

# 133rd Church Anniversary

Stevens Chapel UMC celebrates 133<sup>rd</sup> Church Anniversary service on **Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 3pm.** Guest speaker is Pastor Allen Noah of Gonzalez, Texas.

The doors of the church are open and regular services are on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 11am. All are welcome!

## History

African Americans entered Texas from the 1820s through the Civil War era as slaves. Here they developed a faith born out of the union of African traditions and Christian evangelism.

Historically, churches played a huge role in the African American culture of Texas serving as anchors for the neighborhoods around them.

Stephen's Chapel Methodist church was established in the latter 1800s in the NW part of Schulenburg. The cemetery in 1892 and church in 1893.



## Issue 1

A monthly dinner will be provided by Stevens Chapel UMC for the community. The volunteers look forward to providing the meals on a monthly basis.

## Issue 2

A time for bold preaching and compassionate leadership. A Preaching event in honor of Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery.

## Issue 3

Community vision - are we our neighbors keepers? The Bible and small town view of community!

# NEWSLETTER

January 2026



## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

## January Blessing

May the new year bring you good health, may you have the love and support of those you love.

May you be blessed financially. May you put all your hopes and dreams in God's hands.

May any burdens be lifted from your shoulders. May you have love in your heart, and peace in your soul.

This January begins a “new” chapter for Stevens Chapel UMC members and volunteers. Once a month, a meal will be served to up to 30 youth and their family in the community. This opportunity, Monthly Dinner Ministry, has been made possible by New Faces/New Places through Rio Texas Conference.

Interested in volunteering? If so, send a email to:  
stevenschapelumc@gmail.com

### Past Event Photos

Family & Friends Service,  
Christmas luncheon, and  
Visitors



### Join Us for Bridging Visions!

Bridging Visions: Prophetic Voices,  
Pastoral Hearts

Three days of powerful preaching,  
transformative workshops, and heartfelt  
fellowship.

Join pastors, preachers, and leaders from  
across the connection for a time of  
renewal, learning, and Spirit-led action.  
Together, we will listen deeply, dream  
boldly, and bridge visions with pastoral  
hearts and prophetic voices.

January 15-17, 2026  
North Georgia UMC Conference Center,  
Duluth, GA

Register:  
<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=852381&>

### Community

What the Bible Says About Community & Helping  
One's Neighbor

#### 1. Love in Action, Not Just Words

"Love your neighbor as yourself." — Mark 12:31  
Biblical love is practical. It shows up in meals shared, burdens lifted,  
prayers offered, and needs met.

#### 2. Shared Responsibility

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of  
Christ." — Galatians 6:2  
Scripture teaches that faith is lived out in community.

#### 3. Unity Strengthens the Whole

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in  
unity." — Psalm 133:1  
Community brings strength, encouragement, and peace. The early  
church modeled this beautifully by sharing resources so that no  
one was in need (Acts 2:44-47).

#### 4. Service Honors God

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me." —  
Matthew 25:40  
Helping a neighbor is not just kindness—it is worship. Serving  
others is serving Christ Himself.

Where Faith and Small-Town Values Meet  
Both teach that:

- Community thrives on mutual care
- Everyone matters
- Helping isn't optional—it's a responsibility
- Love is best shown through presence and action

#### A Simple Summary

The Bible teaches us why to help our neighbor.

Small towns, such as Schulenburg, TX show us how to do it.

Together, they remind us that strong communities are built  
one act of love at a time.