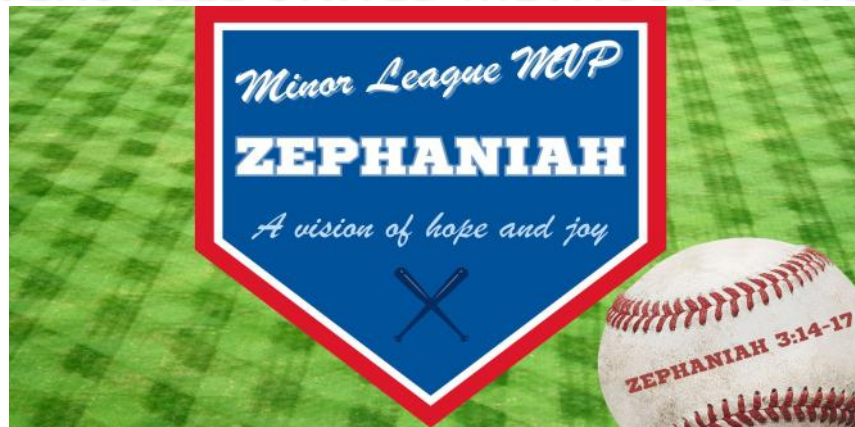


STEVENSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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 Hymn: #158 "Come, Christians, Join To Sing"

The Story For All Ages

Pastor Elise

Scripture Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-17

Everett Harpole

Message: "God Finds Joy in You"

Rev Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "The Old Rugged Cross"

Sherry Hunt and Lorri Wittenkeller, Violin Duet

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Doxology: "Rule of Life"

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song: #89 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Blessing/Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Focus for August - UMCOR International

WIDOW'S GROUP IS CANCELED FOR SEPTEMBER

BRUNCH BUNCH IS CANCELLED FOR SEPTEMBER

Mobile Food Pantry Update-Thank you to everyone Who came out and helped volunteer with the food truck. We served: 83 Households; 212 Individuals; 43 Children; 81 Seniors; and 9 Veterans. The next pantry will be here on Wednesday, September 16.

Back to School Blessing, August 30th - We will be blessing our students, teachers, and school staff about to start a new school year during worship on August 30th. Bring your backpack or school bag to worship and start the year with love and prayer!

Action Sunday, August 30th-See page 5 of today's update and be sure to sign-up this Sunday!

Serving in Worship Sunday, August 23

Kellie Meyer, Pianist

Everett Harpole, Lector

Mike & Mindi Logan, Ushers

Lynn Willadsen, Greeter

Brody Nelson, Acolyte

Kathy Sankey, Congregational Safety

Altar Flowers Given by Sandy Hayes in Honor of Alaina Rigler's Birthday

PASTOR'S NOTE

With Joy and Hope

My seven-year-old woke up on Monday morning and came into our room bright and early with a grand pronouncement: "Mom, I am so excited! *Today I get to go to the fair!*" My kids have many different hopes heading into fair week. One is excited to see every last animal at the fair, the other is excited to see all the Lego creations in the craft barn, Both are excited about brookies and fair treats. I know many children (and children at heart!) across Berrien county have shared a similar type of joy this week. There's nothing like a child's anticipation and excitement to bring joy to life. And there's nothing like our church family making so many of those hopes a reality by coming together to make our fair booth possible, while raising funds for mission and ministry. What hope, and what joy!

Life is more joyful when we have something to look forward to, and a hope to hold on to. This week, we will conclude our "Minor League MVP" series with one more minor prophet, Zephaniah. While Zephaniah names the hard realities of the world around him, he also lifts up a vision of hope that sparks great anticipation and joy. Join us as we consider how God's holy hope spurs us on in our daily lives!

With grace and gratitude,
Pastor Elise



WEEKLY CALENDAR AT SUMC

AUGUST 24-AUGUST 30

Monday, August 24

10:00am SPRC

1:00pm Caring Ministry Mtg

6:00pm Missions Mtg

Tuesday, August 25

7:00pm Pub Theology

Wednesday, August 26

10:00am Staff Mtg

5:30pm BASIC

Thursday, August 27

11:30am Covenant Journaling

6:15pm Cardio Drumming

Saturday, August 29

7:00pm Scouts at Fire Pit

Sunday, August 30

10:00am Worship/Action Sunday

11:15am Bell Rehearsal



SAFE GATHERINGS

Required training for all who plan to
work with children, youth, or
vulnerable adults at SUMC

EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE
TO FIND OUT MORE!



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



- Kids Ministry includes 2 people.
- Serve once a month or less.
- Everything is prepared for you.
- Receive the plans 1 week before your time.
- If interested, let Sharon Foxworthy know by
Friday, August 21.



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

Faith Formation-AUGUST

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.

 **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.

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tery Bailey
 Bruce Barclay
 Gordie Barry
 Christi Blunt
 Adam Burnett
 Missy Carroll
 Dianne Collins
 Sue Dock
 Jack Hardy
 Margie Hardy
 Dianna Hartman
 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
 Chris Stolk
 Amber Stolk
 Jan Taylor
 J.T. Thompson
 William Thompson
 Kathy Trejo
 Brooke Trux

David Sunblad Jr.
 Judy Vanderaue
 Chris Weber
 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-

**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- Prayers for Becky Chaffee on the passing of her sister Cathryn from Alzheimer's.
- Prayers of healing for Lindsey Nelson following an appendectomy surgery.
- Safe travels for Mike and Max Logan as they journey to Hawaii for Max to start Grad School.
- Prayers of safe travels to the Buehler's Aug 20-26.
- Prayers for Pat Muller's cousin Ken who fell after a stroke and broke his hip.
- Prayers of healing for Kathy Harris who has fallen and broken a vertebrae in her back.
- Prayers for Nancy Farrington who has a foot fracture and will be in a boot for 4-6 weeks.
- Prayers for Elaine's cousin Karen who is recovering from surgery to remove a growth on her brain.
- Prayers for the people of Venezuela, Colombia and Japan from the high magnitude earthquakes.
- Prayers of comfort and healing for Melissa Rescoe who is recovering from hamstring surgery.
- Prayers for Utah and all those displaced by the fires including the firefighters.
- Prayers of wisdom and recovery for Lisa Williams' mom Donna.
- Prayers for Barb Pries's sister Joanne who is struggling with recovery from a fall.
- Prayers for Lisa Williams' Mother-In-Law Frida who has 3 treatments done. Cancer throughout her body. Also prayers for her Uncle Norman who is halfway through treatments for esophageal cancer and in severe pain.
- 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 of peace for our world.

PRAYER JOYS:

- Happy 51st Anniversary to Wanda and Bruce Barclay on August 16.
- Prayers of blessings from Melissa Rescoe for all the prayers, visits, messages, food, etc. during my recovery.



BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 1

Elnora Holmes

AUGUST 2

Nancy Cole

AUGUST 9

Jane Hild

Kimberly Thompson

AUGUST 13

Shirley Harris

Lona Vogie

AUGUST 17

Mike Farrington

Tendi Rrudunda

AUGUST 18

Mark Johnson

Nancy Mead

AUGUST 19

Joni Dubbert

Barry Tuller

AUGUST 21

Kathy Archey

Alania Rigler

AUGUST 30

Kristina Stolk

ACTION SUNDAY

AUGUST 30TH AFTER A SHORTENED WORSHIP SERVICE

- CARD MAKING WITH SANDY HAYES: (Meet in the Gathering Space)
- PREPARING BAGS FOR THE FOOD TRUCK AND RIVERSIDE: (Meet Wanda Barclay in Faith Hall)
- PAINTING FIRE HYDRANTS ON RIDGE ROAD: (Lead Person to be determined)
Wear Painting Clothes
- REPLENISHING ATTENDANCE PADS/PEW CARDS/MATERIALS FOR WORSHIP
- (Lead to be determined)





SUMC Music Ministry

Senior Choir - starts September 9

Wednesdays, 7-8:15pm in the Sanctuary
Adults of all ages are welcome

Grace Notes Instrumental Band - starts September 20

Second and 4th Sundays after worship at 11:15am
Open to instrumentalists 9th grade - adult

B.A.S.I.C. Praise Band - starts August 26

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm in the Sanctuary
Open to anyone 9th grade - adult who enjoy singing or
playing guitar, bass, drums, keyboard

Ringin' in the Spirit Ringers – starts September 14

Mondays, 7:00- 8:00pm in the Sanctuary
This Handbell choir welcomes all experience levels

Kids Music Ministry – starts September 20

Kids in Sunday School will have the opportunity to learn and practice a musical offering for worship several times throughout the school year.

For more details or questions, please contact Kellie Meyer at
stevensvilleummusicdirector@gmail.com or 269-930-3540

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM YOUR LAY SERVANT

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in” Matthew 25:35

Over the past week, in a little white building in the middle of the Berrien County Fairgrounds, hospitality, compassion, and friendship was demonstrated over and over again. Those who were hungry and thirsty were fed by a multitude of volunteers from Stevensville UMC. Hundreds of people entered our booth as strangers, but left as people knowing they mattered, that others cared about them, and that they were welcome. Admittedly, I’m not always awake before sunrise. Honestly, watching the sunset is more likely to happen in my day. This week, waking up earlier than usual provided an added bonus. I was able to see the sunrise every morning. Even on the morning when the fog was so thick it was difficult to see sunrise, seeing the sun break through the fog was a beautiful reminder of God creation.

Early mornings at the fair are peaceful. The sounds of animals stirring in the barns as children begin to feed their animals and clean stalls and crates can be heard floating over the quiet fairgrounds. Laughter and conversation floats from inside in our church booth as the morning crew starts serving breakfast. The lunchtime and evening crews are kept busy serving food and beverages. A couple from South Haven said they make plans to attend the fair each year. Their plans include a “must stop” at our booth for the “Church Ladies Sloppy Joes”. Often, we may think helping to prepare sloppy joes, making fruit cups, donating items or working a few hours isn’t much. Some days were hot, tiring, challenging. Yet, I witnessed kindness and patience repeatedly. Volunteers got to know each other a little better. With each smile, each conversation, God’s mercy, compassion and love was demonstrated. As the fair winds down for another year, we have once again shown that together we can accomplish a lot. Our opportunity to make a difference doesn’t end when this week ends. We need to consider what opportunities exist where we can serve others, giving our time freely and joyfully? As you listen for God’s voice showing you where He wants you to serve, take a walk outside at sunrise or sunset, stand there in silence, look up at the sky and contemplate how amazing world is and how we can create a world of which we all can be proud.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” Ephesians 2:10.

Your Lay Servant,
Kathy Sankey



The finish line is almost here for what has been a very busy week for us at our Fair Booth. Please remember that this isn't possible without all of you and your generosity and all the help with signing up to work shifts. We appreciate you all so much!

We have one more very important final plea. This Sunday, August 23 we will be moving all the equipment back to the church. **WE NEED HELP!!** Please, if you are able or have friends or family members who could help, we will be heading out to the fair grounds after church to load things up and bring them back.

Once again, looks like another successful year at the Berrien County Youth Fair. SUMC, you are amazing !! Thank you for being disciples in Christ and sharing with our community.

Many thanks and blessings from your Fair Co-Chairs: Joni Dubbert, Sandy Krieg, Dick Lukey, Rachel Wade



Mission Focus for August - UMCOR International

100% of UMCOR Donations Go to the Cause.

The mission focus for the month of August is the international version of “The United Methodist Committee on Relief” better known as “UMCOR”. **UMCOR** is often first on site at national and international disasters. Yes, they often beat the Red Cross and other well-known organizations.

The international relief UMCOR responds to natural disasters like the earthquake in Venezuela, Venezuela experienced two major earthquakes on June 24, 2026. The pair of earthquakes were the worst to hit the country in nearly six decades. UMCOR is responding through support to our humanitarian and ecumenical partners in Venezuela and Latin America. They also responded to the cyclones in Southeastern Asia. In the response, UMCOR has awarded solidarity grants to Yakkum Emergency Unit in North Sumatra, Indonesia and AMCOR in Sri Lanka. These grants will support our partners as they provide immediate relief to those in need of shelter, food, medical supplies and more as they provide aid and relief to the millions of affected residents.

These are just 2 examples of recent international responses. They also have been in Ukraine since the beginning of the war.

Your donations would deliver essential supplies like food and water, support the removal of debris and provide temporary shelter for the displaced.

The really COOL thing about UMCOR is that when you donate to UMCOR, **100%, yes that's right 100%** of your donation is used for these responses. Not one penny of your money goes to administrative costs for UMCOR or Methodist Global Ministries. (The funds for that are raised on a special miracle Sunday once a year).

So, if you/we as a church raise \$1000.00, every single penny will get to the victims of natural and manmade disasters. I saw these kinds of monies in action in Haiti back in 2011. We made a huge difference in the lives of families who had been left homeless with just the clothes on their backs. It was humbling to see how little these folks were so thankful for. I ask that you consider adding to this very worthy cause. You can really make a difference in this world.