



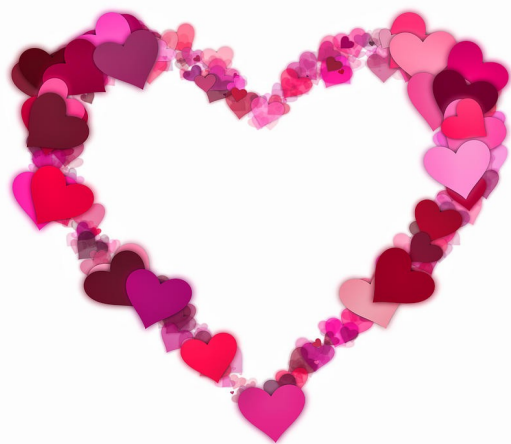
# THE GLAD TIDER

Stevensville United Methodist Church

February, 2020

## ***UMM Valentine Dinner***

Enjoy the annual meal hosted by the United Methodist Men.  
Couple and singles are invited to join in this evening of mingling, great food, and remembering how we matter to each other.



**Saturday, Feb.15,2020**

**Dinner at 6:30 pm**

**Tickets: \$29 per person**

**See UMM Members for Tickets**

**Catered by Café Firenze**

Choice of entrée: Prime Rib or Chicken Marsala  
Meals include potatoes, vegetables, spring green salad,  
freshly baked rolls, punch & coffee, with chocolate



## **Children's Ministry**

- It is such a joy to see 3 different rooms full of kids each Sunday, learning and growing together - each at their own level (Nursery, Ages 4-8, Ages 9-13). We continue to learn about Jesus as a young man and his teachings.
- Youth Sunday is February 9th! Kids will lead our entire worship service.

Vacation Bible School will be held July 6-10, 2020. We are hoping to serve breakfast at 8:30 a.m., with a start time of 9:00 a.m. and conclude with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and dismissal at 12:00 noon. The curriculum is entitled "Renew" which focuses on one story, Jesus' Parable of the Sower. This is an environmentally-focused program that inspires kids and adults to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world as they practice the stewardship of creation. Details of what is needed in the form of help from our congregation will be coming out soon. Stay tuned!

### **Our lessons in February:**

2/2 - The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-12

2/9 - "Youth Sunday -

2/16 - Life with God - Deuteronomy 30:15-20

2/23 - Glory on the Mountain - Exodus 24:12-18



**YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH  
YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

MATT 5:13-16



## Gratitude for Engagement

As I relish in a walk on a Sunday afternoon, my reflections alight upon **the gratitude I hold for each of you: your commitment to the church, the community and especially to each other and your own growth in Christ.** In the midst of long days of work, the hard knocks of life that I try to carry with so many of you, and the urgent call I experience from God to *be and do church*, not just play church like a pretend game, I am encouraged that I find companions in this compelling journey.

Today, my accounting comes to you in a bit of a laundry list. It's not 23 "likes" on Facebook, but is instead the cataloguing of community and growth in our midst. My gratitude covers:

- A reenergized Adult Sunday School group (8-15 people strong).
- A confirmation class of two students and a collection of mentors & companions.
- A curious, and even inspired congregation taking on the Beatitudes with contemplation.
- A consistent team of shepherds reaching out to members and new comers alike.
- A whole host of hosts for fellowship, offering unbounded hospitality.
- A vibrant team of teachers caring for the young people in the church.

And finally, **a fully engaged cohort of leaders and lovers of SteviUMC** who participate in the Town Hall meetings, the intense work of naming and claiming who we are, and living the values that we already possess even while aspiring to live them out in robust ways in the future. This is the work making meaning for our lives- my definition of spirituality and a role of faith communities.

For instance, in February we considered our vision statement and began to envision what such attributes could look like. The phrase radical love became a point of pride for many, a statement to which many could say, "Yes! We are that and I want more of it!" In the midst of the conversation radical love was extended: people were allowed to ask questions, voice concern or opposing opinions, and dream beyond what the leaders had offered all the while being patience in the process.

**Process, for me, holds as much importance and product, so I'm grateful we could "process" together and look toward next steps.** As for a next step, I am seeking input from each of you, our committees, the small groups, and leadership team to reflect on what "radical love" and "faith formation" mean to you and what they look like. Over the coming months, we will consider these phrases in a way that might identify us.

Thank you for who you are and the standard to which you hold yourselves and each- the standard of God's love and action for all.

Journeying together,  
*Pastor Sarah*



### Fun, Faith, Fellowship Group

"Come join the Empty Nesters Plus 'Fun, Faith and Fellowship' group at our SUMC community!"

Our February activity will be the Valentines dinner !

In March, we are planning to attend the "Red Plaid Shirt" community theater production at the Stevensville playhouse. Watch for dates to be announced for upcoming events in the Glad Tider newsletter!"

**Ash Wednesday  
Open House  
February 26, 2020  
6:00-6:30pm**

Come, reflect and receive imposition of ashes anytime during the open house in the sanctuary.



## Fellowship Hosts Needed

There are many blank spaces on the Sunday Fellowship Host Sign Up, located on the table in the fellowship hall.

Goodies can be homemade or purchased. You do not have to provide lunch. It can be simple as tea, coffee and juice. After all, the focus is fellowship rather than food. The first Sunday of each month is Cake Day to celebrate all birthdays and anniversaries during that month. Cake is generously donated by Diane Bailey and transported from Costco by Bev Schneider. All you need to do is make beverages.

For those in the choir or Sunday School class, I will do your set-up and make beverages. You still serve and clean up! Those in Chime Choir could help by setting up or providing some goodies. For Fellowship time to continue, it will take the efforts of all of us. How can you help?

Karen Johnson  
Cell 208-301-8183



### **Celebrations in February**

#### **Birthdays**

February 3-Chuck Perry

February 4-Ruth Cleveland & Ryder  
Grandjean

February 5-Fran Jackson

February-8-Les Smith

February 9-Connie Rakiecki

February 12-Ava Schrock

February 18 -George Cunningham

February 19-Lois Hansen

February 26-Tania Jensen

#### **Anniversaries**

None of Record



### **What will you do with an extra day?**

For the first time in 4 years, we have an extra day! A common observation/complaint is that there's never enough time. But this month, we're reminded that wishes do come true- we have 24 more hours. Perhaps it's a "work/school day" so you can't take it off. Perhaps you schedule your special doctors' appointments for this extra day. What would it look like to take a day that doesn't have the "daily grind" already schedule and claim it as a gift?

What will you do with it? Do you play? Do you rest? Do you study/work? Do you go an adventure with your kids or grandkids? Do you go skydiving? Do you volunteer? Do you spend time with someone who needs a friend?

What would it look like for you to live this extra day with radical love?

Each day is a gift from God! Perhaps this extra one will help you embrace this truth.





## Note from the Lay Leader

This past month, I had the privilege of sitting in on various monthly committee meetings of our church. My goal is to learn as much as I can about what each committee does but also to listen and observe. I have a handy-dandy pink notebook that I've been writing down information I've learned at meetings, taking notes I've observed in the town hall meetings, recording things I've heard from some of you individually, and keeping track of general questions I have as part of the learning process. None of it negative in any way. Rather, this is a list of items and a resource to look at the big picture and figure out how all the pieces fit together. At the end of the day, I hope to help the Administrative Council and Pastor Sarah in identifying areas of opportunity as well as gaps and things that we could potentially be missing. I will continue to soak it all in.



Our big focus right now as a church is creating our Vision Statement together. Once we've accomplished that together, then we can start identifying what our goals are and what we can start working on together, as a team of Jesus' disciples.

If you attended the Town Hall meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, you were able to experience a collaborative effort in creating a new vision statement for our church. I don't know about you, but I walked away from that meeting feeling very optimistic and hopeful. I hope you did, too. Maybe you weren't able to be there, or maybe you are still wondering, "What the heck is a vision statement and why do we need one?" A vision statement will help us identify the purpose of our church, who we are, what we stand for, and how we're going to do it. It is a visionary concept that might presently be out of reach or something that we are already doing well but could still be better at. It's exciting, and it's challenging at the same time. How do we work toward something that potentially we don't yet know how to do? What is it supposed to look like? Here's how I see it: If we are working on something exciting that we really care about, then we don't have to be pushed to do it, the vision will pull us toward where we are supposed to be. It's a work in progress, but the group gathered made great strides in articulating the vision.

Thank you for joining me on this journey, and for opening your hearts and your minds, and your meeting spaces as I continue to walk in this new role. I hope you'll reach out to me with any concerns or questions you have as we move forward together.

In his Service,

*Kendra Ruff*



## New Year Begins for UMW

The Stevensville UMC United Methodist Woman began the new year in February with Pastor Sarah installing new officers: President Julie Weindel, Vice President Lisa Menery, Secretary Peggy McCarthy, (Carole Koval represented her as proxy), and Treasurer Joey Diers. The theme for this year is Shine a Light on Justice. The UMW will support missions that deal with Climate Justice, Economic Inequality, children and youth Justice Issues and the welfare of women and children. Several fundraisers are planned to support local charities involved in these missions.



The first fundraiser is an “Everyone is invited Brunch” on Saturday, February 22nd from 10am -11:30am. Men, women, friends, family and all church members are invited! Cost is \$5 (although feel free to donate more!). You can pay at the door. We hope to see you there!

We will be planting trees as a fundraiser in March and you are invited to join us! Details to come. Our next regular meeting is March 21st at 10:00 am. All are welcome to join us!!



## Genesis House

First opened 45 years ago, Genesis House is a transitional home for women with mental illness who are working their way toward living independently. Eight women live at the house, always with at least one staff member present. The women usually are referred to Genesis House by Warm Springs State Hospital or Providence Center.

The program director is Donna Thompson. With her staff, she helps the women learn how to manage a home, including its meals and budget. The women take turns cooking, shopping, and doing household chores like laundry and housekeeping.

They are sometimes visible in the community when they are shopping or walking in town. One or more of them often come to Sunday services at SUMC. The women also participate in the programs of Western Montana Mental Health. They spend time four days a week in Missoula at a day treatment center.

Continued on pg. 6



## SUMC Trustees Report Highlights- January 2020

The Mountain Sky Conference has each church under a similar property insurance. The provider is Church Mutual, our current provider, but there have been changes. The conference has assigned three tiers and have put us in Tier 2. Our annual premium has increased from \$5041.00 to \$5557.60. We are investigating if our church can be re-categorized as a Tier 1 congregation to lower the premiums.

Trustees have determined that at approximately 30 years old it would be wiser to replace it rather than take a chance on a new circuit board that may or may not fix the problem. As of January 17 the new furnace has been installed.

We have assigned areas of responsibility to members of the Trustees Committee as follows:

- A. Church building (not kitchen & bathrooms)– Paul Ludington, Ben Longbottom, John Fisher.
- B. Church building kitchen and bathrooms– Dave McGarvey, John Fisher.
- C. Landscaping and grounds (except lawn)– Ben Longbottom, John Fisher.
- D. Parsonage– John Soper, John Fisher.

**Spring clean-up is scheduled for April 4 (weather permitting) with a back up date of April 25.**

We spent considerable time discussing the maintenance needs of the church and parsonage and determined whether it is immediate, short to medium, or long-term needs and wishes. This is a first pass attempt and will be refined as we address maintenance issues. We will have a “Paint the Parsonage Party”. Another immediate need is a front storm door. We have identified other intermediate to longer term needs to include new windows and new kitchen cabinets. With each project we will seek to make the home more accessible. For the church, immediate needs include a patch on the roof over the rear entry as well as seal coating the parking lots. Intermediate to longer term needs include fixing the nursery entry door and fire escape, exterior paint, and improvements to the sanctuary. These are just a few of the items identified by the trustees and the list will change as projects are completed, need arises, and other ideas are explored.

As the potential for greater use of the church building increases, the trustees will be reviewing and updating the current Building Use Policy and Fees. Please reach out if you have any questions.

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### **Genesis House Continued from pg. 5**

Each woman lives at Genesis House for one to several years, until she has graduated from the program and is ready to move on.

Genesis House was founded by a group of local women who were interested in the problems of mental illness. One of the founders is still on the volunteer board. Over the years, the capacity of the house has doubled, and many improvements to the century-old building have made it a comfortable and pleasant place to live. Its mortgage was long since paid by community members and friends.

Because the Genesis House budget is always tight, in the annual Thank Offering, SUMC contributes to the mission of helping mentally ill women to recover. UMW also makes an annual donation. On any Sunday after church, a smile and a “good morning” to someone unknown may be a friendly greeting to one of the Genesis House women.

*\*Each month we will highlight a ministry that this community faithfully supports through the Thank Offering. Please continue to pray for these ministries and thank you for your generosity.*

# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<b>2</b> Communion Sunday 10:15 AM Praise singing 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Chime choir 11:45 AM Fellowship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>5</b> 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM WTC 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Bible study 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM United Methodist Men
<b>9</b> 10:15 AM Praise singing 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Chime choir 11:45 AM Fellowship 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Book club: "The Other" by Wes Moore	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Choir	<b>12</b> 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM WTC 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Bible study 12:30 PM Stewardship-Finance	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Valentine's Dinner
<b>16</b> 10:15 AM Praise singing 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Chime choir 11:45 AM Fellowship	<b>17</b> Presidents' Day 7:00 PM Trustees	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>19</b> 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM WTC 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Bible study	<b>20</b> 6:00 PM Shepherding 7:00 PM Administrative Council	<b>21</b> 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Red Cross blood drive	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Transfiguration Sunday 10:15 AM Praise singing 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Chime choir 11:45 AM Fellowship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Choir	<b>26</b> Ash Wednesday 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM WTC 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Bible study	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

## Dates to Note:

Feb. 9: Youth Sunday

Feb. 15: Valentine Dinner, 6:30pm

Feb. 21: Blood Drive, 12-6pm

Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday Open House



## Pantry Partners Needs your help!

### Items needed for Seniors and Children.

Chunky Soups

Stews & Chili

Tuna

Cereal

Personal care items

needed: Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, & shampoo



"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer." — Rainer Maria Rilke

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Stevensville MT 59870

# The Glad Tider

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