

Stevensville United Methodist Church Weekly Update

October 11, 2026

 **GROWING CONNECTIONS**
to God • to Each Other • to the Community
Stevensville United Methodist Church

See What's Inside!

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Connect With Us

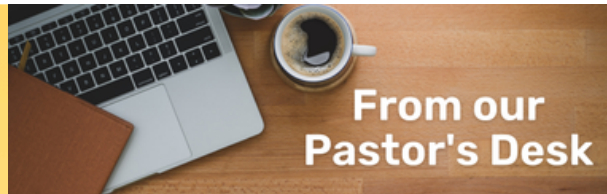
Church Office: 429-5911/email: stevensvillechurch@gmail.com

Website: www.stevensville-umc.org

Facebook: Stevensville United Methodist Church

Children's Center: 269-429-1069

Facebook: Stevensville United Methodist Children's Center



There's something about sharing a meal that has the power to bring people together. Gathering around the table can help us let down our guard and foster community. It gives us a space to tell stories, to share moments from our day, and to connect with one another. Sharing a meal together nourishes our bodies and our spirits. It's no wonder that the Gospels are full of accounts of meals Jesus shared with others. Whether he was sharing a meal with religious elites or with outsiders, with massive crowds and with small gatherings of close friends, Jesus made time to come to the table with others, and to show us just how expansive God's love is.

Our October stewardship series *Expanding the Table* will explore several different meals that Jesus shared with others. These stories show us how we, too, can help expand God's table to all who hunger. May we, at Stevensville UMC, be people who are working together to expand God's table to all who hunger to belong, be fed, and be empowered to serve.

With hope and joy,
Pastor Elise



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

"Come to the Table"

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

*Opening Song: "Come to the Table"

SUMC Praise Kids: "Many Members, Once Body"

The Story For All Ages
 Pastor Elise

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-50
 Lou Hendley

Message: "Expanding the Table:
 To All Who Hunger To Belong"
 Rev Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "Reckless Love"
 B.A.S.I.C.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering
 "Crowded Table"

Doxology: #640 "One Bread, One Body" (2x)

*Closing Song: "Crowded Table"

Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Focus for October
SUMC Community Assistance Fund

Church Conference—Sunday, October 11,
 2:00pm at Buchanan UMC.

Card Ministry—Tuesday, October 13,
 10:00am and 4:00pm.

Blood Pressure Check—Sunday the 11th
 after worship.

Friday, October 16—Middle School Dance
 at 7:00pm in Faith Hall.

Senior Choir Cantata Preview – Sunday,
 October 18, 11:15–12:00pm in Sanctuary,
 come join us.

Serving in Worship Sunday,
October 11

Kellie Meyer, Pianist

Lou Hendley, Lector

Mindi Logan & Rachel Wade, Ushers

Tom & Bonnie Parrish, Greeters

Brooklyn Stolk, Acolyte

Don Rescoe, Congregational Safety

Altar Flowers are Given by
Lona Vogie In Loving Memory
of Melinda Sommers

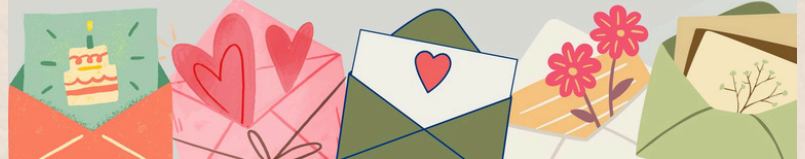
SUMC CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, October 11
2:00PM at Buchanan First UMC

CARD MINISTRY

create cards for our church family

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
AT 10:00AM & 4:00PM



CARDIO DRUMMING

Thursdays at 6:15
in Faith Hall

October 15, 22, 29



Your paragraph
text

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREEN

Sunday, October
11th
after worship
in Faith Hall
With Judy Grimmatt



Come join the Senior Choir as we
preview this year's cantata
"A Thrill of Hope"

Sunday, October 18, 11:15am–12:00pm in
the sanctuary.

All are welcome!



OCTOBER 12-18

Week at a glance

Monday October 12

6:00pm Scouts-FH
6:00pm Trustee Mtg
6:30p Ringing in the Spirit

Wednesday October 14

10:00am Staff Meeting
1:00pm Holy Spirit Study-G
15:30pm BASIC Rehearsal
6:30pm First Impressions Mtg
7:00pm Senior Choir

Friday October 16

7:00pm Middle School Dance

Sunday October 18

9:00am Men's Group-Rm 1
10:00am Worship
10:15am Sunday School
11:15am Cantata Preview

Tuesday October 13

10:00am Card Ministry
2:00pm Scripture of the Week
4:00pm Card Ministry
6:30pm Scouts
7:00pm Pub Theology
7:00pm Scout Troup Mtg

Thursday October 15

11:30am Covenant Journaling-FH
12:00pm Lancer Lunches
5:30pm SUMCC Board Mtg
6:15pm Cardio Drumming
6:30pm Eternity Study-L

Saturday October 17

Notes



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. Thank you.

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 (lrvogie@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**

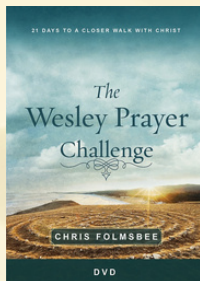
ETERNITY IS NOW IN SESSION: Six-week Study Starts Sept. 17

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.

UP NEXT

The Wesley Prayer Challenge will begin in the Wednesday 1:00pm class slot on October 21 for 4 weeks.



WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to the pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth.



October Mission Focus: SUMC Community Assistance Fund

The Mission Focus for October is the SUMC Community Assistance Fund. These funds are used to pay utility bills for local people experiencing a financial crisis using the following criteria:

1. Those requesting utility funds assistance need to be Berrien County residents.
2. Requestors can receive up to \$100 to cover gas, electric or water bills.
3. A person can request funds up to two times in one calendar year.
4. The church will process a maximum number of three requests per week.
5. The church transfers assistance money directly to the utility company; money is not given to the requestor.

The church office maintains a record of those who have requested assistance to help make decisions when a request is made for utility bill assistance.

Why does Stevensville United Methodist Church need a Community Assistance fund? It is a way for our church to lend support to people in our community who are experiencing a financial emergency in their lives.

Imagine if you couldn't pay to keep the lights on or the heat on in your home and had nowhere to turn? They come to us in desperate need of help. Many times, the one instance of assistance is enough to get individuals back on their feet. In fact, most individuals come to us for help just once.

So far this year we have helped 86 individuals – a historically high number. Currently our funds are running very low. The only source of funding for the Community Assistance Fund is ALL OF US - the generous members of Stevensville United Methodist Church.

We hope you will give generously to replenish this important Mission Fund by donating in October so we can be here for our neighbors when they need it most! Thank you from the Mission Team.

MISSION TEAM MEMBERS

Monique Yoder, Chairperson: Wanda Barclay, Barb Clark, Kathleen Deforest, Wayne Koebel, Mindi Logan, Dick Lukey, Kellie Meyer, Leanne Nitz, Paster Elise, Nancy Poelker, Barb Pries, Kathy Sankey, Myra Thompson, Lona Vogie, Rachel Wade, Robin Weingart

Middle School Dances!

2026-27

at Stevensville United Methodist Church
with DJ Dan Hansen!

Friday, OCTOBER 16

Friday, NOVEMBER 20

Friday, DECEMBER 18

Friday, JANUARY 15

Friday, FEBRUARY 19

Friday, MARCH 19

Friday, APRIL 16

Friday, MAY 21

7pm - 9pm

**School ID's required - \$10 per person
concessions available**

*STEVENSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5506 RIDGE RD, STEVENSVILLE*



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

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!

Kitchen Training Up-Date

As most of you know, we have recently been able to install a new range and a new convection oven in our kitchen. Because of these 2 new appliances, we need to up-date the kitchen training so that everyone knows how to appropriately use and care for the new additions. For those of you who are already kitchen trained, this will be just a short in-service. If you are not already kitchen trained, but would like to be, I will be happy to do the complete training. We will have the first training on Sunday, October 11 right after the morning worship service. If that is not a good time for you, please contact me and we will arrange a time that is better for you. I will plan on doing the appliance up-date first so that those of you who are already trained may leave. After the info about the new appliances, I will do the complete in-service if anyone is interested. The complete inservice takes about 30 minutes.

Thank You, Sandy Hayes



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

Our tenth month has begun. You can find ways to celebrate something each day. The celebration could be personal to you or something from a National list. For example: World Teachers Day on the 5th; National Dessert Day on the 14th; United Nations Day on the 24th; Halloween on the 30th; or Breast Cancer Month.

Every day we can celebrate God/Jesus - Their teachings; their love for us. Make the best of every day that is given to us.

Sharon Foxworthy, Caring Ministries
What did the pickle say at the casino?
"Dill me in!"



**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**



David Hills' memorial service was held August 15, 2026 in California. The family would have liked to have held a service in Michigan so they could hear the memories from colleagues, friends, and former parishioners; however, trying to schedule it was difficult. His wife, Claire, would still love to hear from Michigan! Claire and David's children are planning on taking all of the memories shared and turn them into a book for Claire to have and continue to feel the love and support that Michigan friends have shared with the Hills family for so many years.

Should you like to share a memory, please send it to Rev. Mona Joslyn at mojoslyn2@gmail.com. Claire also sent memorial cards and wildflower seeds. Should you like one, again let Mona know. Claire shared that David died before they could make friends in California, and is holding on to the memories she and David have shared with all of you.

* * * * *

MOSAIC & FRIENDS
P R E S E N T

Wonderland Toy Drive

at SUMC

at SUMC

NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS

Ages 0–12 yrs

GIFT CARDS \$10–\$50

Ages 12–18 yrs • Walmart, Meijer,
Amazon

Your donation of **stuffed animals, infant and baby toys, board games, trucks/cars, dolls, crafts, educational toys, and books** stocks the **Wonderland Toy Store** —a special Christmas shopping experience where parents shop NEW toys for their children at just **10% of their original value**, with dignity and joy.

DROP OFF TOYS & CARDS OCTOBER 4–25

Look for the Wonderland box in the church concourse.



Can't shop? Scan to give!

mosaiccca.kindful.com

Questions: wts@mosaiccca.com



MOSAIC C C D A

Donated gifts typically range from \$10–\$50.

All gifts donated should be unwrapped with a price tag on the gift if possible

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HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tery Baily
Bruce Barclay
Gordie Barry
Christi Blunt
Adam Burnett
Missy Carroll
Dianne Collins
Sue Dock
Jack & Margie Hardy
Kathy Harris
Jason Kik
Ken Foyder
Shirley Hetfield
Dick Lukey
Sebastian Kurup
Mike Melcher
Gary & Lee Nelson
Schaeffer Ott
Bonnie & Tom Parrish

Gloria Pollack
Mike Rush
Amy Scaub
Fred Seifert
Chris Stolk
Amber Stolk
Jan Taylor
J.T. Thompson
Kathy Trejo
Brooke Trux
David Sundblad Jr.
Judy Vanderaue
Chris Weber
Gary Wank
Dan Whitt

SHUT-INS:

Grace Park
Sally Streick
Carol Svorec

MISSIONARIES IN THE FIELD:

Caleb Dormah-Liberia
IN ACTIVE SERVICE:
Taylor Allgood-Illinois
Lydia Sankey-Orsillo-uss
Bulkeley DDG84-Rota Spain



PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Prayers of comfort and peace for the family of Carol Momany who passed away on September 29.
- Prayers for Sherry Hunt's niece who had a brain clot & several brain bleeds. Surgery has removed clots.
- Prayers for Jessica Buehler who is recovering from knee surgery.
- Prayers of hefor Chirs Stolk who is home from the hospital and continuing dialysis treatments.
- Prayers of comfort for the Nitz's grandson Ben who lost his best friend Ethan.
- Prayers of healing for Myra's niece Faye who is recovering from back surgery 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 Elaine's cousin Karen who is recovering from brain surgery.
- Prayers of wisdom and recovery for Lisa William's mom Donna. Also, prayers for her Mother-in-law Frida going through cancer treatments and her Uncle Norman who is going through cancer treatments.
- 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.