



THE GLAD TIDER

Stevensville United Methodist Church

July 2021

When I traveled to El Salvador for a mission trip, I met Pastor Chema who preached and led worship every Sunday. And then he served as the school counselor, youth director, village plumber, chief mediator, youth band groupie, advocate for his rural town in the governmental arenas, and father to many young people whose dads had gone missing, died or emigrated to make money to send home. Pastor Chema's example has stuck with me as I moved through seminary, internships, ordination processes and various roles in ministry. Those steps added value to my overall ability to serve in the role of "set apart minister," but how would they be an asset to me as a minister to all the world, as the United Methodist Church acknowledges us ALL to be? In other words, what are the ways that I would best live as a follower of Jesus and do all the "official" things help, hinder, or something in between?



I've recently wrestled with this question as I developed some goals for the coming year in ministry. I decided I wanted to be a volunteer for at least one organization outside the church. "The Holy Spirit can arrive with just the right answer at just the right time (kairos ~ God's timing). The opportunity with the Free Meal Program showed up." Others have sponsored this state-funded program in the past, but this year no one wanted to coordinate.

Can I do this and/or coordinate? How and under what authority and with who and why?

Looking to Pastor Chema and even Jesus, I simply need to work in the authority and guidance of God. Neither a title nor a blessing, neither an official appointment nor an obligation allows one to love and be in ministry. Being available allows God to use me, to make me able, to flow through me to make the kin-dom work happen.

I humbly offer this confession because I think we humans, in general, get stuck in wondering, "What is God's will? When do I observe? When do I step in?" Thoughts can flood our minds, such as, "*Others will do it. I don't have the skills. I am unsure, even scared of what will be expected. I might not have the time.*"

To these thoughts, I simply lean on Jesus' declaration to the disciples. "You will do even greater things than me." HOW!? By showing up and humbly offering ourselves so that God can take who we are, how we are into the places and with the people who need healing, peace, and grace. Is this greater? Maybe greater than we expected of ourselves, which gives God the delight and glory, not to mention a humble servant that's available.

Showing up for God,

Pastor Sarah

PS- If you want to volunteer to pack food one Monday this summer to assist families experiencing food scarcity, contact Peggy McCarthy (UMW President) or me.



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



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Thanks to all who attended our outdoor concert on June 11! Our next concert will be "A Grand Night for Singing" on July 9 at 7pm. Come enjoy a variety of vocal music from opera to Broadway and in between with some familiar and new songs. Our guest singers are current and former students from the University of Montana and the Missoula area. Admission is free, but we will be collecting a goodwill offering for the new playground at the church. Thank you for your continued support of the arts in the Bitterroot Valley.

Mac Merchant

We hope you will join us on the front lawn.! However, if this is not possible you may join us virtually on our YouTube Channel & Facebook.

- o YouTube: Search for "Stevensville United Methodist Church." Look for the video that says "Live" in the bottom right corner.
- o Facebook: Search for "@SteviUmc." Scroll till you see the concert.



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July 2021 Worship “In Christ, The One Who Prays for Us”

The Gospel of John captures a dear prayer of Jesus as he says good-bye to his friends and disciples. As he prays, he lifts up himself, the faces just before him, and all the followers to come over the generations. This prayer expresses a love found in the way God, Jesus, and disciples relate and honor one another. During the month of July, we will explore the deep message of being “in Christ” and what it means to live that out on a daily basis.

July 4: “Your Vision” with Beverly Schneider

Looking forward for strength, wisdom, and courage and speaking the need instead of about what we already have propels people into a joyous relationship with God and others.

Scripture: Psalm 48

Prayer: Lord, I ask you today for a new Vision for my life. I ask for the strength and wisdom To be a better person, to all those I come in contact with. I ask for courage to step out of my comfort zone and hold the vision of a better world. Let my Vision join that of others to create a more joyful world. Amen

July 11: “In Christ” with Dean Diers

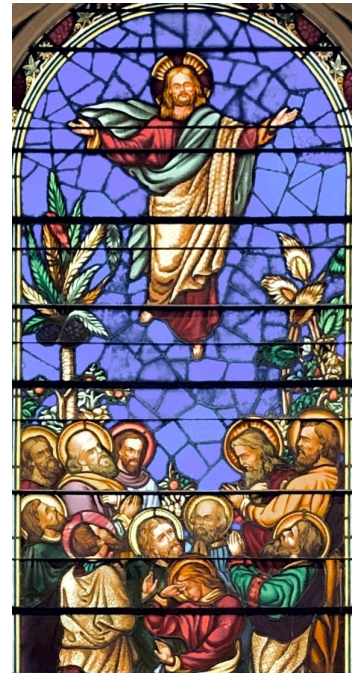
What does it mean to be “in Christ?” Does it guide behavior? Does it put us in a relationship or new identity? Does it infuse people with power or humility or fruits of the spirit? These examples are the parts of being “in Christ” along with so many other expressions for to be in Christ is to be one with God. The essence, the character, and the heart of God.

Scripture: John 17: 20-22, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer: “Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Oh God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise, and ever enjoy your consolations through Christ our Lord.”

July 18: Jesus Prays for Himself

Unlike the other three Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the Gospel of John doesn’t include the question, “How should we pray?” followed by the Lord’s Prayer as we recite each Sunday at church. The “Lord’s Prayer” actually comes forth at a shared meal when Jesus prays for us (any followers) that we might have a relationship that Jesus and God have together. This prayer encompasses the hope that just as Jesus knows God, everyone will know God, the definition of eternal life. What difference does it make to overhear Jesus praying for you? How will you hear Jesus’ words in another way?



Scripture: John 17:1-5

Prayer: May my prayer today, O God, not be one of duty or habit, but an intentional desire to know you better and be known by you. For all the ways I’m limited in this, from fear or pride, uncertainty or feeling unworthy, calm me and re-center me to know the truth. Thank you for trusting me to be in relationship with you NOW and help me understand the full richness of that gift. Amen.



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July 25: Jesus Prays for All Disciples

Jesus continues his deep prayer on the last night of his life for the disciples just before his feet. And in so doing, he extends the prayers to all who will come after them. By holding all of these disciples in His heart, he seeks to prepare them to live and embody HIM, Christ, beyond his death. While the disciples don't understand exactly what he's saying or why, they can appreciate that this prayer signifies a shift. They will no longer follow His Word (Jesus) in flesh; they will share His Word (Christ & message) in word, deed, and prayer.

Scripture: John 17:6-26

Prayer: God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. Amen.



**All Church Meeting with Rev. Jan Whitman,
District Superintendent**

Tuesday, July 27 at 6pm in the sanctuary.

Come for a conversation about emerging from the pandemic, hopes for the fall in ministry, questions about conference news, and any other curiosities. All who come will get a special tour of the new building before the ribbon cutting in August.



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Dear Church Family,

As Mark and I are packing up in anticipation of our move to Santa Fe, New Mexico on July 8, I have such mixed emotions ... sadness at leaving my home of 22 years and the friends and family we have in the town in which I grew up ... and excitement and anticipation for this new chapter in our lives. I will very much miss my church family at Stevensville United Methodist Church. Thank you for your friendship and love over these many years.



The Church office will have my new address on file. This address will be effective from July 1 until we are able to move into our new apartment which is being built and will hopefully be ready for occupancy in January of 2022. At that time, I will notify the church office of the permanent address. My cell phone number remains the same, at least for now.

I look forward to hearing about the progress of the new venture with The Sapphire Early Learning Center and of all the continued good things SUMC does in the community of Stevensville. Sincerely, Marcia Prather

Remember this?

Marcia Prather's Apple Bread

Ingredients:

1 Cup brown sugar
1 Egg
1/3 Cup oil
1/3 Cup (heaping) unsweetened apple sauce
1 tsp cinnamon

1.5 tsp vanilla
1 Cup buttermilk
2.5 Cups flour
1/4 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
2 Cups peeled and chopped apple, approx. 1/2" pieces

Topping Ingredients:

1/4 Cup softened butter
1/2 Cup brown sugar

1/3 Cup flour
1/4-1/3 Cup rolled oats

Dash or two of Cinnamon

Directions:

1. Mix brown sugar, egg, oil, apple sauce, cinnamon and vanilla until blended.
2. Stir in buttermilk.
3. Combine flour, salt and baking soda and slowly pour into wet ingredients.
4. Fold in apples to mixture gently until combined.
5. Pour into greased loaf pan(s).
6. Combine crumb topping ingredients, cut together and sprinkle on top. The recipe makes so feel free to use as much or as little as you like.
7. Bake at 350°F until set in the middle and golden brown. A large loaf pan takes about 1 hour, and muffins approx. 12-15 minutes.

* This recipe makes one very full large pan, or two smaller loaves pans instead. I like to do one large loaf pan and 5-6 muffins, so I can make sure my loaf gets properly baked in the middle.





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Building and Grounds Update

Due to the high level of construction going on and the high construction costs we have been unable to find contractors to do the reroofing or exterior painting and trim rehabilitation. We will continue the search to find contractors to do this work, but it is doubtful we will be able to get the work done this fall.

Artisan Steel Surgeon has begun constructing the new fire escape. That will be installed sometime in July.

As many of you know, we had to disconnect the sprinkler system when we started construction of the learning center. Thankfully, the rainy spring and early summer has kept the lawn in better shape than it would be otherwise. Ben Longbottom is working with Ace Irrigation to get the sprinkler system reconfigured to fit the new building footprint. We will keep you updated as to when the sprinklers will be back on.



Submitted by John Fisher





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Mark Your Calendars

Join us for a Summer Concert Series in Stevensville of LIVE professional performances.

July 9: A Grand Night for Singing (Outdoors), and **August 13:** The Joys of Chamber Music with a special performance from UM Music School students and alumni (Indoors). Open to everyone, bring your family and friends, and for the outdoor venues, a lawn chair and your snacks. Music begins at 7:00 PM at The United Methodist Church, 216 College Street, Stevensville. The events are free. Any goodwill donations will support the Sapphire Early Learning Center opening in the fall.

Montana District Laity Learnings

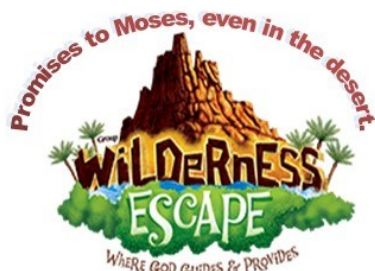
Join the Congregational Resource Ministers (CRMs) the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm for a focused conversation. Each month will focus on an administrative or discipleship learning, which contributes to the work of creating beloved community and developing church vitality.

Zoom ID:97852748299. Password: 239086. If you need help connecting with zoom, please contact Eric Strader, estrader@mtnskyumc.org
July 6th- Growing in Racial Hospitality: Post Covid welcoming people into community

Look forward to our next Town Hall on August 15th!

August 15th, 12PM: Town Hall~in person and on Zoom Meeting -ID:89880390275

RIBBON CUTTING AND TOUR OF THE NEW BUILDING!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL~ Free

**July 26-29,
9 AM to 11:30 AM**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

406-777-5443
steviumc@gmail.com

SNACKS FOR STUDENTS

Will be provided each day

BBQ LUNCH ON THURSDAY

Families Welcome

ACTIVITIES

Singing	Crafts: Tie-Dye
Games	Fun

July 27th ~ Jan Whitman to share with us and a tour of the new building! All at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Please see page 4 for details.

**Disciplines Sunday Study and the Wednesday Bible Study
Will Return in the Fall.**

UMW JULY 2021

Stevensville United Methodist Women sponsor fundraisers to raise money for a multitude of charities that work with women, children, social justice and climate issues.

Rummage Sale will **not** be held this year due to construction but donations to UMW would be appreciated so we can continue to support charities. If you would have spent money at the Rummage Sale, please send your donation to Stevensville UMC with a note that the money is for UMW so we can continue in these support efforts. Thank you in advance.

UMW PICNIC

July 17th Noon to 2 pm

**DeSmet Park (just north of the Mission Museum in Stevensville) Bring your sack lunch,
And a lawn chair.**

Peggy McCarthy, UMW 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

Office hours: Tues. through Fri. 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.



Ways to Connect:

In Person Worship: 9:00 AM Outside (weather permitting) & 10:30 AM Inside.

Live Streaming Worship at 10:30 on YouTube Channel & Facebook.

- o YouTube: Search for "Stevensville United Methodist Church." Look for the video that says "Live" in the bottom right corner.
- o Facebook: Search for "@SteviUmc." Scroll till you see the service.

FREE Summer Concert Series

Join us for a Summer Concert Series in Stevensville of
LIVE professional performances: July 9, and August
13 at 7:00 PM. To Benefit

The Sapphire Early Learning Center.

A Goodwill Donation would be much appreciated.

Free Vacation Bible School

Stevensville United Methodist Church

July 26th through 29th

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

~ 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.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Stevensville United Methodist Church
216 College
Stevensville MT 59870

The Glad Tider

Non Profit Org.
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Stevensville, MT

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