



# The Spire

Volume 49 Number 18 September 23, 2020

## GATHER WITH US FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Would you like some really great news? I'm excited to share with you that we will be offering the opportunity to worship in person, starting Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Last night our Leadership Board voted unanimously to affirm plans for a worship service at 9:00 am that will feature communion every week and will be an opportunity for those who are able to gather and worship God together in person.

October 4<sup>th</sup> happens to be World Communion Sunday. How appropriate that we will gather together with our friends and family from First St. Charles on the Sunday that Christians around the world celebrate the unity that we experience in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Social distancing rules will apply and we'll ask that everyone show love for their neighbor by wearing a mask. Anyone can come. We won't ask for advance reservations. We will simply ask everyone to sign in at the door. We do have some limits on the number of people who can sit socially distanced in the sanctuary, so we will offer overflow worship options in the

Multi-purpose room. Our plan will be to add additional worship services as need develops.

This all means that, going forward, we will be offering 3 worship options:

- In-Person worship at 9:00am.
- On-line worship with communion, live-streamed at 9:00am on YouTube and Facebook. Viewers can watch and share communion at home.
- On-line on-demand worship throughout the week. This is what we are doing now with online worship. Each Sunday, on-demand worship will premier at 8:00am. It offers the flexibility for persons to worship throughout the week and wherever in the world they may be.

I couldn't be more thrilled. As we say, we want everyone to feel *"safe, welcome, and wanted"* at First St. Charles UMC. As you can feel safe, I'll hope to see you and would encourage you to invite your family and friends.

See you soon!

Blessings Always,

Pastor Bart



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801 First Capitol Drive | St. Charles, MO 63301  
636-947-0066 | [www.firststcharlesumc.org](http://www.firststcharlesumc.org)

## Staying Connected

*Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family and friends of those who have recently passed away:*

Nancy Nagel passed away on September 15, 2020. While not officially a member, Nancy attended church regularly with her friend, **Penny Dobbs**.

**Larry Spencer** passed away on September 17, 2020.

**Mardi (Ted) House's** mother and **Benjamin, Catherine** (Bryan) **Haynes**, and **Daniel House's** grandmother passed away on September 18, 2020.

## New Babies

**Rowan Thomas Hess**, born September 9, son of **Lee and Angie Hess** and brother to **Norah Hess**.

Chase Christian Thomas Hoffman, born on September 17, son of Adam and **Katie Hoffman** and grandson to **Dee Dee and the late Dennis Kassel**.

Apollo Johnston Frederick, born on September 22, son of David and Amanda Frederick and grandson to **Carl and Judy Frederick**.

## Staff

Rev. Bart Hildreth, Ph.D.  
Rev. Debby Bartley  
Rev. Kate Hanch  
Rev. Keith Janis  
Margaret Love  
Jack McCormick  
Carolie Owens  
Eric Heien  
Lindsey Willard  
Karla Curry  
Erica Coyne  
Patti Adams  
Kerri Johnson  
Jim Nichols  
Stacey Davis  
Pat Williams  
Jenny LeGoff

*The Spire* is published on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Articles for the October 14, 2020, *Spire* are due in the church office by October 7, 2020.

You may email them to [contact@firststcharlesumc.org](mailto:contact@firststcharlesumc.org) with the word *Spire* as the subject.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP ONLINE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS



- ◆ Every Sunday morning, the First St. Charles' online worship service premieres at 8:00 a.m. on YouTube. The link to the service is available on the church's website, [firststcharlesumc.org](http://firststcharlesumc.org) by clicking ONLINE WORSHIP. The video worship service may be attended any time after 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ On Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. on First St. Charles UMC's Facebook page is a Facebook Live Worship Event. The pastors and worship leaders will be moderating the chat box. Be sure to comment so they can say "hi" to you.

***Please be assured that the leadership of First St. Charles United Methodist Church continues to strive to offer the very best online worship service every Sunday.***

## UMCOR

### Responds to wild fires & hurricanes.

UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, has been responding to the critical needs of people impacted by wild fires in the west and hurricanes in the south. The most urgent need, at this time, is for funds to purchase

Water	generators
fuel for transportation	food
personal protective equipment for volunteers.	

If you would like to help, you may

- ✚ Pray for the people impacted by these crises
- ✚ Donate online at [UMCOR.org](http://UMCOR.org)
- ✚ Mail a check to Global Ministries/UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068
- ✚ Mail a check to First St. Charles UMC with the word UMCOR on the memo line.



**UMCOR**

Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

# ONLINE STUDIES

## The History & Theology of the Sacraments

Join Pastor Bart for a two-week study on The Sacraments. You'll learn more about the history and theology of baptism and communion in the United Methodist Church. This online study will meet on Wednesdays, **September 23 and 30**, from 6:30-8:00pm.

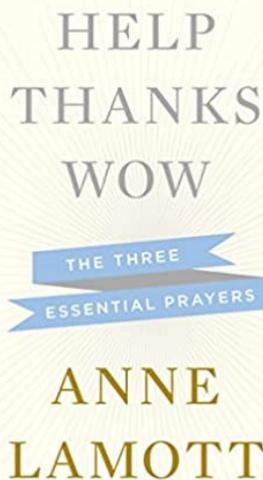
Registration is required. To register, please go to the church website, [firststcharlesum.org](http://firststcharlesum.org), and scroll down on the Home page to the image for this class. Click on the image to get to the class description and the Register button. When you click on the Register button, you will find the registration fields and, scrolling down, you will see the class readings that can be downloaded.

More information regarding how to participate in the online study will be emailed prior to September 23.



## New Small Group Study

### *Help, Thanks, Wow* by Anne Lamott



Pastor Debby is hosting a short, fun, humorous, simple three-week small group study based on Anne Lamott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. Ms. Lamott is a New York Times bestselling author. In this small book, she succinctly blends her engaging wit and wisdom with her brutal honesty. It is easy to see ourselves in the pages of her book.

The small group will meet online through Zoom from 6:30-7:30 pm on three Tuesday evenings, **September 29, October 6, and October 13**. The book is available through Amazon. Simply enter *Help, Thanks, Wow* in the Amazon search box. Copies are also available in the church office.

If you are new to Zoom or just plain unsure about joining a Zoom-based small group, please contact Pastor Debby. She will be happy to help you become comfortable with Zoom and able to participate in the group.

Please register online for the *Help, Thanks, Wow* small group on the church website, [firststcharlesum.org](http://firststcharlesum.org). Scroll down on the Home page to the image for this class and click on it.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Debby at [dbartley@firststcharlesumc.org](mailto:dbartley@firststcharlesumc.org).



## Semper Gumby

I had to change the time of a socially distanced walk with a friend and ministry colleague. “Semper Gumby!” she responded. This means “always flexible,” taken from the Latin word to mean “always” and that weird Claymation character Gumby, which I can barely recall, but know he was made out of clay and could stretch.

“Semper Gumby” feels appropriate to describe what ministry looks like to youth and families now. I’m asking myself: “what do students and families need in this season?” Those needs are changing, so I’m changing as I respond. I’ve noticed my ministry colleagues doing the same—we’ve done quite a bit of resource sharing! While this season allows space to be creative and try new things, it also means that some ideas will flourish more than others. We may try something, then realize it’s not working out or have to adjust midway. I’m learning that’s okay. As Pastor Bart says, it’s okay to fail, but it’s not okay to give up.

Here’s what I’m sensing our students and families want or need this season:

**Grace.** Schedules are in flux and changing—for school, for extra curriculars, for everything. It’s easy to forget things. I can barely remember what I had for dinner yesterday! My mantra in this season, both for myself and others: “grace abounds.” God is present.

**Connection.** For our in-person gatherings, I focus on fellowship and community building, whether there’s a few of us or a lot of us. I want our students and families to know that our church values them and loves them.

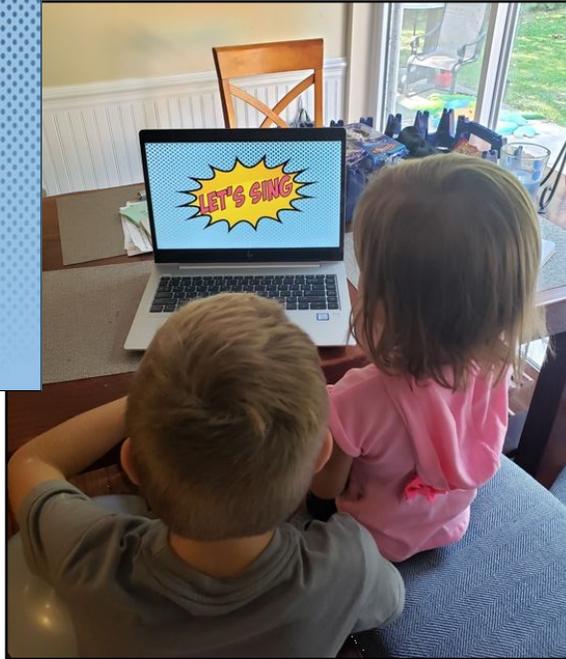
**Options.** Some people are open to in-person socially distanced events but cannot do virtual gatherings. Some can do virtual gatherings, but not in-person. And some people’s schedules have changed to the degree that they need faith formation materials to help them stay connected to their faith and their church on their own time. I’m still learning how to address these various needs and want to meet our families where they are.

**Inspiration.** Many of us long for inspiration in the drudgery and anxiety of the pandemic. We look for how the Spirit moves in the world. I hope we as a church can be a place where people can witness God working in our lives.

Parents, what would you add? And how can we as a church support you? Please let me know—I’d love to listen. You may contact me at [khanch@firststcharlesumc.org](mailto:khanch@firststcharlesumc.org)

And can I ask a favor, please? Could you pray for our families with children and students of all ages? Could you pray that we as a church community can be a place of refuge, peace, and joy for them?

Grace and peace, and Semper Gumby!  
Pastor Kate



Kelly and Fiona watch BLAM to hear a Bible Story and praise God through music. BLAM is available on-demand and provides parents of children with an alternative to Zoom Sunday school.

Questions about BLAM? Please contact Meg Love, Children's Minister, at [mlove@firststcharlesums.org](mailto:mlove@firststcharlesums.org)



## Sunday School Is Back!

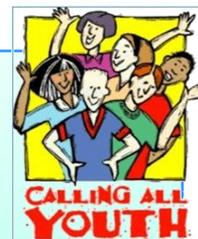
The New Connection Adult Sunday School class met in person on Sunday, September 13. They watched the online worship service together and then the class discussed the book *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Adam Hamilton. The study book was chosen prior to the COVID-19 shut down, but the topic has proven to be timely.

## Youth Groups

**Youth Group** for 6th through 12th graders — **Sundays at 6:00 p.m.** on Webex

**Youth Bible Study** for 6th through 12th graders — **Sundays at 10 a.m.** on Webex

For more information, please contact Pastor Kate at



### Confirmation 2020-2021

We are preparing for confirmation classes for the 2020-2021 year, and we are wondering if you'd like to join us. Given this weird season and the need to stay safe, we're opting this year to offer confirmation online on Thursdays from 5-6 pm. We may have opportunities for socially distanced in-person gatherings and activities at some point. The confirmation classes will begin in late October, and end around March.



Confirmation is a time when our young people discern what it means to be a follower of Christ and claim that faith as their own. Students will learn about the Methodist faith, the church, and more. We are using a new curriculum designed by Church of the Resurrection that is focused on online participation.

Students will receive a journal and a bible at the beginning of their confirmation journey. Pastor Debby told me she has read the bible that was given to her at her confirmation almost every day. Her bible is well-used and loved! I hope that can be the same experience for our students as well.

If you are interested in confirmation this year, please email Pastor Kate at [khanch@firststcharlesumc.org](mailto:khanch@firststcharlesumc.org). Thank you for your commitment to your student's journey to grow in Christ!

### An Update on First St. Charles UMC

- ***In-person worship is canceled until further notice.***
- **The administrative staff are working in the office during regular office hours, Monday to Friday. Our pastors and other staff continue to work primarily from home. Please contact us at [contact@firststcharlesumc.org](mailto:contact@firststcharlesumc.org) or 636-947-0066 if you need to meet with a pastor or a staff member.**

## Community Cares Utility Assistance Ministry



Thanks to your generosity, we are expanding our Community Cares utility assistance ministry. Beginning Tuesday, August 11, we will offer Community Cares utility assistance ministry every Tuesday, rather than just once a month.

St. Charles County residents are eligible to apply for assistance with their utility bills every Tuesday during office hours, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Applicants must apply in person, and they will need to have a photo ID and their utility bill with them.

The church will continue to offer gasoline assistance to eligible persons once a month, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$100 in assistance within a 12-month period.

**Again, thank you for your generosity.  
Together, we are making a difference in our community.**

### Food Pantry Wednesdays — 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Our ministry partners at FISH Food Pantry and our Backpack Ministry Team, and Oasis Food Pantry continue to offer food assistance

If you are already going out on Wednesdays between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m., please consider dropping off the requested items in the food pantry carts in our church parking lot.

We also have a team ready to pick up items from your front porch on Tuesday afternoons. To schedule a pick-up, please call or text 512-680-6779 with your name and home address.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Avery at 636-541-0895.



#### **Requested items:**

canned soup, any kind  
canned fruit  
juice boxes  
individual applesauce  
canned meat  
oatmeal—individual size packets in boxes  
cheese cracker sandwiches  
cookies—individual packs  
boxed rice side dishes  
bag or box scalloped potatoes  
men's or women's deodorant  
children's toothpaste

canned vegetables  
jelly  
fruit cups  
pudding snacks  
granola or cereal bars  
peanut butter cracker sandwiches  
small size boxes of cereal  
boxed pasta side dishes  
Ramen noodles  
bag or box au Gratin potatoes  
personal flushable wipes  
children's toothbrushes

The food carts that are set out for your items are now in a new, easier to get to location. Please look for them along the side of the building, under the awning, by the handicapped parking spaces.

*Thank you for your continued generosity!*



**A big thank you to  
 Mike Menefee and  
 the grounds crew for  
 installing our new deck  
 seating around the tree in  
 the playground.  
 The kids and especially  
 the teachers  
 LOVE it!**


**Copies of the *Upper Room Devotional* magazine are available for pick-up in a plastic tub outside the atrium double doors. Please do not leave cash or checks in the tub; simply add the cost of the devotional to your tithe. Thank you.**

**3 WAYS TO GIVE**



**GIVE ONLINE**  
FirstStCharlesUMC.org/Give



**MAIL YOUR GIFT**  
801 First Capitol Drive  
 St. Charles, MD 63301



**TEXT TO GIVE**  
TEXT 636-255-8819  
 \*\$AMOUNT.00 ONE FUND\*

Learn more at [FirstStCharlesUMC.org/Give](http://FirstStCharlesUMC.org/Give)



*Make the commitment.  
 Stay connected.*

Participate in online worship **WEEKLY**  
 Call or video chat one person from the church **DAILY**  
 Share online worship on your social networks **WEEKLY**

As we move from gathered to connected, your generosity allows us to stay connected online. Through your generosity, ministries of First St. Charles are able to continue during this time of uncertainty. Your generosity also allows us to stay connected online through online worship, daily devotionals, small groups and other online ministries. You can give online, mail your gift to the church office, or text 636-255-8819 to give. Thank you for your generosity and staying connected to our community of faith.

As we strive to remain connected during the COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor Bart encourages each person at First St. Charles to make the 1-1-1 Call commitment.

**The 1-1-1 Call asks that you:**

- Participate in online worship **WEEKLY**
- Call or video chat one person from the church **DAILY**
- Share online worship on your social networks **WEEKLY**

**Make your commitment online at [firststcharlesumc.org/covid19-response/111-call](http://firststcharlesumc.org/covid19-response/111-call). You can also join the Facebook group 1-1-1 Call Connections. Just visit our Facebook page and request to join the group**