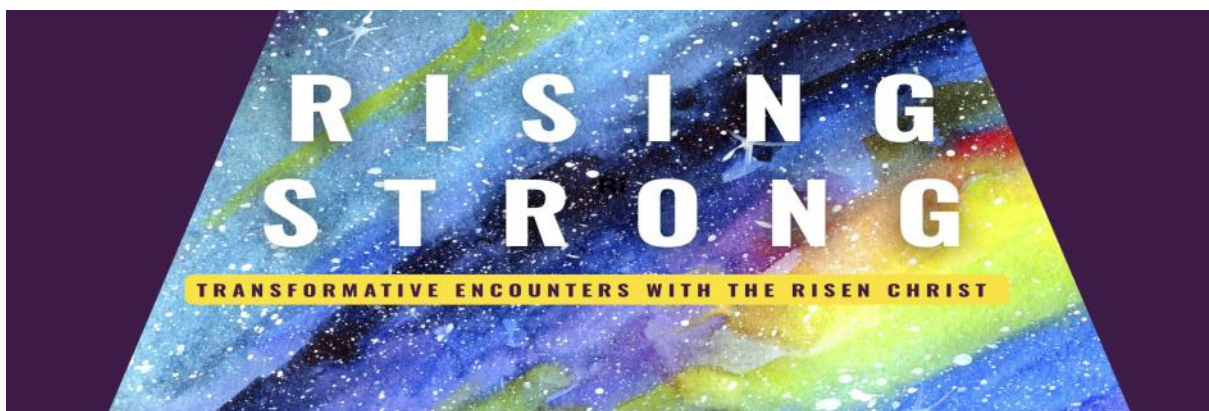


STEVENSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE

9:55AM ON THE SUMC FACEBOOK PAGE

or click on the link on our website:

www.stevensville-umc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

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

*Call to Worship

*Opening Song: #312 "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"

The Story For All Ages

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Bob Hopkins

Message: "Rising to Trust"

Rev. Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "The Joy of the Lord Lives in Me"

Senior Choir

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Doxology #94

Holy Communion

Hymns: #2269 "Come, Share the Lord"

#2266 "Here is Bread, Here is Wine"

*Closing Song: #529 "How Firm a Foundation" (v. 1,2,5)

Blessing

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Mission Focus for May-Arnoldine Mission Trip-
Zimbabwe, Africa***

Visioning Pot Luck- All-Church Potluck

This Sunday, May 17th! After worship, we will come together in Faith Hall for good food, conversation, prayer, and listening as we continue the conversations we began at our "Potluck and Possibilities" event in February. Come be a part of discerning our vision for ministry and who God is calling us to be as Stevensville UMC. See page 2 of the update.

Lawn Mowing-Please see page 7 of today's update.

VBS Sign-up-Sign-up is now available for VBS. See page 5 of today's update. Share with family and friends.

Clean Gallon Jug Donations-See Page 5 of the update.

Supply Collection for Immigrant Family-See page 8.

Serving in Worship Sunday, May 17

Kellie Meyer, Pianist

Bob Hopkins, Lector

Sally McWhirter & Dick Stauffer, Ushers

Wayne & Jane Koebel, Greeters

Brooklyn Stolk, Acolyte

Sandy Hayes, Sandy Krieg, Allyson Rigler, Monique

Yoder, Communion Helpers

Don Rescoe, Congregational Safety

***Altar Flowers Given by Dave & Nancy Brown
In Honor of Our Oldest Grandchild Morgan,
Graduating from Oklahoma
University in Nursing***

PASTOR'S NOTE

Staring at the Sky

One of my favorite phenomena to witness here in Southwest Michigan is the way that people stop to take in the sunset over Lake Michigan. As the day draws to an end and the sky is painted with oranges, purples, pinks, and golden hues, people stop what they're doing to find a place to sit on the beach or the bluff and take in the views. Drive through downtown St. Joe on a summer evening at sunset, and you'll see everyone's attention in the same direction – looking towards the beauty unfolding across the western sky.



This Sunday is Ascension Sunday, when we remember Jesus' ascension back into heaven. The disciples stared at the sky in awe, trying to make sense of all that they've seen. But soon, the sight is over, and they're being asked to not simply look up, but to look around and to look within to see the ways that God is at work. Join us this Sunday as we conclude our series "Rising Strong" and consider what it means to trust more deeply.

With grace and peace,
Pastor Elise

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK

SUNDAY MAY 17 AT 11:15AM

- ♥ **hear the results of our recent survey**
- ♥ **begin to cast that vision for the future**
- ♥ **enjoy food and fellowship**



Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 17th! After worship, we will come together in Faith Hall for good food, conversation, prayer, and listening as we continue the conversations we began at our "Potluck and Possibilities" event in February. Come be a part of discerning our vision for ministry and who God is calling us to be as Stevensville UMC.

Sign-up sheet to bring a dish is available on the hallway table.

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tery Bailey
Bruce Barclay
Gordie Barry
Christi Blunt
Adam Burnett
Missy Carroll
Dianne Collins
Sue Dock
Jack Hardy
Dianna Hartman
David Hills
Jason Kik
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
Jan Taylor
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-Osillo-USS
Bulkeley DDG 84-Rota Spain



PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Prayers for the family of Jan Sonneman who passed away on May 8th.
- Prayers for Lisa William's Mother-In-Law Frida who has 3 treatments done. Cancer through out her body. Also prayers for her Uncle Norman who is halfway through treatments for esophageal cancer and in severe pain.
- Prayers of comfort and peace for the Farrington family as Mike's dad Jerry passed away on May 4.
- Prayers of safe travel for Monique who is on a two week research data collection in South Dakota.
- Prayers of healing for Jessica Buehler who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- 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 is also recovering from colon cancer surgery.
- Prayers for all our men & women in the armed forces, especially for Lydia Sankey-Osillo 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 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.
- Prayers of peace for our world.
- Prayers for Amanda Feigley who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. She is 30 years old.

PRAYER JOYS:

- Happy 62nd Anniversary to Norm and Shirley Hetfield.
- Happy Mother's Day and Happy Birthday to Nancy Poelker.
- Blessings of joy for Lynden and Elnora Holmes on their 58th Wedding Anniversary.

May Birthday's

MAY 1

Taurai Rukunda

MAY 2

Jack Hardy

MAY 8

Jan Johnson

MAY 10

Nancy Poelker

MAY 11

Joy Kempic

MAY 13

Carson Rigler

MAY 16

Max Allen Jr.

MAY 17

Frank Melcher

Lorna Thompson

MAY 18

Rhonda Rennhack

MAY 19

Charlie Vegter

MAY 20

Jan Koebel

MAY 22

Dave Topping

MAY 23

Doug Weingart

MAY 24

Davison Brown

Sandy Hayes

Robert Vandermolen

MAY 27

Jeffrey Sankey

MAY 28

Eric Dubbert

MAY 30

Mary Slavicek

MAY 31

Dick Shaffer

Jamesy Thompson

To Our Church family,
Larry and I want to "thank
you" for the prayers, cards, and
meals received while I have been
recovering from surgery.
The prayers have
been answered. The
cards have touched our souls.
The meals, well what can I
say, have been so yummy! We
are so blessed to be part of such a
loving church family!

Jessica Buehler



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

CARDIO DRUMMING

THURSDAY'S IN MAY ON THE 7TH, 21ST, AND 28TH IN FAITH HALL AT 6:15PM

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



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!

Gallon Jugs Needed!-We are collecting gallon size jugs for VBS! These jugs will be transformed into an igloo for our winter-themed week of adventure. Please bring clean gallon-size jugs to the collection box in the gathering space. We could also use a few 1/2 gallon size. Thank You!

Clean Gallon Jug Donations for our VBS igloo!

Cokesbury Kids

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE VBS

FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD

June 22-26 ❄️ 9am - 11:30am

Stevensville United Methodist Church
5506 Ridge Rd, Stevensville
269-429-5911
www.stevensville-umc.org

KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE

Register Here!

CARING MINISTRY

Routines provide structure and stability. Spiritual growth happens as well when we stick to a routine of prayer, scripture and rest. Daniel prayed three times a day to show routine and structure (Daniel 6:10). I've been in a different routine myself this week. I've been with my grandchildren 3 and 9 months who have kept me quite busy. I've certainly enjoyed this time being a part of their routine. I've learned a few things too. Routines are important. Structure is important. A 3 year old needs a nap and structure. Without it we can easily go in to meltdown mode. You know what? I need structure too. In the midst of a new routine God has been there. Part of my structure is Gods word or I find meltdown possible as well.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Train yourself for a holy life! While physical years has some value, training in holy living is useful for everything. It has promise for this life now and the life to come.

Thank you God for your example of order.

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 Spring Rummage Sale was a Huge Success!!

In church it was announced we had raised over \$5200, but after some additional sales, the amount is actually over \$6,000!! This is the largest sale we have had! Thank you to everyone who donated items, who donated time helping sort and work the sale, and who helped pack up the items and clean Faith Hall at the end of the sale. Without all of your help this would not have been possible!!

Proceeds from the sale will be going to help buy the food we prepare for the BH soup kitchen each month, for kitchen expenses for running our SUMC kitchen, and to help replace our aging stove (30+ years) in the kitchen. Besides these things, we were also able to donate items to several local non-profits, including:

Harbor Country Mission in Bridgman
Renewed and Restored / Well of Grace Ministries
Shoes for Haiti
God's Hands for Kids
SUMC Children's Center
Emergency Shelter Services
First Tee




Thank you for helping to support this important mission of our church!

Mary Sundblad, Bette Mallen, and Leanne Nitz


Rummage Sale Co-Chairs

Faith Formation-MAY


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

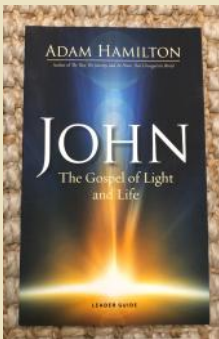
Pull up a chair and join the conversation. Each week we dive into moral, ethical, theological, and philosophical topics in a relaxed, open setting. Bring your thoughts, your doubts, and your curiosity—no question is too big or too small.

 **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.

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 Knitting Group would like to welcome **ALL TYPES OF CRAFTERS** to join on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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, May 7, 2026 at 2:00pm and May 21 at 2:00pm. We will take a break for the summer .After May and resume again in the fall. Thank you.



LAWN MOWING SIGN-UP

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP TO HELP MOW THE CHURCH'S LAWN. THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE GATHERING SPACE ALONG WITH AN INSTRUCTION SHEET. THANK YOU!
THE TRUSTEE TEAM



WEEKLY CALENDAR AT SUMC

MAY 18-MAY

Monday, May 18

6:00pm Scout Troop Mtg

6:00pm Missions Meeting

Tuesday, May 19

10:00am Generosity Mtg

2:00pm Scripture of the Week

5:30pm Harmony Ringers

7:00pm Pub Theology

Wednesday, May 20

10:00am Staff Mtg

4:00pm Mobile Food Pantry

7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 21

11:00am Lancer Lunches

11:30am Covenant Journaling

1:00pm Old Chimers

2:00pm Crafting Group

6:15pm Cardio Drumming

Saturday, May 23

Faith Hall Private Party

Sunday, May 24

10:00am Worship/Grad Sunday

MAY 17TH IS THE LAST DAY OF COLLECTION. THANK YOU!

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILY

SUMC Missions Team is organizing a food and household goods collection for a local family whose breadwinner has been deported back to their home country. The remaining family members are in need of food assistance and a few household goods. The aim of the drive is to source non-perishable food items that the family of seven typically need and use.

These items include:

MAY 17TH IS THE LAST DAY OF COLLECTION. THANK YOU!

- **Canned or dried pinto beans**
- **White long-grain rice**
- **Canned sweet corn**
- **Canned tomatoes**
- **Canned diced tomatoes**
- **Canned crushed tomatoes**
- **Canned tomato sauce**
- **Canned fruit**
- **Fresh fruit that doesn't spoil easily**
- **Bottled water -- packs of 16.9 fl. oz. or gallon-size jugs**
- **Similac Soy Isomil baby formula (pink label)**
- **Toilet paper**
- **Paper towels**
- **Clorox cleaning wipes**
- **Pampers #5 diapers**

These items will be collected on Sundays in May (May 3, May 10, May 17). We will then deliver items to the family the week following the last collection date.

**THANK YOU
-THE MISSIONS TEAM**

Greeting Card News!

We have been so blessed to have about 10 people coming each month to make the greeting cards that are being sent to our congregation members. With that many making cards, we find that we are making more than we need to send. So, I have asked, and been given permission from Caring Ministries, to set up a display where you can purchase greeting cards for your personal use. They will be \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00 which is much less expensive than purchasing them at Meijers or Walgreens. Also, if you would like a card for an extra special person or occasion, please let Sandy Hayes know and we will try to honor your request. As we get further into this activity there will be more subjects to choose from, but we need to start somewhere. The money generated from this activity will go toward helping to pay for the cost of the materials that we use for making the cards. If you have any questions, please talk to Sandy Hayes.

MAY MISSION FOCUS

Arnoldine Mission Trip-Zimbabwe, Africa

Thank you to the SUMC Mission Team for sponsoring the Arnoldine Mission Trip during the month of May. On July 16th, nine members of SUMC will be traveling to Zimbabwe, Africa to do work with our Living Beyond Hope partner Arnoldine School. During this trip we will help install a WiFi system and solar panels, do school maintenance and help finish apartments for traveling medical care workers. Another objective we have is to create connections and relationships that will continue to foster the relationship between SUMC and the Arnoldine Mission. In preparation for the trip, we are getting our vaccines updated, learning the very basics of their native Shona language as well as cultural customs that we need to be aware of. To establish and build relationships prior to arrival, we all have 'electronic pen pals' where we are communicating via What's App. This will allow us to hit the ground running and be as productive as possible upon arrival. We want to thank you all for your support through prayers, encouraging words and the various fund raisers that we've been doing the past few months. After we return, we will give a presentation to the congregation summarizing our experiences and accomplishments. Members that are attending are: Farai, Tendi & Tafadzwa Rukunda, Stan & Joni Dubbert, Ken Green, Mike Farrington, Pastor Elise and David Stroud. We also want to recognize our project manager Mindy Logan who is keeping everyone organized and on track.

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