WEEKLY UPDATE



From the Pastor

The Upside Down Kingdom

This Sunday is Christ the King Sunday. As the last Sunday in the Christian year, it's an opportunity to reflect on who Jesus is and celebrate the reign of Christ in our lives and in this world. I must confess, for much of my life, "King" has not been one of my favorite names for Jesus. I've preferred "Comforter," "Counselor," "Emmanuel," or even "Prince of Peace," but Scripture does not shy away from the language of Christ as King. Unlike the kings of human history, who have been imperfect at best and violent and abusive at worst, Jesus invites us into a completely different kind of kingdom. Join us this Sunday as Pastor Patti helps us explore the upside down kingdom where the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, the sick and imprisoned are visited, and it is on earth as it is in heaven.

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

**Opening Hymn: #158 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"*

Video: "That's My King"

The Story For All Ages
Pastor Patti

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25: 31-40
Everett Harpole

Message: "The Upside Down Kingdom"
Pastor Patti Harpole

Apostles Creed

Musical Praise: "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"
Grace Notes

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

Offering
"Give Thanks"
Grace Notes
Doxology #2036: "Give Thanks"

**Closing Song: #706 "Soon and Very Soon"*

Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mission Focus for November
The OutCenter

Mobile Food Pantry Update-We had 40 volunteers to help with our food pantry this past week. We served 118 households; 331 Individuals; 102 children; 98 seniors and 21 veterans. Our next pantry will be here Wednesday, December 16th.

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

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.

Poinsettia Order Forms-Can be found in your bulletin or on the table in the hallway. **Deadline for ordering is** December 1st. They are $10 each and the color choices are red and white.

Serving in Worship Sunday,
November 22
Kellie Meyer, Pianist
Everett Harpole, Lector
Sandy Hayes & Sandy Krieg, Ushers
Bette Mallen, Greeter
Brody Nelson, Acolyte
Sandy Hayes, Congregational Safety

Altar Flowers Given By Jeff & Kathy Sankey In Honor of Lydia and Cole's Birthdays

THIS WEEK AT SUMC

Monday, November 23
3:00pm Lancer Lunches
6:00pm Scouts-FH
6:30pm Ringing In the Spirit

Wednesday, November 25
1:00pm Advent Study
5:30pm BASIC Rehearsal

Thursday, November 26
SUMCC Day Care Closed
SUMC Office Closed
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Friday, November 27
SUMCC Day Care Closed
SUMC Office Closed

Sunday, November 29
9:00am Men's Group-Advent Study
10:00am Worship/Action Sunday
10:15am Sunday School



SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU THIS SUNDAY!

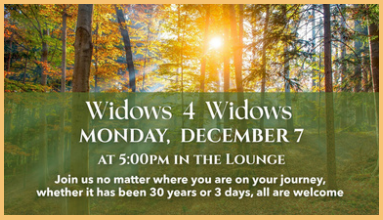


Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

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







ON VACATION

Pastor Elise will be on vacation from 11/21-11/27. For pastoral emergencies that occur between 11/21 and 11/23, contact Pastor Patti Harpole at 269-806-2814. For pastoral emergencies between 11/24 and 11/27, contact Pastor Seok from Chapel Hill UMC in Sodus. Pastor Seok can be reached at 347-885-1948. Happy Thanksgiving!

The Sout Kitchen Served 92 people. The meal was quesadilla casserole. Thank you to our Soup Kitchen Volunteers.

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

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has turned in a Time, Talent and Treasure form! If you haven't turned yours in yet, it is not too late! Your commitments and estimates of giving help us plan for a vibrant and faithful year of ministry in 2027. Forms are available in the gathering space.

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, KathySankey (kathy.sankey2@gmail.com)

A four-week Advent Study begins on Wednesday November 18th.



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.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM YOUR LAY SERVANT

Psalm 95:2 says, "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto him with praise."

There is a book titled "Everything I Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten". Well, maybe some people learned it all in kindergarten. But since I didn't attend kindergarten, my brother and I learned a lot from watching the special holiday programs on TV. Every year, we faithfully watched Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown, A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving and A Charlie Brown Christmas. Honestly, I still have a lot to learn. So, I watch those programs every year to remember the wonder of the season. Often as adults we are in a hurry, focused on our "to do" lists causing us to miss the simple joys of the season. We worry about cleaning the house, cooking the turkey, not burning the pies, and question the need for the green bean casserole. It's easy to overlook the many blessings that surround us each day. Amid the busyness and pressure of the Thanksgiving season, do we, do I, pause and consider all God has done and continues to do in our lives, in my life? Do we like Charlie Brown ask "Isn't there anyone who knows what Thanksgiving is all about?" Linus Van Pelt, with his blanket in tow, always seems to have an answer to Charlie Brown's questions. Linus reminds Charlie Brown that Thanksgiving is a very important holiday. It is about more than the meal, more than the turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. Afterall, the United States was the first country in the world to establish a national holiday to give thanks. Charlie Brown's friend Marcie shares her thoughts about the holiday. "Thanksgiving is more than eating, Chuck. We should just be thankful for being together. I think that's what they mean by 'Thanksgiving' Charlie Brown".

It is a choice to be thankful, to praise God for all He provides and to focus on the blessings, big and small, surrounding us daily. Gratitude can make our life feel full and help us realize what we have is enough. Gratitude can change an ordinary meal into a feast, a house into a home or a stranger into a friend. What fills your heart with joy today? What are the things for which you are grateful? Are you grateful for being together? In the words of Snoopy, "It's not happy people who are thankful, it is thankful people who are happy". May this Thanksgiving be more than just a day on the calendar. May it become the way in which we live our life, thankful and grateful for blessings large, small. Blessing so numerous that we can say our cups overflow with joy!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Your Lay Servant
Kathy Sankey



Coming this Advent – Gifts of the Nativity!

Believe it or not, Advent is almost here! This Advent season, we'll be exploring the characters of the Christmas story through our series "Gifts of the Nativity." To help the story come alive, we're putting together a collection of nativities to display in the Gathering Space! If you have a nativity you'd like to share during the season of Advent, bring it to church starting Sunday, December 6th. Cards will be available for you to share any stories or significance behind your nativity scene. We're looking forward to exploring the Christmas story together!



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









This year's Thanksgiving offering will be divided between Missions and Caring Ministries. Missions will be purchasing socks and knit hats to distribute to those in need in Berrien County. The Caring Ministry team helps to care for our college students. They alsoprepare meals, care packages, and send cards to our church families.

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 comfort and peace for Tammy Green and family on the loss of her father, Jay Fischer.
- Prayers of healing for Abigail Vehslage who is recovering from ACL reconstruction surgery.
- 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 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.

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

