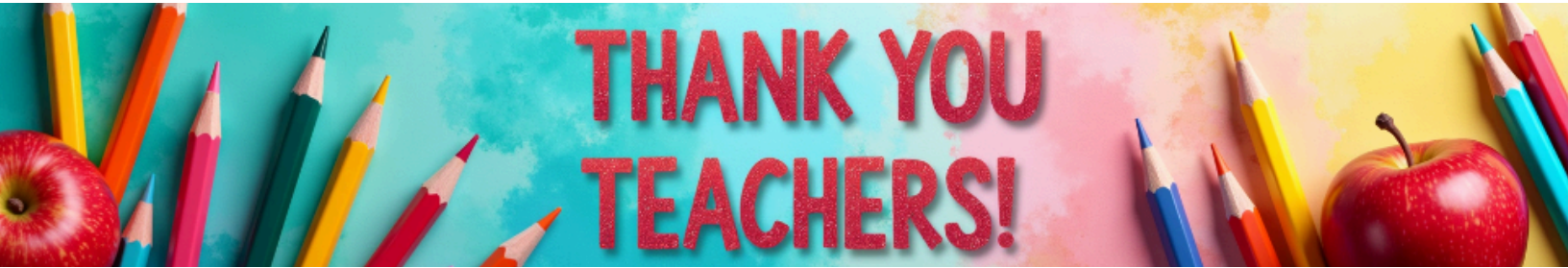


THE SPIRE

APRIL 22, 2026



One Body... One Service

Dear Church Family,

Over the past few years, the world has changed, and so have the rhythms, needs, and desires of our congregation. As we continue living into a post-pandemic landscape, we've been prayerfully reflecting on what it means to worship together in a way that is meaningful, sustainable, and community-building.

With that in mind, we want to share an important update:

Beginning Sunday, May 3, we will move from two worship services to one unified worship service each Sunday morning at 10am.

This change is part of our effort to reimagine in-person worship for the season we're in now - not as a step backward, but as a hopeful step forward. We believe this shift will allow us to worship as one body, deepen relationships, and create space for new possibilities in the life of our church.

Moving to one service will give us:

- **More time for fellowship and connection** before and after worship
- **A fuller worship experience**, with more energy in one shared gathering
- **Room to try new and exciting things** as we look toward what God is doing

And yes, **we're already working on something new** that we're excited to introduce later this year. So, stay tuned!

We know many families and adults are concerned about how this change will affect the rest of Sunday morning. We are committed to making Sunday mornings welcoming, meaningful, and fun for every age and stage:

- **Adult Sunday School classes will meet either before or after 10am worship**, at the discretion of each class. (A schedule will be made available in March after classes have had the opportunity to choose a new meeting time.)
- **Youth and Children's Sunday School will meet at 9am.**
- **Nursery will continue to be offered throughout the morning from 9am to 12pm.**

We truly believe this change will open the door to new ways of serving, welcoming, and building relationships. What won't change is the way we love and care for one another and the community, continuing to ensure that all are safe, welcome, and wanted here!

Thank you for your flexibility and your faithfulness. This is an exciting moment in the life of our church, and we're excited to see what God has in store for First St. Charles!

With hope and gratitude,

Pastor Kim Mitchell

Rev. Kim Mitchell

On Behalf of the Staff and Leadership of First St. Charles



One Body... One Service

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why is this happening?**

COVID changed everything, including the way we worship. As people's needs and preferences have changed, the needs of our church have changed too. Combining our services will allow us to enjoy the unity of a single worship experience, while making room for new experiences in the future.

2. **Will the worship service change?**

Aside from the richer and fuller experience of our united community, nothing will change about the worship service itself.

3. **What about communion?**

We will continue to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month as we do now.

4. **What about holidays and other special Sundays?**

Christmas, Easter, and other special Sunday services will be arranged as needed and announced ahead of time.

5. **What about my pew? Will there be room for everyone?**

There will be plenty of room in the sanctuary to seat all of us, though the room will be much fuller than you may be used to. Prepare to meet new people and share your pew with new friends!

6. **What about parking?**

There is more than enough room in our parking lots to accommodate our congregation. That said, please allow those with mobility issues, special needs, and young children to park in the front lots.

7. **Will my Sunday School class still meet?**

Yes! Youth and Children's Sunday School will meet at 9am. Adult classes will meet at either 9am or 11am, at the discretion of each class. A schedule will be made available in March.

8. **What about the role I serve in?**

All our many volunteers (acolytes, liturgists, welcome team, teachers, etc.) will still be needed! All Sunday morning ministries will continue as they do currently, just at a new time.

9. **Why 10am?**

We've already been accustomed to having unified worship at 10am (such as the last Sunday of the year), and we wanted to ensure that the change was shared fairly across the whole congregation.

10. **Will there still be donuts?**

Yes, and now you'll have more time to enjoy them with old and new friends!

Meet the Staff

Rev. Kim Mitchell
Rev. Debby Bartley
Rev. Steve Williams
Patti Adams
Karla Curry
Stacey Davis
Eric Heien
Marsha Hunt
Kerri Johnson
Beth Kelley
Jack McCormick
Jim Nichols
Olivia Osterhage
Meredith Ramsey
Katie Roam
Ellie Stahr

CIRCLE OF CONTROL



Focus your energy on things you **can** control

HAPPY EARTH DAY!

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S AND THE
FULLNESS THEREOF, THE WORLD AND
THOSE WHO DWELL THEREIN.

PSALM 24:1

THE **GRADUATION** EDITION OF THE SPIRE WILL BE PUBLISHED
ON MAY 27TH.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR GRADUATE'S PHOTO AND BLURB TO:
[BKELLEY@FIRSTSTCHARLESUMC.ORG](mailto:bkelly@firststcharlesumc.org) BY MAY 25TH.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE
WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE 5/27 SPIRE.



YOUTH GROUP



TEACHERS APPRECIATION

Thank you **TEACHERS**

Our First Kids Teachers are **MAGIC** and we LOVE them!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



Teaching
IS A WORK OF
THE
heart



teach
Love
INSPIRE



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

WALKING GROUP

APRIL 23RD AT
7:30AM

CONTACT OLIVIA IF YOU'RE
ATTENDING!



Little Food Pantry

ITEMS NEEDED:

mac n cheese cups - fruit cups - tuna packs -
individual peanut butter cups - ritz crackers - chili -
canned pasta (spaghetti o's/ravioli) - granola bars -
pudding cups - oatmeal packages - peanut butter
crackers

All canned items need to have pull-tab tops

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

GRIEF SHARE®



A group designed to offer healing, hope and support on your journey of grief.
Monday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning March 16th

If interested, contact Pastor Debby: dbartley@firststcharlesumc.org

HELLO
MY NAME IS

*Welcome Team
Member*

Join our
Welcome Team!
It's the best way
to meet members
& guests on
Sunday mornings!

For more info, contact **Olivia Osterhage:**
oosterhage@firststcharlesumc.org

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES



LGBTQ+ SMALL GROUP

BRING YOUR OWN DINNER AND
ENJOY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!

MAY 19TH
CATHERINE COLLIER ROOM
@ FIRST ST. CHARLES
6:00 PM

Showers of Blessing

April

ITEMS
NEEDED:

- 🌸 TRAVEL-SIZE SUNSCREEN
- 🌸 TRAVEL-SIZE BUG REPELLANT
- 🌸 RAIN PONCHOS
- 🌸 MEN'S JEANS SIZES 30, 32 & 34
- 🌸 BALL CAPS/BUCKET HATS

SHOWERS
VOLUNTEER SIGN UP



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

showers of blessing *meal guide*

50 SERVINGS

pro tips

- Our guests get a lot of the same foods over-and-over (*egg casserole*). They're grateful regardless, but they appreciate it when you think outside the box!
- Foods that are easy to hold and serve are great- think soups, casseroles, and other one-pot dishes.
- Some of our guests struggle with dental issues- so soft and easily digestible foods are preferred. Apples, crunchy granola, popcorn, and tough meats are often left behind.
- Freezer meals that can be brought ahead of time and reheated are ideal!
- Nutrient-dense and protein-rich meals help our folks stay healthy and warm.
- Your group can gather to cook together, or prepare individual components and assemble.
- If you or your group need space to prepare your meal, you can reserve our church kitchen by calling 636-947-0066.
- You can drop your meal off, or if you prefer, you can stay and serve your meal on the day-of.



Meal Sign-Up



Recipe Ideas



Quantities Guide

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

showers of blessing *meal guide*

50 SERVINGS

menu ideas

- Vegetable Beef Soup
- Broccoli Cheese Soup
- Tater Tot Casserole
- Chicken & Rice Casserole
- Chicken Ramen
- Minestrone
- Pot Pie
- Baked Pasta
- Pancakes & Sausage
- Breakfast Casserole
- Chicken & Cheese Enchiladas
- Pulled Pork/Chicken Sliders
- Loaded Hashbrown Casserole
- Meatball Subs
- Taco Bar
- Baked Potato Bar
- Chili
- Sheet-pan Fajitas
- Pizza
- Breakfast Burritos

quantities guide

- **Meat:**
 - 12-13lbs in soups/sauces
 - 15lbs as an entree
- **Rice/Grains:**
 - 10 lbs
- **Pasta:**
 - 10-12lbs
- **Bread:**
 - 2 loaves as side
 - 4 loaves for sandwiches
- **Pizza:**
 - 16 pizzas
- **Vegetables:**
 - Canned:
 - 2 #10 cans or 14 small cans
 - Fresh:
 - 1-1.5lbs salad mix
 - 15-20 lbs potatoes
 - Frozen:
 - 4 (40 oz) bags

Showers Spotlight

Kathy Avery & Becky Lancia

Why do you volunteer at Showers?

Kathy: I have a mission heart and love serving our community.

Becky: it fills up my cup! We're doing God's work.

What do you enjoy about serving at Showers?

Kathy: It's community. Working in the kitchen is my favorite because you're front-facing with people and I always meet someone new.

Becky: It's so much fun! You get to meet great people.

If people are thinking about getting involved, what advice do you have for them ?

Kathy: Everyone is SO nice. Try it!

Becky: You'll have so much fun - just give it a try!



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES



A vibrant graphic for a bingo event. The background is dark with a grid pattern. In the center, a glowing marquee sign reads "BINGO Potluck". Surrounding the sign are several bingo balls with numbers: a red ball with "1", a green ball with "24", a blue ball with "6", a yellow ball with "51^B", and a green ball with "19". There are also several bingo cards and chips scattered around. A blue banner at the bottom contains the text "55+ EVENT" and "APRIL 28TH AT 11:30AM".

55+ EVENT
APRIL 28TH AT 11:30AM

**DONATE YOUR USED
GLASSES, SUNGLASSES OR
READERS**

**DEPOSIT GLASSES
IN THE BLUE BIN
IN ATRIUM**



This Sunday!

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

APRIL
26TH

8:30-11:30

Help pack meals for hungry families on **Sunday, April 26th** from 8:30am-11:30am.

FIRST ST. CHARLES
UMC ATRIUM

Kids Against Hunger
FEEDING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD



SCAN TO REGISTER!

VBS 2026



FIRST ST. CHARLES
United Methodist Church

JUNE
24TH-26TH
5-7:45PM



FIND
YOUR
STRENGTH
IN GOD





JOIN THE CREW



Youth Summit Squad

WHY?

- ❄ The Pro: Stack up service hours and resume gold
- ❄ The Icon: Be the Legend kids look up to
- ❄ The Vibe: Three days of high octane fun & FREE food



Youth Volunteer Training

9:00 a.m.
Sunday
School

May 17, 2026

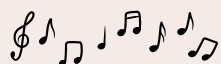
5:00 p.m.
Youth
Group



April & May

22 *Thursday* 23 *Friday* 24 *Saturday* 25

SPIRE



CHOIR

WALKING GROUP

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

CLOSED

Sunday 26



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

Monday 27

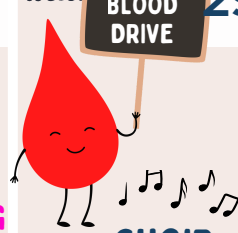
GRIEFSHARE



POTLUCK

LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING
[A+] 7PM

Wednesday 29



CHOIR

Thursday 30

Friday 1



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

CLOSED

Saturday 2

May

Sunday 3



ONE SERVICE
[A+] 10AM
+ POTLUCK

Monday 4

GRIEFSHARE

Tuesday 5

Wednesday 6



CHOIR

Thursday 7

Friday 8



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

CLOSED

Saturday 9

Sunday 10



HAPPY Mother's DAY

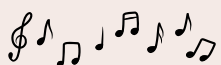
Monday 11

GRIEFSHARE

Tuesday 12

Wednesday 13

SPIRE



CHOIR

Thursday 14

Friday 15



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

CLOSED

Saturday 16

Sunday 17

Monday 18

GRIEFSHARE

Tuesday 19



COMMUNITY CARE

CAREGIVERS LGBTQ+

Wednesday 20



CHOIR

Thursday 21

Friday 22



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

CLOSED

Saturday 23