



October  
2020  
Newsletter

## Pastor's Update

By The Reverend Joseph Sanford

Greetings to you, my friends. We spent several weeks on a passage from Romans 14-15 where we dove into the dilemma facing the church in Rome. The division and disagreements they faced are not so different than what we struggle with today. In a longstanding cultural attempt to overlap our religion and politics we have often forgotten that political alignment cannot fit into religion anymore than a round peg can fit into a square hole. They are not working to accomplish the same things and they require different commitments from those who proclaim allegiance to their cause.



This doesn't mean that you cannot participate in your political perspective with a Christian foundation. In fact, you *should* be a libertarian, democrat, republican, or theocrat **with a Christian foundation** rather than the other way around. You can find basketball to be the sport which most appeals to what you are looking for from a sport just as much as another person can look to football, bowling, or water polo for the same reasons. Cheer your team on and have fruitful conversation with others about your passion, but do not forget that we find our identity in Jesus Christ before we find it in anything or anyone else. A sports metaphor maybe a weak parallel, but we can find the similarities nonetheless.

The important element of Paul's message to the church

in Rome is that we are on the same team as a church before we are parts of different teams beyond the walls. We have committed to Jesus Christ in baptism while at the same time committed ourselves to the church (each other). We experienced a new birth. We left the old life behind and have put on the new life in Christ (Romans 6). Either we are wholly and solely committed to this or we are not. Sometimes, we must admit, it takes time to fully understand and embrace this commitment. We vow at baptism to make this our new way of life knowing full well we will spend the rest of our lives working with the Holy Spirit to live into our commitment.

May we commit each and every day to live into our baptism more and more. May we engage in our world (sports, politics, etc.) in a way that only offers us the chance to grow into our identity in Jesus Christ. May we grow in such a way that the world around us can glimpse Jesus Christ in all that we are, say, and do. May we sit at the table with those who eat or don't eat meat and freely offer ourselves to join them where they are for the sake of our unity and identity as the body of Jesus Christ. May we sit with those who vote left, right, up, down, or center and know that we are already citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven together in a completed joy through the Holy Spirit. (But, please, go and vote on November 3rd no matter who you are rooting for!)

Grace & Peace,  
Rev. Joseph Sanford

## Fall 2020 Ministry Programs

Sunday 10:30 AM "In-Person" Worship Service  
Sunday 9 AM "Zoom" Fellowship & Prayer  
Online Service Video at [sellersburgumc.com](http://sellersburgumc.com)  
Wednesday 6:30 PM "Zoom" Bible Study  
Friday 6:30 PM A.A. Open Arms Group

We are excited to begin our Sunday School/Children's Church curriculum called Celebrate Wonder online.

<http://sellersburgumc.com/childrens-ministry/>

## Birthdays List

Contact the church office if someone is missing or if you need an address to send a card. Email the office at [sellersburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com) for mailing addresses or call (812) 246-2502 Monday through Thursday 9am-2pm.

Name	Birthdays
John Wesson	Oct 5
Doris Prentice	Oct 8
Rebecca Frank	Oct 13
Bob Waterman	Oct 13
Jack Myers	Oct 17
Calista Werle	Oct 21
Peggy Sayre	Oct 28
David Pickel	Oct 31

Name	Birthdays
George Brenner	Nov 2
Stephanie Gillis	Nov 5
Lisa Nale	Nov 9
Noah Sanford	Nov 9
Connie Ford	Nov 12
Jan Raeinhardt	Nov 14
Betty Haas	Nov 14
Doug Reiter	Nov 14
Ariana Dessime	Nov 14
Beva Caines	Nov 17
Johnna Reiter	Nov 17
Tony Kummer	Nov 20
Lois Cook	Nov 23
Carolyn Nunn	Nov 26
Don Lucas	Nov 28
Shelby Riley	Nov 30

## Children's Ministry

The children's ministry team is passing out hot dog meals and youth masks on Wednesday from 6-7 pm to kids and adults! We started on Sept 9th and have been blessed in so many ways, there is witnessing, praying, stories, laughter and a whole lot of waving and of course we are smiling with our eyes because we are wearing our mask! The meal includes a hot dog, bag of chips, fruit snacks, apple, youth mask, Bible verse activity sheet, church information and bottle water!

WOW will include candy in their ministry bags for the last week of October. If you would like to contribute, please drop off at the church office by Tues 10/26/2020.

## How To Connect:

Moving forward, we will continue to involve new ways for us to gather and connect using the means available to us. We want to continue to build our church family and strengthen relationships with God and each other.

**In-Person Worship:** 10:30am in-person Worship in the church sanctuary: masks required (over nose and mouth) distancing is practiced, shortened service to limit risk

**For Prayer:** Call (812) 246-2502 Monday through Thursday 9am-2pm (church office is open) Join our Remind prayer chain by using your mobile phone to text @prayer226 to the number 81010. You can also reach out to Kathy Waterman or Pastor Joe to let them know you wish to join. Remind allows us to send you a message through the app (both on tablet, mobile phone, or computer), email, and/or text message.

**Online Worship:** Online worship service available via [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) or home page of [sellersburgumc.com](http://sellersburgumc.com)

**Online (or phone) Fellowship:** 9-10am SUMC Connect & Prayer via ZOOM: go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) Meeting ID: 326 224 5893 Passcode: 226228. You can also dial by your location via mobile phone or landline phone to join using only audio (no video) 1 (646) 558-8656 US

## **Salvation Army Angel Tree**

The Salvation Army Angel Tree will be held this year, but it will not be in the same format as before. Applications will only be accepted electronically, and the people who need the help may not have access to that format. As a church, we need to decide if we want to sponsor a smaller number of angels, if any. Since shopping for items is necessary, you need to decide if you can do the shopping online, at department stores such as Kohl's or Wal-Mart or Target, or do the shopping in the actual stores. If this is something in which you are interested, please contact me at 812-256-5298. Leave a message if I am not available to answer the phone. Thank you, church family, for your continued support for the less fortunate people in our community.

Kathy Waterman

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Again, thanks to all of you for your faithful giving during this pandemic period!

The last report was sent in the June Newsletter. This is an update to that report.

First, giving has declined for 2020, as would be expected. Below is a giving report for 2020 through the end of the 3rd Quarter 2020, in comparison to previous years at this time:

2020	\$ 188,188.15
2019	\$ 189,499.36
2018	\$ 214,299.39
2017	\$ 194,394.00
2016	\$ 227,410.00

So, in comparing 2020 to 2019, we are \$ 1,311 less than giving at this time.

Secondly, in comparing giving to date to the budget, we are approximately \$ 18,812 behind giving to meet the target annual giving for 2020 at \$ 276,000.

Thirdly, the church staff continues to do a good job of stewardship with our limited funds. Our expenses are less than our income, in part, due to the proceeds from the SBA

PPP Loan of \$30,500, which offsets some of expenses for wages and utilities. The loan is discussed below. During the pandemic, the church has been able to pay the salaries to our paid staff, all the obligations to the District and Conference through our apportionments, and all outstanding bills. Further, earlier in the spring, work began on the repairs to the second stained glass window through the leadership of the church's Ministers of Maintenance (MOM). SUMC has the funds set aside to pay in full the costs of the second window. The approximate cost of this window repair is approximately \$12,000.

Fourthly, in the June Newsletter, a report was given in regards to the loan application that we had made with the US Small Business Administration through their Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP). The PPP was established to help small businesses (including churches) to weather the storm of the pandemic by providing relief for wages, utilities, rent, etc. Our loan application was approved for \$30,500. While the SBA has been slow in responding to the final pay-back details, it appears that SUMC will be exempt from paying-back any of the loan. The loan will be forgiven. It is believed that more information will be finalized by the end of the year.

As in the past, I would be glad to answer any questions or comments regarding the church's finances. Please call me or e-mail at the number below. Or, call Pastor Joe. Remember, it is your church! You have a right to know anything about how your tithes and offerings are being spent.

I want to close with the same thoughts as in the June 2020 Newsletter. This season of pandemic has been most trying. One of the lessons that is being learned is that we must learn to trust God. He is in control! He will get us through this season. Thanks again for your generous giving during this difficult time.

Respectfully,

Bob Waterman

Finance

812-256-5298

bobwaterman@msn.com