to find our way. This is why I would assure parents who came to me as their teenager's youth pastor worried because their child had questioned some various traditions of the faith. Some teens even questioned the existence of God. I would always celebrate these moments with parents because, as I had learned, you have to break from what you were taught to find your own connection. If you never question and process the faith you were given, then you are only connected to the faith of your parents rather than your own.

Jesus walked around Israel a couple thousand years

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ago amidst a variety of perspectives and people all searching and wondering. Some were happy to exploit and reap the benefits of an unjust system at the expense of their own people. Some were people with great hearts of kindness and love who simply did not know what to do with the struggles they were experiencing in their own faith.

Jesus invites everyone to come to him to receive rest. His “yoke” refers to his interpretation of the Scriptures. Every rabbi had a yoke. Some emphasized prayer, some tradition, some purity, etc. Jesus emphasized the Kingdom coming through him. He says to learn from him about his yoke...that he is gentle and humble of heart. How wonderful! Wouldn't it be pure joy to learn from someone who is gentle and humble of heart like Jesus? We all want that for ourselves.

Perhaps I might have learned a great deal more and developed stronger relationships in my walk if I had been more gentle and humble of heart. Perhaps the young woman in Nashville and I could've had an informative conversation about the role of women if she was not so offended by my view. Maybe I would remember more from that VBS week if I didn't receive the shock of utter embarrassment as a 3rd grader in front of dozens of my peers.

I've made mistakes myself and others have made them too. (Perhaps you can identify with that entire statement.)

Jesus finishes by saying his yoke is “easy” and his burden “light.” The Greek word from which we get “easy” is more aptly translated “kind.” This word was also used for another kind of yoke from which the rabbinic metaphor was drawn. Oxen or cattle would be fashioned with a yoke to pull wagons or plows. A “kind” yoke was one that was custom fit for a particular animal. After all, a yoke made for a 1,800 pound oxen would not fit well on a 3,000 pound one. A yoke that was too small would put pressure in particular places that, over time, would cause injury and harm to the oxen. (If you've ever worn someone else's shoes, then you have an idea of what I'm talking about)

It's important to produce a kind yoke. Not only that, but a disproportionate load would create its own problems. In the same way you need the write truck to haul particular loads, you would not want to overload an oxen. A kind yoke and a light burden would ensure

longevity and good temperament of an oxen.

Jesus is calling to people who have been asked to jump through a thousand different hoops of faith based on the teachings of people who were detached from the lives of many 1st century Jewish peasants in Galilee. Jesus is one of them. Jesus is humble and gentle. Jesus is not creating a new set of hoops. Jesus is speaking to people about the Kingdom in a way that invites a following that fits the person called. Not only that, but the faith of Pharisees featured so many rules and caveats that the burden (the word used to refer to the rules and caveats) was impossible to bear. Jesus was also giving people permission to stop jumping through the hoops (hence his reinterpretation of sabbath, holiness, and other laws of the purity code from Leviticus).

Jesus comes amidst the chaos of the world of politics, religion, and society to the people who have been weighed down beyond their ability and offers them rest, gentleness, humility, kindness, and a lighter load. Praise God for the good news of the Kingdom!!

Perhaps you have felt overwhelmed at times in your understanding of faith. Perhaps you've wondered if you could “measure up.” Perhaps you've felt weighed-down or pressured or injured by the yoke of others. If so, consider the yoke of Jesus.

May you raise your eyes from a burdened heart and busy web of yokes and find the gentle humble Jesus extending a hand to you. May you take his hand and receive the rest he offers.

—Rev. Joseph Sanford



Beyond the Walls Ministry

Thank you to all the church members who have stepped up to help with the Visitation Ministry of the church. It is very important for us to stay in contact with one another, even if we cannot see each other during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you would like to help with this ministry, please let me know.

Kathy Waterman

A Note from our Financial Director

Giving for the month of January, 2022, was \$20,828.40, after the first five Sundays of the new year. This is an average giving per week of \$4,165.68. Giving at this rate for the remainder of the year will yield \$216,615.36. This is well below the budget of approximately \$257,000 for 2021. In comparison, the giving for the first five weeks of 2021 was \$25,277.05, or approximately \$4,400 less.

For expenses, the spending for the month of January exceeded giving by approximately \$2,800.

The financial obligations to the United Methodist Church have been met as well as all outstanding bills have been paid.

Please pray for the Governing Board as decisions are made on cutting expenses to meet the decline in giving.

If you have any questions, please call or email me.

R Waterman

SUMC Finance

bobwaterman@msn.com

812-256-5298



Music Ministry

Noteworthy Favorites from Our Congregation

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! A couple years back, I asked several people in particular to let me know *why* these songs were important to them, and I was fascinated to learn so much not only about the songs, but about the people who found them meaningful.

Dolly Phillips was a longtime member of Sellersburg United Methodist Church, and a beloved member of the choir. She wrote me a letter about her favorite hymn about ten months before she went home to glory. I am including it here, because of the hope and assurances it provides. You can see how much Dolly loved her Savior and friend. May this letter bless you and encourage you to share your favorite worship music — whether it is with me, others in the church, or those you interact with in our community.

I find music to be a language that transcends many boundaries and speaks to people of all different backgrounds. It can minister in ways that the spoken and written word simply cannot. If you have a favorite hymn, chorus, or song that bears significance to you, we'd love to include your submission in an upcoming edition of our newsletter. You can write two sentences, two paragraphs or even two pages! Take the opportunity to get to know your church family better by sharing your favorite music, what it means to you and why.

It is hard for me to pinpoint a favorite hymn because they all speak words to me of blessings, love, forgiveness, comfort, being safe in His arms, joys and hope. But, one hymn that I love so well is "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to HIM in prayer!

Truly there is no friend like Jesus. He is a friend that I can count on not only in trouble, but in every day living. This song gives me the joy of carrying everything to HIM in prayer. He is a friend forever. - Dolly Phillips

Mark D. Ritter

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United Methodist Women

SUMC Women

SELLERSBURG MEETINGS – 2nd Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

March 13 - SUMW Call to Prayer and Self Denial *Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call* service will highlight the lay Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner administered by United Methodist Women. Retired deaconess Pat Croley will talk about her service and how to become a deaconess. You won't want to miss this special program!

April 10 - Ashley Braswell, assistant director, Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services, will speak about the services her organization offers to youth. This program will be outstanding! If you would like to bring a love offering, the Shelter is always in need of: oatmeal packets, canned vegetables, Nilla Wafers, microwave popcorn, 33 gallon trash bags, laundry pods, gallon Zip Lock bags, plastic food storage containers, and monetary gifts.

Contact Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696 or Phyllis.hunefeld@gmail.com) if you would like more information and/or to carpool to any of the following South District events.

INDIANA SOUTH DISTRICT UMW ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

March 26 - This year's gathering will be at Scottsburg United Methodist Church, 615 S. Honeyrun Pkwy, Scottsburg, with registration/breakfast beginning at 9 a.m. The guest speaker will be Kathy Byerly. Kathy has served in many positions on the local, district and conference levels. She is currently serving as Vice President of Lucille Raines Residence.

LENTEN BREAKFASTS - All are on Saturdays and registration/breakfast starts at 9 a.m. with the program at 10 a.m.

March 12 - Clark/Scott Lenten Breakfast - New Chapel UMC, 5615 New Chapel Road, Jeffersonville, IN. Cassia Elder, author, speaker, and founder of *Sisters Forward*, will deliver a message on "peace."

April 2 – Crawford/Floyd/Harrison Lenten Breakfast - Heidelberg UMC, 2210 W. Heidelberg Rd. SW, Corydon. Rose Condra, Executive Director of Choices Life Resource Center, will be the speaker. Choices is a non-profit pregnancy resource center with locations in New Albany, Corydon and Salem. Love Offerings: baby wipes, baby lotion, baby wash, diapers (size newborn and 3) and monetary gifts.

April 9 – Lawrence/Orange/Washington Lenten Breakfast The location is New Hope UMW, 4957 W. State Rd 60, Salem. Program TBA.

UMW - WOMEN WITH A PURPOSE!



Young at Heart

Our YAH meeting is planned for MARCH 2, 2022 at 11:30 am. Pastor Joe will be sharing pictures and memories of his trip to Bethlehem and Judea. We will serve chicken and ham. In observance of Ash Wednesday, Pastor Joe will offer to place ashes on your forehead after our meeting. Please call Phyllis H. or Elda M. if you have questions.

We will wear masks except when eating.

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ENDOWMENT NEWS

The committee has been busy in 2021 making plans to utilize the gains our accounts had in the market. Applications were distributed and seven were received. They were read and decisions were made for distributions. They are as follows:

1. Music – refurbished computer - \$848
2. Staff – air conditioners for offices - \$800
3. Staff – desks, chairs, carpet, etc. for all 4 offices - \$2,000
4. Technology – live stream camera (s) update - \$8,000

These four above have been paid with the two below pending, waiting on bids.

1. Facilities – A/C System- \$3,000 if needed
2. Facilities – ceiling and wall repairs - \$20,000

The other one for youth room improvements is on indefinite hold.

These withdrawals and the ones pending have brought our funds low with the market in 2022 having a strong negative reaction.

We hope to fulfill the ones pending, but it depends on our future revenue.

Generation to Generation to Generation-We inherited the gifts and ministries we enjoy today at SUMC. We sustain these ministries by our gifts given today in the name of Jesus Christ. We create for the future church and ministries by our gifts for the days to come.

Blessings,

The Endowment Committee



YOUTH MINISTRY

Spring and New Beginnings

As we move into March, finally Spring seems closer and reminds me that this is a time of new beginnings, growth, and energy underneath the surface waiting to poke through the snow and icy layer covering the ground. It in a sense is a sense of rising above the surface and into the new season. Thinking of this idea, it's rather exciting that after surviving the brutal Winter (yes brutal..I am not a fan of cold weather) or hibernating from it there are flowers and people just waiting to poke their heads up from underground and inside their homes.

Spring is the season of rebirth and rejuvenation of nature. It never fails to cheer my heart to see dormant plants come to life again. It awakens nature from a deep slumber and nature becomes active again and brings a new life to Earth. Brown replaced by green. Rose bushes that looked dead a week ago now are showing off their new green leaves and new buds. It brings happiness and joy after three long months of winter. After the cold and gloomy winter, the cozy spring sunshine makes your soul smile.

Spring to me is so much more than a change of seasons. It is a change of attitude. It's a change of LIFE. Spring, therefore, is a season of action, to redo or begin again. To support this energy, it is a great idea to follow in nature's footsteps and get a new makeover as well. It's all about a fresh new approach to everything. Spring is a wonderful time to look at your relationship with God. Part of that new makeover can be a change in Bible study habits. It can mean dealing with people in a more Christlike fashion. Change your overall outlook on life.

Spring is the symbol of life. Spring brings people out of their hibernation and rejuvenates them in the warmer weather. The beauty of spring brings happiness and joy. With the first sign of spring, everyone cannot wait to spend

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more fun time outdoors. What a great time to meet new neighbors and invite them to church. Indeed, this season calls for taking out the hiking boots and setting off for the next adventure! From a short trip to the mountains to long vacations these trips will surely become worthwhile memories for life!

After the long silence of the winter season, I love to hear the birds chirping in the morning outside my window as they busily build their nests and the buzzing of the bees. I love the outdoors with the feeling of the sun on my face as I enjoy watching the beautiful butterflies hopping from flower to flower. I love the sights, sounds and smells around me. These moments give me an awareness of God's beauty that I tend to forget in the winter. These moments re energize me. I BELIEVE spring has a certain magic and invite you to look at change this spring as an opportunity of infinite possibilities. However you choose to embrace spring; I wish you a delightful season and many blessings!

Lori Rice



Seasons shifting holds treasures for us. The turn from one to another grounds us and marks our lives. So much awaits, especially when spring arrives. Such new life and promise.

But seldom do we take much time to welcome it all. So, here are a few ways to usher in spring with kids.

As the winter chill lifts, spring activities with kids that involve getting outside are more possible. Hooray! Kick your heels up and celebrate by seeking out some sunshine.

Spend more unstructured time outside. Winter is lovely and a welcome reprieve from the year's pace. Its quiet beauty slows our bodies and routines. With fewer hours of light and fewer days conducive to activity, we insulate and spend more time in our dens. Then, spring invites us to emerge.

With the weather warming up, look beyond your walls and search for what God is up to. God's Spirit is busy animating each leaf's unfurling and each creature's awakening. What might God be inviting you and your children to awaken to this spring?

Take the long way home. Or go for daily walks. Or plan to go outside and observe the world at the same time each day to notice God's handiwork.

Get some flowers. We can absorb such joy from simple aesthetics. God relishes beauty and, made in God's image, we are brought to life being surrounded by it.

Springtime is a wonderful opportunity to search for new beauty that's bursting into life. Blossoms are opening, birds returning, trees are budding. Often, we even wear brighter colors when the weather warms. It's like our whole world wakes up.

Bring some of this life indoors to remind you of spring's display of newness and resurrection in nature. Whether you wander your yard searching for blooms to compose your own bouquet or go to the store to purchase a bundle, gift yourself or a friend with the season's splendor

Create a springtime prayer with your children. Help your children learn the art of prayer by writing one together. There is no wrong way to talk to God, so don't worry. As

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their parent, you are entirely equipped to teach them how to pray.

One simple way of speaking to God is by simply thanking God for what springtime has brought. Perhaps you work together to make the prayer rhyme, so it's a bit easier to remember.

Once you're finished, post it a few places around the house to remind you of the fresh gifts spring is giving. Then, try praying it at the start and close of each day you're together.

Prepare a springtime feast. The changing of seasons is an opportunity to do just that. Take notice of the gifts spring gives to us, celebrate with a special meal. Using seasonal produce, give thanks to God for the changing of winter to spring. Notice and enjoy gifts from the Earth.

What are you doing to welcome spring and thank God for its beauty?



What is a Penpal? People who write to each other.

How many of you had a penpal growing up?

When I mentioned the plan to “connect” with a penpal during lent to my sister, she immediately got excited! It took her back to the 5th grade when she had a penpal named MaryAnne Higginbothm from Chillicothe Ohio! She wrote to MaryAnne every week and she wrote back every week over the entire year! It's a memory she cherished 40 years later!

Last year during Lent, the SUMC WOW KIDS connected/penpaled with some of our adult members of our congregation and it was such a blessing to be connected.

So this year during Lent (March 2) and Easter (April 17) let's connect with more people.

There will be a sign up sheet if you would like to connect with a penpal and share with each other a card/letter of encouragement, prayer, scripture or maybe learn what are their hobbies? What is their favorite food?

If you have any questions or are interested in being a penpal, please contact me or the church office.

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Brenda Croucher - 812-256-4262

40 DAYS OF LENT

Ash Wednesday Read a devotional every day as a family. Start a journal and collect messages to donate to missions. Lent is a time that we follow Jesus by listening to the needs of others.

1st Sunday of Lent Follow Jesus! Pray for those people who don't know who Jesus is. Did they ever learn about his love? Make a card for someone you know who is having a hard time. Do deeds and look around you. Thank God for his beautiful creation.

2nd Sunday of Lent God, I'm sorry for... Tell your teachers THANK YOU for all Jesus gave up his life for you. What can you do for him? At dinner tonight have everyone share what they are grateful for. Say sorry to God and ask him to forgive you. Donate old clothes and toys that you do not use to a charity. Take a walk with your family.

3rd Sunday of Lent Pray for peace in the world. Invite a friend to church with you. Remember that God is always with you. Ask Jesus to help you be a good friend. Pray for the homeless.

4th Sunday of Lent Read Mark 12: 20-32. How can you do this? Take the time to share a smile with someone today. Make a card and send it to one of your friends or relatives. Thank God for the person you made the card for yesterday. Give someone a compliment today. How did they react? What can you do to become a better Christian?

5th Sunday of Lent Thank you for... Observe Easter Eggs. What can you do to help feed the hungry? Tell your parents how special they are. Read Matthew 4: 1-12. Give up something you like doing or eating for 2 days. God Always Listens! Eat a healthy snack today.

Holy Week Palm Sunday: Easter reminds us that Jesus brought us new life. What signs of new life do you see in nature? Read John 2:11. Discuss what this means with your family.

Maundy Thursday Good Friday Holy Saturday

He is Risen Happy Easter

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. Frank, Nora Pritchett's brother
7. Doris Smith and family
8. Jan Johnson (cancer treatment)
9. Dena Werle (recovery and treatments)
10. Dianne Merillat
11. Jim Lewis
12. Caden Elrod - eye surgery and recovery
13. The Bacon family - death of step father
14. Carolyn Curtis
15. Sue Smith
16. The people of Ukraine and world leaders



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

March

- Margaret Ross Mar 2
- Kim Scannapieco Mar 4
- Joyce Hecker Mar 10
- Janet Sims Mar 13
- Regina Lucas Mar 17
- Yvonne Frederick Mar 19
- Flora Childers Mar 21
- Dianne Merillat Mar 21
- Matthew Werle Mar 22
- Dena Werle Mar 24
- Bob Hess Mar 25
- Marie Mosteller Mar 25
- Don Broady Mar 28
- Mallory Webster Mar 28
- Denman Jones Mar 28



April

- Janet Smith Apr 2
- Elizabeth Wells Apr 3
- Fred Smith Apr 5
- Dorothy Meyer Apr 9
- Gary Appell Apr 12
- Johnny Potts Apr 17
- Belinda Martin Apr 17
- Evelyn Tuttle Apr 18
- Joy Gillis Apr 27
- Austin Brown Apr 27
- Shirley Barnhart Apr 30
- Tony Goforth Apr 30