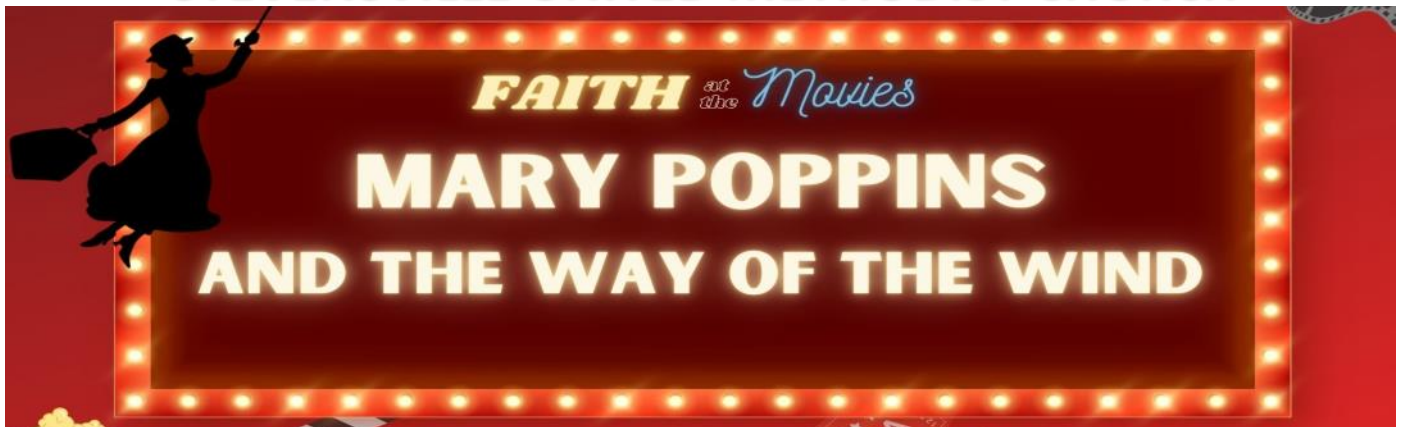


# STEVENSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## **SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE**

9:55AM ON THE SUMC FACEBOOK PAGE  
or click on the link on our website:  
[www.stevensville-umc.org](http://www.stevensville-umc.org)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*take these moments to quiet your mind & heart as worship begins*

\*Call to Worship

\*Opening Hymn: #129 "Give to the Winds Thy Fears"

The Story For All Ages

Setting the Scene: "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"  
Old Chimers

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-8  
Heather Boyle

Message: Mary Poppins & The Way of the Wind  
Rev. Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"  
Senior Choir

Prayers of the People  
Lord's Prayer

Offering  
\*Doxology #95

Holy Communion  
Hymns: #393 "Spirit of the Living God"  
#420 "Breathe On Me, Breath of God"  
#334 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

\*Closing Hymn: #347 "Spirit Song"

Blessing

Postlude

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Mission Focus For January  
Riverside Backpack Program***

### **Beginning January 17-Faith at the Movies!**

This series will use favorite films to help us see God's story in the stories around us, all while having some fun! Join us for Friday movie nights and Sunday worship as we look for God's grace on the big screen and in our lives!

Friday, January 17 & Sunday, January 19-Mary Poppins

Friday, January 24 & Sunday, January 26-ET

Friday, January 31 Sunday February 2-Inside Out

### **Member Services and Congregational Safety Orientation**

Mike Logan will be leading an orientation session for those interested in helping with Sunday morning safety and security protocols on Sunday, January 26th after worship. Those who are interested in helping are invited to attend a brief training and orientation to help make sure our Sunday worship experiences are safe, secure, and welcoming.

### **Responding to the California Wildfires**

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is already at work responding to the wildfires in California. When you give to UMCOR disaster response, 100% of your gift goes directly to relief efforts. If you would like to give to wildfire relief, you can designate an amount for UMCOR on your offering envelope, or you can give online and select "California Fires." You can give SUMC credit for your gift by entering our 49127 zip code and selecting Stevensville UMC.

### ***Serving in Worship Sunday, January 19***

*Ralph & Marilyn Stocking, Greeters*

*Jan Bickers & Monique Yoder, Ushers*

*Grace Mitchell Acolyte*

*Heather Boyle, Lector*

## From the Pastor



As I write to you this week, the snow is blowing outside the church windows, whipping up a flurry of frosty white air and making me all the more grateful to be cozy and warm inside. It's on these kind of winter days – when it's cold, dark, and particularly blustery that a movie is a welcome escape for my family. We pop the popcorn, grab some cozy blankets, and step into another world together, immersed in another story for an hour or two.

This week, we're kicking off our "Faith at the Movies" series with a cozy movie night on Friday at 6:30, followed by a Sunday worship service that will incorporate some themes from this week's film, *Mary Poppins*. Perhaps you remember some of the songs that came out of 1964 classic, like "Spoonful of Sugar," or "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" (I hope I spelled that right!). The story of this magical, joy-filled nanny that blew in on the wind will offer us an opportunity to consider how the wind of the Holy Spirit is often at work in our lives in rather surprising ways.

The Bible is full of stories. Jesus taught by telling stories. Our human brains are wired to learn through stories. Each of us has a story, and each of us is part of God's story. Join us this month as we take in some cinematic stories, dive deeper into God's story, and find God's grace in the midst of our own stories. See you at the movies!

Let's be the Church,

Pastor Elise

**HEALTH CONCERNS:**

Tery Bailey  
Bruce Barclay  
Carol Bond  
Sue Dock  
Ken Foyder  
Shirley Hetfield  
Hunter Hendley  
Jerry Hunt  
Gayla Kerby  
Dick Lukey  
Baby Sebastian Kurup  
Levi  
Eric Mallen  
Mike Melcher  
Schaeffer Ott  
April Pinderski

Gloria Pollack  
Mike Rush  
Amy Schaub  
Larry Shadle  
J.T. Thompson  
Kathy Trejo  
Brooke Trux  
Pat Steenbergh  
David Sunblad Jr.  
Judy Vanderaue

**SHUT-INS:**

*Sharon Alsbro*  
*June Avery*  
*Carol Momany*  
Grace Park  
Sally Streick  
Carol Svorec

**MISSIONARIES IN THE FIELD:**

Caleb Dormah-Liberia  
**IN ACTIVE SERVICE:**  
Taylor Allgood-England  
Lydia Sankey-Orsillo-USS  
Bulkeley DDG 84-Rota Spain



**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- Prayers of comfort and peace for the Vogie family who lost Tom Vogie on Dec 29th after a long battle with cancer.
- Prayers for the Dubbert family as Stan’s mom has been moved into assisted living may the transition be smooth.
- Prayers for Lynne Willadsen’s friend Connie who lost her husband January 7th.
- Prayers for Shirley Cole’s friend Shirley Johnson who lost her husband Dick after a long illness.
- Prayers for Tom Parrish and family at the passing of his sister.
- Prayers for Fred Seifert as he navigates health concerns.
- The Pries’ ask prayers Josh Bolt who was seriously injured his hip, shoulder & elbow after a fall.
- Prayers of comfort and peace for friends of Lindsey Nelson, Cassie & Daniel, who lost their 17 day old daughter Ruth after suffering a heart attack following open heart surgery.
- Prayers of comfort and peace for the Logan’s neighbor and family of Terry Blythe who passed away from a lengthy battle with pulmonary fibrosis.
- Prayers for Eric Elleson’s Aunt Marilyn who is free from her stage 4 lung cancer. Praise God!
- Prayers for the Stocking’s granddaughter Krissy who is going through another series of chemo for breast cancer.
- Prayers for family of Jan Johnson’s dear friend Mary Jo who passed away from a courageous fight with ALS.
- Prayers for Barb Clark’s sister Mary who is recovering from surgery.
- Prayers for Carol Bond who is recovering from surgery.
- Prayers of healing for Wanda Barclay who is recovering from foot surgery.
- Prayers for Amanda Feigley who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. She is 30 years old.
- Prayers for Jessica, relative of Ralph Stocking who is battling breast cancer.
- Prayers for those affected by the wildfires in California.

**PRAYER JOYS:**

- Congratulations to Luke and Nora Ivers on the birth of Livi Blu on Dec 29 and to Kevin & Betty on a new grand-daughter.



Stevensville UMC is seeking a Director of Children and Youth Ministry. This individual will support children and youth in their faith formation by coordinating nursery staff, supporting and providing resources for Sunday School volunteers, and fostering welcoming, relational spaces for children and youth. The ideal candidate values building relationships and has strong communication skills. This position is 8-10 hours a week with flexible hours. Interested candidates should email [reveliselowedwardson@gmail.com](mailto:reveliselowedwardson@gmail.com). See full job description at [stevensville-umc.org](http://stevensville-umc.org).

We also need Nursery Workers during Sunday services. \$15/hr. Must be at least 16 years old.

If interested, contact Pastor Elise, [reveliselowedwardson@gmail.com](mailto:reveliselowedwardson@gmail.com) or Sarah Melcher, [sbmelcher@hotmail.com](mailto:sbmelcher@hotmail.com)



**SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH HOSPITALITY BEFORE AND AFTER CHURCH**

Do you enjoy the hospitality fellowship after church? We have had so many yummy treats from all who have baked and we are so grateful. There are 3 different areas you can sign-up to help keep this ministry going. You can sign-up to set up the coffee, you can sign-up to clean up, and you can sign-up to bake goodies. If you haven't set-up or cleaned up before that's ok, Sandy Hayes will be happy to show you. Thank you to everyone who has helped and shared their talents with

New Offering envelopes for 2025 are available on the table in the hallway. If you have any questions regarding your envelopes, please contact the church office. Thank you.



**Mobile Food Pantry Update**—Thanks so much to our 20 volunteers who ventured the cold and came out to help. We appreciated those who came that knew we were short handed. We served 84 Households, 238 Individuals, 78 Children, 61 Seniors and 10 Veterans. Our next pantry will be here Wednesday, February 19th.

Cardo Drumming  
Thursday's in Jan  
Faith Hall, 6:30pm  
Jan 16,23,30







**WEEKLY Calendar at SUMC/Jan 20-Jan 26**

**Monday, Jan 20**

5:30pm Generosity Meeting  
6:00pm Scout Troop Meeting

**Tuesday, Jan 21**

7:00pm-Pub Theology-Watermark  
7:15pm Harmony Ringers

**Wednesday, Jan 22**

10:00am Staff Meeting  
1:00pm Spirituality of Gratitude  
5:30pm BASIC  
6:00pm The Chosen Video Series  
7:00pm Senior Choir

**Thursday, Jan 23**

11:30pm Covenant Journaling  
1:00pm Old Chimers  
6:30pm Luke Immersion Study  
6:30pm Cardio Drumming

**Friday, Jan 24**

6:15pm Faith at the Movies-ET

**Sunday, Jan 26**

9:00am Men's Group  
9:00am Journey Through James  
10:00am Worship  
10:15am Sunday School  
11:15am Grace Notes

**LANCER LUNCH PACKERS**

**INFORMATION FOR JANUARY**

THURS, 1/9 3pm  
THURS, 1/16 3pm - Rotary  
THURS, 1/23 3pm,  
THURS, 11/25-3pm



**JANUARY 1**

Kathy Harris

**JANUARY 5**

Becca Meyer

**JANUARY 9**

Tafara Rukunda

**JANUARY 13**

Sally McWhirter

**JANUARY 16**

Chip Krieg

**JANUARY 17**

Kevin Boyle

**JANUARY 18**

Nancy Farrington

Bob Schmidt

**JANUARY 21**

Nicholas Weingart

**JANUARY 26**

Gene Harris

Riley Logan

**JANUARY 27**

Kevin Ivers

Shawn Wade

**JANUARY 28**

Melissa Vegter

**JANUARY 29**

Sandra Andert

Chris Williams

**JANUARY 30**

Barb Pries



**BEGINNING JANUARY 17..... Faith at the Movies**

This series will use favorite films to help us see God's story in the stories around us, all while having some fun! Join us for Friday movie nights and Sunday worship.

**Friday, Jan 17, Sunday Jan 19-Mary Poppins**

**Friday, Jan 24, Sunday Jan 26-ET the Extraterrestrial**

**Friday, Jan 31, Sunday Feb 2-Inside Out**

**FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHTS - POPCORN STARTS POPPING AT 6:15  
MOVIE STARTS AT 6:30**

WELCOME TO  
**Faith Formation**

WE NOW HAVE A VARIETY OF DISCUSSION AND INSTRUCTIONAL GROUPS

**Men's Group:** Room 1 (Video/Book Study)

Meets every week in just off Faith Hall. The group watches a video through Amplify followed by an open discussion. Watch the Weekly News for the topic during this session. **Begins: Sunday January 12 at 9AM/ Bob Clark, Facilitator**

**Journey with James: Looking at The Practical Christian life.** Room 2 (Discussion Group)

For the writer of the Epistle of James, religion is not about church membership, financial contributions, or even teaching in Sunday school. To James' way of thinking, the litmus test of true religion is the "doing" of the truth... not just hearing or saying it. James will tell us that the hallmark of authentic faith is action. In this way, James mirrors Jesus' sermon on the Mount. He forcefully condemns "counterfeit" religion that substitutes practice for theory. In his mind, true faith does not reside in the halls of academia, but in the streets where live the needy children of God.

Join us for a 6 week study of JAMES for a deeper understanding of his view of what it means to follow Christ. In the study we will use established methods for Reading the Bible and an understanding of its meaning and its purpose.

**Begins: Sunday January 26 at 9AM/Everett Harpole, Facilitator**

**Scripture of the Week** Gathering Area (Discussion Group)

Would you like to know the sermon topic for each week so you can have some time to mull it over? Join Pastor Elise as she unfolds the scripture for this week's message. **Begins: Tuesday January 7 at 2PM/ Pastor Elise Low Edwardson, Facilitator**

**Pub Theo** Off site (Discussion Group)

Almost seems like an oxymoron, doesn't it? We meet every week to have open, honest conversations about meaningful topics. Have you ever asked hard questions about your faith? Or all of sudden realized you don't accept a cherished belief anymore? Come see what we're all about, grab a pint if you desire or some bottled water and food from one of the food trucks. We'll save a seat for you. **Begins: Tuesday January 21 at 7PM at the Watermark Brewery/ Everett Harpole, Facilitator**

**Spirituality of Gratitude** Gathering Area (Book Study)

We're back for another 7 weeks. Gratitude or thankfulness is a spiritual discipline that we often don't realize. God moves us to enter into this world of thankfulness at every moment in our lives, even in the hard times, perhaps especially then. Each week we study a different section, so there is no need to catch up, unless you want to. Our door is always open.

**Begins: Wednesday January 22 at 1:00 PM/ Pastor Patti Harpole, Facilitator**

**The Chosen Video Series** Gathering Area (Discussion Group)

Author Jerry Jenkins has created a novelization of the time when Christ walked among his followers. The Chosen is a perspective on how the disciples might have lived and followed Christ. The discussion should be an interesting one.

**Begins: Wednesday January 15 at 6PM/ Kathy Sanky, Facilitator**

**Covenant Journaling** Lounge (Journaling/Instructional Group)

Whether you are familiar with the concept of journaling or not we invite you to become a part of this cutting edge group. We will discuss new ways to Prayer, Bible or Faith Journal each week. Part of our mission will be to share in the prayer ministry of the church. We will share ways to make our faith stronger through prayer and Bible study. We know this may be a new perspective for some folks, but we are definitely there to assist everyone in their faith journey.

**Begins: Thursday January 23 at 11:30/Pastor Patti Harpole, Facilitator**

**Immersion Bible Study: Gospel of Luke** Gathering Area (Study Group)

Whether you are new to Bible Study, or seek to gain deeper insight and reflection, this is the group for you! Join us for this seven-week journey through the Gospel of Luke. Each week we will read a short (we promise!) chapter and a section of the Gospel. On Thursdays, we will gather to discuss text and examine how we might connect it to our lives, the world, and our personal faith journey. **Begins Thursday January 16 at 6:30PM/ Mike & Nancy Farrington, facilitators**

## CARING MINISTRY

### Isaiah 43:18-19

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

It's January 2025, the start of the new year. A time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the new year. A time for fresh starts and resolutions. A time for reflection and setting intentions. Wow, that sure sounds overwhelming to me.

It's a time I think I'll do better. I'll eat better, exercise more, and be more organized. As we are halfway through January like many of us, we already feel a little defeated.

I must remember if I turn to God, we can start fresh everyday and so many things will fall in place. It can be a time of spiritual growth.

God gives us second chances whenever we make mistakes and are willing to turn back to him. God is a forgiving God ready to offer second chances to all who repent.

Starting over is never easy but give your concerns to the Lord. Everyday is a new day.

Nancy Mead, Caring Ministries

***Your Caring Ministry team is here for you; please contact any of the members if you have a need: Nancy Mead, Lona Vogie, Karen Pallas, Sharon Foxworthy, Chris Weber, Elaine Graves, and Pastor Elise Low Edwardson***

## **Altar Flower Dedications For 2025 Now Available**

Our Altar Flowers are silk arrangements done by Robin Weingart. Cost is \$30.00 and the money goes towards Missions. Thank you to all for sponsoring the flower arrangements every Sunday. **SIGN-UP ON THE CLIP BOARD IN THE HALLWAY AND PLACE YOUR PAYMENT IN THE COLLECTION BOX THAT IS NOW BY THE SIGN-UP SHEET.** If you are not able to get to church and sign-up please call the church office at 429-5911.



# Riverside Backpack Program



*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35*

Once a week during the school year a group of 4-5 people pack food into bags that are delivered to 38 students at Riverside Hager #6 school in Riverside. The bags are sent home on Fridays to give these students food to eat over the weekend. The bags contain items that provide some protein, fruit items and sweet treats for the students, as well as breakfast foods added to the bag by the school.

The backpack program was started in January of 2022 so we are in our third year of the program. There are four weekly teams that pack the food, delivery drivers who drop off the bags to the school, and shoppers who order and pick up the food for packing. In all, around 30 people in our SUMC family are involved in this mission.

The program is financially supported through the donations from our SUMC congregation as well as through fundraisers such as the chili cook off which recently raised \$688. Last year the back pack program was awarded a \$1500 grant from the Berrien County Foundation to help support it. This year we have applied for another grant from the Berrien County Foundation but have not heard as yet whether we will be receiving the grant. Each week the program costs approximately \$190 for food – around \$5 per bag. To run the program throughout a school year costs approximately \$7200.

We hope you will consider giving generously to this outreach program so we can continue to be the hands and feet of Christ helping feed children in our area!

## **MISSION TEAM MEMBERS**

***Mindi Logan, Wanda Barclay, Co-Chairs  
Barb Clark, Kathleen Deforest, Wayne Koebel,  
Judy Kuhlman,  
Dick Lukey, Kellie Meyer, Leanne Nitz,  
Paster Elise, Nancy Poelker,  
Barb Pries, Melissa Rescoe, Kathy Sankey, Myra  
Thompson, Lona Vogie, Rachel Wade,  
Robin Weingart, Paul Westmaas, Monique Yoder***