

Holy Humor Sunday

April 12



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 Hymn: "Take Time to Be Funny" (tune #395)

The Story For All Ages

Scripture Reading: Psalm 98

Karen Pallas

Message: "The Easter Laugh"

Rev. Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "House of the Lord"

BASIC

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Doxology #94

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn: #251 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Blessing

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Focus For April-Annual Conference Giving

Sunday, April 12-Holy Humor Sunday! Feel free to wear colors, mismatched clothes, or a silly outfit that brings you joy!

New Men's Study-Beginning April 12 for 6 weeks. It's called Christianity and World Religions by Adam Hamilton.

Mobile Food Pantry-The pantry is Wednesday, April 15. Set-up begins at 2:30 and we start serving the community at 4:00pm. Please consider coming out to help with this mission. Thank you!

Middle School Dance-Friday, April 17th, 7:00pm.

Card Ministry Classes-Tuesday, April 14 at 10:00am and at 4:00pm. See Sandy Hayes for any questions.

Serving in Worship Sunday, April 12

Kellie Meyer, Pianist

Karen Pallas, Lector

Mike & Mindi Logan, Ushers

Tommie Weber, Greeter

Juliet Vehslage, Acolyte

Don Rescoe, Congregational Safety

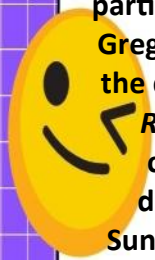
PASTOR'S NOTE

The Easter Laugh

Last week, we celebrated Resurrection Sunday, and what a joy it was! God's victory over death warrants quite a celebration, and what a celebration we had! Thankfully, Easter is more than a day – it's a fifty day season in which we get to celebrate the risen Christ with great joy.

Throughout Christian history, the season of Easter has been marked by a variety of joyful traditions. For centuries, Christians have marked the Easter season with parties, picnics, and playful gatherings. Early church theologians such as Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom described Easter as God's practical joke of the devil – fooling the evil one by raising Jesus from the dead. They called this the *Risus paschalis*, or "Easter laugh." Even in early days of Church history, believers celebrated Easter with jokes, drenching each other with water, and singing and dancing with joy. This Sunday, we will honor that tradition with Holy Humor Sunday. Join us for a service full of laughs, jokes, and a wholehearted morning of Easter joy. Feel free to wear something bright, mismatched, or extra joyful this Sunday!

With Easter Joy,
Pastor Elise



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tery Bailey
Bruce Barclay
Gordie Barry
Christi Blunt
Adam Burnett
Missy Carroll
Dianne Collins
Sue Dock
Dianna Hartman
Jerry Farrington
David Hills
Debbie Foley
Ken Foyder
Patrick Fowler
Shirley Hetfield
Dick Lukey

Sebastian Kurup
Mike Melcher
Gary & Lee Nelson
Schaeffer Ott
Bonnie & Tom Parrish
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:

Carol Momany
Grace Park
Sally Streick
Carol Svorec

MISSIONARIES IN THE FIELD:

Caleb Dormah-Liberia

IN ACTIVE SERVICE:

Taylor Allgood-Illinois
Lydia Sankey-Orsillo-USS
Bulkeley DDG 84-Rota Spain



PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Prayers of comfort and peace for the family of Sharon Alsbro who passed away March 28.
- Prayers for peaceful transformation for Myra’s brother in law who has stage 4 cancer of the liver, lungs and colon.
- Prayers of healing for Chris Stolk who is recovering from surgery to remove colon cancer. Also prayers for his sister Amber who has a mass in her colon.
- 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 Lisa Williams Uncle Norman who is having treatments for mouth cancer.
- 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 who will begin new treatments for his cancer.
- 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.

CARING MINISTRY

This is the day that the Lord has made, We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

April 10th is the 100th day of the year. 226 days remain. But who's counting! Each day has special meaning-National or personal.

—April 11th was the launch of Apollo 13

—April 12th is National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day.

Each day is there for us. We can have plans to accomplish. We can go to work, shop, help others, pray, etc. Whatever the day(s) hold for us, we know that God is right there with us. So, enjoy your day!

Sharon Foxworthy, Caring Ministries

-Can bees fly when it's raining?

Not w/o their little yellow jackets

-Why did the weatherman blush?

He saw climate change

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



IMPORTANT RUMMAGE SALE INFORMATION

Our spring rummage sale will be **Friday April 24 from 9 am – 5 pm** and our \$5 bag sale on **Saturday April 25 from 9 am – noon.**

Rummage sale donations can be brought to the church on the following dates and times:

Sunday April 19: 11 am to 1 pm Enter through door number 6 in back of building. Place rummage in alcove or room 3.

Monday April 20: 6 pm to 8 pm Enter through door number 6 in back of building. Place rummage in alcove or room 3.

Tuesday April 21: 10 am to 2 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm Enter through door number 8 (kitchen door) on the north side of building.

We need spring and summer clothing and household items, including furniture. Please remember that all donated items should be clean and in good working order. **Computers, TV's, faxes and printers will not be accepted.** When these items don't sell, we must pay to recycle them. (Thanks for your understanding!) Clothing may be left on hangers. It is very helpful if all donations are dropped off no later than Tuesday April 21 at 7 pm. Donation letters may be picked up at time of delivery of your donations. We are grateful and appreciative of your contributions to our sale. Thank you so much!!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS ALSO! Signup sheets are on the opportunities table in the concourse. We will be setting up and sorting on Wednesday and Thursday. Friday, the first day of our sale, is always very busy and many volunteers are needed! Men are especially needed during our cleanup which starts at noon on Saturday. Any time you could give would be greatly appreciated!!

If you have any questions or have items you need picked up, please contact: Bette Mallen (429-8219), Leanne Nitz (429-8150 or 252-9407) or Mary Sundblad (429-6329 or 519-8498).





APRIL 1

Kelly Hahaj-Mendus

APRIL 2

Dick Lukey

Bonnie Parrish

APRIL 3

Val Ruttenberg

APRIL 8

Nicole Tubman

APRIL 9

Joyce Hudak-Allen

APRIL 10

Jackie Witt

APRIL 12

Elliott Edwardson

APRIL 13

Robin Weingart

APRIL 15

Robert Hendley

APRIL 16

Katy Smith

APRIL 17

Lou Hendley

APRIL 18

Carrington Tubman

APRIL 21

Chris Stolk

APRIL 22

Sue Russell

APRIL 23

Mary Sundblad

APRIL 26

Ted Hollacher

APRIL 29

Perry Melcher

Brody Nelson

Sally Streick

APRIL 30

Max Logan

Savanna Stolk

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE
FRIDAY APRIL 17
7PM - 9PM

STEVENSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5506 RIDGE RD, STEVENSVILLE

School ID required for entrance

\$10 AT THE DOOR
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE


SPRING Cleanup

SAVE THE DATE!

The Trustees team will be hosting a church spring clean up on **Saturday, May 2nd** from 9 am - Noon. There will be things to do inside and outside the church. We hope everyone will plan to attend, even if you can only give an hour or two!

Let the Pies Fly!

This Sunday, the Zimbabwe Mission Team kicks off their Pie-in-the-Face Fundraiser! Each adult member of the mission team has a donation bucket in the gathering space. The team member with the most money in their bucket will get pied on Sunday, May 3! If the total for the team is over \$1000, the whole team will get pied! This team is excited to have some fun and raise some funds!



Elise



Mike



Stan



Joni

Zimbabwe Mission Team



Tendi



Farai



David



Ken

The team member with the most donations will get pied on Sunday, May 3! If the total is more than \$1000, the whole team gets pied! Vote with your dollars and let the pie fly!



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 Edwardson,

reveliselowedwarson@gmail.com



Card Classes for the month of April will be held Tuesday, April 14 at 10:00am and 4:00pm.

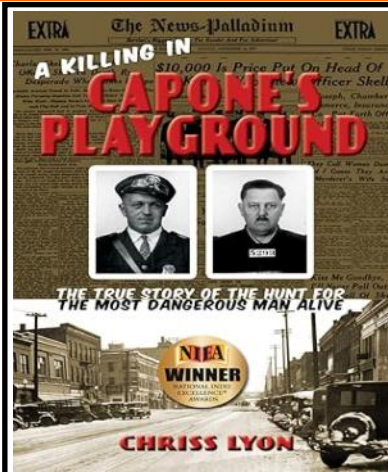


BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK WITH KATHY SANKEY, SUNDAY APRIL 12, AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE.

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, April 2, 2026 at 2:00pm and April 16 at 2:00pm.



Hospitality Ministry 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!



Sisters-In-Faith invites SUMC to hear local author Chris Lyon. She will speak about her book "Killing In Capone's Playground" that occurred in our area. Come Monday, April 13th at 6:00pm. A sign-up Sheet is available on the bulletin board. Thank You.

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

CARDIO DRUMMING


THURSDAY'S IN APRIL ON THE 2ND, 16TH, 30TH IN FAITH HALL AT 6:15PM

Faith Formation-April

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 WILL BEGIN APRIL 12, "CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS" BY ADAM HAMILTON. THE STUDY WILL RUN FOR 6 WEEKS.

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

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

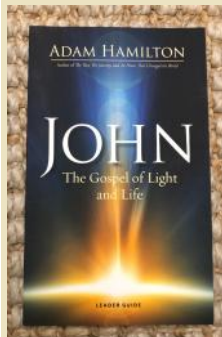
Enter a sacred space of quiet reflection. With gentle, meditative music surrounding us, we journal our prayers, thoughts, and spiritual insights—whether through Bible journaling, faith journaling, or prayer journaling. We close with shared prayer practices that refresh the spirit and nourish the soul.

A NEW STUDY John The Gospel of Light and Life By Adam Hamilton

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is

filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." This study will begin Wednesday April 8 at 1 PM in the

Gathering Area. The study is being facilitated by Lona Vogie and Kathy Sankey. It is a six week study. Please join us for good discussion and fellowship. You are welcome to participate even if you may have to miss a class or two along the way. If you're not into reading the video is often enough to be able to join in the discussion.



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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WEEKLY CALENDAR AT SUMC

April 13-April 19

Monday, April 13

6:00pm Scout Troop Mtg

6:00pm Trustees Mtg

6:00pm Sisters-In-Faith

Tuesday, April 14

10:00am Card Ministry

2:00pm Scripture of the Week

4:00pm Card Ministry

6:30pm Scout Troop

7:00pm Pub Theology

7:00pm Harmony Ringers

7:30pm Scout Troop Mtg

Wednesday, April 15

10:00am Staff Mtg

1:00pm Study/John

4:00pm Mobile Food Pantry

7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16

11:00am Lancer Lunches (Rotary)

11:30am Covenant Journaling

1:00pm Old Chimers

2:00pm Crafting Group

6:15pm Cardio Drumming

Friday, April 17

7:00pm Middle School Dance

Saturday, April 18

10:00am Jerry Hunt Visitation


11:30am Jerry Hunt Memorial Service

Sunday, April 19

9:00am Men's Study

10:00am Worship

10:15am Sunday School



Bake Sale

During the rummage sale, April 24th and 25th, the Zimbabwe Mission Team will be having a bake sale, like we did this past fall. It would be very much appreciated if you could bake something as a donation for us to sell.

Anything is welcome, but in the fall, Chocolate Chip Cookies were the biggest hit amongst the rummage sale attendees.

If you wish to make something for the sale, please drop it off in the church kitchen, (office is open 9:00 - 12:00 Thursday) or Friday before 9:00 AM. If these times do not work, please call Stan Dubbert at 269-861-4407 to arrange a time to drop off your baked goods.

Thank you very much.

Zimbabwe Mission Team.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards, food, visits and loving care during Larry's long illness and passing. I love and appreciate all of you.

Joan Shadle

APRIL MISSION FOCUS

The Good News Is.... United Methodists have always been amazing at recognizing the needs in the world around them, making plans to address those needs and then putting the plans into action. Each year, during the Michigan Annual Conference, congregations are given the opportunity to support specific areas of ministry. This year, the traditional opening worship offering will support two long standing missions: Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI) and Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia.

Through HAPI, the families in Mizak have access to healthcare and job training. The Start Right program gives babies a healthy start in life. HAPI is working to reverse hypertension and heart disease so Haitians can live healthier, longer lives. Healthcare workers are being trained on how to take charge of healthcare programs within their communities.

Established in 2000, the Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia provides education, health care and counseling for children orphaned by civil war. Originally established as an orphanage, today, most children spend their day in the village classrooms, receiving education and meals, returning to their own homes each evening. When you support this program, scholarships become available so children have the opportunity to attend school, receive healthcare, and meals.

In addition to supporting HAPI and Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village, 10% of the offering collected will support the Miracle Sunday Initiative. Each year, this initiative provides vital support for 500 clergy living outside of the U.S. through The Endowment for Theological Education. While more than 70% of clergy in the U.S. hold a theological degree, less than 5% of clergy outside of the U.S. have earned a theological degree. This portion of the offering will help close this gap by funding and sustaining theological education for emerging pastors in Africa, Europe and the Philippines.

Your generous donations will be presented by Pastor Elise during the Michigan Annual Conference in May. Thank you for your support of these vital programs.

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