



# SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *Words to the Wise*

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March | 2025

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

March 5th marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent was created in the early church as a time for new believers to be instructed in Christianity and then officially join the church on Easter. Lent is about 7 weeks long and starts on a Wednesday known as Ash Wednesday. Since Easter is on a different date every year, that means that Lent and Ash Wednesday also move around.

Easter this year is just about as late as it can be on April 20th. Ash Wednesday is 46 days or about six and a half weeks earlier. Why 46 days? Well, it is based on the Biblical number of 40. This comes from Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness being tempted. But doesn't that leave 6 additional days? Yes, this is because the Sundays in Lent do not count. The famous quote by Robert E. Webber says, "Every Sunday is a little Easter." Since All Sundays are holy and set aside, they do not count as part of Lent.

This leads us to the next question: What should we be doing on those 40 non-Sunday days between Ash Wednesday and Easter? Tradition says that we should fast just as Jesus did in the wilderness. A more modern take on the season is to give up something. Meat is one of the traditional things people give up. Other ideas include TV, chocolate, gambling, cursing, and such. I encourage you to give something up and then to add things like prayer, reading scripture, and sharing God's love. Use the time you would have spent on the thing you give up and use that time to intentionally grow closer to God.

Ash Wednesday got its name from the practice of spreading ashes on the foreheads of believers as a sign of the fast they were beginning. Traditionally, the ashes come from burning the

palm branches used in the previous year's Easter celebration. The ashes I use come from palm branches. The ashes themselves don't have a special meaning other than to be an outward sign of the spiritual work that is beginning on the inside. The celebration of Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) is named for the day before Ash Wednesday. Nowadays, Mardi Gras is a big party that can last days to weeks and is filled with everything that should be avoided during Lent.

We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7pm on Wednesday, March 5th. This service always ends with placing ashes on everyone's forehead. Whether you are new to the faith or not, Lent is a time to focus on our faith journeys and earnestly work to grow closer to God. The Ash Wednesday service is a way to officially start and name that commitment on your part. I will also offer a brief time of receiving ashes directly after the Young At Heart Lunch that day for those who can not come back out in the evening.

The focus in worship this season will be the age old question of why a good God allows bad things to happen in the world. This question, more than any other, causes people to struggle with their faith. Over the 6 Sundays of Lent, we will discuss the scriptures, arguments, and their implications. The series is called Choose Love. I pray that during this coming season of Lent, both in worship and in your own daily lives, you will choose love as you grow in your faith.

Blessings,

**Pastor John**

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



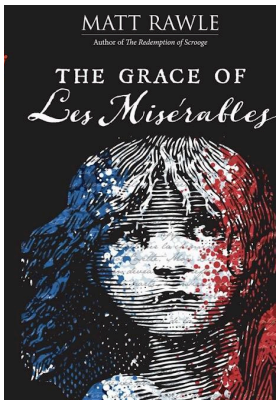


GROW PRAY SERVE

Are you receiving Pastor John's weekly email?

If not, email the office and let Tony know!

## New Series Starts February 28th



The Friday morning Bible Study will begin a new series on **February 28th**. The series is a Lenten study based on the Musical Les Miserables. This was done several years ago as an online study, but now we have the opportunity to do it in person. It happens to be one of my favourite musicals, so I am sure I will

add lots to the basics of the study.

EVERYONE is welcome to join the Friday Morning group which meets at **10:00 am** each **Friday** morning in the church basement, Room 2. The easiest access is from the parking lot and through the backdoor of the church. **There will be NO class March 14th.**

## A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

On behalf of myself and the entire staff I want to thank everyone for their generous donations to the staff christmas gifts. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated not just at Christmas, but the entire year through. Our staff do a fantastic job of keeping our church, ministries, and programs running smoothly the

whole year through. Your support and encouragement makes that work a pleasure.

Much of the work our staff does is behind the scenes and often goes unnoticed. Your gifts remind us that we are all part of a ministry working together. Our volunteer staff are just as important and we appreciate their dedication week in and week out. Together we are accomplishing the great work of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study is on break after not meeting regularly because of the frequent weather events that have occurred over the past several weeks. They are hoping to return to their study CREED starting on Wednesday, March 19th and complete the series as part of Lent. Please join us starting March 19th for this exciting series based on the Apostle's Creed.

EVERYONE is welcome to join the Wednesday Evening group which meets at 6:30 pm each Wednesday evening in the church basement, Room 2. The easiest access is from the parking lot and through the backdoor of the church. There will be no meetings until March 19th.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us Wednesday evening, March 5th for a special service marking the beginning of the season of Lent. The service will include music, prayer, and the receiving of ashes. It is a time to mark our commitment to growing closer to God in the weeks leading up to Easter. The service will be held at 7pm There will also be a time of ashes after the Young At Heart Lunch for those attending the lunch, but unable to attend the evening worship service.





### Sunday School Opportunities

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 at **11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5**, in Fellowship Hall. JayC chicken and meatballs are on the menu. After the meal, we'll put together Exit 0 kits for the Missions Committee, so don't forget to bring your donations.

**Everyone is invited!**

**Phyllis Hunefeld (502-693-3696)**  
**Maureen Atkinson (812-786-2119)**



### United Women in Faith

The Sellersburg United Women in Faith will dine together on Friday, March 14, at 12 noon at the Fireside Grill, 7611 County Road 311, Sellersburg.

A brief "Call to Prayer" program will be presented by Flora Childers. The title this year is "Bold Women Transforming Communities." Bring your gift to support bold women uplifting and empowering one another.

All women of the church are cordially invited.



*Every day, we show up.  
We take action. We get it done.*



## **MEN'S WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP**

The Men's Breakfast and Prayer Group is pleased to invite all Men to come together one day a week for one hour, to pray, fellowship, share food and ideas. Men coming together in Christ is so valuable. Those of us who attend weekly, and those who have attended in the past can share witness to this. As we share prayer requests, we experience the results of those prayers. In doing so we learn about people we don't even know, and become emotionally close to them, as we feel we've known them forever. People like Donna, Herb, Aspen, Aiden, and family members of each and every one of us. We all know power is in numbers and we challenge every man as spiritual leaders of their families to join us every Saturday morning. Therefore, iron sharpens iron, and there is no power like the power in prayer.

Always Praying For You,

### **MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

**See Rob Lamb for more information.**

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



**SELLERSBURG**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Saturdays at 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall

*Join us for prayer, praise, food, and fellowship.  
All are welcome here.*

**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)



**March**

- Margaret Ross Mar 2
- Kim Scannapieco Mar 4
- Joyce Hecker Mar 10
- Janet Sims Mar 13
- Regina Lucas Mar 17
- Debby Wood Mar 17
- Yvonne Frederick Mar 19
- Flora Childers Mar 21
- Matthew Werle Mar 22
- Dena Werle Mar 24
- Denman Jones Mar 28
- Mallory Webster Mar 28

**April**

- Elizabeth Wells Apr 3
- Fred Smith Apr 5
- Dorothy Meyer Apr 9
- Gary Appell Apr 12
- Carol Voyles Apr 16
- John Demaree Apr 17
- Johnny Potts Apr 17
- Belinda Martin Apr 17
- Evelyn Tuttle Apr 18
- Tony Goforth Apr 30

**Prayer List**

1. Alice & Denny Jones
2. Janice Jones
3. Ralph Raeinhardt
4. Brenda Croucher
5. Dottie Meyer
6. Donna West (Tony's friend that has cancer)
7. Monica Sorg
8. Tony's friend Trip
9. Harlo Hardy's mom, Sheila
10. Peace in Ukraine & the Middle East
11. Barbara, Anthony's mother
12. Sharon (Maureen's sister)
13. Los Angeles County fire victims



**“Soup”er Bowl 2025 continues a winning streak!**

On Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, the annual “Soup”er Bowl Party and Contest was held. It was a time of fellowship and fun as well as outreach ministry to Sellersburg. Our congregation collected canned goods and money for our community food pantry at Silver Creek High School. First, people donated food items and money to the pantry. A grocery cart full of canned goods and \$158.00 in cash were collected in the Sanctuary during worship.



Second, on that Sunday, we held our annual “Soup”er Bowl Contest in Fellowship Hall. This year, we had 9 entries of delicious soups. As usual, there was a great variety of soups to be tasted. Each year, our cooks outdo themselves in making tried and true to unusual unique recipes. The cooks are the real MVPs of our contests. They donate their time and their soups to raise money for the pantry and so others can eat and fellowship. We thank all of them for their contributions as without them we could not have the contest.

Our members were able to sample any or all the soups they wished, and then vote for their favorites. Voting was done by money donations with the winner being the soup that raised the most money. A large crowd of people met in Fellowship Hall, voted, and, of course, ate soup! There was take-out for those who could not stay.

This year’s winner was Janet Sims’ spicy Green Chicken Chili! Our soup contest raised \$298.00 for the Silver Creek Food Pantry.

Thank you to all who participated in our “Soup”er Bowl Sunday event. We were able to raise \$456.00 in total, plus the canned goods. Your donations of canned goods, pots of soup, and/or money benefited children and families in our Sellersburg community. The event allowed our congregation to gather in mission, food, and

fellowship to support a needed community resource. SUMC is a loving generous church, and it is being used by God to feed people in our community. Hope you will plan on joining the fun in 2026!

The Sellersburg UMC Mission Team



## Mission Possible!

In 2025 SUMC's congregation is being called to continue becoming a community minded church: A congregation that seeks ways to engage and support our neighbors, to help them with their needs, and share the Good News of Jesus' love and care.

In the Bible in James 2:14 -17, it says:

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? (15) If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food (16) and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? (17) So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*

SUMC is a living church with a long fruitful history of mission focused ministry. We have recently gone through some unsettling times with the pandemic years and upheaval in the United Methodist Church at large. Now it is time for us to look to the future and focus on our role as Christ's disciples in our community, state, nation, and world.

Missions Team formation - A group of mission-minded individuals have met with the intent to focus on mission projects for SUMC for 2025. We plan to present opportunities for our congregation to support and participate in missions on local, state, national, and global levels. Throughout 2025 different missions will be highlighted that we hope will inspire our congregation to be involved in mission ministry. If you are interested in being part of the team, please reach out to Pastor John.

SUMC is a vital member of our community and through our deeds we can do much good in a hurting world. Our love for Jesus can lead us to great works in 2025 and make Missions Possible!



Please save **March 10, 2025** on your calendar for the next Cluster meeting which will be held at Sellersburg UMC, at 226 North New Albany Street. We will be sharing details of the Good Friday Service. The meeting will start at **7:00 p.m.**

Sellersburg is hosting the Cluster Good Friday Service on April 18. There will not be a Cluster Maundy Thursday Service. **Good Friday** is scheduled for **7:00 p.m.**

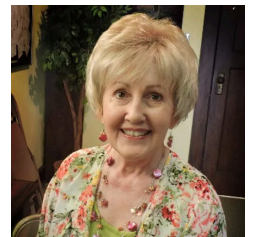
The Good Friday offering will be donated to the Old Salem UMC Food Bank.

To make it more convenient, we decided to rotate the meetings between Sellersburg UMC and Pleasant Grove UMC with the other congregations helping with refreshments since they won't be setting up for a meeting.

Assignments For Refreshments: Pleasant Grove assisted by Emmanuel, Old Salem, Otisco and Utica Sellersburg assisted by Memphis, St. James and Vienna. The Cluster Picnic will be held at Pleasant Grove Shelter House on **August 16 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** The Cluster will supply drinks, hot dogs and hamburgers. Members of each congregation will be assigned a dish at a later time.

After the Good Friday Service, except for the Picnic, there are not any scheduled meetings until **September 08** at Sellersburg. The November meeting will be at Pleasant Grove on Nov. 10.

With grace and peace,  
**Janet Werle**  
 River Ridge Cluster Chair  
 South District UMC Lay Leader  
**502-376-9934**



[advertisingdiva10@gmail.com](mailto:advertisingdiva10@gmail.com)

## **Accepting Recipes for the New Recipe Book through March 31st!**

The United Women in Faith are collecting recipes for a new Sellersburg UMC recipe book that will be sold to raise funds for missions. First, thank you to everyone who has already emailed or handed me recipes that I can include in the new book. Second, if you provided soup or chili for Soup-er Bowl Sunday, I'd love to have that recipe. The winning recipe will definitely be included and I hope to include the others as well. Thirdly, remember that we want your favorite recipes for all of the seasons. We are also going to include a "no cook" section that will include salads, smoothies, yogurt bowls, etc.

We want to celebrate all of the food preparers in our church so be sure to include your name with your recipe. You can send in your recipes to Jennifer Demaree any of the following ways:

- Send the recipe and instructions as text in an email to [jkdemaree@gmail.com](mailto:jkdemaree@gmail.com)
- Send a picture of the recipe card (both sides if needed) to [jkdemaree@gmail.com](mailto:jkdemaree@gmail.com)
- Text a picture of the recipe card (both sides if needed) and text it to 619-540-5257
- Submit the recipe in writing on paper and bring to worship and give it to me or Phyllis or mail to the church office

If you have pictures of your completed concoctions, feel free to include those as well. We will also be including some recipes from previous cookbooks. We will be assembling all the recipes into a recipe book that will be on sale later in 2025. The deadline for submission is **March 31, 2025.**

### **Jennifer Demaree**

on behalf of the United Women in Faith

## **Prayer Quilt Ministry Information and Interest Meeting**

**Thursday, March 27th at 6 pm**

I presented the idea of starting a Prayer Quilt Ministry at Sellersburg UMC at the February United Women in Faith meeting. There was enough interest to plan for a general meeting just about the ministry. For those of you who were not there, here's how a prayer quilt ministry works. In the beginning, a prayer quilt is just a normal, any size quilt/blanket made with love by people in the group. Multiple prayer ties/strings are then inserted into the quilt. The quilt/blanket is stored in a cabinet until it is requested through a form for a loved one who is in need of prayer and has agreed to receive it. The quilt is then presented in worship on a Sunday morning. After worship, people in attendance that Sunday are encouraged to say a prayer for the person who will receive the quilt while tying two of the prayer strings into a knot. Then the prayer quilt is given to the recipient by the person who requested it and they will explain that every knot in the prayer strings represents a prayer said by someone at our church.

It is a very meaningful ministry and a great outreach for our church. The backbone of the ministry is the people who will sew and assemble the quilts. While we definitely need some people with quilting and sewing experience to be involved; however, *sewing experience is not needed* as there are many steps that can be done without it. Plus we will need people who can manage the requests for prayer quilts/blankets and other logistics like collecting fabric donations and such. If you are interested in being a part of this new ministry, please attend the information and interest meeting on Thursday, March 27th at 6 pm. If you are interested and cannot make the meeting, please let me know and I'll make sure you are included on future communications.

**Blessings, Jennifer Demaree**



## Mission Opportunities

### Jesus Cares at Exit 0 Project



SUMC's Mission Team is supporting Exit 0 which is a Jeffersonville based ministry for the homeless and needy in Clark County. The website for Jesus Cares at Exit 0 states:

Exit 0 is a faith-based organization that has been serving the Southern Indiana area since November 2008, providing meals, resources, and addressing the basic human needs of the unhoused and low-income families in the region. Driven by a deep sense of compassion and a desire to follow the teachings of Christ and operates primarily on donated goods and has forged a valuable partnership with West Maple Baptist Church. At this church, Exit 0 offers an array of critical services, including the distribution of essential supplies, access to showers and laundry facilities, comprehensive case management, and the provision of meals twice a week, complemented by Bible study and weekly worship services.

Our Mission Team with the help of the congregation and our Young at Heart group will be assembling Snack Bags and Hygiene Bags for distribution by Exit 0 personnel. At our February meeting, the YAH group voted to begin to collect the needed items for the bags and to start assembling the bags at our March meeting. We will have our usual pitch-in meal and afterwards work together to assemble the bags. The help of the entire congregation is needed to collect the items for the bags. Everyone is invited to join the monthly YAH group or make snacks and/or hygiene bags on their own to donate to Exit 0.

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\* include plastic spoon or fork, 5 pieces of wrapped hard candy, 1 Pair of socks

The following items are needed for each **hygiene bag**:

A gallon size plastic bag, 1 Wash Rag, 1 Body Wash (2 in 1), 1 Bar of soap, 1 Deodorant, 2 Razors, 25 Q Tips, 12 Tampons, 12 Pads, 1 Toothbrush, 1 Toothpaste, 1 Comb, 1 Pair of Socks, 1 Travel size Lotion, 1 Travel size Hand Sanitizer, 1 Travel size First Aid Kit

In the Fellowship Hall, there will be totes labelled Snack Bags and Hygiene Bags in which people can drop their donated items or the bags which they have assembled. 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.

We have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus for our neighbors in this mission project. We thank you for your support and donations.

Mission Team



## SUMC Missions

## SellersburgUMC.com



Visit our church website to view the worship service, set up online giving, or learn more about the church ministries

### Early Response Teams (ERT)

ERTs provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster. ERTs help to prevent further damage to personal properties by tarping, removing debris, and cleaning out flooded areas. They offer both helping hands and hope to those in need.

ERTs must complete a one-day training that focuses on working with those impacted by disaster, procedures, and site safety. Once trained, they will be contacted when an ERT response is needed and can choose to help at that time or not. There is no minimum commitment.

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm  
at St. Luke’s.  
Lunch, snacks and all materials will be provided.

To register click link below:  
[www.stlukesumc.com/registration/earlyresponsetraining](http://www.stlukesumc.com/registration/earlyresponsetraining)

If you have questions, both Pastor John and Jennifer have gone through this training.



Check out What’s Up Wednesday...

*Available on Facebook and through our website*

♪♪ **Love Music?** ♪♪

**Start Your 2025 New Year Singing!**  
**All to His Glory!**  
**Practice: Wednesday, Feb. 26**  
**@ 5:00–6:00pm**  
**Diana #812-207-3087**



### 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](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com) and let us know so we can get you signed up.

**Ever Consider online giving?**

“What’s the deal with the wooden box?” a pastor asked one of his long-time members of his church.

The answer opened his eyes to the historical and spiritual significance of the nondescript wooden box that many churches use to gather offerings. The box dates back to the beginning of the last century. Before the box, a committee from the church would personally, member by member, request gifts and subscriptions to support the work of the congregation. If you didn’t follow up with the gift you had said you’d make, then you got a knock on your door reminding you of your commitment.

In 1900, the pastor of his church devised a better way. He proposed using this simple wooden box, in which the congregation could simply place their offerings each week. The church lived by faith, rather than compulsion, and the funds placed in the box would be divided by percentage for various ministries in the church. Today, many churches use budgets and offering plates. These contemporary methods of giving are rooted in the history of the old box plan of giving.

New giving methods are once again changing how people contribute to the work of God’s kingdom and, as is usually the case, not everyone thinks this is such a great idea. Today some believe that the passing of the plates in a worship service is part of the service and continues to benefit the congregation as a way of thanking God for his many blessings.

While I believe this to be true, the spiritual benefits of digital giving can have a positive impact on a congregation. Churches must consider the practical aspects of a changing culture. We’re a digital society; the church needs to have digital ways of giving.

Though digital giving methods are clearly practical, do they have a spiritual quality to them? In short, yes. Let me give you four spiritual benefits of digital giving.

**1. Conviction**

The Holy Spirit can convict a person at any time. If someone is convicted about being more generous at 11 PM one Thursday night and doing a second tier giving, online giving makes it easy to give to your church.

**2. Opportunity**

Digital giving methods open up more opportunities to give. Online giving provides you an opportunity to support the church even if you can’t attend the worship service.

**3. Prioritization**

Have you ever forgotten to bring your checkbook to church? Or perhaps you thought you had cash on hand and you opened your wallet to find you forgot to go to the ATM and therefore you have none. When people use digital giving methods—such as giving to God through online giving, they can prioritize their giving. You never have to worry about forgetting to give in worship or when traveling catching up on a missed Sunday.

**4. Regularity**

Giving is an act of worship. It’s also a spiritual discipline. Giving honors God’s glory, thanks for His many blessings and requires regular effort. Through the use of automatic deductions, digital giving methods can help a person become more regular in generosity, not to mention the ease of setting it up and not having to worry about it.

Though I believe they are noteworthy, I don’t want to overplay the spiritual benefits of digital giving tools. For centuries, the church has used a variety of methods, including wooden boxes. Giving is—ultimately—a heart issue. Whether you write a check, create an automatic debit, or use an online giving platform, God honors the generosity of a cheerful giver. Of course, you may also be glad the church clerk doesn’t come knocking on your door demanding money like in the past!

Several families are taking advantage of online giving through ChurchTrac. Giving online is a good method if you cannot attend on Sunday. If you are interested in online giving, visit the church’s website at [sellersburgumc.com](http://sellersburgumc.com) and click on the “Giving Tab” at the top of the page. If you have trouble setting up the giving online, please contact Tony Goforth, Church Administrative Assistant at 812-246-2502, and he can walk you through the online giving process.

Grace and Blessings,

Lori Rice

Finance Director – SUMC

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**Word Search Puzzle**

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Fellowship - Jesus - Discipleship - Missions - Prayer - Faith - Challenge - Learn - Lent

Congregation - Opportunity - Community

P D C H A L L E N G E H  
U I O P P V E P P J C O  
P S N V C V F R U W P P  
D C G V O L E A R N P P  
E I R S M R L Y I G Q O  
B P E B M R L E J T V R  
Q L G G U J O R N P H T  
H E A S N E W B O T C U  
L S T M I S S I O N S N  
H H I A T U H B C I T I  
B I O F Y S I H D B O T  
H P N Y U S P D Y A D Y