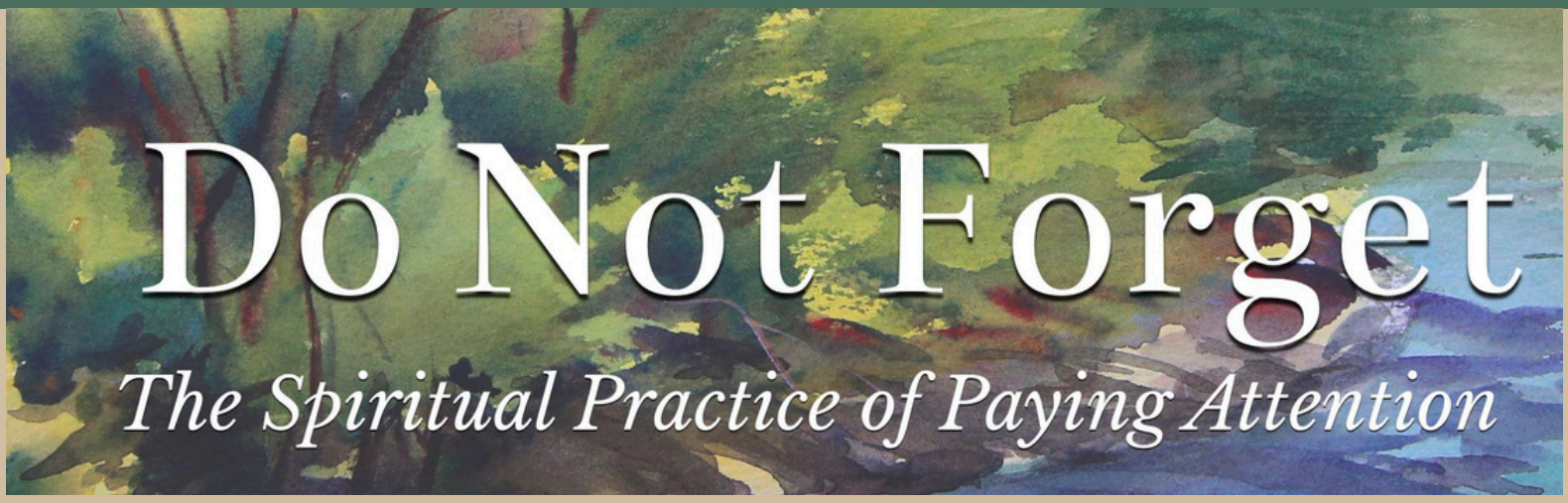
STEVENSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | NOVEMBER 15, 2026

WEEKLY UPDATE



From the Pastor

Paying Attention

It's one thing to go on a walk on your own; it's another thing to go on a walk with a curious and very observant three-year-old. My daughter is at a stage where the smallest wonders capture her attention, and she wants to experience all of it. She stops to pick every white, puffy dandelion so she can blow the seeds into the air. She stops to point out every airplane up in the sky, noting the contrails and sometimes the sound of propellers. She points out the ants crawling on the sidewalk and the birds perched in the trees. Sometimes, she insists on hugging as many trees as possible as we make our way through the neighborhood. She has taught me a lot about noticing the little things.

In a world that is increasingly busy and fast-paced, it is easy to lose sight of the ordinary miracles around us. This week, we'll take a look at the importance of noticing the ways that God has been at work, and how the practice of remembering and paying attention can help us live more joyfully and faithfully in the present. I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday!

With hope and joy,
Pastor Elise

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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: "How Majestic is Your Name"
Ringing in the Spirit Ringers

*Opening Hymn: #694 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (vs 1,2)

The Story For All Ages
Pastor Elise

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Bob Hopkins

Message: "Do Not Forget"
Rev. Elise Low Edwardson

Musical Praise: "Morning Has Broken"
Senior Choir

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering
Doxology #2036: "Give Thanks"

Holy Communion
"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
Ringing in the Spirit Ringers

*Closing Song: #2008
"Let All Things Now Living"

Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mission Focus for November
The OutCenter

Thanksgiving Baskets-We are collecting items for the Thanksgiving Baskets to give to 7 veteran families. Items needed can be found in the weekly update. Please see Sandy Hayes or Lona Vogie. We will be collecting through Sunday the 15th.

Mobile Food Pantry-The Mobile Food Pantry will be here Wednesday, November 18 from 4-5pm. Set-up begins at 2:30 with the truck arriving around 3:15.

Advent Study-Begins Wednesday, November 18th at 1:00pm. See page 7 of today's update.

Men's Group Advent Study-See page 7 of today's upate.

Middle School Dance-Friday, November 20th at 7:00pm in Faith Hall.

Jr. Youth-Wednesday, November 18 at 4:00pm.

Serving in Worship Sunday, November 15
Kellie Meyer, Pianist
Bob Hopkins, Lector
Stan & Joni Dubbert, Ushers
Joan Shadle, Greeter
Brooklyn Stolk & Grace Stroud, Acolytes
James Thompson, Congregational Safety
*Sharon Foxworthy, Patti Harpole (*bc)*
Myra Thompson, Monique Yoder, Communion Helpers
Mindi Logan, Congragational Safety

Altar Flowers Given By Sally McWhirter
In Memory of Jon McWhirter

THIS WEEK AT SUMC

Monday, November 16
6:00pm Scouts
6:30pm Ringing in the Spirit

Tuesday, November 17
10:00am Generosity Mtg
2:00pm Scripture of the Week
7:00pm Pub Theology

Wednesday, November 18
10:00am Staff Meeting
1:00pm Advent Study
4:00pm Mobile Food Pantry
4:00pm Jr. Youth Group
5:30pm BASIC Rehearsal
7:00pm Cantata Rehearsal
7:45pm Senior Choir

Thursday, November 19
11:30am Covenant Journaling
12:00pm Lancer Lunches - Rotary
5:30pm SUMCC Board Mtg
6:15PM Cardio Drumming

Friday, November 20
7:00pm Middle School Dance

Sunday, November 22
9:00am Men's Group- Advent Study
10:00am Worship
10:15am Sunday School
11:15pm Grace Notes





Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Please join us for an Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 22 at St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church. This service is an opportunity to gather with neighbors and friends for a brief time in reflection and fellowship, to lift up songs and prayers of thanks; and to enjoy, perhaps, a moment of respite in an otherwise busy season of life. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue to build on the interfaith relationships we have developed.

All are welcome! Please share this invitation with your relatives, friends, and neighbors.

We hope to see you on November 22!
Time: Sunday, November 22, 6 p.m.
Location: St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church (St. A.) | 1753 Union Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI

Be Empowered to Serve...

Congregational Safety Team 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.



Hospitality Ministry

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

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 Up-Date

This is just a reminder that if you have not completed the Kitchen Lead Up-date training, you need to do that prior to using the range or convection oven. I am happy to meet with you at a time that is convenient for you, so please just reach out to me and we can make this happen.

Sandy Hayes
Shayes1314@juno.com
269-449-3953

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Once again this year, SUMC will be supporting 7 veteran families with Thanksgiving Food Baskets. This mission is especially important this year as the price of groceries has continues to increase to a point where some families may not be able to celebrate Thanksgiving as they have in the past. We have included below a list of the basic items that will be in each food basket. If you were to purchase all of these items, it would cost about $75.00. And, at this point, we still don't know what the price of turkeys will be, so that price could be higher. Starting this Sunday, November 1, we will be collecting food donations for these baskets. We will continue to collect on November 8 and 15. The baskets will be delivered on Novembre 22 and 23. If you would like to help deliver the baskets, please let us know. There will be a crate in the Gathering Area where you can put your food donations. If you would rather, you can write a check and put Thanksgiving Baskets in the memo line. This will allow us to purchase perishable items to add to the baskets. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sandy Hayes or Lona Vogie. Thank you.

TURKEY-15#
STOVE TOP STUFFING MIX
CANNED GREEN BEANS
5# BAG OF POTATOES
CRANBERRY SAUCE
CANNED CORN
MUSHROOM SOUP
TURKEY GRAVY (JAR) - 2



ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026

Tuesdays 2:00pm in the Lounge

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:
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

WESLEY PRAYER CHALLENGE: Four-week Study Starts October 21
Facilitators: Dick Lukey & Lona Vogie (jlvogie@sbcglobal.net)
In The Wesley Prayer Challenge, author Chris Folmsbee invites readers to consider words from the Wesley Covenant Prayer each day, while reflecting on their meaning. Each day's reading will include scripture, prayer, and a challenge for daily life.

Sundays 9:00am in Room 1

MEN'S GROUP FELLOWSHIP
Facilitator: Bob Clark (bandbclark2@gmail.com)
Each Sunday we gather for fellowship and discussion on a relevent book or DVD series. All men of the church are welcome!

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!



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY-Wednesday's at 1:00pm in the Gathering Area

Facilitator: Kathy Sankey (kathy.sankey2@gmail.com)

A four-week Advent Study begins on Wednesday November 18th. The study will focus on the book "Experiencing Christmas - "Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent" by Matt Rawle. Join the discussion about the sights and sounds you experience during the Advent and Christmas season.



The Men's group will be starting an advent study "Advent Can Still Change the World" presented by Josh Scott. Here is the summary of the study. All men are welcome to join us Sundays from 9-10 in room one.

Christmas is a global celebration wrapped in nostalgia and tradition. The movies we return to each year, the carols we know by heart, and the rituals we repeat connect us to Christmases past and to one another. Yet beneath these familiar layers lies a story rooted in real life, unfolding in a specific time and place. To experience the enduring power of the Christmas story today, we must first understand what it meant then before we can discern what this sacred story offers our own moment.

From Caring Ministries

Psalm118:24

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
2 Corinthians 9:15

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

This has been the most amazing Fall. Beautiful weather, sunshine and color. I'm grateful to see God's wonder.

About this time of the year, I feel the season starts moving fast. It's easy to feel like you are behind. I've noticed people are beginning to decorate for Christmas and I'm still soaking in Fall.

My family will be going out of town for Thanksgiving gathering with extended family. I love this holiday tradition to catch up with aunts, uncles, and cousins. It is a true feeling of gratitude and fellowship and really is a perfect introduction into Christmas. The more I think of it without this time of gratitude the feeling leading into the celebration of Jesus birth would not be the same. Thanksgiving is the perfect bridge going from gratitude of blessings to celebration of the birth of Jesus. Thankful for all of God's gifts.

Nancy Mead, Caring Ministry

outcenter
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

November Mission in Focus

The OutCenter of Southwest Michigan aims to advocate for change and provide community to LGBTQ+ persons, their allies, and their families in Southwest Michigan. The center does this through advocacy efforts, support services, and community building programs. It also pursues initiatives that change systems, working in partnership with area-wide systems to ensure that LGBTQ+ people receive equitable services within their communities.

The work of the OutCenter is as important as it has ever been. In an era where many organizations across the region, the state, and the country are contracting, the OutCenter is committed to expanding its work and deepening its impact. Over the last year and a half, the OutCenter staff and board have worked collaboratively on what meeting this moment entails, and how we can best achieve that goal.

New location! 143 S Front St. in downtown Dowagiac, MI.

This change in location comes alongside a refreshed vision of the OutCenter's work, defined by five new pillars:
LGBTQ+ Safety and Inclusion,
Progressive Human Rights,
Rural Social Cohesion,
Effective and Competent Local Communities, and
Civic Literacy and Engagement

You can contribute to expanding God's table through widening God's mercy to youth and adults in Southwest Michigan by donating to the OutCenter directly https://www.outcenter.org/donate or giving to our November Mission Focus.

To find out more about the OutCenter and participate in upcoming community building activities, go to: https://www.outcenter.org/

MISSION TEAM MEMBERS — Monique Yoder (Chairperson), Wanda Barclay, Barb Clark, Kathleen Deforest, Paster Elise, Dick Lukey, Kellie Meyer, Leanne Nitz, Barb Pries, Kathy Sankey, Lona Vogie, Rachel Wade, and Robin Weingart

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 9
Bruce Barclay
Casey Tubman
NOVEMBER 10
Kenneth Foyder
NOVEMBER 15
Ryan Arnt
NOVEMBER 17
Susan Ferry
Patricia Seifert
NOVEMBER 19
Jan Tylor

NOVEMBER 22
Elizabeth Carlson
Mike Melcher
NOVEMBER 23
Nicole Birmingham-Moersch
NOVEMBER 24
Linda Willadsen
NOVEMBER 29
Hugh Black
NOVEMBER 30
Charlie Archey



The Men's breakfast was a great success and had roughly 30 men and boys attending. Thanks to Larry Buehler for organizing it, Sandy Hayes for her help in the kitchen, all the guys who cooked and all those that attended. Contrary to some rumors going around, this is not a weekly event but one will likely be held in the future.







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

Prayer Requests

Prayer Concerns:

- Prayers of healing for Abigail Vehslage who is recovering from ACL reconstruction surgery.
- Prayers of healing for Patricia Mulder who is home recovering from pneumonia.
- Prayers of healing for Elaine Graves' friend Karen who is in her final stages of lung cancer.
- Prayers for Gloria Pollack who is recovering from shoulder surgery on Wednesday, Oct. 28.
- Prayers for Louise Boelcke who is recovering from Knee replacement surgery on Oct. 28
- Prayers for Gloria Hopkins who has been diagosed with Neuropathy in both legs and Parkinsons.
- Prayers of healing for the Rescoe's cousin who is recovering from wound care treatments.
- Prayers of healing for Chris Stolk who is home from the hospital and continuing dialysis treatments.
- 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 of wisdom and recovery for Lisa Williams' 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.

Prayer Joys:

- Prayers of joy for the birth of Oliver Clark on November 3rd. Rob & Kristies second child and Barb & Bob Clarks' 4th grandchild.
- Thankful that Ken Foyder's health scare turned out to be good and Happy birthday to Ken November 10th.

Ongoing Health Concerns:

Bruce Barclay
Gordie Barry
Maggie Behrens
Christi Blunt
Adam Burnett
Missy Carroll
Dianne Collins
Sue Dock
Jack & Margie Hardy
Kathy Harris
Chelsea Hunt
Jason Kik
Ken Foyder
Shirley Hetfield
Dick Lukey
Sebastian Kurup
Mike Melcher
Gary & Lee Nelson
Schaeffor Ott
Bonnie & Tom Parrish
Gloria Pollack
Amy Schaub
Fred Seifert
Chris Stolk
Amber Stolk
Jan Taylor
J.T. Thompson
Kathy Trejo
Brooke Trux
David Sundblad Jr.
Judy Vanderaue
Chris Weber
Dan Whitt

Home-Bound:

Grace Park
Sally Streick
Carol Svorec

Missionaries in the Field:

Caleb Dormah-Liberia

In Active Service:

Taylor Allgood-Illinios
Lydia Sankey-Orsillo-USS Bulkeley DDG84-Rota Spain

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
-Philippians 4:6

