

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)

*Opening Hymn: #400 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

The Story For All Ages

Pastor Elise

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

Rachel Wade

Message: "What's So Amazing About Grace?"

Rev Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Senior Choir

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Doxology: "Sanctuary" 2164 (2x)

Holy Communion

Hymn #363: "And Can It Be That I Should Gain" (vs 1,3,5)

Song #2162 "Grace Alone"

*Closing Hymn: #378 "Amazing Grace" (vs 1,2,3)

Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Focus for September

"CHANGE FOR CANCER ROUND-UP"

Berrien County Cancer Services

Mobile Food Pantry Update-Thank you to our 19 volunteers who came out and helped with the food pantry this month. We served: 85 Households; 224 Individuals; 54 Children; 90 Seniors; and 14 Veterans. Our next pantry will be here Wednesday, October 21.

Fall Rummage Time is Here-See page 2 of today's Update for all the information.

New Faith Formation Classes-See page 6 of today's update.

Serving in Worship Sunday, September 20

Kellie Meyer, Pianist

Rachel Wade, Lector

Sandy Hayes & Sandy Krieg, Ushers

Wayne & Jan Koebel, Greeters

Larry Buehler Holly Hetfield, Lona Vogie, Rachel Wade,

Communion Helpers

James Thompson, Congregational Safety

***Altar Flowers are Given by Mary Sundblad
In Honor of Kellie Meyer, for Blessing us with
Extraordinary music for the past 40 years.
You go girl!!***



What's So Amazing about Grace?

In my high school days, I once had a friend ask me, “**Who is Grace, what did she do that’s so amazing?**” While I know several people named Grace who are, indeed, amazing, my friend’s question highlighted just how easy it is for us to use “church words” without unpacking their meaning. *Grace* is a word of great importance and depth for all Christians, though we can all grow in our understanding and practice of grace. This Sunday, we’ll continue our “Good Bones” series by exploring how our Methodist heritage embraces grace as a vibrant and central part of the Christian life. We’ll explore not just what the word means, but what it looks like in our lives. Join us as we continue to uncover the solid foundation and good bones of our faith!

With hope and joy,
Pastor Elise

IMPORTANT RUMMAGE SALE INFORMATION

Our spring rummage sale will be **Friday October 2 from 9 am – 5 pm** and our \$5 bag sale on **Saturday October 3 from 9 am – noon.**

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

Sunday Sept. 27: 11 am to 1 pm Enter through door number 6 in back of building. Place rummage in alcove or room 3.

Monday Sept. 28: 6 pm to 8 pm Enter through door number 6 in back of building. Place rummage on tables in Faith Hall or

Tuesday Sept. 29: 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 fall and winter 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 Sept. 29 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).



Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Colossians 1:16

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."



Sunday, we had our fall kickoff, and our fall activities are beginning.

This Sunday our young ones will study the lesson of Creation.

As we look around us, we start to feel our Creators' signs of the season. A crisp feels in the mornings. Day and night becoming equal. Soon we will see leaves changing color and falling.

It is easy to see God's hand in creation. It's a wonderful season to take in fall's beauty and appreciate the world around us. It is an enjoyable time to be outside and take time for inward reflection. Autumn is the season of reaping. Choices today will bear fruit tomorrow.

Everything we see in creation points back to the Creator. Praise God.

Nancy Mead, Caring Ministries

COLLECTION FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

Each Year Interfaith Action of SWMI Celebrates
"The Celebration of Harvest and Harvesters," honoring the
contributions of Immigrant Workers.

This event is held at Tabor Hill Estate Tent in Baroda on October 4
at 3:00pm. We will be collecting items to donate to migrant
workers for this celebration. Collection boxes will be available for
donation on September 20th and 27th. Contact Barb Clark
at 269-876-7953 if you have any questions.

Items requested include:

Dry pinto beans	Bar Soap
Dry black beans	Toothbrushes
White rice	Toothpaste
Shampoo	Reusable water bottles
Sunglasses	Sunscreen
Towels	Blankets
Socks	Hooded sweatshirts
Baseball caps	Jeans (sizes 30, 32, 34)
Men's long sleeve shirts	Men's t-shirts (S,M,L)
Athletic shoes (sizes 8&9)	
Beanie Babies	



WEEKLY CALENDAR AT SUMC

SEPTEMBER 21-SEPTEMBER 27

Monday, September 21

6:00pm Scouts-FH

7:00pm Ringing in the Spirit-S

Tuesday, September 22

2:00pm Scripture of the Week

6:30pm Ad-Council-G

7:00pm Pub Theology

Wednesday, September 23

10:00am Staff Mtg-G

1:00pm Holy Spirit Study-G

5:00pm BASIC Rehearsal

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal-S

Thursday, September 24

11:30am Covenant Journaling

6:15pm Cardio Drumming

6:30pm Eternity Study-L

Saturday, September 26

12:00pm Visitation

1:00pm Cindy Mitchell Funeral

Sunday, September 27

9:00am Men's Group-Rm 1

10:00am Worship

10:15am Sunday School

11:15am Grace Notes Rehearsal

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!



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 clipboard 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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 2

Robert Clark

SEPTEMBER 4

Ryan Low Edwardson

SEPTEMBER 6

Carol Svorec

SEPTEMBER 8

David Mead

Jamie Polker

SEPTEMBER 10

Larry Buehler

SEPTEMBER 13

Leanne Nitz

Tendai Rukunda

Linda Stright

SEPTEMBER 15

Margie Hardy

Thomas VanDerAue

SEPTEMBER 17

Larry Cole

Mick Pries

Linda Sprague

SEPTEMBER 18

Rachel Wade

SEPTEMBER 19

Jack Pallas

SEPTEMBER 20

Scott Meyer

Melissa Rescoe

SEPTEMBER 22

Jillian DeForest

Sarah Melcher

SEPTEMBER 23

Brenda Beezley

SEPTEMBER 24

Tom Parrish

SEPTEMBER 26

David Hendley

SEPTEMBER 29

Sherry Hunt

Myra Thompson

SEPTEMBER 30

Peggy Topping



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tery Bailey
Bruce Barclay
Gordie Barry
Jan Bickers
Christi Blunt
Adam Burnett
Missy Carroll
Dianne Collins
Sue Dock
Jack Hardy
Margie Hardy
Kathy Harris
Dianna Hartman
Jason Kik
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-USS
Bulkeley DDG 84-Rota Spain

**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- Prayers of comfort for the Nitz's grandson Ben who lost his best friend Ethan. He was killed in a military training exercise in Texas.
- Prayers of healing for Jamsey Thompson who was hospitalized with stomach issues.
- Prayers for Myra's niece Faye who is recovering from surgery on September 10 and is in a lot of pain
- Prayers for Rod Paxson, Hendley's son-in-law Bo's father who is recovering from back surgery.
- Prayers for those going through seasonal ailments for relief and being able to return back to worship.
- Prayers for Kathy Sankey's friend who has stage 4 kidney cancer. Prayers of comfort for her and wisdom for the health care team.
- Prayers for Betty Iver's family on the unexpected passing of their Brother-in-law Ray Horath. Especially asking prayers for his wife/my sister Joyce, their children Darcy and Bryce and sister Marcia.
- Prayers of comfort and peace for the Mitchell Family on the loss of Cindy after a brief & courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.
- Prayers of healing and comfort for Betty Iver's dearest friend of 60 years.
- Prayers for Elaine's cousin Karen who is recovering from surgery to remove a growth on her brain.
- Prayers of wisdom and recovery for Lisa Williams' mom Donna.
- 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 peace for our world.

PRAYER JOYS:

- Happy 90th Birthday to Margie Hardy on September 15.
- Happy Birthday to Abigail Vehslage on September 13.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FALL 2026

**Tuesdays
2:00pm
in the
Lounge**

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK: Starts Sept. 15

Facilitator: Pastor Elise (reveliselowedwardson@gmail.com)

Ever wish you had more time to reflect on Sunday's message before it's preached? Join Pastor Elise as she 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.

**Tuesdays
7:00pm
at
Watermark**

PUB THEOLOGY: Facilitator: Everett Harpole (everett.harpole@gmail.com)

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.

**Wednesdays
1:00pm
in
Gathering
Space**

HOLY SPIRIT: Six-week Study Starts Sept. 16

Facilitators: Dick Lukey & Lona Vogie (jlvogie@sbcglobal.net)

In The Holy Spirit, Adam Hamilton explores what Scripture teaches about God's Spirit - from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus' promises in the Gospels, the powerful Pentecost experience in Acts, and the rich teachings found in the New Testament letters. This accessible study helps believers understand and experience the Holy Spirit's presence and power in their daily walk with Christ.

**Sundays
9:00am
in
Room 1**

MEN'S GROUP: Starts Sept. 20 Facilitator: Bob Clark (bandbclark2@gmail.com)

The Holy Spirit (God's presence and power at work within us) by Adam Hamilton. The Holy Spirit is God's active presence and power at work in the world and in our lives. Through the Spirit, we are transformed, led, empowered, and guided in our faith journey. Jesus promised his followers that the Spirit would come alongside them as comforter and counselor, empowering them to transform the world."

**Thursdays
11:30am
in the
Lounge**

COVENANT JOURNALING: Facilitator: Patti Harpole (patti.harpole@gmail.com)

Enter a sacred space of quiet reflection. With 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. Everyone is welcome!

**Thursdays
6:30pm
in the
Lounge**

ETERNITY IS NOW IN SESSION: Six-week Study Starts Sept. 17

Facilitators: Mike & Nancy Farrington (mfarrington4@comcast.net)

Eternity Is Now in Session, by John Ortberg, examines the idea that eternal life only starts after we die. Drawing from John 17:3 ["This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent"] Ortberg illustrates how eternal life begins the moment we start truly knowing God; and that changes everything about how we live today.

You Should Join the
Stevensville United Methodist Church
Men's Group

The Men's group meets every Sunday at 9:00 before church service in room 1. We are a very casual group that has great fellowship, learns about our faith and Bible through short video studies viewed during the class. There is no required attendance, books to read or homework! Come as you are available. Of course, there is plenty of time for discussing guy stuff like cars, sports, tools, and projects at home. One of the greatest benefits is just getting together in a small group and sharing or experiences.

The first class of the '26-'27 year will be September 20th with a short series by Adam Hamilton titled "The Holy Spirit" discussing God's presence and power at work in us.

The other part of the group is helping with Church and congregation members projects. This isn't frequent and entirely optional depending on availability but is another great way to connect and help out the Church and its' membership. Past projects have included:



Helping with church activity set up like the rummage sale, sanctuary reconfiguration for special services, work at the fair booth, participating in church work days.

Helping members with needs at their homes such as: cleaning, moving furniture for disability needs, general visits to members in need, landscape projects.

Special requests such as building a small building used in conjunction with a sermon series, constructing an igloo out of milk jugs, and others.

Please join us! Contact Bob Clark or any other member of the Men's group if you have any questions. Hope to see you soon!



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

SEPTEMBER MISSION FOCUS

"CHANGE FOR CANCER ROUND-UP" - Berrien County Cancer Services

For over 75 years, Berrien County Cancer Service (BCCS) has supported individuals and families who are affected by cancer in our community. The "Change for Cancer Round-up" provides financial support for programs and services offered through BCCS.



- 1. Emotional and Social Support:** Cancer can isolate individuals, leaving them feeling emotionally drained and disconnected from their communities. Through personal support, community events, and needed referrals, BCCS creates an environment where patients and their families can share their experiences, find comfort, and build connections with others who understand their struggles.
- 2. Early Detection and Screening:** Promoting early cancer detection through education regarding early detection and screening and assisting individuals find community resources available for cancer screening programs.
- 3. Education and Advocacy:** Through educational events, outreach programs, and partnerships with local healthcare providers, BCCS ensures that individuals have the information they need to make informed decisions about their health.
- 4. Community Collaboration:** BCCS works in close collaboration with local businesses, healthcare providers, and volunteers to enhance the reach and effectiveness of its services.
- 5. Hope and Empowerment:** By offering access to vital services, fostering a compassionate community, and advocating for cancer awareness, BCCS is not just about treatment—it's about uplifting and empowering individuals to face their cancer journey with strength and resilience.

Whether through in-home skilled nursing, emotional support, or resources needed for caregiving, BCCS continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals and families. Please consider giving your "spare change" to ensure continued support of these programs.



Congregational Safety Volunteers Needed

The Congregational Safety Team is looking for

individuals to help ensure safety and emergency preparedness. Members of the Safety Team help keep the building secure by locking and monitoring all the doors after worship begins, and by being ready to respond to safety issues that arise. The team also helps respond to medical emergencies that occur during worship or other church events. If you are interested in learning more about serving on the Congregational Safety Team, please contact the Church Office.