



# SELLERSBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *Words to the Wise*

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**January | 2025**

*Pastor's Pen...*

As we prepare for another trip around the sun, I am excited about the possibilities that God has presented to Sellersburg United Methodist Church. After a year and a half of getting to know everyone, it is time to start focusing on the future and all God has planned for us as a church and as individuals. Most thriving churches share 5 characteristics in common: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.

This year, I want to focus on two of these that I think are the foundation of all of the others. They are Intentional Faith Development and Risk-Taking Mission and Service. Jesus' final message to his disciples before his death was, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). His final message after his death and resurrection was "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Faith Development and Risk-Taking Mission and Service should be at the heart of everything we do.

My first focus is Risk-Taking Mission and Service. We need to be constantly searching for ways to share God's love in real and practical ways. It is common for churches that are struggling, as ours is, to turn inward and focus on survival. In the last week, I have heard of two United Methodist Churches that will be closing soon. This human desire to focus on survival, though, is counter-intuitive to how we break out of the

cycle of decline. We must keep our focus on sharing God's love, even when it hurts, even when it means taking risks.

To this end, we have re-ignited our Missions Team, and I have charged them with planning a mission strategy that is Risk-Taking and will get our focus back on sharing God's love. This group is focused on creating risk-taking missions and service opportunities throughout the year. Their first will be our annual Souper Bowl soup contest in early February.

My second focus for 2025 is Intentional Faith Development. Thriving churches have near 100% participation in faith development. This includes, but is beyond simple coming to church on Sunday mornings. John Wesley summed it up in talking about prayer. "In souls filled with love, the desire to please God is a continual prayer" (from *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*). Our desire to please God and to grow closer to God, should be a daily, continual desire and should guide our actions.

My hope is to get each and every one of you to focus more of your attention and time on this endeavor. Over the course of the year, I plan to introduce and lift up tools and practices that will help us achieve this goal. While having everyone attending a Bible Study or small group would be great, I realize that this may not be practical for everyone. However, there are many practices and guides that can be done as individuals or as groups. I plan to introduce the first, a devotional I am creating, in mid-January.

My prayer is that you will engage with me in this endeavor, that you will see the power and possibility of Risk-Taking Mission and Intentional Faith Development, and that together we will transform our church, and then the community, and then the world so that “thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.”



Blessings,  
**Pastor John**  
[john.demaree@inumc.org](mailto:john.demaree@inumc.org)



*Beyond the Walls Ministry*

I would like to thank my church family for the nice reception that you had for me on the 8<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate all the cards and gifts that I received. It has been an honor and privilege to have served as your visitation minister since 2001. The friendships and relationships that I developed will always mean a lot to me. It would be very difficult to thank all the church members who assisted in visitation and the card ministry because there are so many who helped with this ministry. Please know that I love each and every one of you, and God has truly blessed me with all your friendships.

**-Kathy Waterman**



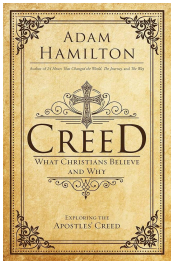
GROW PRAY SERVE

Are you receiving Pastor John’s weekly email?

If not, email the office and let Tony know!

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

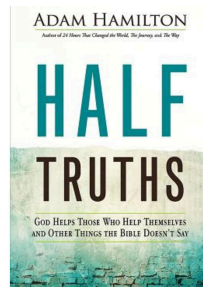
Beginning **January 8th** the Wednesday Evening Bible Study will be starting a brand new series called Creed. This is an Adam Hamilton series which includes video presentations, and in depth questions about the essential beliefs of Christianity. Based upon the words of the Apostle’s Creed this series will talk about the beliefs we profess, where they came from, how they are interpreted by different Christian groups, and how they apply to our lives today.



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. Our next meeting will be January 8th.

**FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Beginning **January 10th** the Friday Morning Bible Study will be starting a new series called Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn’t Say. This evocative study looks at the sayings and beliefs that many Christians hold, but are not actually in the Bible. This study by Adam Hamilton includes video segments and in depth Bible 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. Our next meeting will be January 10th.



Check out What's Up Wednesday...

*Available on Facebook and through our website*

### **Newsletter Articles**

Newsletter articles are due by the 17th of each month. Please submit any and all articles by then to the church office. [sellersburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com)

### **SUMC Prayer Chain**

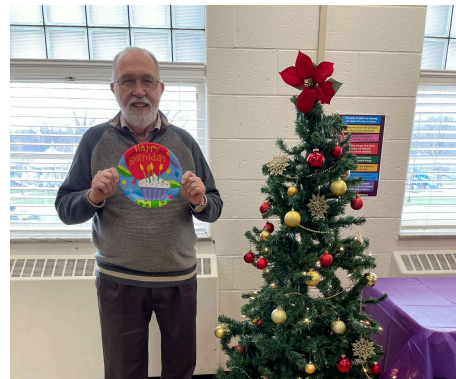
If you'd like to be a part of our prayer chain, you can join by sending the message "@sumcprayer" to the number "81010" in a text using your phone. If you'd like to sign up for emails, then you can send an email to [sellersburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com) and let us know so we can get you signed up.

### ♪ Love Music? ♪

**Start Your 2025 New Year Singing!  
All to His Glory!  
Practice: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025  
@ 5:00-6:00pm  
Diana #812-207-3087**



Young-at-Heart will not be meeting in January. The next gathering will be **Wednesday, February 5th, at 11:30 a.m.**



**Everyone is invited!**

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





United Women in Faith

Sellersburg United Women in Faith

A New Day of the Week – A New Time – A New Way in 2025

Day: The 2nd Friday of the month

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Lunch: We will either "brown bag it," have lunch furnished by a member(s), or dine together at a restaurant.

Check out the first quarter below. (Ladies, if you are not a member, you are cordially invited to attend any program that interests you, with no pressure to join.)

January 10 – Pat Croley, a UMC deaconess, will talk about her August 2024 visit to Crow Creek Indian Reservation in South Dakota and her experience serving as a missionary with the Sioux Tribe. Soup and dessert.

February 14 – Jennifer Demaree will present a program on "The Basics of a Prayer Ministry." Bring your own lunch.

March 14 – Call to Prayer program and lunch at a restaurant.

April 11 – This will be "Clean SUMC Kitchen Day." Wear something old. Pizza for lunch.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The motto of the United Women in Faith:

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



CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

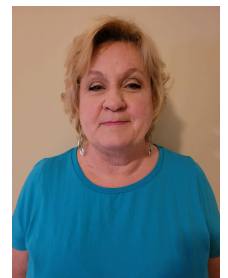


We are looking for someone to take over our Congregational Care Ministry. This essential role in our church includes three parts. The first is being the contact person for our Prayer Chain Ministry. The second is visiting on the phone and in-person with our older members and those in the hospital. The third part involves sending out birthday cards each month to those active in our church community. Kathy Waterman has been serving in a position that included these roles, and has done a fantastic job. However, she will be stepping down at the end of this year. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact Pastor John or Janet Werle

A special thank you from Monica Sorg...

Thank you, thank you to the wonderful members of the pilgrim Sunday school class, who brought me wonderful meals while recovering from my foot surgery! You are truly acting as the hands and feet of God on earth. Everything was so tasty, and I appreciate you so much. I'd also like to thank the United Women of Faith for the cookies!

Love, Monica Sorg



**A note about Kathy Waterman...**

On December 8 th , 2024 we celebrated Kathy Waterman Day since Kathy will retire from her staff position as of December 31, 2024 as Prayer and Visitation Minister at SUMC. She became the visitation minister in 2001, after Rev. Don Childers stepped down due to illness. After she and Bob volunteered to visit our shut-ins for a few months, she felt called to accept the paid position in October of 2001. Since that time, Kathy has faithfully visited our homes, assisted living homes, nursing homes and hospitals with members. Her many greeting cards brought joy, laughter, hope and comfort in whichever season or stage of life we found ourselves. She also was present at the numerous funerals of members whenever possible, bringing comfort with her empathic spirit. She lived in South Bend during her formative years but during high school, she attended 4 different schools due to family moves. One of Kathy's claims to history is that South Bend Central High School was defeated by the Milan Basketball team in a nail biter story that is memorialized in the movie "Hoosiers." Kathy graduated from Port Huron High School in Port Huron, Michigan. Kathy's parents moved to Terre Haute after that, so she attended Indiana State University for three years. They lived in Prairieton, Indiana, where they attended Prairieton United Methodist, and met the love of her life, Bob Waterman. After they were married, she and Bob moved to Jeffersonville, where she finished her BA degree in biology from IUS.

Bob and Kathy have been married for 54 years and have reared 3 wonderful children; Angela, David and Mary. Their 3 talented grandchildren bring lots of joy and hope into their lives; Logan is 20, Noah, is 18 and Hannah, is 15. She began teaching preschool Sunday School in Prairieton, and continued at Park Place UMC in

Jeffersonville. Eventually God brought them to Sellersburg United Methodist Church where Kathy continued to serve by teaching children.

Kathy was a stay-at-home mom until 1990, when she started working part time as a Medical Transcriptionist until 2008. She then was the office manager for the business she and Bob started until they retired from that business in 2019.

We want to wish Kathy the very best in her retirement. Her day was celebrated with a gift certificate for a massage, a reception when the congregation brought cards, congratulated and thanked Kathy for a job well done. Thank you Kathy Waterman for your loving, caring ministry. Janet Werle, Outgoing PSPR Chair





## MEN'S WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

One hour a week filled with energy from the Holy Spirit, and sharing knowledge and life experiences is very rewarding. It's unbelievable the amount of prayers that have been answered. I'm sure we have more wise men in this church family that have experiences to share. Not only will you share, you will receive, and missing this fellowship weekly becomes a void in our life. What I'm saying is, this group is addictive. We can not emphasize the need for men to come together in prayer lifting all areas of the church to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Praying for you,

**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

**See Rob Lamb for more information.**

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

**[SellersburgUMC.com](http://SellersburgUMC.com)**



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

## "Soup"er Bowl Sunday

**Sunday, February 9th**

With the start of a new year, it is time to buy new calendars for 2025. We need to look ahead and mark dates for fellowship and service. One of the first events for a time of fellowship and fun is our "Soup"er Bowl Sunday party. This year's Super Bowl will be on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. We at SUMC will be hosting our annual "Soup"er Bowl soup contest and fellowship event. Our contestants will bring their best pots of soup for judging and we, the lucky partygoers will get to taste and vote for our favorites. We will vote with our monetary donations to the Silver Creek Food Pantry. There is always a variety of delicious homemade soups and chilis to sample and eat. It is a time of fellowship with our congregation as we eat together, and we support a great community outreach program. So, mark your new calendar on February 9<sup>th</sup>, plan which soup you will bring, and join the fun!

All proceeds from the "Soup"er Bowl contest goes to our local Silver Creek Food Pantry.

We donated over \$600 last time – can we do better in 2025 – we sure are going to try!



**Prayer List**

**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)



**January**

- James Wells Jan 1
- Nancy Elrod Jan 6
- Connie Nunn Jan 15
- John Scannapieco Jr. Jan 21
- Andy Beyl Jan 23
- Gloria Hutchinson Jan 24
- Nora Pritchett Jan 28

**February**

- John Scannapieco Feb 2
- Dennis Wood Feb 3
- Elizabeth Hardy Feb 3
- Pamela Gaines Feb 3
- Anita Tackett Feb 9
- Susan Riley Feb 19
- Janet Werle Feb 20
- Janine Lickliter Feb 20
- Kathlynn Kahl Feb 21
- Harlo Hardy Feb 22
- Shirley Carmichael Feb 22
- Connie Schlieker Feb 22
- Aiden Potts Feb 22
- Donna Moore Feb 27

1. Joyce Adams family
2. Alice & Denny Jones
3. Janice Jones
4. John Scannapieco
5. Ralph Raeinhardt
6. Brenda Croucher
7. Dottie Meyer
8. Donna West (Tony's friend that has cancer)
9. Lois Cook
10. Jodie Goforth
11. Anthony Fugit's mother
12. Monica Sorg
13. Isaiah Bahls Family
14. Harlo Hardy's mom, Sheila
15. Peace in Ukraine & the Middle East



## **SUMC Retiring Governing Board Members Dec 2024**

The Governing Board wishes to thank 3 members who will rotate off after serving a prescribed number of years or until personal reasons require them to step away. We wish to thank Allison Sims, Bob Waterman and Willie Durham for faithfully serving during their time on the Board. More than just “a member in the pew,” we extend our deepest gratitude to these three dedicated servants of Jesus Christ.

**Allison Sims**, Chair, is stepping down as of December 31, 2024 after serving 2 years. We are so appreciative of her leadership and willingness to serve in this capacity. She has also served as Pastor Staff Parish Relations (PSPR) representative and two years as Vice Chair. Allison has brought a wealth of vision and energy to the Board and Congregation at SUMC. Besides using her leadership skills guiding the Board, Allison has taught a young adult Sunday school class, Grace and Grit.” Allison also brings an exuberant spirit when filling the position of Worship Liturgist several times a year and to the VBS program in the summer. Her razor sharp vision and attention to detail have served us well.

**Bob Waterman** has been the Finance Chair for many years, working closely with our pastors and Connie Nunn, Treasurer. His weekly reports in the bulletins keep the congregation informed of the financial health of SUMC. Bob’s leadership and guidance have contributed to past Finance campaigns for specific needs and assisted with the fall pledge requests in order to build the budget over the years. Bob’s faithful attendance, prayers, witness, monetary support, time and love for SUMC have contributed abundantly to the ministry at Sellersburg. In years past, Bob was instrumental in leading several very intense “Discipleship Bible Studies” attended by numerous people. The Footprints Class meets each week and is led by the excellent skills of Bob’s Bible teaching.

As Chair of MOMs, (Ministers of Maintenance) **Willie Durham** has watched over our buildings

with care and diligence. He has worked closely with Darryl Moore, to keep water properly flowing, roofs from leaking, AC and heat to function properly, the electrical systems to work, replaced light bulbs, remove bats and to generally maintain the physical properties. We own the church building, the parsonage, Church Office and 2 garages. Having served on MOMs for several years, Willis knows the buildings inside and out. We wish to thank and applaud Willie for the love, hours of labor and care he has dedicated these past 4-5 years at SUMC. We also appreciate that Willie has constructed several backdrops for the VBS programs in recent years.

Thank you Allison, Bob and Willie for going above and beyond the job descriptions as you served and guided SUMC through many years while in your positions on the Governing Board. We appreciate the untold hours you have spent on behalf of our church and celebrate your contributions to the wellbeing of SUMC.

Janet Werle,

Chair Elect SUMC Governing Board





With the year 2024 quickly coming to an end, below is a quick recap of SUMC's finances, as of mid-December:

- Total Income for 2024 is approximately \$ 29,000 less than this time in 2023.
- Giving through the middle of December has shown an improvement over previous months this Fall.
- The projected giving through the end of 2024 is approximately \$ 183,000. The 2024 Budget is approximately \$ 208,000. With the decrease in giving, the 2025 Governing Board will be faced with significant challenges.
- All the financial obligations of the church have been met, including those to the UMC.

The financial report for year 2024, will not be available until the end of January, after the Accounting Books have been closed.

In closing, in early August, 2024, I reported to the Governing Board that I would not be continuing as SUMC Financial Director in 2025. This was a difficult decision after many weeks of prayers and discussions with friends and family. As stated in Ecclesiastes 3, "... to everything there is appointed a season." So, I have found that my season of service is ending. Lori Rice will be the new Financial Director beginning in January.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the pastors, Administrative Boards, and Governing Boards for their support during the last several years. I also want to thank Connie Nunn, Church Treasurer, who works behind the scenes, writing checks and keeping the Accounting Books for the church, without credit or recognition. Lastly, I want to thank the congregation for your support, encouragement, and most of all your trust. I have not taken your trust lightly.

Lastly, I want to add a personal testimony on giving. When Kathy and I first got married and moved to Jeffersonville, we were fortunate to join a Sunday School class of young people at Park Place UMC, led by Jim Sagebiel. Mr. Sagebiel was an older and much wiser man. One of the lessons that we taught was the blessings

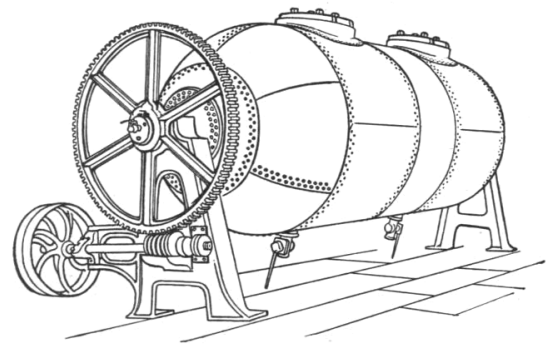
received in giving, specifically the tithe. Since those early days of marriage, Kathy and I began practicing the tithe and have found the blessings that it provides. If you haven't tried tithing, give it a try!

So, in closing, once again, thanks for the trust, which you have shown me. Thanks to those who have given faithfully to God's Kingdom over the years. To God be given all the glory!

Best wishes,

Bob Waterman

SUMC Finance Director



### **A special thanks...**

Our boiler has been having all sorts of issues the last few weeks and Darryl Moore our custodian has been very diligent to take care of said issues. He has had to flush lines, clean up messes and make many phone calls to meet the repairman. Stop and thank Darryl when you get a moment.

Darryl is also responsible for temperature control during special events. Please contact the church office to put your events on the church calendar via the email address [sellersburgumc@gmail.com](mailto:sellersburgumc@gmail.com) only please.

Some pictures from the Advent Season

