

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: #384b "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling"

The Story For All Ages

Pastor Elise

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Dick Lukey

Message: "Living the Questions"

Rev Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Grace Notes

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Doxology: "Sanctuary" 2164 (2x)

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn: "Source of Faith"

Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Focus for September

"CHANGE FOR CANCER ROUND-UP"

Berrien County Cancer Services

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

Worship Helper Workshop - Sunday, October 4th

11:15 - 12 pm Have you ever wanted to usher, greet, lector or serve communion? Would you like to help welcome guests at our new welcome center? After worship on Sunday, October 4th, join us for a refresher on the different ways to help with worship! All are welcome.

Brunch Bunch-Monday October 5, 11:00am at Dino's in St. Joe Sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Widow's Group-Monday, October 5 at 5:00pm. Enter through door #4.

Charge Conference, Sunday, October 11th at 2 pm

Buchanan First UMC-All are invited for this gathering with other United Methodist Congregations in our area as we connect with one another and prepare for the year of ministry ahead.

Serving in Worship Sunday, September 27

Kellie Meyer, Pianist

Dick Lukey, Lector

Lona Vogie & Tommie Weber, Ushers

Brody Nelson, Acolyte

Bette Mallen, Greeter

Sandy Hayes, Congregational Safety

Altar Flowers are Given by Barb Pries

In Celebration of Mick & Matt's Birthday's

What's in your toolbox?



My Uncle Kirk had a signature move when it came to Christmas shopping: he always got each of his nieces and nephews a tool. One year, my cousins and I all got hammers. The next year, we got levels. One year, when all of the girls were single, he got us stud finders! When I got married, Uncle Kirk gifted Ryan and I the power tools we didn't think to register for, but have been very grateful to have. Uncle Kirk knew that having the right tool for the job can make all the difference.

When it comes to navigating the challenges of life, our Methodist faith is a bit like a toolbox, with different tools coming together to help us solve problems and find our way. Our Methodist faith invites us to bring Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience together to faithfully navigate this world. Join us this Sunday as we learn about how we can navigate questions and challenges with the "Good Bones" of our Methodist heritage.

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).



COLLECTION FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

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



Lost and Found

We now have a lost and found box. It can be found on the shelf above the coat rack outside the sanctuary. If you find something you can add it to the box. If you've lost something, check the box for your lost treasure.



WEEKLY CALENDAR AT SUMC

SEPTEMBER 28-October 6

Monday, September 28

Rummage Sale Set-up

4:030pm Caring Ministries

6:00pm Scouts-FH

7:00pm Ringing in the Spirit-S

Tuesday, September 29

Rummage Sale Set-up

2:00pm Scripture of the Week

7:00pm Pub Theology

Wednesday, September 30

Rummage Sale Set-up

10:00am Staff Mtg-G

1:00pm Holy Spirit Study-G

5:00pm BASIC Rehearsal

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal-S

Thursday, October 1

11:30am Covenant Journaling

4:00pm Worship Mtg

6:30pm Eternity Study-L

Friday, October 2

SUMCC DAY CARE CLOSED

Rummage Sale, 9am-5pm

Saturday, October 3

9:00am Rummage Bag Sale

Sunday, October 4

9:00am Men's Group-Rm 1

10:00am Worship

10:15am Sunday School

10:15am Kids Music 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!



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 arrange-
ments 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

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

SEPTEMBER 18

Linda Sprague

SEPTEMBER 19

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 for Linda Sprague who had a muscle biopsy on September 22.
- Prayers for Jessic Buehler who is recovering from knee surgery on September 22.
- Prayers for Chris Stolk who is hospitalized in Grand Rapids.
- 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 for Myra's niece Faye who is recovering from surgery on September 10 and is in a lot of pain
- 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 Ivers' 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 Birthday to Tom Parrish on his 92nd birthday.

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.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM YOUR LAY SERVANT



Have you ever been in a meeting when the committee chair asks “Would anyone like to open (or close) in prayer”? Suddenly everyone starts to become very interested in the carpeting, the top of the table or the papers in front of them. The only sound you can hear is... crickets. We might breathe a sigh of relief when someone steps up to the plate to offer prayer. Honestly, I’ve held my breath a time or two hoping someone else would volunteer.

I have been wondering why we, myself included, hesitate? Maybe it’s because I worry my words will sound awkward, inadequate and wrong to others. Perhaps, in that moment I think I’m unworthy and lack the sincerity, the right skills or faith to pray for others in the group. FEAR might be the biggest reason I may hesitate to volunteer. Sometimes I spend more time worrying over the right words to say than actually praying. But I wonder what if fear kept David, Moses, Mary, Daniel, Jesus or any other believer from praying to God our Creator? They all prayed to God to praise Him, express joy, share their worries or confusion, or confess when they stumbled. Why is praying seem so much easier when we are alone at home, in our car or taking a solo walk? Then I remember prayer is really a conversation with God. I tell Him anything, the good, the bad and the ugly. God is always alongside us, ready to listen. It doesn’t matter to him if I don’t have the “right words”. Sometimes I might not have any words, just have the need to sit in His presence. Anyone can pray at any time, in any place. Praying is a way to talk to God who already knows our heart and our needs even before we ask. The words don’t need to be eloquent. God hears them and blesses us. Perhaps the words of Ellen White can encourage us in those moments of hesitation, “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.”

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12-13

Charge Conference, Sunday, October 11th at 2 pm Buchanan First UMC

**All are invited for this gathering with other United Methodist
Congregations in our area as we connect with one another and prepare
for the year of ministry ahead.**



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.