

Stevensville United Methodist Church Weekly Update

October 4, 2026

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

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Connect With Us

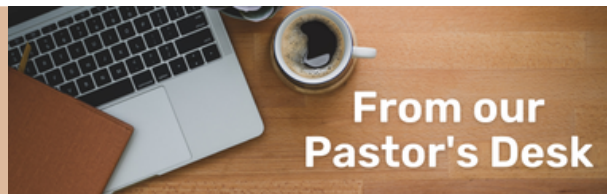
Church Office: 429-5911/email: stevensvillechurch@gmail.com

Website: www.stevensville-umc.org

Facebook: Stevensville United Methodist Church

Children's Center: 269-429-1069

Facebook: Stevensville United Methodist Children's Center



Stronger Together

When the Zimbabwe Mission Team's van pulled into Arnoldine Mission this past July, the greeting we received was unlike anything else I've ever experienced. We opened the van doors to the sound of singing and clapping, and we were quickly whisked into the church building for worship. The service was mostly in Shona, so Farai came up front to be our translator. Songs were sung acapella, mostly from memory. Occasionally, we would hear a familiar tune, like Amazing Grace, with words in Shona and an upbeat Zimbabwean syncopation. Pastor Kusena graciously invited me to lead the prayers of the people, and much to my surprise, when I began to pray aloud, the people joined me in praying their own prayers aloud! It was a beautiful experience of the Body of Christ. Amidst a new language and a different culture, there was much I did not understand, but as a follower of Jesus, it was a powerful thing to worship alongside these siblings in Christ, to learn from them, to pray with them, and to experience the gifts God has given them.

This Sunday, we'll conclude our "Good Bones" as we celebrate the connections our faith gives us across the globe as we celebrate World Communion Sunday together. Join us – there's a place for you at the table!

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

Prelude: "Sounds of Joy"

Ring in the Spirit Ringers

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

*Opening Hymn: #553 "And Are We Yet Alive"
(vs 1,3,4,6)

The Story For All Ages
Pastor Elise

Scripture Reading: John 17:20-23
Monique Yoder

Message: "Stronger Together"
Rev Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "Across the Lands You're the Word of God"
Senior Choir

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering
Doxology: "Sanctuary" 2164 (2x)

Holy Communion
Hymn: #620 "One Bread, One Body"
Hymn: #618 "Let Us Break Bread Together"
Prayer After Communion

*Closing Hymn: #428 "For the Healing of the Nations"

Blessing/Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Focus for October
SUMC Community Assistance Fund

Worship Helpers Workshop—Sunday,
October 4 after worship. 11:15–Noon.

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

Widow's Group—Monday, October 5 in
the lounge. Enter through door #4.

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

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

Serving in Worship Sunday,
October 4

Allyson Rigler, Pianist

Monique Yoder, Lector

Nancy Malinkowski & Doug Weingart, Ushers

Leanne Nitz, Greeter

Lorna & Jamesy Thompson, Acolytes

Monique Yoder, Doug Weingart, Tom Mitchell,

*Patti Harpole (*BC),*

Communion Helpers

Mike Logan, Congregational Safety

Altar Flowers are Given by Mary Sundblad
In Honor of Her Parents, Eddie
and Gladys Sandera



WORSHIP HELPERS WORKSHOP

Sunday Oct. 4 ▪ 11:15am-12pm

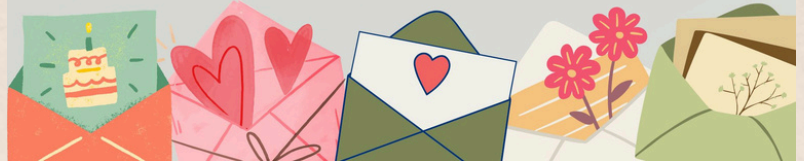
for all ushers, greeters, lectors,
communion servers

CARD MINISTRY

create cards for our church family

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

AT 10:00AM & 4:00PM



SUMC CHARGE CONFERENCE

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



BRUNCH BUNCH

Monday October 13
11:00am at
DINO'S RESTAURANT

JOIN US FOR
GREAT FOOD &
FELLOWSHIP!

CARDIO DRUMMING



Thursdays at 6:15
in Faith Hall

October 15, 22, 29

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREEN



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



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!



Widows 4 Widows

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

AT 5:00PM IN THE LOUNGE

Join us no matter where you are on your journey,
whether it has been 30 years or 3 days, all are welcome



OCTOBER 5-11

Week at a glance

Monday October 5
11:00am Brunch Bunch @ Dino's
5:00pm Widows Group-L
6:00pm Scouts-FH
6:30pm Ringing in the Spirit

Tuesday October 6
2:00pm Scripture of the Week
7:00pm Pub Theology

Wednesday October 7
10:00am Staff Meeting
1:00pm Holy Spirit Study-G
1:00pm SPRC-L
5:30pm BASIC Rehearsal
7:00pm Senior Choir

Thursday October 8
11:30am Covenant Journaling-FH
5:45pm Berrien Quilters-FH
6:30pm Eternity Study-L

Friday October 9

Saturday October 10

Sunday October 11
9:00am Men's Group-Rm 1
10:00am Worship
10:15am Sunday School
11:15am Blood Pressure Check
11:15am Grace Notes Rehearsal
2:00pm Church Conference-Buchanan

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 (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.



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 Peelker, 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*



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.

SIGN UP FOR

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



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!



After recent dental surgery, I find myself learning how to take my time and eat carefully with very small bites. It's good to slow down and really focus on the task at hand whether eating, reading, studying, or anything else.

When we were children, our teachers told us stories of Jesus in simple terms and short lessons. And that became our foundation to greater understanding & faith. We can return to those basic first lessons to help us in understanding more difficult scripture.

As we read last week, Philip comes across a man travelling in a chariot and reading from the book of Isaiah.



Acts 8: 30-31 says:

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

I believe our lesson here is to slow down and consume scripture in small bites. Ask questions of those who've studied a longer amount of time, and pay attention to what the Bible is trying to teach us. Only through questioning and listening will we better understand.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for sending your Prophets and Apostles to spread your Word. And thank you for teachers & clergy to help us learn how it fits into our lives. Please be with us as we continue our study and learning your Word.

In Jesus name, Amen

Karen Pallas-Caring Ministries

***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!

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

* * * * *

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Tery Bailey	Gary & Lee Nelson
Bruce Barclay	Schaeffer Ott
Gordie Barry	Bonnie & Tom Parrish
Jan Bickers	Gloria Pollack
Christi Blunt	Mike Rush
Adam Burnett	Amy Schaub
Missy Carroll	Fred Seifert
Dianne Collins	Chris Stolk
Sue Dock	Amber Stolk
Jack & Margie Hardy	Jan Taylor
Kathy Harris	J.T. Thompson
Dianna Hartman	William Thompson
Jason Kik	Kathy Trejo
Ken Foyder	Brooke Trux
Patrick Fowler	David Sundblad Jr.
Shirley Hetfield	Judy Vanderaue
Dick Lukey	Chris Weber
Sebastian Kurup	Gary Wank
Mike Melcher	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 of healing for Amy Schaub who fell and broke her arm and dislocated her shoulder.
- 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 for Chirs Stolk who is hospitalized with kidney failure.
- 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 Betty Ivers' family on the unexpected passing of their Brother-in-law Ray Horath.
- Prayers of comfort and peace for the Mitchell family on the loss of Cindy after a brief and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.
- 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.