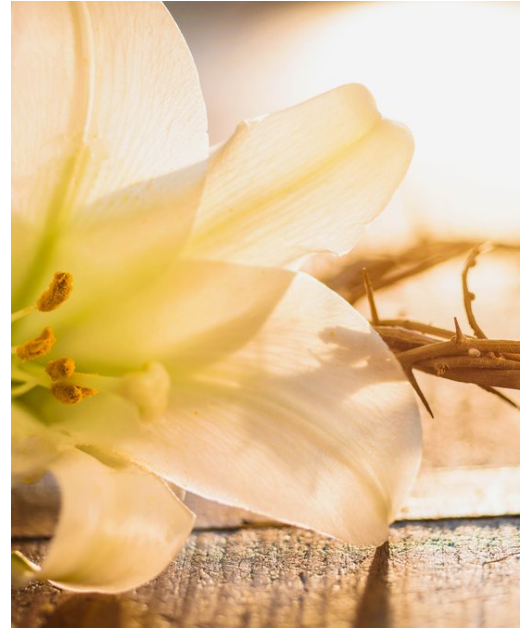




# *The Glad Tider*



## *Holy Week Worship Services*

**Palm Sunday, April 2 at 10:30. Bring a coat, scarf or garment** that you can lay down on the road for Jesus to cross the threshold into Jerusalem and the final leg of the journey.

**Good Friday, April 7 at 7pm. The last steps of Jesus end on the cross** where we too are gathered. While his life ends this day, we wait in silence, grief, confusion, and wonder. How will we stand, kneel, and walk from the foot of the cross? What will be broken open in us?

**Easter Sunday, April 9: HERE to bring the light of the Resurrection! Alleluia!**

Easter Pilgrimage: Meet @ Lee Metcalf Refuge: 8:15am

Easter Breakfast hosted by United Methodist Men: 9:00-10:00

Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the church: 9:45

Easter Service with music, flowers, and CELEBRATION: 10:30

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## APRIL 2: THE OTHER WAY ~ PALM SUNDAY

*As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" — Luke 19: 28-40*

This moment on this road for Jesus feels both like the end and the beginning. Such are so many moments of our lives. A pilgrimage may reach its destination but the hope, the wisdom, the lessons learned along the way have offered a new starting point for us. What have we learned and what transformation — what "other way" — are we called to in the name of right relationship in our lives?



## APRIL 9: THE EARTH MOVED! HOW DO WE? ~ EASTER SUNDAY

*Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.<sup>2</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. <sup>7</sup> And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you." ~ Matthew 28:1-7*

The resurrection story of Jesus evokes great exclamations from those who love him following his overwhelming suffering and death during his ministry and last week. For those of us with vibrant imaginations, we might picture the way Matthew tells of this miracle with a grand angel startling the whole earth and rolling away the stone. For those of us who utilize senses more, the story might be experienced by way of how the scene shifts, the faces of people take on joy and fear, and even the earth trembles under our feet. The magnificence and miracle of this event 2000 years ago may be difficult to grasp completely so what would it mean for Jesus Christ to BE RISEN today, in our midst and lives? How would we respond today? Good news need not be just a thing of the past!



# 2023 Easter Season Worship Series

## Resurrection Unbounded: Reclaiming the Thrown Away

*"Their eyes were opened and they recognized the resurrected Jesus!" ~Luke 24:31*



Annie Leonard said, "There is no such thing as 'away.' So, when we throw anything away, it must go somewhere." This statement that might capture your imagination around trash or recycling has a deep theological message: even that which is discarded, ignored, broken, killed and buried, or simply dead from natural process can have a life beyond. Resurrection, restoration, reclamation, regeneration, recycle, reconstitute, reframing, and reordering the ideas, things, systems, institutions and even people of life is the Easter message.

New Life is possible and claiming that potential rather than giving up on the "unwanted" provides a change to claim the best of what was for what is so needed now and hopeful for the future. This worship series we will explore the various ways we can take the pieces of our life and faith expressions that may no longer serve in their current form and discover the possible "new life" emerging within the topics and within us. There may be ideas or pieces that seem just fine to some but unhealthy to others. This unearthing invites us to get dirt under our fingernails and play in the muck while also seeking the beauty of what can become out of the nutrients at hand and restoration assured in Christ, the resurrected Love.

### **April 23: Blow off the Dust & Light the Candles: Rituals & Texts**

For people who have been in the liturgical church (ie expression of worship with obvious and repeated formalities and scripture dating back generations), rituals and texts can seem like the water we swim in and possibly a comfort of habit. For people who have never experienced such expressions, rituals and texts can be like a secret language for the "inside group." What rituals (sacraments, movements, marked moments of meaning) bring you life and inspiration, turning and connecting you with God? What texts speak to you in the voice of Love, truth, and grace? When Jesus meets the men walking to Emmaus, he used recognizable rituals and texts to help people see the depth and gift of reality. How do we engage with the same values in church and daily life today?



SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:13-35

### **April 30: Say What?! Doctrines and the Stories Behind Them**

The United Methodist Church is not a doctrinal denomination, meaning that one who worships with and lives in ministry through this faith expression is not obligated to believe a particular set of ideas or else. Instead, this faith expression sets forth the creeds-statements and affirmations of faith in order to guide and inspire abundant life for transformation through following Jesus Christ. Still, doctrines can have a way of permeating a culture, even behind a religious setting into the wider world, highlighting some values while diminishing others. This actually affects policy, relationships, and how we see the world. So the questions are what doctrines need examining and how do we release the gospel message of "abundant life," while letting the rest to fall away gracefully?



SCRIPTURE: JOHN 10:1-10

United Methodist Men  
& UMW are hosting a  
church-wide yard sale  
again this year  
Saturday, June 17  
(the weekend before  
the 50-mile sale)



So, when you're cleaning & purging,  
keep us in mind!

The men will pick up large,  
cumbersome items.

Else, bring us your (CLEAN) stuff  
to the Fellowship Hall  
starting Sunday, June 11.

Thank you for sharing!

Please: No clothes, books, or large appliances

Join Us for 5th Sunday  
Fun Day

April 30th

10:30am Worship

11am Basket Making

Stevensville United Methodist  
Church

We will be making May baskets to take  
home or share.



## THE UNIFIED BOARD

The United Board met in January at Molly Hackett's home for a half-day retreat where we got to know each other a bit better. We outlined a few immediate goals and chose chairpersons for Trustees, ( Fred Douthit), SPRC ( Linda Valentine), and Finance liaison and assistant to Lenny Johnson who is our Treasurer ( Howard Young). United Board chairperson is Lynda Fisher. Other members are Ben Longbottom, joey Diers, Molly Hackett, Tania Jensen, Pam Martin, and Gina Farnham.

Our February meeting included approval for a virtual assistant on a 90-day trial basis to replace Beth. Her name is Hannah, and Pastor Sarah communicates with her weekly about work load. There is still a need for some in-person tasks, such as folding and mailing the Glad Tider. Carol Douthit has volunteered to work in the church office 1 day/ week to fill in the gaps not met by the virtual assistant. Pastor Sarah announced she is taking a renewal leave August 1- October 15. This includes 10 Sundays. Pastor Sarah has arranged for some clergy coverage with Pastors from the area. The pastoral care and Sunday worship not covered by Pastors will be led by volunteers from the congregation. Ben has created a team to guide worship planning, which includes Dean Diers and Sara Malo.

### March Meeting Highlights

- Fred has outlined repair and maintenance priorities for this year. Spring clean up will be scheduled around weather and yard waste pick up date as it is announced by the city of Stevensville. Short-term goals are to remodel the parsonage bathroom. Replace the parsonage front steps/ decking on the east side, and repair/ replace the parsonage driveway. We currently have funds up to \$7500 for these type of projects, so we will be looking for volunteers who are capable of completing these specialty skilled projects. The projected timeline is August, as the Merchant family will be gone much of that month. There are longer-range projects that I will write about when I have more information.
- We are looking for quilts to hang in the fellowship hall. We are hoping they will absorb some of the noise, and improve acoustics. If you have a quilt you would like to see hung for a period of time, call Fred. It will be a rotating exhibit, so you'll get it back!
- We started the year in the positive, financially. Giving has been steadily the same over the past 5 years, but we need to build up the contingency fund.
- We decided to staff the nursery with an adult (in addition to Hana who is 15) on a trial basis for 2 months. We will then decide further steps on staffing based on numbers of children. If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, please contact Linda Valentine.
- Thanks to Nilda Bishop and Mary Hackett for volunteering to help restore the prayerchain. With technical assistance from Carol Goffe, and board liaison Molly Hackett, there is a dedicated email: prayerchain216@gmail.com . Carol Douthit will check any calls made to the church office and communicate them to either Nilda or Mary.
- There will be an intergenerational get together (much like the gingerbread houses we did in December) every 5th Sunday, with the next one happening April 30. Gina and Tania have May baskets planned! Sounds like a fun activity for all ages. Invite the kids you think will enjoy this.
- Tania and Lisa Nichols, who are looking for other partners in children's ministry are looking into the possibility of consistent Christian Education programs. More information as it becomes available.
- VBS was mentioned, but not discussed. Currently there is no one who has volunteered to organize VBS. It has been well attended with children from SELC, and the community coming. If you are interested in organizing volunteers to support this community outreach program please contact Pastor Sarah.

If you have questions or would like more information about anything in this article, or have something you would like us as a board to clarify, please contact any of the members listed here.

~ Lynda Fisher, Unified Board Chairperson

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RESTORE



Our UMW met on March 18 to learn how our failure to reduce, reuse, and recycle is gravely affecting the health of our rivers and oceans, our fish, birds, wildlife, the quality of our air and our earth, all God's gifts to us. (Gen. 1:28-31). We decided to encourage our congregation to use the recycling we already provide more often:

**PLASTICS:** PETE 1 (clear) and HPDE 2 (translucent) plastics can be put in the 4 large bins in the room on the right of the parsonage garage, 215 College - no need to knock. Remember to rinse well, no caps, no colored plastics, no plastic bags. Thanks Bill Gragg - If you can VOLUNTEER, call Bill at 406-531-4588.

**ALUMINUM and TIN CANS:** Place bags in open hatchback of Lisa Nicholl's white Subaru Forester on the last Sunday of the month. Rinsed, no greasy cans, labels removed if you wish - not required. The profit from the cans goes to benefit AniMeals. Thanks Lisa.

**PAPER:** Mac or Pastor Sarah presently recycle office paper. Thanks to Ellen Jones and Molly Hackett who did the job previously. A VOLUNTEER is needed as we open paper recycling to the congregation. Call Hazel Smith at 406-239-0878 to discuss what's needed. When clothes baskets appear under the SELC entry hall table, we will take: office paper, envelopes, catalogs, junk mail, product boxes if not coated with plastic or wax, phone books, and magazines. Clean, no grease.

### A FEW HUGEY HELPFUL THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- Don't buy plastic water bottles! Use aluminum or molded reusable cups.
- Don't ask for plastic bags at the stores! Take your own cotton or coated bags. If you forget, get paper.
- Rewash and reuse baggies, bags, plastic colored jugs,...
- Be a person who helps save our resources, our oceans, our landfills, and God's beautiful planet.

Hazel Smith, UMW Mission and Social Action



Sunday Funday is an intergenerational event on the 5th Sunday of the month. This Sunday the event is for 1/2 an hour. It is spent with the children together and with families in mind. Please join us on April 30th as we make May baskets: small wrapped candy can be left in the church office.

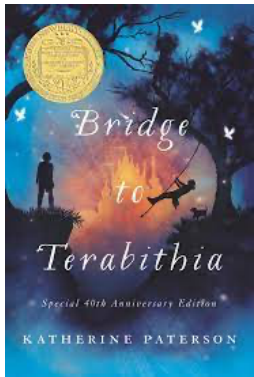


## Meet Our New Admin: Hannah Norris



Meet the face behind the emails: our new Virtual Assistant Hannah Norris. Hannah works through a company called Virtual Ministry Assistants. She recently moved to Hendersonville, TN (just outside of Nashville), where she lives with her fiancée, her three middle school boys, and their two rescue pups, Mickey and Nala. She is a youth minister by calling, has Masters in Mission and Discipleship from Dubuque Theology Seminary, and works as the Communications and Family Care Coordinator at Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Hannah began her work at Stevensville UMC in March; she answers and sends weekly emails, makes posts on social media, helps schedule building use, puts together the Glad Tider, and much more. If you need her help, please reach out at : [steviumc@gmail.com](mailto:steviumc@gmail.com) OR [hannahnorris.vma@gmail.com](mailto:hannahnorris.vma@gmail.com).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club- “Bridge to Terabithia” by Katherine Paterson.  
We will meet April 2nd at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Cinema Dinner Night on April 22 at 5:30.

You're invited to watch *Lady Bird* found on Netflix. Food is brown bag lunch. Evening of conversation and food hosted by Dusty and Ava at a place TBD.



UMM- Every 2nd Saturday from 8am to 10am in the Fellowship Hall. See you on May 14th.

UMW of Faith– every other 3rd Saturday, 10-12 am. Fellowship and mission. Our next meeting is May 20th.

Contact Sue Pearson, Secretary.

## Ways to Contact Us

Office phone: 406-777-5443  
Office email: [steviumc@gmail.com](mailto:steviumc@gmail.com)  
Pastor Sarah's email: [revsarahmerchant@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahmerchant@gmail.com)  
Church website: [steviumc.org](http://steviumc.org)  
Office hours: Tuesday through Friday 9am to 12pm  
Sapphire Early Learning Center 406-625-2660  
[Sapphireearlylearningcenter.com](http://Sapphireearlylearningcenter.com)  
[director@sapphireearlylearningcenter.com](mailto:director@sapphireearlylearningcenter.com)

**Nursery & Sunday School**  
**For kids during worship**  
**service, 10:30-11:30am**

**Worship Opportunities: In Person Worship: 10:30 AM . Live Streaming Worship at 10:30 on YouTube Channel & Facebook**



~ 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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Permit # 26  
Stevensville, MT