



THE GLAD TIDER

Stevensville United Methodist Church

November 2020

Greater Things

Trust. It's such a packed word that contains dynamics of relationship, individuals' character and capability, an invisible bond, and a heaping measure of grace and hope. The word often translated as believe in the Bible could be better stated as trust. The subtleties of this alternative can make all the difference in what role we play, agency we claim and expectation we have.

One of my favorite verses comes from John 14:12 when Jesus is talking to his disciples and all folks that will trust in His Way for generations. "You will do even greater things than me." Jesus, Savior of the World and God in flesh, trusts you and me. And not only trusts, but imagines, invites, expects, sends us forth to live out that Way that will be great and meaningful and healing for generations. Jesus' trust embraces *our relationship* to fuel the "greater things" and opens up the expressions of living the Way with out a rigid controller watching our every move.



Robert Collins, Photographer

Such trust we offer to each other by virtue of this trust Jesus gives us. The Apostle Paul mentions that every part of the body counts and has a unique function. The eye has to trust the foot to kick the soccer ball it sees on the ground. The lungs must trust the heart to pump blood through the body to take oxygen into the muscles. They are fueled by this trust in relationship, and they are empowered to do their best in the roles they have. The eye doesn't control the foot and the heart doesn't need permission to pump oxygen.

The same is true with us as a Body of Christ at SUMC. We have roles and responsibilities. Making sure we know those roles and responsibilities helps build that trust. And empowering each of us to live out those roles without unnecessary permission giving and seeking or rigid control helps this Body of Christ work smoothly. As your pastor, here a mere 16 months, I pray that you experience my trust in you. When you have questions or desire to be involved, feel free to ask. I want each person to feel encouraged to live the Way into ministry whether by distributing prayer shawls, sharing news and prayers, or serving on a committee or discerning decisions. Groups like the Ad Board, committees, office staff, and worship leaders have specific roles that can find mutual benefit in you living your unique role.

As we gain clarity as a church of roles, responsibilities, processes, and focus, I pray the clarity continues to express openness, invitation, permission giving, and encouragement. This is really the motivation behind efforts around a Single Board model, nominations committee seeking leaders, ministry teams initiating projects like Flood Buckets, Trunk o Treat, and the Thank offering, the Administrative Assistant communicating in email, and Finance/Stewardship calling forth a financial commitment for the future life of this church and ministry. I pray that we live deeper into trust that we may do "even greater things."

With trust in Christ, Pastor Sarah



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Worship Service Updates

Details for worship experiences through 2020.

Sunday, 9:00am: Service of Worship with reflective prayer, message and music (30-45 min), (In-person). Sunday, 10:30am: Service of Worship with music, children's time, scripture & message, special music and prayer (45-60 min) (In-person and zoom.)

Special Worship Experiences

Communion, 1st Sunday of each month

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Service and Thank Offering, annual donation to support local & global ministries

Nov. 29: Advent begins

Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7pm: Blue Christmas Service for those who are grieving

Dec. 13: Hanging of the Greens- A worship service of musical gift and traditional holiday fun.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, Services at 4pm (outside) and 7pm (inside)

Worship Inside!

We will continue to have 2 worship services indoors during the colder winter months. The capacity for such services are 50 people, everyone masked and temperature checked upon entering. A Zoom option 10:30am services is available. The service is also recorded and posted on the Stevensville UMC YouTube Channel. Each Sunday an email goes out with links to the zoom and the bulletin with all the words and song lyrics. The Ad Board in consultation with Trustees has a COVID protocol for sanitizing and making decisions about closing the building for worship services if necessary. Please email or call the office with any questions.

Missional Goals for 2021

- Serve community with space: AA, Alanon, WIC, Blood Drive, Scouts
- Worship: Continue 2 services with zoom and YouTube recordings
- Care for families and kids: Sapphire ELC, classes, safe place
- Studies: Wednesday Morning Bible Study, bereavement group, Fearless Conversation, Racial Justice Conversations, Financial Peace University
- Care for members and people in need
- Reroof the historic building
- Finish construction on new fellowship hall and SELC
- Uplift traditional and create new rituals of meaning
- Build mentoring program for all ages
- Cultivate spiritual depth through worship, spiritual practices, and prayer
- Weave contemplation and action together for social justice resulting in mentoring, scholarships, and other connections
- **Financial Goal for 2020: \$154,000. Financial Goal for 2021: \$160,000**



Honoring What We Hold Dear & Embracing the Abundance of Enough November 2020 Worship

A month of remembering and giving thanks calls us to worship. Let us light candles for the saints we hold dear. Let us hold onto the promise from God our shepherd. Let us invest our talents in the partnering work with God. Let us cut a slice of pie, over and over and over, with an act of thanksgiving for the abundance of enough. May the ways we engage in worship on Sunday and each day allow us be grateful and act knowing each choice matters.

Nov. 1: All Saints Day

& Relating to Each Other

This is the day to remember the saints- the multitudes near and far, close to heart, and from generations passed- in all the ways they influenced our lives, represented what was and intrigued us to see what is to come as their inspiration and gifts live through us. These relationships mattered and continue to impact us. The ways we structure and live into relationships are political acts. When we live only in the past with non-action, we are

creating ways that we relate to others. When we act in ways that ignore or dismiss something, including the past, we discount the wisdom of those relationships and might develop gaps in generative, healing ways of relating to each other now. Jesus reminds us that healing and transformation is the way of God, for not even death can separate us from Love. *Take time today to reflect on someone who has died and what you are thankful for in that person and relationship. Reflect on one action or inaction you've chosen and how it has structured your relationship with another.*

Scripture: Psalm 130, Romans 8:35-39, Matthew 12:1-14.

Prayer: We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you. Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals, weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses where your name was lifted and adored. We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise: Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil, Strong hands and those gnarled with age. Holy hands used as wave offerings across the land. We thank you, God, for hardworking saints; Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted, Head ragged or aproned, Blue-collared or three-piece-suited They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come. Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints, God. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.



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Nov. 8: I Shall Not Want

We come to this familiar passage from Ps. 23 to recognize another angle and depth of contentment in God. What does it mean not to want? What stands in our way? How does fear inhibit us? How can humility be the virtue we hold fast to? God's goodness, God's promises, God's faithfulness might feel far away or cliché, be a taste of God is enough. Love is enough, we shall not want for anything.

Scripture: Psalm 23, Matthew 6:25-34

Prayer: These are the lyrics of Audry Assad's song "I Shall Not Want." Check out the full song

and allow these words be a prayer of your heart.

From the love of my own comfort
From the fear of having nothing
From a life of worldly passions
Deliver me O God

From the need to be understood
And from a need to be accepted
From the fear of being lonely
Deliver me O God
Deliver me O God

And I shall not want, no, I shall not want
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want

Nov. 15: Legacy: Born From Trust, Lived in Partnership

Have you thought about your legacy lately? No, I'm not writing your obituary. In fact, legacy- often remembered upon a person's death- is cultivated and nurtured in life. This aspect that can be passed down must first be taken up with courage and trust and pursued with responsibility and care. Thankfully God nudges us continually into these opportunities to birth

and partner in legacy. What are the gifts and attributes entrusted to you?

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Prayer: May today be the day, you nudge me, O God. May today be the day I trust myself for you trust me. May today be the day I take responsibility for what is mine. May today be the day I nurture a legacy. May today be the day that I say thanks. Amen.

Nov. 22: Enough is a Feast

(Thank Offering Sunday)

Rather than being overly rich or utterly poor, the writer of Proverbs prays to have enough. He is aware of the temptation, even downfall, of life in either extreme. Apostle Paul reminds us that God gives us enough so that we can share. Where can you say with contentment- I have enough? What needs to be brought into the light of being enough? We might enjoy some pie at Thanksgiving; God's pie always has more slices.

Scripture: Proverbs 30:7-9 (NLT), 2 Corinthians 9:8 (The Message)

Prayer: Gracious God, the One that entrusts me each day with daily bread, gifts and talents, and the breath of life, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Give me courage to see all before me as a **feast** of enough and a opportunity to share. May I know you, my self, and my neighbor better through these eyes and heart of abundance. Amen.

*Stay tuned for December's Worship Calendar with the
4 weeks of Advent (Nov. 29-Dec. 20), Christmas Eve, & Dec. 27.*



The Church and the Future

Take a moment the next time you are in Town and just look at the Stevensville United Methodist Church Building.

This is the line that has started the last couple of offerings by me to you all and I am hoping that we are not taking it for granted.

I just finished watching a news story on KPAX about our church and the space that we have. I now feel not only proud to be a member but energized into the future endeavors we share.

So into the future we are venturing together. It is now time to recognize that we are all in the boat, and it has indeed left the shore. At our recent Administrative Board meeting, we realized that there are indeed many things happening and many changes on the way.

We are soon to pick a contractor for the new building and to set a timeline for tear down of the current and completion of a new facility for all to use. This space will be the future of the church. Without it we cannot survive. We must use what is in front of us, what has been given to use to step out into this community and declare that we are here, we are stepping out in faith and sharing and giving to everyone around us. Is it hard? Absolutely! Will we survive? Will the SELC be successful? These are all questions that we must put to ourselves and realize that it is all in God's hands. We are seeking and learning every day. We are looking for answers and feeling the stresses of all the changes going on around us. And I say to you all that this is exactly where God wants us to be.

Next on our agenda is the Unified Board. A new and ambitious way to look at ministry within the Church. This is something that we have considered carefully and will lead us into the future. It can enable us to be more efficient and deliberate about each person in ministry for the church.

All these changes are challenging, but the future is bright for this church with the red steeple. A future filled with love, filled with faith, and filled with the sounds of joy and laughter.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and prayers.

Paul Ludington, Administrative Board Chair



photo
Lisa Menery

Single Accountable Leadership Board- "The Unified Board"

We, as a church, are considering a simplified structure to lead the administration of the church. This Unified Board would include 9 to 11 people to serve in a way to fulfill all the necessary functions of the Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, and Administrative boards. The goal of the Unified Board will be to gather invested people to guide and govern the church with vision and energy. This consolidation of administrative tasks allows for fewer meetings and more efficient use of time and resources. It also allows others who are called to work in ministry in small, more informal groups such as worship, shepherding, or outreach for one-time events or ongoing missions. Meetings of this board, aside from confidential personnel matters, will be open to all members of the church to attend. Periodic updates will be given through Town Hall meetings, Glad Tider articles, and weekly emails. This will allow the congregation the opportunity to understand what is happening with the church and ask any questions that may come up. The decision to adopt the new board or not will be voted on by the congregation at the Charge Conference on 15 Nov. We encourage anyone who has questions or wants more information to contact Pastor Sarah, Paul Ludington, or Lisa Menery.

Lisa Menery, Nominations Committee



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Leadership Covenant 2021 Stevensville UMC Unified Board

1. Board members are encouraged to invest in conversations and decisions with vigor and passion. However, once we have come to a decision, each board member will openly and publicly support that decision whether or not the individual member personally agrees with the decision. We are a board with a unified voice.
2. Board members are expected to be present at all board meetings unless ill or out of town. If a member misses more than two meetings per calendar year, the board chair will converse with that person to see if their seat needs to be vacated and filled by someone who can be more active.
3. Board members will treat each other with respect and civility during Board meetings and all communications. If the Chair or any Board member believes that a member is violating this covenant, the Chair shall take immediate action to address the issue; the offending member may be asked to leave the meeting. If this behavior continues, that member may be asked to step down or removed from service on the Board.
4. Board members are role models for the congregation. Therefore, we pledge to model mature discipleship by actively supporting Stevensville UMC through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We will challenge ourselves to increase our devotion in every area (daily prayer, regular worship attendance, ministry and mission involvement, giving of our gifts and talents, and sharing our faith with others). We will also strive to remember and demonstrate the love and the joy of Christian living while always maintaining an awareness of the responsibilities of Board members.
5. Board members will review the meeting packet prior to meetings, coming fully prepared and ready to participate.
6. Board members will be on time for meetings, silence cell phones, and immerse themselves in the meeting without distractions in respect for others' time and commitment.
7. Board members will encourage and support our pastors, staff and each other.
8. Board members will hold themselves, the pastor and other board members accountable for their leadership roles and responsibilities. This includes allowing the congregation to hold the board members collectively and individually accountable.
9. Board members understand that conflict and disagreements are natural in any community including the church. As a board, we will approach matters of disagreement with transparency and maintain our mission focus. When approached by a person or group considering a matter of disagreement or conflict, we will follow the path laid out by Jesus in Matthew 18 by encouraging the concerned party to go directly to the individual, to volunteer to go with the concerned party as a witness, or to invite the concerned party to address the full Board or an assigned work team to address the issue. At no time will we support secret meetings that undermine the integrity or authority of the pastor or Board.



The **Annual Charge Conference** is an opportunity to remember the year of ministry at SUMC. We will honor people who have died, celebrate fruits of ministry, encourage the seeds of new growth, affirm & vote forth the servants in their leadership positions, approve the pastor's package, and commit to our financial budgets and contributions to the wider UMC.

Please plan to join in person on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 12pm at church or via zoom. Jan Witman, District Superintendent, will lead us through our time.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93957880020?pwd=NWN4U1hCNER4VEwyMFhubzFEODBSQT09>



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The Building & "Greater Things"

Greetings from your Building Team! What an incredible autumn here in the Bitterroot Valley. It seemed as though Mother Nature tried to best herself each day with weeks of beautiful colors and mild days. October was full of behind the scenes work from the Building Team. The honoring service and symbolic groundbreaking held on October 4th was well attended and covered by the Bitterroot Star.

In October, plans were completed and submitted to the city engineer for approval. Accordingly, the city building permits are ready to go. We have narrowed the field of contractors to two, and are expecting bids will be in by the end of October. Interviews will begin shortly thereafter, with contractor selection within a few weeks, probably by the time you read this! Following that, our reclamation/salvage process will be determined, depending upon the date for groundbreaking. If the contractors do not think we can be dry and enclosed with ongoing progress after the initial demolition, we will wait so as to have continual use of the fellowship hall. We are moving forward and hope to make up for some lost time. Let's hope for favorable winter weather. Stayed tuned for all these dates once we know them.



E-Learning & After School Programming is still happening on a consistent basis. We currently have 2 kids coming Tuesday-Thursday and an after school child each day. We are also building our capacity to be ready for any wave of increase due to school closure or scheduled days off. On-call volunteers when we have more kids are vital to being successful in this ministry. Please contact the church office if you feel called to volunteer or have any questions. All safety protocols are in

place for safe learning as well as volunteering. Sometimes a calming presence is the best gift we can give our kids as they try to learn and navigate this interesting time.

We anticipate the pre-school programming to begin in January 2021. The program will have spots for 8 students. We look forward to having the right number of kids and quality teachers to kick off a great year!

We thank you for your continued prayers and support for this incredible community ministry. May we continue to open doors to bless the generations, honoring the past, encouraging the present, and visioning for the future.

-Sara Malo

The **Nominations/Lay Leadership** team is working hard to build up the administrative teams (SPR, Finance, Trustees) and the ministry teams (Shepherding, Worship, Children's Ministry, Outreach, Mission, & Christian Education). If you would like to serve on these teams for the sake of *doing* ministry, please contact Pastor Sarah, Lisa Menery, Sara Malo, or Dave Rakiecki. We will affirm these servants on Nov. 15 at Charge Conference.



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Thank Offering

STEVENSVILLE UMC's ANNUAL THANK OFFERING is coming November 22nd.

Our church started this outreach program twenty years ago in 2000!!!

The first year we raised \$2,155.00!! The total figures I have from 2000 to 2008 is \$35,471.45.

Pretty exciting! This offering is an important part of our Church's outreach program. It helps folks in the World, Montana and Locally. Eleven projects have been chosen for your consideration. You may designate your gift for any or all of the eleven choices.

WORLD AND NATIONAL NEEDS

UMCOR-World Hunger and Poverty – United Methodist Committee on Relief helps provide immediate relief for refugees, disaster victims and the poor and hungry.

MONTANA AND LOCAL NEEDS

BLACKFEET PARISH – The Blackfeet Parish serves people who live on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation near Glacier Park. They are in need of financial donations for heating and electricity. In addition, they need baby and children's clothing

FLATHEAD UMC CAMP – really needs our help because of COVID 19. Summer Camps which are the main have been source of income have been cancelled.

S.A.F.E. (Supporters of Abuse-Free Environments) - Located in Hamilton to serve an emergency shelter to serve victims of family violence.

GENESIS HOUSE - A transitional house for women with mental illnesses. It prepares these women to live on their own in a community.

LOAVES and FISHES - Provides our pastor with a discretionary fund for the needy. It is used for emergency food, medial, housing assistance & other urgent needs in the Stevensville area.

CLOTHES CLOSET The Clothes Closet provides clothing and household goods free of charge .

PANTRY PARTNERS - The Pantry Partners Food Bank feeds the hungry in Northern Ravalli County. The Food Bank needs cash donations to help augment donations of food and other household supplies.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - This group builds houses, using volunteer labor and donated materials for families in need. families chosen to own one of these houses must provide a least 500 hours "sweat equity."



~Happy Birthday~

November 5– Julie McGarvy

November 5– Kathy Buhler

November 13– Cammie Edgar

November 21– Amanda Morgan

November 25` Julie Ludington



Thank Offering continued

SALISH COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS—SKC is very proud to offer our students a number of institutional and non-institutional scholarship opportunities. Scholarships can be based on financial need, merit or other criteria. Scholarships include American Indian College Fund, SKC Foundation and SKC Employees, among others. These scholarships are to honor and promote academic excellence among its present and potential students. Scholarship amounts vary depending on available funds.

Please see the Scholarship Coordinator, Amanda Serrano, at the SKC Foundation for any questions regarding both internal and external scholarship opportunities. Workshops to complete SKC internal applications will be hosted quarterly. Make sure you are subscribed to the SKC Student Bulletin to receive scholarship announcements and workshop dates. SKC is grateful to the many donors who provide scholarship assistance to the students at SKC! All students are encouraged to apply for scholarships! Please stop in and visit with us to inquire about new scholarship opportunities a frequent basis!

SELV Volunteers Needed

Please consider a couple of the following options:

1. Volunteer regularly for a couple of hours.
2. Volunteer for an hour here or there each week or throughout the month
3. Be on a list of volunteers who can be called on when numbers increase in order to keep adult to student ration down to 3:1.

Role/Responsibilities

1. Be present
2. Help guide
3. Help younger ones keep track of their schedule
4. Help navigate a computer (if needed)
5. Do other activities with kids (i.e. read, paint, play dough, play games, be with them outside, go for a walk)

We will have to run a background check on each person, but it's a simple permission form and paid for by SEL

Thank you for considering this hands on opportunity to care for kiddos in our community and live out the mission of SUMC. The more help the merrier. As we evolve into this ministry, the more people in the boat rowing will increase the success of the voyage and a chance to look at the

scenery.

SELV Updates:

***E-Learning & After School Programming is still happening on a consistent basis.** We currently have 2 kids coming Tuesday-Thursday and a after school child each day. We are also building our capacity to be ready for any wave of increase due to school closure or scheduled days off. On-call volunteers when we have more kids are vital to being successful in this ministry. Sometimes the calming presence is the best gift we can give our kids as they try to learn and navigate this interesting time.

***Pre-school programming scheduled to begin arly 2021.** We hope to have the right number of kids and quality teachers to start off a great year. The preschool program has spots for 8 students.

SELV and COVID logistics

1. Students will be wearing masks except for one who has asthma (if this is a deal breaker, let's talk)
2. Students will be checked for temp twice a day and wash their hands continually.
3. Sanitizing will happen after each day



Faces of Faith: Gretchen Spiess

Gretchen is a longtime Stevensville UMC member. She discovered the church many years ago on a cross country bike trip with her brother. They were hosted by Charlene Siphers, and Howard Longbottom fixed her brother's bike tire.

Gretchen was born in Amarillo Texas, but only lived there 6 weeks. The family then moved to Las Vegas, where her father was with the Atomic energy commission. Gretchen's mother, Margaret was a poet, and some of her books are in our library. Gretchen had 2 siblings, a younger brother and older sister. She met her longtime partner, Michael Rees, who owns Mountain Butterfly Hot Air Balloons, on a birthday balloon trip, a number of years ago.

Gretchen graduated from UNLV with a degree in costume design and a Master's from USC. She has worked in costume design for 50 years, in Las Vegas, Hollywood and in Stevensville.

Gretchen says her hobbies are her work, the River Mist Gallery in Stevensville, and working with Michael with the hot air balloons. Gretchen and her Dad started the Stevi Playhouse many years ago. A favorite Bible verse is from Ecclesiastics "To every time there is a season.." a favorite hymn is "It is Well with my Soul". She is a very talented lady!





UMW

UMW November update: "A Look Ahead"

It's November and that means it's Election Time! (Not just the one happening on November 3rd.). First, we need to start looking ahead at 2021. It's difficult to plan with the spike in COVID. We may not be able to meet in person again for months. However there are things we can do from home. One of those things is to take care of Election of Officers for 2021. The people in the positions of Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer are willing to continue for a 2nd year. I will be moving to Oregon in late May so I cannot commit to a full 2nd term.

Now I've heard a rumor going around that we are having a hard time finding anyone to run for President. That is not true. We have 58 members in our unit and we have only talked to 3 people about this position. However, if you are interested in being President or a co-president with another person, please let me know. I am more than willing to help the next President or Presidents until I move later in the year. We have a blank canvas as far as fundraising, missions, etc. so it can be an exciting year even if we don't see each other in person for several months.

On the District level, there is a vote on the 2021 slate of district officers during the Special District Meeting to be held virtually on Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. The link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to all members who register for the event.



On to the Holidays! With the current COVID situation, we will not have a UMW holiday party in December. However, I have an idea for a HOLIDAY Project that anyone, UMW members and Church members can do entirely from home. It's very simple...let's send Christmas cards to our fellow members, friends and shut-ins in the church. Think how much brighter the holidays could be to our members in assisted living and those at home who we've haven't seen in awhile if they could put 20-30 Christmas cards on their wall from their friends at church. You can order cards fairly cheap on Amazon. Look for Christmas Cards on Sale. You can also buy stamps from Amazon

or by going to www.usps.com and they will be sent to your house. You could even make your own Christmas cards. I challenge each of you to send out 5 cards, (more if you want), to people in the church including at least one of our members in assisted living. It's a great way to say "I'm thinking of you!" this holiday season! If you need a directory, request one from Beth in the office.

Julie Weindel, *President*

Ways to Contact Us

Office phone: 406-777-5443

Office email: steviumc@gmail.com

Pastor Sarah's email: revsarahmerchant@gmail.com

Church website: steviumc.org

Add office hours



The Glad Tider

Stevensville United Methodist Church
216 College
Stevensville MT 59870
ELECTRONIC 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.

Non Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit # 26
Stevensville, MT

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