



Stevensville United Methodist Church

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MINISTRY

5506 Ridge Rd, Stevensville, MI 49127

Telephone: 269-429-5911 Office Hours 9am-noon, Mon-Fri

E-Mail: office@stevensvillumc.org

Website: www.stevensvilleumc.org

Worship Schedule: 8:30 & 11:00

Pastor: Rev. David Hills

dfhills@gmail.com

Secretary: Sandy Krieg - 429-5911

stevensvillechurch@gmail.com

Children's Center: 429-1069

Director, Amy Durren

sumcc@stevensvilleumc.org

Youth Director: Jesse Robbins

saves6363@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Kellie Meyer,

Nancy Farrington

music@stevensvilleumc.org

Organist: Dean Boward

ddboward@gmail.com

Education Director/Membership Care

Ashlei Horn

membercare@stevensvilleumc.org

Financial Administrator: Sara Lawrick

finance@stevensvilleumc.org

Counseling - Centered on Wellness

Dr. Mick Pries - 926-6199

Cupid Is As Cupid Does

It's February! Love is in the air! Cards are on the shelves! A semi-trailer of hearty candy runs down the center aisle of Meijer and Walmart, etc.. It seems there is never a day of the year when retailers aren't selling the next holiday, before the last one is even over. Now I'm not knocking holidays. They obviously don't bring the same excitement as when I was a child. But there is the joy of seeing your children and grandchildren delight in those occasions. One would have to be a Scrooge, or perhaps more appropriate to Valentine's Day a little devil, to want to gripe about candy hearts, Valentines cards, chocolates, etc.

Just a wee bit of history around St. Valentine's Day: It may be seen as a primarily secular holiday to many, but it is rooted in the Christian tradition. In the Western Christian Church it is celebrated on February 14. In the Eastern Orthodox Church it is celebrated on July 6th, or July 30th, and perhaps both! There are a number of martyrdom stories related to Saint Valentine of Rome, but obviously the most known and celebrated is that of Saint Valentine.

A popular account reports that St. Valentine was imprisoned for performing weddings for Roman soldiers who were actually forbidden to marry. In addition, he was found guilty of ministering to Christians who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. According to one legend, while imprisoned St. Valentine healed his jailers daughter, Asterius, and before he was executed, he wrote her a letter and signed it "Your Valentine."

We can thank Geoffrey Chaucer for associating romantic love with the Feast of St. Valentine. The association came in the 14th century, when the tradition of "courtly love" was quite popular. From there it evolved into a day for lovers to express their affection with confections, and/or flowers, cards, etc. In parts of Europe, St. Valentine's Keys have been given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart."

Jesus had a lot to say about love. It was more about sacrificial love than romantic love, but I believe both can be present and intertwined at times. Every marriage or romantic relationship that flourishes has some level of mutual sacrifice involved. What Jesus had to say is not unfamiliar to most of us: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, strength, AND your neighbor as yourself. "Love one another as I have loved you."

This year Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday happen to coincide, falling on the same date. It may seem odd but there is a spiritual link. Lent is a journey of remembering all that Jesus came to do for us and all humanity. What Jesus did for us was obviously born of His love for us. His "Passion" as we refer to it at times was the ultimate act of self-giving love. If that's not love, I don't know what is. Love is as love does. Christ's love was freely given to us. It is a Valentine written for everyone. Perhaps among other things, the St. Valentine's Key is the key to the heart of God, who wants us in turn to open our hearts as well. Love is as love does. So just do it, with Jesus, with one another, even with the neighbors. Spread the love!

-Pastor David

MESSAGE FROM THE GENEROSITY COMMITTEE

In order to improve awareness of the state of our finances, we have decided to begin producing a quarterly narrative report in which we intend to highlight important issues and trends. This is our first such report and will cover the first half of our fiscal year through 12/31/17. SUMC financial statements include several different funds. By far the largest is the General fund. Most of the offering received each week is directed into the General Fund. For the six months ended 12/31/17, a total of \$167,781.00 was received by and \$164,428.00 was spent by the General Fund, resulting in a year to date surplus of \$3,353.00. This is good. Our only concern with General fund spending is that just three Categories: (1) Staff Expense (2) Trustee/Property Expense and (3) Ministry Shares account for 93% of the total, leaving only 7% or \$10,473.00 for everything else. So when good ideas emerge for improving our Ministry in areas such as: Education, Youth, Music, Membership Care, and Outreach, we are often forced to say that no money is available. Perhaps with your help this situation will improve during the next six months.

The next largest fund is the SUMC Children's Center. For the six months ended 12/31/17, this fund recorded \$118,027.00 of revenue and incurred \$123,679.00 of expense, resulting in a year to date deficit of \$5652.00. This is a negative change from prior results. During the year ended 6/30/17 the Children's Center generated a surplus of well over \$40,000.00 allowing them to invest approximately \$35,000.00 in badly needed new playground equipment. The previous playground structure no longer met State-mandated guidelines. The SUMCC Board, led by Kellie Meyer, has recently changed its billing procedure and has openings in their toddler and preschool rooms. With our low tuition rates and our Christian-based curriculum, we would expect to be dealing with a waiting list, not with a shortage of students. You can help your church immensely by referring any friends or relatives with young children to the SUMC Children's Center. Another important fund is Missions, which is essentially a pass-through fund. For the six months ended 12/31/17 it received \$19,455.00, the main sources being: (a) monthly mission giving (b) donations to UMCOR and (c) the Christmas offering. There are several other much smaller funds, but neither time nor space allow discussion of them all.

One final comment. Detailed statements are produced each month by our Financial Secretary, Sara Lawrick. Members of the congregation are always welcome to request a copy from Sara.

Thank you and have a Blessed 2018!
Your Generosity Committee

GENEROSITY UPDATE

Stevensville United Methodist Church is a generous and loving church made up of very generous and loving people, all sharing their Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, & Witness so that together we might:
"BE AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD'S LOVE"

For the July 1—June 30 Fiscal Year, our ministries need support of \$29,477 per month in gifts from our Members, Friends, and Other sources. As of Jan 1:

Year to Date Budgeted Needs: \$176,112 Gifts & Other Income: \$ 167,781

So that everyone is aware how we are doing in supporting our shared ministries, regular updates will appear in the Weekly Bulletins and Monthly Newsletters. Detailed reports are posted on the Finance Bulletin Board.

Thank You For All You Do To Help Us Live Out Our Shared Mission!



BoxTops4Education



School's back in session, and that means it's time to help our children get ahead in any way possible — one way to help is clipping Box Tops, which is an easy way to benefit our kids' education. This all started in California in 1996 as a program General Mills created to help support education and benefit America's schools. Box tops at that time were only available on select Big G cereals, such as Cheerios™, Total™ and Lucky Charms™. The program was such a huge success that it soon included other General Mills products and expanded across the nation. Today, America's school have earned over \$800 million, and you can find Box Tops on hundred of products throughout the grocery store and online.

Our Stevensville United Methodist Women continue to collect Box Tops to give to our area public schools. Our last collection was given to Eau Claire Public Schools. Our next collection will be given to Bridgman Public Schools. You can place these box tops in the cabinet near the UMW Bulletin Board marked "Box Tops for Education".

CHILDRENS CENTER NEWS

It's hard to believe, the months are flying by so quickly. It's February already and time for hearts, flowers, and a spring thaw?

The preschool and daycare children will be having Valentine's Day parties with cards, candy, and games. The children love exchanging cards with each other.

February is Dental Health month so our themes begin with healthy habits, then comes dinosaurs, Valentine's Day and sharing the love, and we finish the month with zoo animals. Watch the walls in Faith Hall to see the various projects worked on during the month in all the classrooms.

If you know of anyone in need of daycare please let them know we have 6 openings in the Jungle room for 2 1/2 and 3 year olds. Also there are 6 openings before the zoo room is full, that is the room for 4 and young 5 year olds. Lets fill them up and hear the joyful noise of children playing and learning.

February is a month especially designated to share your love. Thank you for sharing with us!

Amy Durren
Children's Center Director



WORLD THANK OFFERING—AN ADDED ATTRACTION

Anyone can participate to help the world. Each month an item from your home will be counted for a price. Add this donation to the red container on the table in the hallway under the UMW bulletin board.

THANK YOU for your support and participation!

- FEBRUARY: 10 CENTS FOR EACH WINTER COAT
- MARCH: \$1.00 FOR EACH FAMILY VEHICLE
- APRIL: 10 CENTS FOR EACH PAIR OF SHOES
- MAY: 10 CENTS FOR EACH PURSE
- JUNE: 25 CENTS FOR PETS
- JULY: 25 CENTS FOR SWIMSUITES/SWIMTRUNKS
- AUGUST: 10 CENTS FOR DOORS (NOT CUPBOARD DOORS)
- SEPTEMBER: 25 CENTS FOR EACH BIBLE
- OCTOBER: 25 CENTS FOR EACH PAIR OF LEGS
- NOVEMBER: 10 CENTS FOR EACH LIGHT SWITCH



THANK YOU!

Dear SUMC Family,

We do not know how to begin to share our gratitude to you all for the love and support. The baby shower and all the generous gifts we received overwhelmed us. Our gratitude is not only for the baby shower but also for all the support we have been shown for our growing family. Jen and I are so excited for our son to grow up in such a loving church surrounded by family.

Jen and I are getting excited, as the due date draws near, to meet our new son Bert. I can honestly say we are better prepared for this new journey because of all the support, gifts and love we have received. With Bert's due date fast approaching, we find ourselves with peace of mind knowing we have the SUMC family behind us. We look forward to you all meeting him and helping him to know Jesus. Thank you all for EVERYTHING! We truly know how much we are loved.

In Christ, Jesse & Jen Robbins



Easter Egg Hunt

If you would like to donate candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt please bring it to Ashlei or the church office. We had a great turn out last year with many children participating.



Memorial Day Parade Float

We are starting a float building committee to advertise VBS in the Memorial Day Parade. If you are interested in joining see Ashlei or sign up on the Education Bulletin Board. Those who participated last year had a lot of fun!



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. **YOUTH@STEVENSVILLE UMC**

- ◆ At a Glance: Sundays, 9:15-10:45 Sunday School
- ◆ Sunday's 6pm - 7:30pm, MS Youth Group
- ◆ Wednesday's 6:00pm - 8:00pm HS Youth Group

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

2/7: Youth Group

2/14: TBD

2/18: Snow Tubing

2/21: Youth Group

2/28: Youth Group

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

2/4: Youth Group

2/9: Dance

2/11: Youth Group

2/18: Snow Tubing

2/25: Youth Group

Snow Tubing 2/18

Join us as we go snow tubing at Five Pines on February 18! We will meet at the church at 12:15 for pizza before leaving for Five Pines.

12:15 - 4:00pm

\$8 - Snow Tubing-spending cash optional





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Feb 1

Louise Boelcke

Feb 4

Judy Miller

Feb 5

James Maier
Rebecca Roth

Feb 7

Gordie Barry
Garrett DeHaven
Gavin Dehaven
Maggie Hildebrand
Owen Wade

Feb 9

Kathleen Hinkle
Sandy Krieg
Tom Russell

Feb 10

Joshua Margherone

Feb 11

Marion Maier

Feb 12

Debbie Hart
Jane Miller

Feb 13

Aiden Sokol

Feb 14

Richard Stauffer

Feb 15

Darl Williams

Feb 16

Jan Bickers
Char Marko
Olivia Massey

Feb 17

Barbara Keeler

Feb 18

Tom Medler

Feb 19

John Mangold

Feb 21

Scott Sleder

Feb 22

Michael Logan
Paul Schuette

Feb 23

Donna Godush

Feb 24

Katherine Andert
Josh Zars

Feb 25

Cleo Ruppel



On February 12, Sisters In Faith will hold a book discussion "Refuges" by Alan Gratz. It is a novel for young adults. It will be held in the Gathering area at 7:00pm. The following review is about the book:

Every once in awhile a book comes along and you just know that this is one everyone should read. The author has created a compelling look at refugees throughout history and done it in a way that young readers will find compelling. As an adult reader, I was thoroughly blown away by the similarities between the three stories the author features (Nazi German, Cuba in the 1990's and Syria in 2015). Given the current political climate, this book resonated with me in a totally unexpected way. Each young person's story is delivered in a way that is guaranteed to keep readers on the edge of their seats as each child faces death not only for themselves but also their family members. Their experiences are disturbing and the author's storytelling so vivid that it really shows the horror of war and the power of political oppression through the eyes of a child. The author deftly weaves the stories together, periodically switching between the three in a way that seems totally natural.....The violence is real and peril is vivid. By J. Prather in Vine Voice. *The Lincoln Township Library does not have a copy at this time, however, from their catalog you can order a Copy sent to them for you from any of the 63 libraries in Michigan which do own it. Use Melcat, the Michigan Electronic Library. Entre is available on LTPL's catalog.*

MISSIONS FOR FEBRUARY

The Stevensville United Methodist Church Missions Team identifies the mission projects and programs our congregation supports. Your generous giving helps people locally and all over the world! The missions listed below have been chosen by your Mission Team as beneficiaries of your mission giving for the month of February. Collections for these missions will occur during the Sunday worship, or you are welcome to send in a donation to the church. Missions monies are divided equally among these missions unless you clearly note it is for a specific mission on your giving envelope or check.

THE EMPHASIS MISSIONS FOR FEBRUARY ARE:

FEBRUARY 4...SCOUTS SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 11...RACIAL ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 18... SUMC EMERGENCY FUND

FEBRUARY 25...HOMETOWN STEVENSVILLE

Thank you from your mission team: Pastor David, Lona Vogie, Shirley Cole, Kathy Sankey, Rhonda Rennhack and Virginia Bedunah. There's room for YOU too!!

Thank You for supporting the Missions Ministry of SUMC.

United Methodist Women in Mission

UMW Committee of the Month

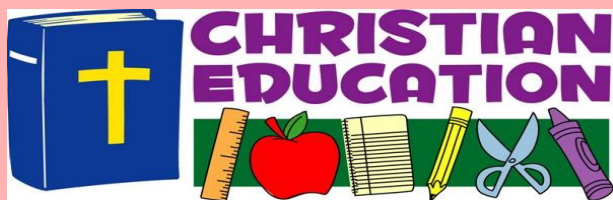
United Methodist Women would like to thank Mary Sundblad, Laura Bross, Lona Vogie and Nanette Black for serving on the January committee of the month. Your help is appreciated.

At Stevensville United Methodist Church many events are supported by the United Methodist Women (UMW). Each month a group of women volunteer for "Committee of the Month" where they help with funeral luncheons and various meals held at church. This is a vital service to our church family and is greatly appreciated. If you would like to be included on the "Committee of the Month" calendar, please contact Myra Thompson @ 428-0201 or email her @ tntdetailing@gmail.com

UMW FEBRUARY EVENTS

Knitting circle every Thursday @ 2:00 in the lounge

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Feb 6: 11:30am | Lydia's Circle Lunch @ Martins
Stevensville |
| Feb 6: 6:30pm | UMW Board Meeting/Pot Luck/Faith
Hall |
| Feb 12: 7:00pm | Sisters In Faith - Book Review |



Healthy Churches, Faithful Pastors; by David Keck

This class will be lead by Staff Parish and will be held during Sunday School time. This book is about helping your church do it's best. Congregations want to support their pastors, but don't know how. Pastors love their congregations, but they don't know what to ask of their congregations to garner needed support. Everyone wants to thrive together, but so often we get stuck.

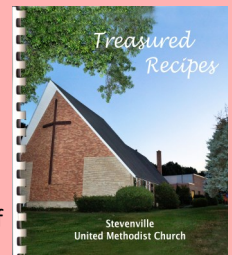
Check the Education board for other future classes to be held.

WE NEED YOUR RECIPES!

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of our church, the United Methodist Women (UMW) is launching a Cookbook Blog. Please drop off your favorite recipe (and your mother's) in the bin marked "Recipe Drop-Off" at the UMW Service Projects table in the

hallway. A story or a picture along with your recipe would be great!

Do you have a favorite Bible verse of the day or devotion? Drop that in there too! This cookbook is about you, our members of Stevensville United Methodist Church.



A Quick Reminder From Your Membership Care Team

If you or someone you know is ill, in the hospital or nursing home, please call Ashlei Horn or Pastor David at the church office.

If you would like wish a visit, please let us know.

We can also bring communion to you.

Please remember to pray for those in service for our country:

We would like to have updated contact information for those that are serving so we can send them encouraging messages. If you have any information please let Ashlei Horn know. Thank you. education@stevensvilleumc.org or 269-364-8545

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



Sign up to provide flowers for the altar

The 2018 Chancel Flower sign up sheet is available on the opportunities table for you. The flowers come from H&J Florist and cost \$37.10 and H&J will bill you directly.

Thank You!

Many Thanks to all of you who contributed to our Christmas Families. This year we helped brighten Christmas for 6 families! Our congregation was so very generous providing a bounty of gifts of clothing, toys, household products, food and money donations. Thank you for truly being An Instrument of God's Love.

In Christ,

Pat Seifert, Barb Pries , Barb Clark



NEW WORSHIP SERIES FOR LENT

Feb 14- March 25

ROLL DOWN, JUSTICE

Our Lenten series is inspired by the prophet Amos, who proclaimed that God calls us to let "justice roll down like waters."

During worship in Lent, we will:

experience powerful music designed for this series,

remember our baptism as followers of Christ, and be challenged to:

give up prejudices we might carry,

give of ourselves for the sake of the world,

join together in the work of addressing justice issues in our own community.

Join us, starting Ash Wednesday (Feb.14),

As we let our hearts and voices

tune in to the heart of the Gospel

proclaiming God's love for all people!



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Don Alsbro
 Dean Amelung
 Jo Baugher
 Barb Bailey
 Hannah Baugher-Penrod
 Timmy Dibble
 Donna Dorgelo
 Jackie Hammond
 Jack Hardy
 Margie Hardy
 Dianna Hartman
 Char Hocking
 Janet Kilgore
 Larry Klett
 Mike Melcher
 Grace Park

David Rhodes
 Cleo Ruppel
 Barb Sanford
 Gene Stemm
 Pat Tungett
 Judy VanDerAue
 Tamara Williams

SHUT-INS:

Patricia Day
 Shirley Ehman
 Jessie Leiser
 Walt Phillips
 Norma Ray
 Linda Sommers
 Dan & Sally Streick
 Helen Wiessner

MISSIONARIES IN THE FIELD:

Caleb Dormah—in Liberia
 Delbert & Sandy Groves—in Zambia

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ◆ Prayers of comfort and peace for Nancy Farrington & family for Nancy's Aunt, Mary Calandro who passed away.
- ◆ Prayers for Nancy Farrington's friend Linda who has stage 4 metastatic breast cancer and had surgery for a tumor on her brain.
- ◆ Prayers for Tom Parrish's sister who fell and had surgery on her shoulder.
- ◆ Prayers for Char Marko's niece Michelle who is in the hospital with complications from kidney stone surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for the Pries's friend Linda Chapman who is battling ovarian cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for Leanne Nitz's mom Jean Vollrath who was mauled by a dog and recovering from surgery at Lakeland Hospital.
- ◆ Prayers of guidance and wisdom for David and Amaris Sundblad.
- ◆ Prayers for Carol Svorec who is still having shoulder pain and can't drive.
- ◆ Prayers for Alaina Rigler who is recovering from knee surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for Jack Hardy who has had another stroke and is recovering from carotid artery surgery.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort and peace for the family of Bobby Janca who passed away.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort for the family of Eau Claire Public Schools Superintendent David Gray who passed away unexpectedly.
- ◆ Michael Rush asks for prayers of healing for Dave Knuth who is at Lakeland recovering from a stroke.
- ◆ Joyce Hudyak asks for prayers for Barb Coffel who was severely injured in an ambulance accident.
- ◆ Prayers for Kathy Culbertson's friend Sandi who is having open heart surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for Marilyn Stocking's sister Dorothy who had quadruple bypass surgery in Arkansas.
- ◆ Prayers for Margie Hardy who is having hip replacement surgery.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort for the family of Dona Julian who passed away on January 20.
- ◆ Prayers for Dennis Salmen who is undergoing chemo for mesothelioma in Charlotte NC.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for Johnny Prait who is recovering from a stroke in Pinehurst NC.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort for Mary Wood whose sister Kay Huff of Knoxville TN passed away from a brain tumor.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort & peace for the family of Brian Elftmann who was killed by a car. He was the boyfriend of the Farrington's niece.

SERVING IN WORSHIP FEBRUARY 2018 SCHEDULE

	<u>FEB 4</u>	<u>FEB 11</u>	<u>FEB 18</u>	<u>FEB 25</u>
<u>SERVICE</u>				
<u>LECTORS</u>				
8:30	Scouts	Al Ottusch		
11:00	Scouts	BASIC		
<u>ACOLYTES</u>				
8:30	Scouts	Lauren Vegter	Owen & Shawn Wade	Owen Wade/Carson Rigler
11:00	Scouts	Logan Boyle	Michael Crawford	Jacob Krieg
<u>USHERS</u>				
8:30	Scouts	Denny & Sherry Kniola	Tom & Bonnie Parrish	Gordon & Nancy Wilson
11:00	Scouts	Mike & Mindi Logan	Rosenthal Family	Dubbert Family
<u>GREETERS</u>				
8:30	Scouts	Ed & Mary Ellen T.	Gordon & Nancy Wilson	Carolyn Yoder
11:00	Scouts	Eva Morgan	Dale Morse	Mick & Barb Pries
<u>NURSERY</u>				
Nursery Care is being covered by Michele Hoge and Ashlei Horn				
<u>HOSPITALITY</u>				
	Gene & Shirley Harris	()	()	()
<u>COMMUNION</u>				
8:30	No Communion	Al & Lucinda Ottusch/Lova Vogie	Sharon A./Carolyn Y./Kathy S.	Rachel W./Allyson R./Sandy H.
11:00	No Communion		Mick Pries	Kathy Harris
<u>SOUND</u>				
8:30	Bruce Nitz	Charlie Vegter	Bob Hendley	Aaron Rennhack
11:00	Doug Weingart	Bruce Nitz	Lona Vogie	Charlie Vegter
<u>VISUALS</u>				
8:30	Barb Pries	Melissa Vegter	Dick Lukey	Lou & Bob Hendley
11:00	Nancy Mead	Becca Rosenthal	Maddie Hoge	Chelsea rosenthal
<u>PRAYER PARTNER</u>				
	Sandy Hayes	Rachel Wade	Lona Vogie	Sandy Hayes
<u>CHANCEL FLOWERS</u>				
	Jack & Kathy Culbertson In Honor of Kathy's Brother Jim	Krieg Family In Honor of Scott Burnett Graduating MSU	NEED TO FILL	Tom, Judy & Kyle VanDerAue In Honor of Jessie Leiser's 93rd Birthday

Stevensville United Methodist Church
5506 Ridge Road
Stevensville, MI 49127

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Submit website information at any time.
Newsletter articles containing information for
the following month should be submitted by
Noon on the 2nd Friday of each month.
Leave all articles on the secretary's desk.
If you would like to receive this newsletter
via e-mail, please contact the church office at
stevensvillechurch@gmail.com

If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter,
please contact the church office via e-mail or call
(269) 429-5911. Thank You!

ATTENDANCE ON December 3, 2017	
Worship Total.....	174
8:00 Service.....	67
10:00 Service.....	107
ATTENDANCE ON December 10, 2017	
Worship Total.....	156
8:30 Service.....	63
11:00 Service.....	93
ATTENDANCE ON December 17, 2017	
Worship Total.....	281
8:30 Service.....	112
11:00 Service.....	169
ATTENDANCE ON December 24, 2017	
10:00a Service.....	80
6:00p Service.....	174
9:00p Service.....	116
ATTENDANCE ON December 31, 2017	
10:00a Service.....	31