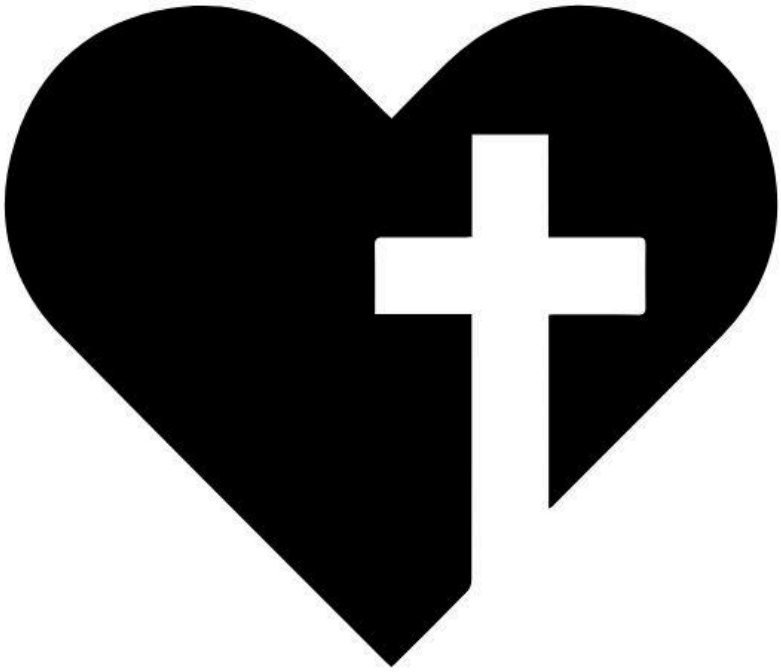
Presbyts
Sterry Memorial Church



Love like Jesus

February 2025

Be a Member at Sterry Church

Pastor Nathan E. Lewis

Sterry Memorial Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a beautiful congregation, full of imperfect people like myself, united to Jesus by God's grace. The fellowship is sweet, the number of people serving is impressive, the worship is rich and our outreach into the community and world is growing! Hear me out, as your Pastor, on the topic of membership in our congregation.

What Church Membership is Not

Being a formal member of the church does not prove that you are united to Jesus, a true worshipper of the Triune God. As you may have discovered, some church members at large may not have a clue what it means to follow Jesus, what the church ought to be and what it is to be a citizen in the Kingdom of God. But then, many church members are beautiful, humble and grace-filled people united to God forever.

Being a formal member of the church does not bind your conscience. In the rich heritage of Presbyterianism, including our founding documents, The Westminster Standards, no church may bind the conscience of any of her members. No institution, including the organized church can wield such a control over you as you follow the Holy Spirit in pursuing the Father's love and the Son's mission.

Being a formal member is not a statistical joy ride for number crunchers and congregations trying to climb a ladder of prominence. At Sterry we have nothing to prove or any plumb to capture or feather in our cap to parade.

What is Church Membership

Being a formal member of the church is an opportunity for you to encourage your fellow followers of Jesus. When you become a formal member you publicly profess your faith in Jesus in the presence of fellow Christians to their encouragement.

Being a formal member of the church is an opportunity for you to tell others publicly what is most important to you. You are united to Jesus. You are active in his church. You are willing to join hands with fellow Christians in following Jesus.

Being a formal member allows you the opportunity to proclaim that your union to Jesus Christ is more important than any other affiliation you may have and enjoy.

Being a formal member allows you to fully participate in the work of the church organizationally, to vote on vital matters, like the calling of officers and pastors, to assure the peace and purity of the church.

Being a formal member of the church allows you to proclaim that Jesus is the only Head of the Church and that you are willing to work with others to accomplish the mission of Jesus. It is a clear statement that only together do we represent Jesus Christ. No one of us as an individual represents Christ Jesus, but together we are the Body of Christ. Being a formal member of the church helps you to rest in Christ, the only Head of the Church, rather than relying on yourself as the sole operator of your faith and practice.

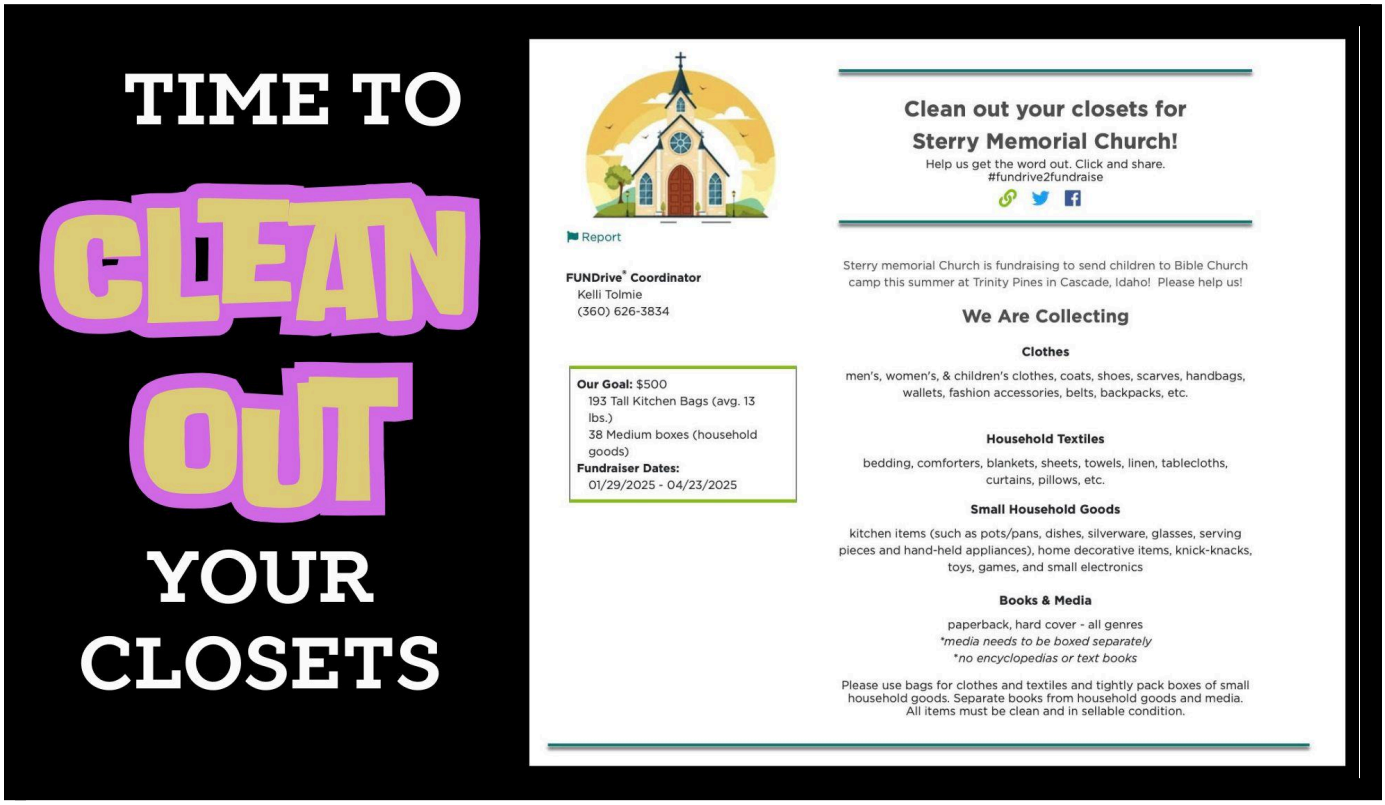
Upcoming Events & Announcements!!

Teen Group February Schedule

Questions- contact the Church office or Holly Kaiser

You don't have to be a great painter, the process is fun and simple! Proceeds go to the Sterry Women's Ministry! Still room to join us!

Save the Date for the Sterry Fun Run!
Registration is now open for the Sterry 5K Fun Run!
April 12, 2025 at 10am
All proceeds will go directly to support Sterry and community adolescents with scholarship opportunities to participate in a summer church camp.



RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE

Contact the church office if you would like to purchase raffle tickets you can purchase them from the youth after Sunday service or reach out to the church office!
Drawing will be held on March 1st, the day of our Annual Auction!

Pursing the Beauty of God

Pastor Nathan's Study Leave 2025

Recently Pastor Nathan and his wife, Glenda, spent 18 days on Study Leave in Chiapas State, Mexico. Nathan's study focus is the pursuit of divine beauty and how it is displayed in the artwork of the church. An evangelical Christian enters a Roman Catholic sanctuary and says, "Way too much artwork!" A Roman Catholic sits in an evangelical worship service and says, "The sermon is too long!"

Believe it or not, these sentiments are results of a long history in the church. In the Medieval Period, the church incorporated the Three Transcendentals in pursuit of knowing and worshipping God. The Three Transcendentals = Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. These three were developed in the Golden Age of Greece, outside the church, by the philosophers, Plato and Aristotle. As the historic Reformation developed for three centuries, the English Puritans put the kibosh on artwork in the church, considering it to be idolatry or at best a distraction. The result has been a death of beauty in the Protestant, Reformed, Evangelical churches.

The evangelical church has done a great job pursuing Truth and Goodness. The Roman Catholic Church has done a fine job pursuing Goodness and Beauty. Recently, the churches of the historical Reformation have been rediscovering the Three Transcendentals, attempting to balance Truth, Goodness and Beauty as equal and necessary pursuits in knowing and worshipping God. Consequently, rising generations are increasingly interested in the pursuit of Beauty.

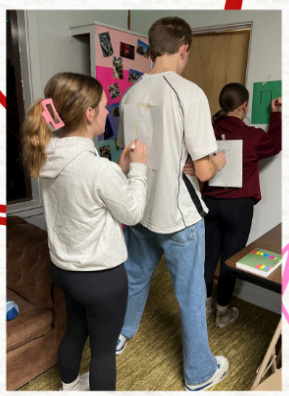
If you are at all interested in Pastor Nathan's studies on this topic, then you may go to his Substack online to begin reading his posts. His observations include photos and videos he snapped on his iPhone while in Chiapas. To access these posts, you will have to subscribe to Nathan's Substack, which he has offered free of charge, unlike many Substack authors.

These are the instructions to free subscription of Nathan's Substack:

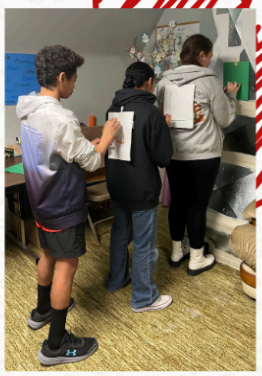
1. Go to substack.com
2. In the Search Box, type in Nathan E. Lewis
3. Subscribe for free
4. Read the posts

Meditate on Psalm 27:4…

One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.



Proverbs 12:18
reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing



Monthly recap

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group took a deep dive into the book of Proverbs!

Proverbs 10:12
Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrong