

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

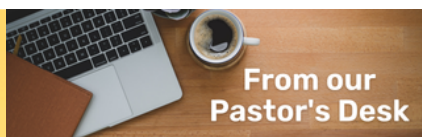
Church Office: 429-5911/email: stevensvillechurch@gmail.com

Website: www.stevensville-umc.org

Facebook: Stevensville United Methodist Church

Children's Center: 269-429-1069

Facebook: Stevensville United Methodist Children's Center

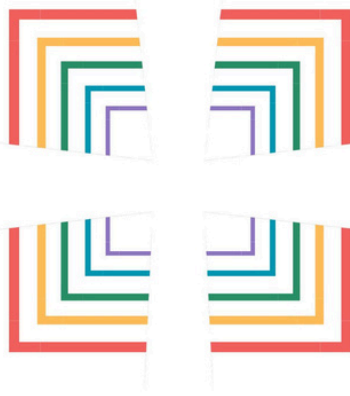


On our trip to Arnoldine Mission, Zimbabwe this summer, our team was shocked to discover that students at the Arnoldine School go all day without a meal. There is a lunch break, but no lunch to be had – there's simply not enough resources for the children to have a meal at school. When our team pulled out a bag of trail mix, the response was overwhelming. Kids began clamoring for a small handful of nuts, raisins, and chocolate, some eating it immediately, some putting their handful in their pocket then reaching out for more. I brought the fruit from a welcome basket I was given down to the school, and divvied up the brown, overripe bananas between several students. Their gratitude was immense. They were so grateful for something that most of us would pass up. Witnessing this need was overwhelming, and we left Arnoldine Mission determined to find a way to feed these students (stay tuned in the months to come!).



This week, as we continue our “Expanding the Table” series, we’ll explore how God’s expansive table is for all who hunger to be fed. Like the students in Arnoldine, many come to this table needing the sustenance of an actual meal. Some of us come needing the sustenance of grace, courage, and hope. All of us come together and God’s table. Join us as we expand God’s table to all who hunger to be fed!

With hope,
Pastor Elise



expanding the table
to all who hunger to
be fed.

 **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 Song: #2236 "Gather Us In"

The Story For All Ages
Pastor Elise

Scripture Reading: John 6:1-15
Bette Mallen

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

Musical Praise: "Come to the Table of Grace"
Senior Choir

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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

Holy Communion
"In Remembrance of Me"

*Closing Song: "Christ Our Lord, You Had Compassion"

Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Focus for October
SUMC Community Assistance Fund

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

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

Zimbabwe Meeting—Tuesday, October 20
5:30pm at Watermark.

Mobile Food Pantry—Wednesday,
October 21st. Set-up begins at 2:30pm and
the truck arrives at 3:15. We begin serving
the community at 4:00pm. Please
consider coming out to help volunteer for
this mission. Thank you.

Serving in Worship Sunday, October 18
Kellie Meyer, Pianist
Bette Mallen, Lector
Lona Vogie & Tommie Weber, Ushers
Tommie Weber, Greeter
Juliet & Ben Vehslage,, Acolytes
Sandy Krieg, Bette Mallen, Kathy Sanky &
*Rachel Wade (*bc), Communion Helpers*
Kathy Sankey, Congregational Safety

Altar Flowers are Given by
Bruce & Leanne Nitz In Loving Memory of
George & Jean Vollrath, Leanne's Parents



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!



Church Fall Cleanup Day – November 7, 9:00 AM to Noon

On Saturday morning, November 7, we will be doing our Fall Cleanup of the church and grounds and will need as many participants as possible. Tasks will include window washing, shrubbery trimming, carpet spot cleaning and general landscaping maintenance. Many hands will make quick work of getting the church in shape for the winter.

SUMC Trustees



Men's Breakfast - Sunday, November 8th at 8:00 am in Faith Hall

Men you are invited to this breakfast. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, sons, grandsons, maybe a neighbor too! Come hungry, as the Men Who Cook Breakfast will be ready to delight your tastebuds. Pancakes, bacon, eggs, biscuits & gravy, and yes, even some fruit, along with hot coffee and juice. Join us as we fellowship together. We will be finished before 9:00 am, so if you need to go pick up the rest of the family for church, there is plenty of time. Place it on your calendar and we'll see you then.

THIS WEEK AT SUMC

Monday, October 19

6:00pm Scouts
6:00pm Cub Scouts
6:30pm Ringing in the Spirit

Tuesday, October 20

10:00am Generosity
2:00pm Scripture of the Week
5:30pm Zimbabwe Meeting
7:00pm Pub Theology

Wednesday, October 21

10:00am Staff Meeting
1:00pm Wesley Prayer Study
4:00pm Mobile Food Pantry
4:00pm Jr. Youth
5:30pm BASIC Rehearsal
7:00pm Senior Choir

Thursday, October 22

11:30am Covenant Journaling
3:00pm Lancer Lunches
6:00pm Scout Pack Meeting
6:15pm Cardio Drumming
6:15pm Eternity Study

Sunday, October 25

9:00am Men's Group
10:00am Worship
10:15am Sunday School
11:15am Grace 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.

Junior Youth October Gathering!

Young people in grades 4 through 8 are invited to join in this month's junior youth gathering on Wednesday, October 21st at 4 pm. Join us as we serve at the Mobile Food Pantry and enjoy a bonfire together!

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**

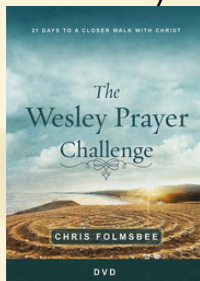
ETERNITY IS NOW IN SESSION: Six-week Study Starts Sept. 17

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 though 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!



NEW MAIN ENTRANCE SIGN

Have you seen our new "MAIN ENTRENCE" sign by door #9? Many thanks to the Trustees, First Impressions Team, and Bob Hendly for making this happen. Your work on this is appreciated and it looks great!



I'm grateful for community. I love seeing people together and not being isolated. You yourself may be connected through a shared interest such as a hobby or club or where you live. The word community is a compound word with com meaning with and unity common union. God wants believers to dwell in union and community having the same mind that is in Jesus.

Psalm 133:1

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

We come together as believers who share a common faith and support for one another. We gather weekly in worship. We have small group studies to connect and grow spiritually. We have many outreach opportunities as well to share in community. It is good to be a part of the SUMC community. Praise God.

Nancy Mead, Caring Ministries

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.

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

Dear SUMC Family,
Thank you for all of your support during this chaotic time. We appreciate the meals, donations, and check-ins more than you know. It has been a rough month, but you have made it better. Chris came home from the hospital last week, so we are adjusting to our new normal. He is feeling better each day. Thank you so much again for everything!
Love, The Stolk Family

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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!

mosaicccda.kindful.com

Questions: wts@mosaicccda.com



MOSAICCCDA

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

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

* * * * *

2026 Berrien County Youth Fair Booth Results

A Tale of 4 Bible Verses (with some numbers to go along with them)

Verse #1 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

Every year, without fail, people step up. This year we had an unusually large number of shifts that people had to back out of, for very legit reasons, such as various medical challenges or the need to care for ailing family members. And when we put out the call for help, that call was answered. **65 different people** volunteered, with **27** of them working multiple shifts.

Verse #2 - 1 Peter 4:8-10

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

The work is hard, but the love we get to share makes it all worth it. People are always grateful that we offer good food at an affordable price. Breakfast continues to be a blessing for so many, and our church lady sloppy joes still get rave reviews after all these years. Over the **6 days** of the fair, there were **126 different shifts**, for a total of **315 hours** that were served.

Verse #3 - Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another..."

And while sharing God's love with fair goers is part of our purpose, the other part is to raise money. And this year, we raised a lot! The congregation donated **\$789** in cash, not to mention all of the food donations. This enabled us to keep our supply costs as low as possible. Compared to last year, we spent just **\$200 more** on supplies this year. Given the high cost of food, this is incredible!

In total, we raised **\$13,296.87**. This is a **2% increase** over last year! Over **\$6600** will be used to help cover the cost of resealing the parking lot. And the Samaritan Center and mobile food pantry ministries will get over **\$3300 each**.

Verse #4 - John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Isn't this what it's really all about? Expanding God's table – the table of love - to all who hunger. Some of us hunger to belong, some of us hunger to be fed, some of us hunger to be empowered to serve. And it all happens in that booth. What a blessing that is.

On behalf of the fair booth team, **THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH** for your support this year!

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tery Baily
Bruce Barclay
Gordie Barry
Maggie Behrens
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 for Jennifer Kosten and family in the passing of her mother, Patricia Ricks on Monday the 12th.
- Prayers for Gloria Hopkins who has been diagnosed with Neuropathy in both legs and Parkinsons.
- Prayers of healing for the Rescoe's cousin who recovering from wound care treatments.
- 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 healing for 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.