



# THE GLAD TIDER

Stevensville United Methodist Church

March 2020

## Our Lenten Journey Begins

Dear Lenten Journeymen,

On Ash Wednesday we met on the road marked with a sense of humanity, humility, confession and forgiveness. This day began a beautiful season of introspection and realignment to our walk with Jesus. Lent takes this mysterious transition time of winter into spring, death into life, quiet into jubilation and gives us a few handholds so that we don't miss the opportunity to be present. Lent reminds us not to rush ahead to blossomed flowers and longer sunlit days while also helping us not to get stuck waiting or wishing for what was. Lent calls us to journey.

This year I invite our community to take the **Roads that Jesus Walked**. Some of these roads were quite literally to a destination- to the cross, to Emmaus, out of the Tomb. Many of the roads were *ways* of life- to healing, second chances, trust and kinship. Our worship series will unpack these Biblical journeys and give all of us a chance to reflect on how and why we would walk these roads with Jesus, even the difficult ones through temptation and death.

Beyond worship, please consider a few Lenten practices to enrich this season. Intentional integration of our learning, prayer, and practice moves our faith from our feet to our heart and back out on the road again.

Faith for the Journey,  
Pastor Sarah

## Generational Blessing

Everyone is invited to the **all-church conference** on **March 8<sup>th</sup>** after worship service to vote on the following proposals. See more details in Ad Board article on page 2.

### 1. Honor the legacy of the historic portion of the church with a new roof in Fall 2021.

**Action:** Vote on this recommendation, recognizing this is a long-term plan and acknowledgment of the building's value.

### 2. Remodel addition to open an Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) in Spring 2021.

- We create a space to meet an overwhelming need of early childhood learning.
- The new *shared* space would provide room for a daycare/preschool (ECLC) for infants to 5 year-olds along with an after-school program, large fellowship hall/play area, remodeled kitchen, and updated accessible bathrooms.

- Laree Jessop, director of Bitterroot Early Learning Center, desires to partner and run the ECLC business.
- Even with a mortgage, the ECLC becomes a self-sustaining and income-generating ministry for the church.

**Action:** On 3/8, vote whether or not to move forward in research.

#### Timeline:

- March 8: Hear proposals, ask questions, & vote on plan to gather info & create building committee to research
- March – April 2020: Gather: architectural plans, cost estimate, preliminary financial plan & committee req.
- April 26, 2020: Charge conference, final vote on proposal



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The Administration Board endorses the following proposals as expressions of ministry and good stewardship. Please come to the **All-Church Conference on March 8** after service to hear more information, ask questions and vote on the next phase of these proposals.

## Roof Proposal

- Install a new roof on the historic portion of the building in summer/fall 2021 that maintains the integrity of the historic aesthetic of the building.
- Seek alternative ways of using the fellowship hall space such as redesigning it with additional square footage for a shared space with a fellowship hall, kitchen and daycare/preschool as an extension of our ministry and new source of income.
- Do a capital campaign to raise \$40,000 to commit \$80,000 toward a matching grant
- If the grant comes through, the full funding will be available. If we're not awarded the grant, we take out a loan to cover the rest of the expense.

## The Numbers:

The cost ranges between \$282,000 and \$320,000 as given by the Sept. 2018 architectural assessment. The difference in cost comes from the various products available to maintain the integrity of the ascetic look of a shake roof. These costs include all of the labor, parts, permits, and disposal of current roof as well as any structural needs for the building, both the historical section, the fellowship hall, and joining area.

Current financial capital: \$40,000 has been collected through donations, memorials, and specific capital campaign funds.

What's new? A Historic Preservation Grant

- The MT state legislature set forth a bill to fund historic building projects up to \$500,000 per project. We would ask for about \$300,000 for a new roof.
- **Grants are due Feb. 28, 2020.** A public meeting must occur to inform the community of the environmental impact (which there will be none).
- Lorraine Roach, a grant writing consultant and former executive director of the Main Street Association, offered her services to help SUMC win this grant.
- Two ways to be more competitive
  - ♦ Dedicate money toward the matching grant money received.
  - ♦ Illustrate ways economic stimulus will occur during & after the project.

- **Grants will be awarded June 2021.** No work done before receiving the grant money could be retroactively refunded.

## Early Childhood Learning Center Proposal

### The Story

Stevensville UMC prides itself on being a "village" for families and children. This community of faith cares for members and visitors with Sunday school, childcare during Sunday service, VBS, and the more intangibles of mentoring kids during the week, being a safe group/space that appreciates a child just as they are, and championing the growth and spark of God within. This dedication to kids and families extends to the partnership offered to WIC, Pantry Partners, Clothes Closet, Stevensville Public School, Scouts, and 4-H.

Meanwhile, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) capacity in Stevensville and the county falls way below need. Parents in Stevensville and surrounding communities search far and wide for care space for their kids with quality learning being a bonus at times.

**When we partner this gift of SteviUMC to the need of the kids and families of our area, we can live into God's call.**

### Target Market

A recent study from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Services Bureau stated that Ravalli county has the capacity to care for only 35.6% of children, 29% of infants & toddlers (Sept, 2019). The population in Stevensville, in Ravalli County grew in 2019 by 4.64% over a five-year trend, leading us to believe this growing trend will continue (Mission Insite). Residents in the age range of 25-45 were the second highest population growth at 1.9%, trailing only retired people (65-over). There is a need for childcare in Stevensville, especially for working families and single-parent homes. There are no centers for infant/toddler care in Stevensville. The Head Start Preschool in Stevensville has a waiting list. There are only nine facilities in Ravalli County for any type of childcare or preschool.

At the same time, families need affordable childcare options. The average cost of full-time child care for an infant in Montana is \$9,000 a year; average annual cost for full-time child care for a four-year old in the state is \$7,900 (MT Early Childhood Assessment, 9/2019). The ECLC must balance supporting the ministry of SUMC with providing affordable childcare. Meanwhile, partnerships with Head Start and Stars and the food program can drastically reduce the overhead.

# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday 9 am Adult S. School 10:15 am Praise singing 10:30 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Chimes 11:45 am Fellowship	2	3 7 am - 7:30 am Lenten Prayer Time in The Chapel 7 pm Choir	4 8 am - 3 pm WIC 10 am - 11 am Wednesday morning Bible Study	5 6 pm - 8 pm Cub Scouts	6 8-4pm Bitterroot Education Co-op 5 pm Fun, Faith and Fellowship Dinner 7pm Fun, Faith and Fellowship attends Red Plaid Shirt	7
8 <b>Daylight-Saving Time</b> 9 am Adult S. School 10:30 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 All Church Conference 6 pm Book Club "The Way of the Coyote"	9	10 7 am - 7:30 am Lenten Prayer Time in The Chapel 5 pm - 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Choir	11 8 am - 3 pm WIC 10 am - 11 am Wednesday morning Bible Study 12:30 pm Stewardship-Finance	12	13	14 7:30 am - 9:30 am United Methodist Men
15 9 am Adult S. School 10:15 am Praise singing 10:30 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Chimes 11:45 am Fellowship	16	17 7 am - 7:30 am Lenten Prayer Time in The Chapel 7 pm Choir	18 10 am - 11 am Wednesday morning Bible Study	19 6 pm Shepherding 7 pm Administrative Council	20	21 10 am UMW meeting
22 UMCOR Sunday 9 am Adult S. School 10:15 am Praise singing 10:30 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Chimes 11:45 am Fellowship	23	24 7 am - 7:30 am Lenten Prayer Time in The Chapel 5 pm - 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Choir	25 8 am - 3 pm WIC 10 am - 11 am Wednesday morning Bible Study	26	27	28
<div>Pastor Sarah will be out of town for a spiritual retreat, March 11-15 and for vacation, March 29-April 3. If you need pastoral help, please call the office.</div>						
29 9 am Adult S. School 10:15 am Praise singing 10:30 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Chimes 11:45 am Fellowship	30	31 7 am - 7:30 am Lenten Prayer Time in The Chapel 7 pm Choir	1 8 am - 3 pm WIC 10 am - 11 am Wednesday morning Bible Study	2	3	4 Spring Clean-up Day (weather permitting)



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## LENTEN PRACTICES

### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:00: *The Wind, the Fountain, and the Fire***

In *The Wind, the Fountain and the Fire*, Mark Barrett, a Benedictine monk of Worth Abbey, offers a Lenten pathway through scripture, opening the gateway of sacred imagery as a mode of prayerful reflection. For each week of Lent he has selected a different image: the Dust; the Mountain; the Well; the Light and the Tomb. In these richly imagined biblical symbols we are invited to find keys which can unlock both our experience of scripture and our understanding of our own hearts.

### **Simple Meal for Soft Landings Scholarships**

Commit to eating a simple meal (can of soup, rice & beans, or grill cheese sandwich) once in the week. Allow this act be a meditation on the abundance in

your life and the gratitude you can offer God for God's constant sustaining. Reflect on others- Stevi neighbors, people experiencing homelessness, refugees, civilians in war-torn areas, the poor- who would find even a simple meal a luxury.

Put in the soup can the money you don't spend on the meal. We'll give this money to Soft Landings, a Missoula-based organization who works with recently relocated refugees. The money will fund a youth after school tutoring space, scholarships for such activities as driver's lessons, youth soccer league registration, and summer trips to Flathead Lake.

### **Lenten Morning Prayer**

Each Tuesday beginning March 3 from 7:00—7:30am, the Little Chapel at SUMC will be open for space to pray and center yourself for the day and

### **Intentional Prayer Prompts for the Week**

#### **Week One (Feb. 26-March 7):**

People with additions and their support systems

#### **Week Two (March 8- 14):**

Conflict-enraged areas of the world where a different form of communication would speak and embody peace

#### **Week Three (March 15-21):**

People experiencing mental illness

#### **Week Four (March 22-28):**

People who feel lost, lonely, and abandoned

#### **Week Four (March 29-April 4):**

People who are imprisoned, their families, and the communities where jails exist

#### **Week Five (April 5-April 11):**

People who walk to survive, ie get water, gather firewood, go to school, find shelter, escape violence

## The Roads that Jesus Walked

March 1: The Road Inward & Through Temptation, Matthew: 4:1-11

March 8: The Road of Trust Beyond the Dark, John 3:1-17, Romans 4:1-5

March 15: The Road of Healing, John 9:1-41

March 22: The Road of Radical Kinship, John 4:5-42

March 29: The Road of Second Chances, John 11:1-45

April 5: The Road to the Threshold, Matt, 21:1-11  
Palm Sunday, Communion, Confirmation

Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7pm: The Road to Remembering, Hand washing and Communion Service

Good Friday, April 10 at 7pm: The Road to the Cross  
Tenebrae Service of Reflection & Darkness

Easter, April 12 The Road from the Tomb, Col. 3:1-4, Matt. 28:1-10

SonRise Service, 8am outside, Easter Service, 10:15

April 19: The Road of Fruitful Vocation, Micah 6:6-8, Ps 8 & Wisdom: 9:1-4 Celebration of God's Creation

April 26: The Road to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-35





## What's Happening?

### Outreach Committee

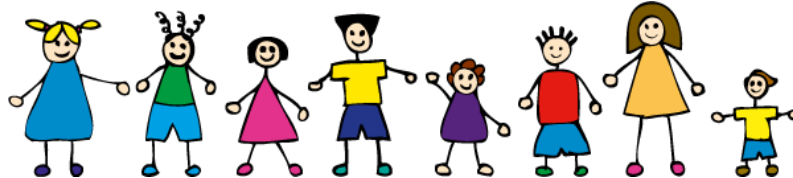
The Outreach Committee has a busy month planned for March 2020.

Stevensville School will be having a Professional Development Day on March 23, 2020. To show our appreciation we are planning on serving a light lunch of soup, salad, and cookies at the school from 11:20 to 12:00 p.m. Please contact joey diers (406-396-7618) or Lisa Menery (406-544-7132) if you are able to provide a soup, a salad, or cookies or bars, or if you are interested in helping us serve. There will also be a sign-up sheet at church. At this point we do not know how many we will serve, but there are 80-90 staff. A big thank you to Vicki Vernon for helping organize this with the school!

It's Potluck Time! Please join us for the Fifth Sunday Potluck on March 29. Outreach will set up and clean up afterwards. Bring a favorite dish to share and join us for potluck and fellowship following worship on March 31.



**March 8**



### Greeters/Ushers

When you arrive at church, someone greets you and provides you with an Order of Worship and if needed, helps you find a place to sit. During the service, the individuals who served as Greeters also serve as Ushers and assist in collecting the offering.

On Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month, those serving as Greeters/Ushers assist in Communion. The Shepherding Committee is tasked with enlisting people to serve in these capacities. If a member of the Shepherding Committee contacts you to ask you to be a Greeter/Usher, please consider saying yes.

If you have never been a Greeter or Usher, or if you have never assisted with Communion before, we are happy to show you the ropes or to assist you as needed so that you will feel comfortable in contributing in this way. You don't even have to wait to be contacted ... if you would like to be a Greeter/Usher, you can contact any member of the Shepherding Committee: Carolyn Mickens, Chair, Don Nelson, Mary Costello, Marcia Prather, Janet Lonski. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Marcia Prather for The Shepherding Committee*



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March 2020

## What's Happening?

### Fun, Faith, Fellowship Group

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

March 6 we are planning dinner out and a night at Stevi's Playhouse for opening night of Red Plaid Shirt. Our own Dean Diers has the lead part, and the topic will resonate with most of us.

Dinner is at 5 at Catered Table. Please choose from their menu posted online, then contact joey Diers with that choice. ([meadolark@msn.com](mailto:meadolark@msn.com)). Preordering our dinners will ensure that we get to the play on time.

Tickets for Red Plaid Shirt can be purchased online at Stevensville Playhouse. You can join us for dinner and the play or only one of those two. Please note, this is NO HOST, and you are responsible for all charges. We hope to see a large number of you on March 6!

Questions: Please call Denise 406-370-8981 or Karen 208-301-8183

### What is Stewardship?

Stewardship can be defined as follows: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

With all God has entrusted to us the gospel goes out as we serve our Lord and love our neighbors. John 3:16 is my favorite passage from the bible. It says that God loves us so much that He gave us His only son that we might be saved. God gives us many gifts and what we do with those gifts is our gift back to Him. Jesus calls us to serve not only God, but all we encounter in our daily lives. Stewardship includes our monetary support to our church, but also giving our time and talents in ways that enrich our church family and others around us.

As we enter this new year I would encourage us all to reflect upon what God has given us and strive to do our best to serve the Lord in the many ways that stewardship calls us to do.

Gordon Gum

### Youth Programs

Youth Sunday was a success! The older youth are already asking when they can lead another service, they loved it. Thank you to everyone who helped us prepare for worship that day and to all of the kids who participated. You all did an excellent job!

Just a reminder, our Sunday School teacher calendar is hanging on the door of the downstairs classroom. Everyone is welcome to sign up to teach, just write your name down on the calendar and Kendra will send you the materials.

Easter is coming! There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn at 9:00 a.m. on 4/12. There will be no Sunday School this day, kids ages 5 and older are invited to enjoy the worship service with their families. We will have nursery care available for ages 0-4.

Our lessons in March:

3/1/2020	Adam and Eve	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
3/8/2020	Jesus and Nicodemus	John 3:1-17
3/15/2020	Woman and the Well	John 4: 5-42
3/22/2020	Samuel Anoints David	1 Samuel 16: 1-13
3/29/2020	Jesus Raises Lazarus	John 11: 1-45

Thank you for supporting the next generation of our church!

Kendra



## Our Committees

**Lay leader:** Serve as a leader in partnership with pastor and Ad Board, listening, advising, and promoting the growth of the congregation.

**Mission Committee:** Identify areas of need and develop projects to share God's love locally and beyond.

**Worship Committee:** Envision the message and modes to enhance worship. Enact the logistics for worship services, including special holiday services.

**Christian Education:** Plan, organize and enact teaching moments for youth and adults through Sunday school, small groups, Bible Study, and VBS.

**Shepherding:** Reach out to those needing care by phone calls and/or cards, caring for visitors, scheduling greeters and ushers.

**Outreach:** Bring SUMC to the attention of the greater community.

**UMW:** Attend to climate justice, welfare of women and children, economic inequality, and efforts to stop the increase of numbers of juveniles to prison.

**UMM:** Build discipleship and providing fellowship and service, including youth.

**SPRC:** Serve as liaison between congregation and staff including the pastor, addressing internal personnel situations.

**Trustees:** Assess, maintain and make improvements to the physical building, land and parsonage. Steward physical assets for short and long term needs and ministries.

**Stewardship and Finance:** Provide financial review and overview, promote our involvement in ministries, pay bills, track all income and expenses, count offering and prepare deposits.

## UMCOR Sunday

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is an important part of how the United Methodist Church helps make a difference in the lives of people all over the world. UMCOR provides assistance to "individuals and communities where lives have been upended by storms, wars, climate change and displacement".

Offerings given on UMCOR Sunday help with overhead and supports UMCOR's staff to respond quickly after a disaster.

One recent example of UMCOR's assistance is Support a Local Partners in China fighting Coronavirus. Relief supplies; such as Health Kits, Layette Kits, Cleaning Buckets and School Kits are other ways to address the needs of others.

UMCOR Sunday envelopes will be in your **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** bulletin. Please give to help others in desperate situations.

*Mary Nelson, Mission Group*

## Celebrations in March Birthdays

March 1st– Barb Sabo

March 1st– Norm Petty

March 7th–Rollie Fisher

March 10th–Nilda Bishop

March 14th–Ed Sperry

March 17th– Josh Malo

March 20th–Isla Maclay-Schulte

March 25th–Mark Sampson

March 27th–Carol Word

March 27th–Claire Kelly



## **A note from the Lay Leader**

I've been doing a lot of research and reading lately surrounding the topic of vision within the church. I've learned there is one common denominator that you can find in every growing church: leadership and a congregation that is not afraid to believe in God.

Nothing starts happening until somebody starts dreaming. Every accomplishment started off first as an idea in somebody's mind. It started off as a dream, a vision, a goal. When we don't have a goal for our church, the default goal is to remain the same. Unfortunately, the reality is that a church without a vision will most likely not grow. We have begun naming and clarifying our values and vision at SUMC through Town Hall meetings, in committees and in our prayers which gives me hope and confidence in this body being a team with good leadership and faith to risk for God.

So what is Vision? Vision is a mental picture of the future and even an idea that guides and motivates us. It's what the future could hold, but has not yet happened. It creates a desire to hope, grow and improve. It's when an architect dreams of a design or a businessperson dreams of growing their business.

Vision gives a sense of purpose and direction. It keeps us on course, even through rocky times or unexpected setbacks. Vision inspires us to keep on going even when things might seem impossible or out of reach. It helps to keep us moving forward and moving through obstacles that may arise along the way. It provides focus. If we know what our vision is and what is important to us, there's less of a chance that we will get caught up in the mundane stuff or overwhelming details. It gives us a "why" and the reason we are going to do what we decide to do.

So what are we going to do? Well that's up to us at this point. One nice thing about dreaming is that it doesn't cost anything. We can have great dreams and think through and pray through and it doesn't cost us anything at all. The Bible says, "God...is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thought, or hopes" (Ephesians 3:20). God comes along and says "Think up the biggest thing you think I can do in your life, in your ministry, in your church – and I can top that."

Friends, I ask that we all open our minds to what God is calling us to do as faithful participants of SUMC. We have some big decisions to make and together we claim the vision God had called us to. I encourage each of you to open up your hearts and minds as we dream big together to live into the future together.

In His service,  
Kendra Ruff







## UM Men's Valentine's Dinner



**We worship together!**  
**We play together!**  
**We celebrate together!**





## United Methodist Women



The UMW welcomed 36 people for Brunch in February! Dean Diers provided entertainment with his "Blasphemous Bill" performance! Carol Koval organized the event which raised \$440 for our missions. Great food and friends were enjoyed by all! Thank you to the many ladies who baked, cooked and helped!

In March, the UMW will be collecting dollars for trees. One dollar will buy one tree to be planted in National Forests that have been ravaged by fire, disease and beetles. We are working with the National Forest Foundation here in Missoula who coordinates the reforestation efforts. Our goal is to raise \$100 for 100 trees through the month of March.

The next UMW meeting is March 21st at 10:00 am. The Spring UMW District meeting is Saturday, April 4th in Boulder, MT. Registration forms are on the bulletin board if you are interested in attending.

*Julie Weindel, UMW President*





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Stevensville United Methodist Church

March 2020

Values & Vision

Spring 2020

**We're seeking final contributions to help refine the vision statement and solidify the values.** Following the Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> Town Hall, Pastor Sarah and the Ad Board reviewed the comments of the group, who considered the values and vision of SteviUMC. This initial conversation used the work we did during the strategy session in October 2019 with Rev. Eric Strader.

The vision and values give the church as a whole the guiding lights in our call to follow after Jesus. *How will we use our resources? How will we tell our story? How will we make decisions?*

Each committee and individual is invited to answer the questions below. **Please use this to provide feedback and return to the office or put in the offering plate.** If you would consider an alternative word/phrase, please share (ie. Instead of "radical love" use "boundless love"). The values listed can help guide your responses. As an act of shared responsibility and joy of claiming this community of faith, we ask you to provide your name. We're in this together.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## SteviUMC Values

*Christ-centered: Live faith seriously with worship, study and action.*

*Variety of Perspective: The DNA formed during the union of the North and South Methodist churches leads to honoring spaces of education, growth, and connection with the diversity of God's creation. (theology, politics, economics, identity, accessibility)*

*Village & Community: All people are beloved of God, made in God's image and worth. Care extends with prayer, support, trust, acceptance, and hospitality.*

*Music: Find meaning through a medium that invites many talents, expressions of faith, and a place of connection and growth.*

## Consider "faith formation," "compassion," and "radical love."

What does this word mean? What does it look like? If you had to tell someone older than you and younger than you, what would you say about these words?

If you don't like them, why not? What is an alternative?

What does it look like? If the word became an action or ministry in and through the church, what would it be? Be specific.

## How does this completed statement express your considerations?

As disciples of Christ, we offer a path to hope, inclusion and purpose for a community in need of *healing care, community engagement, faith formation and compassionate love.*



# ❁ Irish Blessing ❁

May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
And rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



**The Glad Tider**

Stevensville United Methodist Church  
216 College  
Stevensville MT 59870

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

~ CHANGES OF ADDRESS ~

Bulk-rate mail is not forwarded.  
If your address changes, if we have it wrong,  
or if you no longer want to receive this newsletter,  
please let us know.

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