

STEVENSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Grounding
ourselves in
the good news
this Lent



SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE

9:55AM ON THE SUMC FACEBOOK PAGE

or click on the link on our website:

www.stevensville-umc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

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

*Call to Worship

*Opening Song: #2092 "Like a Child"

The Story For All Ages

Song of Response: "Your Love is a Wider Love"

Scripture Reading: Deut 24:17-22, Matt 19:13-15

Bette Mallen, Lector

Song of Response: "Your Love is a Wider Love"

Message: "Protection & Care for the Vulnerable"

Rev. Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "Unless You Learn"

Senior Choir

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Lenten Doxology

Holy Communion

*Closing Song "See the Precious Children"

Blessing

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Focus For March-Feeding America

Faith Formation Classes-See page 5 of today's update to see all of the classes available for you.

Soup & Song-Wednesday, March 18 at 6:15pm. Sign-up available on the table in the hallway to bring a soup, side, or dessert. Also needing kitchen leads for this event.

Mobile Food Pantry-Will be here on Wednesday, March 18. Set-up begins at 2:30pm and the pantry Begins at 4:00pm. Please consider coming out to help volunteer for this important mission for our community. Thank you.

VBS Meeting-Sunday, March 22 after worship. See page 6 of today's update.

We Want to Hear from You! 2026 Strategic Visioning Survey-See page 7 of today's update.

Serving in Worship Sunday, March 15

Kellie Meyer, Pianist

Bette Mallen, Lector

Monique Yoder & Rachel Wade, Ushers

Diane Koebel, Greeter

Brooklynn Stolk, Acolyte

Bette Mallen, Kathy Sankey, Monique Yoder,

Communion Helpers

Mike Logan, Congregational Safety

***Altar Flowers Given By Monique Yoder
In Memory of My Mother, Carloyn Yoder who
Passed Away March 12, 2023***

Growing Good News

Our Lent series “Tell Me Something Good” has been an opportunity to return to the roots of our faith and the Good News of God’s great love. In a world where it’s easy to feel inundated by bad news, it has been a change of pace for many of us! Perhaps you have noticed the tree on the wall in the gathering space that has been growing each week. What started as a tree with bare branches has slowly been leafing out with the good news you have shared.



Beautiful music.

Jobs.

Great friends.

65 degree weather!

Health.

Community.

The sound of “happy birthday” being sung by children.

The list goes on and the good news keeps on growing. And even in times when circumstances are hard and good news feels hard to find, the roots of our faith remain strong to anchor us through it all. Join us this Sunday as we explore the good news of care and protection for the vulnerable – and perhaps add your own leaf of good news to our growing tree!

Let’s be the Church,
Pastor Elise

March Mission Focus



Many of our neighbors are struggling to make ends meet because of the soaring costs of groceries and everyday necessities. Over 47 million people including nearly 14 million children are facing hunger. No one should have to worry about where their next meal will come from. Thank you for helping make a difference for our neighbors at risk of hunger by supporting our monthly mobile food pantry. If you, or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity come to our monthly mobile food pantry. It is held the third Wednesday of each month from 4-5pm. We meet at 2:30pm to get ready for the pantry. Come join us to volunteer for this much needed mission. Everyone is welcome.

Mission Team Members – Monique Yoder (Chairperson), Wanda Barclay, Barb Clark, Kathleen Deforest, Pastor Elise, Dick Lukey, Kellie Meyer, Leanne Nitz, Nancy Poelker, Barb Pries, Kathy Sankey, Myra Thompson, Lona Vogie, Rachel Wade, and Robin Weingart

CARING MINISTRY

My husband has always been a Cubs fan. You will most always see him wearing his Cubs hat. What I love about that hat is wherever we go conversation always happens over the hat. Whether you are a Cubs fan or not the conversation is always fun and positive. I love the unity in sports and the fact you can just strike up a conversation.

So many lessons can be learned from sports. With the passing of Lou Holtz many memories were being told. One that stuck with me was his three rules for life.

1. Do what is right.
2. Do everything to the best of your ability.
3. Show people you care, building trust, commitment, and love in relationships and personal growth.

As spring training is happening now in baseball to get players ready for the regular season, we in our Lent season have been in spring training to strengthen our refocus on God and prepare for the celebration of Easter. It's great to see our church working together to build community and strengthen our church team.

Romans 12:11

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

So stay fired up not just for the sports game, but for your purpose in Christ!

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, Elaine Graves, Chris Weber, Lisa Williams, and Pastor Elise Low Edwardson



The March 6 tornadoes that touched down in Cass, St. Joseph, and Branch counties have displaced families and disrupted communities.

You can support storm disaster recovery work. Make a donation to SUMC with "After the storm" in the memo or donate directly to <https://afterthestormmi.org/donate/>

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HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tery Bailey
Bruce Barclay
Gordie Barry
Christi Blunt
Adam Burnett
Missy Carroll
Dianne Collins
Sue Dock
David Hills
Debbie Foley
Ken Foyder
Shirley Hetfield
Dick Lukey
Sebastian Kurup
Mike Melcher
Gary & Lee Nelson

Schaeffer Ott
Bonnie & Tom Parrish
April Pinderski
Gloria Pollack
Mike Rush
Amy Schaub
Fred Seifert
J.T. Thompson
Kathy Trejo
Brooke Trux
David Sunblad Jr.
Judy Vanderaue
Gary Wank
Dan Whitt

SHUT-INS:

Sharon Alsbro
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

STUDIES ABROAD

Max Logan



PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Prayers for Diana Hartman who has been hospitalized and is recovering from a pacemaker procedure.
- Prayers for Hugh Black's cat Tarja who is 22 years old and not doing well.
- Prayers for Lynda Willadsen's son Ross and his family on the loss of his wife Shana.
- Prayers for Mike Logan and family. Mike's mom Patricia passed away this pass week.
- Prayers for April Pinderski who has entered hospice care at home.
- Prayers for all our men & women in the armed forces, especially for Lydia Sankey-Orsillo who is on a destroyer ship in the Mediterranean Sea. May they all be safe and appreciated in their mission.
- Prayers for de-escalation in the air strikes taking place in the Middle East. Prayers for open dialogue and humility.
- Prayers for Mick & Barb Pries son who is looking for a job in engineering that is a good fit for him.
- Prayers for Mike Farrington's father who starts chemo and daily radiation for stage IV lung cancer.
- Prayers for Cindy Mitchell's son Patrick recovering from a stem cell transplant.
- Prayers for Lisa Williams Uncle Norman diagnosed with mouth cancer.
- Prayers of comfort and strength for Joan Shadle and family. Larry passed away peacefully on February 12.
- Prayers of comfort for the family of Pete Hanna who passed away.
- Prayers of healing for Jan Taylor who broke her hip and is recovering at Caretel.
- Prayers for Kathy DeForest's son-in-law Dan Whitt for his cancer and up coming Pet Scan and new treatments.
- Prayers for Chris Stolk and his upcoming medical treatments.
- Prayers of lament in the loss of life, the separation of families, and for fear.
- Prayers for Ralph Stocking's granddaughter, Prissy Bau who's breast cancer has returned.
- Continued prayers for Lona's nephew Jason who has Crohn's disease.
- Prayers of peace for our world.
- Prayers for Amanda Feigley who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. She is 30 years old.

Faith Formation for March

As a new month begins, we gather with open hearts and expectant spirits. Faith Formation invites us to pause, reflect, and grow—together. Whether through study, conversation, journaling, or prayer, each gathering offers a chance to deepen our connection with God, discover fresh purpose, and share the journey with one another. Come explore, question, and be nourished by practices that awaken the soul and strengthen community.

 **Men's Group:** ⌚ Sundays at 9:00 AM • Room 1, Faith Hall— **NEW STUDY STARTING SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22**

A new 6-week study begins FEBRUARY 22. Adam Hamilton's , "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?". Please come and join us.!

 **Scripture of the Week** – with Pastor Elise Low Edwardson ⌚ Tuesdays at 2:00 PM • Location TBD

Ever wish you had more time to reflect on Sunday's message before it's preached? This gathering offers just that. Pastor Elise gently unpacks the week's scripture, offering context, insight, and space for conversation. It's a chance to engage with the Word ahead of time—so it can settle in your heart before it's proclaimed from the pulpit.

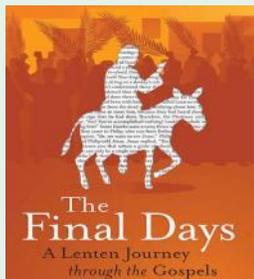
 **Pub Theology** ⌚ Tuesdays at 7:00 PM • The Watermark

Pull up a chair and join the conversation. Each week we dive into moral, ethical, theological, and philosophical topics in a relaxed, open setting. Bring your thoughts, your doubts, and your curiosity—no question is too big or too small.

 **Covenant Journaling** – ⌚ Thursdays at 11:30 AM • Lounge

Enter a sacred space of quiet reflection. With gentle, meditative music surrounding us, we journal our prayers, thoughts, and spiritual insights—whether through Bible journaling, faith journaling, or prayer journaling. We close with shared prayer practices that refresh the spirit and nourish the soul.

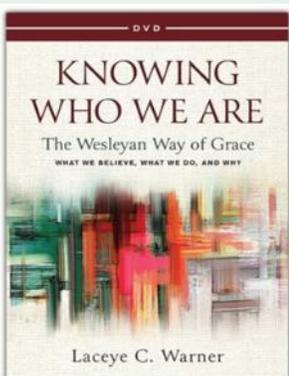
LENTEN STUDIES



Thursdays during Lent, we will discuss the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love found in Gospel accounts of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. The book "The Final Days" by Matt Rawle compares the writings in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, highlighting Jesus' triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning. Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion.

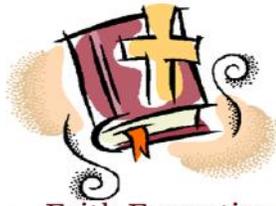
Join us at 6:30pm on Thursdays during Lent - February 19 through March 26.

Facilitators: Mike & Nancy Farrington



This class will be offered as a Lenten study. The class will be on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Area beginning February 18. The study will be co-facilitated by Kathy Sankey and Lona Vogie. Books will be available soon and a sign up sheet is available in the hall way outside the Sanctuary. It is a six week study. In this book, Lacey C. Warner invites you to a richer understanding of Wesleyan Christianity so you can have a clear sense of identity, better express your own beliefs, and deepen your connection with The United Methodist Church. She introduces you to important values and characteristics that make the Wesleyan way distinctive, including emphasizing God's grace for all and sanctification as tangible transformation in your life, your community, and all creation.

--Soup & Song Wednesday, March 18, 6:15pm



Faith Formation

The Faith Formation Coordinator serves as a member of the church staff and will direct/manage all Educational/Formational Ministries

of SUMC, 25-30 hours per week. Interested candidates should send a resume to Rev. Elise Low Edwarson, reveliselowedwarson@gmail.com

Lent at Stevensville UMC

SOUP & SONG

A MIDWEEK MEAL AND TIME OF REFLECTION FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesdays in Lent, February 25 - March 25
6:15-7:15 pm | All ages welcome!

The Knitting Group would like to welcome **ALL TYPES OF CRAFTERS** to join on the 1st and 3rd Thursday's of the month. What's your craft? Knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, quilting, scrapbooking? Come and join the group of crafters to work on your favorite craft and projects. The next gatherings will be Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 2:00pm and March 19 at 2:00pm.



Please consider signing up to help set-up, clean-up or make cookies for our Sunday Morning Hospitality. If you have questions please see Sandy Hayes or Lona Vogie. Sign-ups are at the hospitality table. Thank you!

CARDIO DRUMMING

THURSDAY'S IN MARCH ON THE 19TH AND THE 26TH IN FAITH HALL AT 6:15PM

SCOUT TROOP 603



Scout Troop 603 will be having their annual food drive. The collection date will be the morning of Saturday, March 21. There is a collection bin near the sanctuary. We will be

collecting donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries. Any questions can be directed to Angie Crabtree (269)830-6814 or email: angie081604@gmail.com

SIGN UP FOR

Altar Flowers Sign-Up For 2026

Altar Flowers are silk arrangements done By Robin Weingart. Cost is \$30.00 and goes towards missions. Sign-up on the clip Board in the hallway. If you are not able To get to church to Sign-up please call The church office at 429-5911. Thank you!



ALTAR FLOWERS



"Have you been wanting to put Philippians 4:13 into ACTION, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me,"? SUMC VBS team is looking for volunteers interested in helping at the Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS School during the week of

June 22 to 26! Whether you're available sometime during the week of VBS, helping pre-plan, or you have a knack for creating art...we would love to see you on Sunday, March 22nd after church to get more details."

MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

MARCH 2

Bruce Nitz

MARCH 6

Virginia Bedunah

MARCH 8

Don Rescoe

MARCH 10

Jack Harris

MARCH 11

Pam Rescoe

MARCH 12

Kurt Weber

MARCH 15

Grace Mitchell

Faith Mitchell

Marilyn Stocking

MARCH 18

Becky Chaffee

Harold Rescoe

MARCH 19

Wayne Koebel

Michaela Schaub

MARCH 20

Barb Clark

Lindsey Nelson

MARCH 21

Beth Foyder

Tatenda Rukunda

MARCH 22

Fred Seifert

MARCH 24

Betty Ivers

MARCH 25

Karen Pallas

MARCH 27

Kellie Meyer

Sarah Witt

MARCH 29

Judy VanDerAue

MARCH 31

Gloria Pollack

Allyson Rigler

We Want to Hear from You! | 2026 Strategic Visioning Survey

In 2021, SUMC cast a vision of becoming a church that built deeper connections - connections with God, with each other, and with the community. We took that commitment seriously, and worked hard at intentionally creating opportunities to help those in our congregation do just that.

Five years later, we are seeing encouraging signs that our vision has become our reality:

- Average Sunday attendance is increasing
- Faith formation opportunities continue to expand in number and attendance
- New mission opportunities, like Lancer Lunches, have sprouted and taken root

This is indeed an exciting time in the life of our church! These last five years have been about growth, momentum, and seizing the opportunities that God has presented to us. And now, we feel as if we're on the precipice of another defining moment for the future of SUMC.

As the Administrative Council created this year's budget, it struck us that our habit has been to decide what ministries we can provide with the money that we have, when what we should be doing is deciding how much money we need in order to offer the ministries that God has called us to provide. In order to do that, we need to discern just what God's calling is for us in 2026 and beyond.

This is where you all come in! Below is a link to a survey that we're calling "Strategic Visioning 2.0." Please take some time to prayerfully consider the questions, and provide your most honest and faith-filled responses by Sunday, March 22. If you would prefer to use a physical copy, they will be available at the worship services on March 15 and March 22.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to give us this important feedback. As the hymn says, "the church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people." We are excited to see what our people, our church, have to share with us!

[SUMC Strategic Visioning 2.0 Survey](#)





WEEKLY CALENDAR AT SUMC

March 16-March 22, 2026

Monday, March 16

8:30am Soup Kitchen Lunches

6:00pm Scout Troop Mtg

Tuesday, March 17

10:00am Generosity

2:00pm Scripture of the Week

7:00pm Pub Theology

7:00pm Harmony Ringers

Wednesday, March 18

10:00am Staff Meeting

1:00pm Knowing Who We Are Study

4:00pm Mobile Food Pantry

5:30pm BASIC Rehearsal

6:15pm Soup & Song

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 19

11:00am Lancer Lunches

11:30am Covenant Journaling

1:00pm Old Chimers

2:00pm Crafting Group

6:15pm Cardio Drumming

6:30pm Final Days Study

Saturday, March 21

8:30am Scout Food Drive

Sunday, March 22

9:00am Men's Group

10:00am Worship

10:15am Sunday School

11:15am Grace Notes

11:15am Zimbabwe Meeting

11:15am VBS Meeting

A Warm Welcome and a Vision for Growth

At Stevensville UMC, we believe that offering our very best in the work of Jesus Christ begins the moment someone walks through our doors. First impressions matter—studies remind us that “the first seven minutes a new person spends in a church often determines whether they will return.”

We’ve already seen new faces choosing to worship with us, and that is a blessing worth celebrating. Thank you for the role you’ve played in making Stevensville UMC a place of welcome and belonging. Our prayer is to continue seeing more new faces and to grow together as a church family.

Following our July meeting, we formed a Task Force—a small, focused group—to explore what strengthens our church’s first impression. At our first gathering in September, we prayed for God’s guidance and discerned three key priorities:

- A new Welcome Center to greet and connect with visitors
- New signage inside and outside the church to guide and invite
- An Alternate Worship Service to reach more people in meaningful ways

We identified other areas for growth as well, but these are goals we believe we can accomplish with prayer, consistency, and intentional effort. Of course, this journey will also require time and financial support.

As we move forward, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you can be part of this vision. Together, with God’s leading, we can continue to make Stevensville UMC a place where every person feels welcomed, valued, and drawn closer to Christ.

Your First Impressions Team, Pastor Patti Harpole, Rachel Wade, Rev. Elise Lowe Edwardson, Bob Hendley, Bette Mallen, Don Rescoe, Kathy Sankey, Joni Dubert, Michael Crawford.

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATION 2026-If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary with spring flowers on Easter Sunday, please complete this form, or find a form in your bulletin on Sunday and return it with your payment to the church office. **Please make checks payable to “SUMC”** The Plants are yours to take home after the 10:00am Easter Service on Sunday, April 5. **DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS SUNDAY, MARCH 22 and are \$12.00 each. WE WILL ONLY BE ORDERING TULIPS THIS YEAR.**

_____ TULIP TOTAL PLANTS _____ \$12.00 each= _____

PLEASE PRINT

Given By: _____

In Honor of OR In Memory of: (circle one please)

CHECK BOX IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR PLANT DONATED