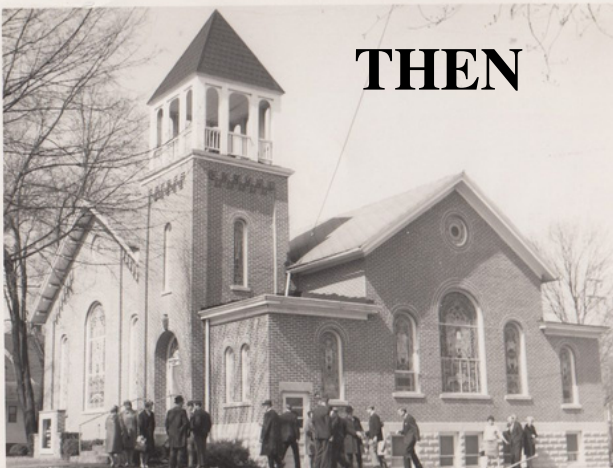


UMC EXPRESS



THEN



NOW

It is the start of a New Year in **2024!** We have come a long way since **1826!** Our church community is where we come alongside each other to grow and mature in our faith. It becomes our opportunity to show each other and the *world watching*, the love of God, and how faith is key to a strong community.



WE ARE UPDATING OUR MEMBER DIRECTORY FOR 2024!

If you have had a phone number or address change please let the office know as soon as possible. We are also asking if you would like to **ADD** your email address to your contact information in 2024. Please advise us at your first convenience and confirm if we can list your email with your address in the 2024 booklet.

Thank you, Phyllis!

Together, we can make a difference in 2024!



The Deadline for the February Newsletter is Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Make a New Year Resolution to Pay It Forward in 2024!



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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Donald Kuntz
 Deacon: Rev. Tammy Kuntz
 Office Administrator: Phyllis Jadosh
 Organist: Connie Beery
 Choir Director: Pam Mullin
 Praise Team Director: Bobbi Placke
Phone: 330-769-2836
 Email: sevumc@aol.com (Rev. Don)
sevumccarol@aol.com (Office)
www.sevilleumc.org

Check us out on Facebook!



Great Things Are Happening At Seville UMC?

Dates to Remember!

Outreach Committee Meeting

January 3, Wed. 7 p.m.
Contact M. Oberli with questions.

United Methodist Men Meeting

January 6, Breakfast, Sat. 9 a.m.
Contact J. Gladden with questions.

Outreach Committee will resume FELLOWSHIP HOUR

January 7, after services
Contact M. Oberli with questions.

Worship Committee Meeting

January 8, Mon. 7 p.m.
Contact B. Meadows with questions.

Finance Committee Meeting

January 9, Tues. 7 p.m.
Contact M. Gladden with questions

Trustees Meeting

January 10, Wed. 7 p.m.
Contact W. Payn with questions

Bibles and Burritos

January 10, 6:30 p.m.
Contact Rev. Tammy for R.S.V.P.

Matthew 25 Outreach Center

Food Distribution
January 13, 10 - 1 p.m.

Bible Study

January 16, 9:30 a.m.
Contact P. Mullin with questions

United Women in Faith Meeting

January 16, Tues. 7 p.m.
Contact K. Korb with questions.

Food Pantry

January 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Contact Rev. Tammy with questions

Red Cross Blood Drive

January 22, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Contact the office with questions.

Lunch Box

January 26, 12 p.m.
Contact S. Bridenthal with questions.

*SAS Training (Simplified Accountable Structure)

Sat. January 27, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Contact B. Placke with questions.

“So long as we are
being remembered, we
remain alive.” *Carlos
Ruiz Zafon*

YOU MADE MY DAY!

Dear United Methodist
friends, **thanks** for the
birthday card.

It's always nice to be
remembered.

Happy Holidays! Dee Piper

THANK YOU! I want to thank you and all the workers who made the craft show/sale a success!!!! I know that it takes hours of planning, setting up, and cleaning up. I appreciate all your time and hard work!!!!

Thanks to ALL! Joyce

OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

- We would like to **thank everyone** for their generous hearts in bringing in food articles for our service departments in Seville. The baskets were distributed among several of the departments that serve the Seville community: **BOPA, Fire, Police, and the Street Departments.** They were so grateful. Thank you for your generosity!
- The **OUTREACH COMMITTEE** will resume the Fellowship Hour on **January 7th** following both services. There will be a surprise at the Fellowship Hour on **February 4th!**
- Our **OUTREACH COMMITTEE** will meet on **January 3rd** at 7 p.m.. We hope to see you there.

*“There is a calmness to a life lived in
gratitude, a quiet joy.” — Ralph Blum*

*SAS Training: (Simplified Accountable Structure)

The webinar looks at how simplified, accountable leadership structure (often called the “one-board” model) can empower, equip, and set laity and clergy free to focus on the mission of making disciples of Jesus who change the world. This isn't any commitment, but it would give us a good idea if we feel it might work for our church. Anyone wanting to watch from home can go to EocUmc website and **sign up.**



A WORD FROM OUR REVEREND...

Reverend Donald Kuntz

Jan 2024

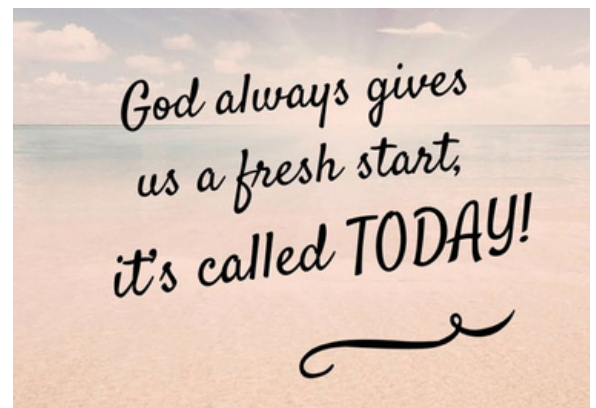
New beginnings are a gift. Jesus comes that we might have new beginnings.

The school year starts in August/ September. The church year starts in Advent. The calendar year starts January One. Lent begins this year on February 14th. These are all good times to start again. There are empty-nesters who begin again. There are those who start over after the death of a spouse, or a child, or a marriage, or a dream. New beginnings are a gift.

Pastors begin again with each new appointment. Rev Jeremy Roseberry is moving from the appointment at Spencer/Lafayette UMCs to the appointment at Jefferson UMC (Ashtabula). Rev David MacDonald is moving from the appointment as chaplain at Ohio Northern University to the appointment as a camp director out in the Wild West. Church administrative sections change, in this case from the Akron District to the Canal District to the Central Valley District; from the Wooster District to the Canal District to the West Plains District. A plan is being considered at Jurisdictional Conference to join the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference into a two point charge for one bishop. We all begin again. The only thing constant is change. What is important is what we do with it.

Seville UMC will celebrate a 200th anniversary in 2026. This provides a very good opportunity for planning what Seville UMC will be in its next decade. What things need to be put in place as the church prepares for this new beginning?

***Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it
springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and
rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19***



Thank you to those who sent cards and said prayers, and gave gift certificates at the time of my mom's death. Thanks to those who are donating to Camp Wanake in her memory. Rev Don.

Thanks for the wonderful Christmas love offering . Rev Don.

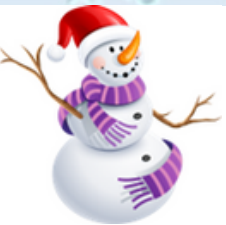


Scan here to check out the Cloverleaf
Collaborative YouTube Channel!



The Church in Mission

Reverend Tammy Kuntz



Looking back/Looking forward

In 2023, The Food Pantry served 257 families. That doesn't sound like much compared to the Matthew 25 Outreach Center that serves that many more families in just one distribution. However, as a choice pantry, we focus on building relationships and helping with the immediate needs of the family. ***In fact, this is a 65% increase over 2022.***

Thank you for your generosity with monthly items and monetary donations. This community has been very generous with the Seville retailers organizing food drives and the partner churches contributing. Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church organizes a reverse advent giving program. The pantry received 30 bags of food!

Looking forward –

The new pantry space is very helpful! It allows us to expand to the first Monday of the month from 6:00pm-7:00pm. in 2024. We hope this will provide a time for us to serve additional families.

Last year, we made six sleeping mats. This was accomplished with many hands at Farmers' Market, Thursday morning ladies, and Kathy's sister who is cutting bags at her home. And some of you spending a few minutes or a few hours working on it in Fellowship Hall. Four mats were delivered to Cups Café in Medina where they were shared out with folks who needed them. Two more mats are soaking up prayers in the sanctuary.



Looking forward - The mats will be available on pantry days for people to work on as they wait. Perhaps we can double the number of completed mats in 2024. Let's really make a difference in 2024 to those in need who turn to the church for comfort, prayer, and need. I anticipate other projects increasing and starting in this new year as God guides us in new ways to meet the needs of God's people around the world. *We are limited only by our own response to our community.*



How might we be more open to being aware of the needs of our neighbors and sharing our time and talents as we work to create a world that loves and cares for all of creation?

Thank you

~ Rev. Tammy



***Isaiah 58:10 God's call is to do both!
When we feed the hungry, we give of ourselves personally
and then our lives shine in dark places. Our needs are
also met 'like a watered garden, like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail'***

News You Can Use...

Please pray for:



Lea Ewing
 Jerry Ross
 Betty Perry
 Amber Conway
 (receive help for controlling her seizures)
 Matt Huse (terminal illness)
 Deb Massie (Nancy Greer's sister, cancer)
 Bailey Freeland
 Lisa Marshall (cancer)
 Roy Bise for strong recovery after surgery
 Plumer and Klote families
 Marvin Lambert and family
 Luci (COVID and unspoken concerns)
 Fiona Conway (Sue Payne's granddaughter, illness)
 Colleen Dixon
 Webb and Heller families
 Ester Puglisi
 Troy Jarvis
 Sue Frey
 Denny Clevidence
 Mike Landis

*Those homeless and battling mental illness.
 People of Ukraine,
 People of Lahaina, Maui
 People of the Middle East
 Unspoken Concerns
 Pray for world peace!*

**"Our prayers may be awkward.
 Our attempts may be feeble.
 But since the power of prayer
 is in the one who hears it
 and not in the one
 who says it, our prayers
 do make a difference."**

— Max Lucado

Birthdays

3-Jim Freiberger
 4-Vicki Fugate
 4-Kevin Barr
 4-Brooke Swain
 9-Mary Neel
 10-Lori Morris
 11-Chuck Powell
 16-Lea Ewing
 16-Emily Gorey
 19-Denise George
 22-Walter Eby
 23-Olivia Welday
 28-Bette Smith

Anniversaries

14-Dennis & Margaret Clevidence
 18-Bobbi & Ed Placke
 19-Connie & Dennis Barrington
 23-Gloria & Randy Hays



Note: The Panera Bread Pickup assignment has only changed for Jan. In Feb. it will go back to the original plan.

Bread and Pastries Pickup

First Tuesday	Perry
Second Tuesday	Kuntz
Third Tuesday	Ewing
Fourth Tuesday	Rhoads
Fifth Tuesday	Freeland



Bagel slicers and bread packers -
 Sandy Bridenthal and Sherry Armstrong

Contact us **if you can help with this ministry** and pick up bread and pastries as needed! Thank you.

Bibles and Burritos

Join the Cloverleaf Collaborative Community for scripture and reflection as we share a meal.

Hear a Jesus story and share in the discussion.

El Patron 101 Greenwich Rd. Seville
 January 10th at 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to Rev. Tammy for reservations.



Groups and Committees

From SPRC

The SPRC committee wants to express thanks to all who attended the All-Church meeting with Rev. Angela Lewis. Your continued commitment to Seville United Methodist Church is a blessing to each of us and to each other. The members that were in attendance committed this Church to participate actively in our biggest need, increased income either through current members, new members, and additional creative ways to raise money.

SPRC has determined that we can wait one more cycle to see what our progress financially is throughout the year before making a decision on moving to less of a full-time pastor. This means we need involvement immediately, ideas immediately, and each member taking action. *Know that a cycle is defined as follows:* All Pastoral moves are made in July of each year. By November a church must declare if they want to change the pastor (or the pastor wants a change from us) or the type of pastoral care we can afford or need. i.e. A 75% pastor instead of a 100% pastor on site.

What can you do? Actively and intently invite people to this church for a service and our events.

Be creative and come up with ideas to not only promote Seville United Methodist Church but at the same time create a new income stream. We need your participation by offering ideas, joining a group or showing up for our committee meetings supporting the church one step further. You do not have to be a member on that committee to participate (except for SPRC). **Are you really good at something and think it has merit for this church?** Let us know; ideas, time, and commitment are really important now for sustainability in this community. We also need your prayers for our Church, the membership and especially Rev. Don and Rev. Tammy.

All ideas can be emailed to our Administrative Assistant Phyllis (Phyl) care of sevumccarol@aol.com. OR just write the idea down, put it in the mail slot next to the office door. We are planning for our future and appreciate your support and assistance in a variety of ways throughout 2024. We can do this together!

We will be having another All-Church meeting either the last week of March or the first week of April. Hopefully, we will have new ideas to present and projects in place that have already started. We can no longer wait! We need you to take a responsible role in the future of the Seville United Methodist Church taking into consideration the congregation and the community.

Thank you, Staff Parish Relations Committee

From FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE:

Our committee is planning a **FAMILY GAME NIGHT on February 11th at 5 p.m.** There will be a Mexican Train Euchre, Bingo and prizes. We will be serving coney and regular hot dogs, chips and cookies with a beverage. Mark your calendars now to participate in an evening of family fun! Let's get together!

Church Attendance Records: Every person matters ...

It is important that we capture and report to the district our full attendance week after week. Every Monday I am required to submit the attendance numbers "Vitals" to the district web site. I know that some attend the services and do not write down their name for one reason or another. This lowers the numbers that the district sees as attending on Sunday. *It gives the district a false glimpse on how well the services are actually being attended.* So please try to remember to sign the attendance forms when coming in for our Sunday services. It could make a difference and can only help in our ability to sustain our church going into 2024 and towards are **200th year celebration** in 2026. Thank you for the consideration, Phyllis.

Worship Looking ahead

Rev. Kerry King will be our Guest Preacher and offer communion on January 7th

January 7

Feast of the Epiphany

Guest: Rev. Kerry King "What Use Are Heavens That Are Torn Apart?"

Scripture

Psalms 29 (761)

- Genesis 1:1-5
- Acts 19:1-7
- Mark 1:4-11

Hymns

8:30 (*Purple Book*)

(205) The Servant King
Vs. 1-3
(154) Jesus is My Lord
(259) Shine Jesus Shine
(183) I Look To the Shepherd
(8) Yours is The Kingdom

10:45

(Rev King:Hymns May Change)

(100) God, Whose Love
Is Reigning o'er Us
(61) Come Thou
Almighty God
(604) Praise and
Thanksgiving Be to God

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Nancy & Brian Greer
10:45 - Ginnie & Jim Demo

Liturgist

8:30 - Heather Cottingham
10:45 - Sandy Bridenthal

Counter

Helen Angell

January 14

Human Relations Day

(offering)

Scripture

Psalms 139 (854)

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1:43-51

Hymns

8:30 (*Red Book*)

(131) Come and See
(58) Come and Sing Praise
(55) He is Able
(113) In Moments Like These
(244) There is a Redeemer

10:45

(451) Be Thou My
Vision
(2130) The Summons
(2129) I Have Decided
to Follow Jesus

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Lea & Mark Ewing
10:45 - Melanie &
John Gladden

Liturgist

8:30 - Jerrica Pawlus
10:45 - Rev. Tammy Kuntz

Counter

Carol Harlan

January 21

3rd Sunday After the

Epiphany

Scripture

Psalms 62 (787)

- Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- Mark 1:14-20

Hymns

8:30 (*TFWS*)

(2129) I Have Decided to
Follow Jesus
(2119) Where the Spirit of
the Lord is
(2130) The Summons Vs.
1-3 and then Vs. 4-5
(2070) He is Exalted

10:45

(523) Saranam. Saranam
(348) Softly and Tenderly
Jesus is Calling
(338) Where He Lead Me

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Roseann & Craig
Wood
10:45 - Kris & Carl Perry

Liturgist

8:30 - Bobbi Placke
10:45 - Helen Angell

Counter

Janet Gommel

January 28

4th Sunday After the

Epiphany

Scripture

Psalms 111 (832)

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- Mark 1:21-28

Hymns

8:30 (*Purple Book*)

(75) Rejoice in The Lord
(96) Blessed Be The
Name of The Lord
(258) All Heaven
Declares
(233) Surely The
Presence
(102) My Tribute

10:45

(108) God Hath Spoken
by The Prophets
(128) He Leadth Me: O
Blessed Thought
(140) Great is Thy
Faithfulness

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Jean Eby &
Theresa Naftzger
10:45 - Sandy Bridenthal
& Beth Meadows

Liturgist

8:30 - Heather Cottingham
10:45 - Dave Welday

Counter

Melanie Gladden

Communion Steward 8:30 Service Roseann Wood **10:45 Service** Liisa Coldiron

More To Know

SAVE THE DATE!

A SPECIAL HEADS UP! MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2/29TH!

In February there will be a church fundraiser on the 29th.

“A BLESSING MEAL”

This meal will be open to the community and it is our way to show gratitude recognizing how our church and staff have been blessed by the church and how the church has been a blessing to this community.

More details to follow in the next bulletin and newsletter. Save the DATE!

If you are interested in being part of this event and want to volunteer in some way, please reach out to Kristi Perry to see where you are needed.

Bible Study:

The 6 session Bible Study will begin on January 16th. Please let Pam Mullin know if you have interest in participating no later than January 7th.

We often go through challenges that seem so much greater than our strength. But God is telling us that our glory days are still ahead. We only need to grasp that truth and live in faith to realize this promise. We serve a God who fights for us. God had a Promised Land in store for the Israelite's, but they had to grasp that reality, change their mindsets, and take action to receive it. The same is true for us today.

The Bible Study group will focus on "Prayer Does It Make Any Difference?" by Philip Yancey. We welcome anyone who has interest in fellowship, great discussions and a desire to connect more with God through prayer.

Prayer Cards:

In an effort to protect and respect an individual or family's privacy, we want to make sure that we have consent when a prayer request is offered in order to protect a person's privacy about a situation or health condition; especially since we publish these requests on line and to the membership.

A church member always has the right to request a prayer for others and have it **held in silent prayer!** Simply mark yes or no on the front of the prayer card to let us know if this is a private matter! Thank you for your understanding.

Share a laugh! Make someone smile today!



Scan here to view the Calendar Online



December Finance

You did it!

During the month of December, offerings to the General Fund were more than \$20,000. Because of YOU – we met all expenses for the year. **THANK YOU!**

From the Finance Committee:

As of December 31, 2023

General Fund Giving	\$187,061
Building/Maintenance	3,890
Total Giving	\$190,951

Total Expenses \$(188,733)

NET INCOME 2,188



TOTAL GIVING 2023	\$190,951
TOTAL GIVING 2022	\$170,450

- Give online thru our website <https://www.seville-umc.org/>
 - **Just click the donate button!**
- Mail a check directly to the church
- Send a check thru your online banking system (you can even set it up to send checks on a recurring basis)

We value you and your support of Seville UMC!
Your Finance Committee

*"I will forever remain humble because I know I could have less.
I will always be grateful because I know I've had less." — Unknown*

"For it is in giving that we receive." -St. Francis of Assisi



Online Giving at
[www.https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z6HA/home](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z6HA/home)

Scan here with your smartphone camera to make a payment electronically through Vanco

Seville United Methodist Church
74 W. Main St.; PO BOX 32
Seville, OH 44273



Our Sunday Morning Schedule:

- 8:30 AM Praise Worship
- 9:30 AM Sunday School
- 10:45 AM Traditional Worship & Online Streaming

Make a New Year's Resolution to invite a friend or neighbor to join us for one of our Sunday Services in January.



January 2024

Food Pantry Item of the Month



Cake mix,
frosting,
candles,
oil

ARE YOU READY FOR JANUARY'S WEATHER?

Here are some tips for getting ready for the cold from AAA:

- Put an extra blanket in your car, gloves and snow scraper...
- Get your battery tested. ...
- Examine antifreeze levels. ...
- Check your tire pressure. ...
- Clean your headlights. ...
- Let a professional look at your brakes. ...
- Prepare an emergency kit... remember to keep your phone charged!



Online Giving at

[www.https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z6HA/home](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z6HA/home)



Scan here with your smartphone camera to make a payment electronically through Vanco