

THE SPIRE

APRIL 8, 2026



Hop n'
Hunt
pictures
inside!

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

Reminder

**The Church Office
is CLOSED on
Fridays.**

We welcome **Sterling Joy Paes** in holy baptism. She is loved by her parents **Clint & Sarah** and big sister **Blakelyn**.

Lift up in Prayer

Sue Gregg, wife of **Haven**, mother of **Kathy (Jeff) Craig**, passed away April 5th



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





**First Kids
Preschoolers ate
donuts with their
dudes and prepared
for Easter fun!**

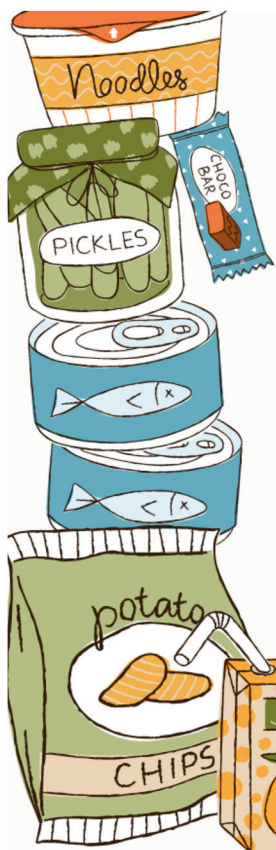


SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

WALKING GROUP

APRIL 9TH 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

**NEW
SESSION!**

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



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

APRIL 29TH
8:30AM-12:30PM

Visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment!

FISH PANTRY

ITEMS NEEDED:

CANNED PINEAPPLES, APPLESAUCE,
CAN POTATOES, JELLY, CAN TOMATOES,
BOXED JELLO, MISC. POTATOES
(AU GRATIN, SCALLOPED, ETC.)



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES



LGBTQ+ SMALL GROUP

BRING YOUR OWN DINNER AND
ENJOY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!

APRIL 21ST
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

Mike Weiss

What prompted you to get involved in the Showers ministry?

My wife Leslie and I are new to First St. Charles and were drawn to the ministries the church does - like Showers.

What do you enjoy about serving at Showers?

It's a lot of fun! My favorite part is getting to know all the guests and being a part of making an impact; it's a fulfilling experience and I've learned a lot.

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

Try it! It's FUN and everyone is really nice and there's plenty to do; find the area that suites you best.



this Sunday!

Voices from Heaven

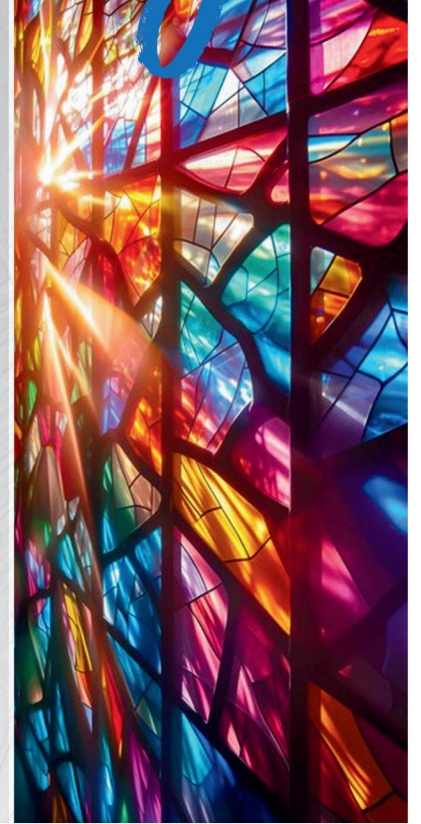
Featuring a SNEEK PEEVIE of a new piece
by acclaimed composer Jackson Berkey,
written for the CMU Choirs

Sunday, April 12 | 3 p.m.
First St. Charles United Methodist Church



Presented by the voices of the CMU Chorale, conducted by Dr. Thomas Clark with Dr. Melissa Lochnig Simons,
Collaborative Artist

Central Methodist
UNIVERSITY



DONATE YOUR USED GLASSES, SUNGLASSES OR READERS

DEPOSIT GLASSES
IN THE BLUE BIN
IN ATRIUM



SAVE THE DATE



**APRIL
26TH**
8:30-11:30

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

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

SAVE THE DATE

VBS

JUNE 24, 25, 26, 2026

WEDNESDAY- FRIDAY

5:00-7:45 P.M.

Cokesbury Kids
**SNOWBALL
MOUNTAIN
CHALLENGE**

**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

↔ PICK ONE ↔





With the help of over 20 volunteers, we opened our doors to over 200 people and had the best time at Hop n' Hunt!

If you donated candy, eggs or your time to this event, we are SO grateful to you!

We love connecting with our community!



April

& May

				8 <i>Thursday</i> 9	10 <i>Friday</i>	11 <i>Saturday</i>
				SPIRE CHOIR	WALKING GROUP!	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
<i>Sunday</i> 12	<i>Monday</i> 13	<i>Tuesday</i> 14	<i>Wednesday</i> 15	<i>Thursday</i> 16	<i>Friday</i> 17	<i>Saturday</i> 18
CMU CONCERT GRIEFSHARE			CHOIR		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
<i>Sunday</i> 19	<i>Monday</i> 20	<i>Tuesday</i> 21	<i>Wednesday</i> 22	<i>Thursday</i> 23	<i>Friday</i> 24	<i>Saturday</i> 25
		COMMUNITY CARE CAREGIVERS LGBTQ+	SPIRE CHOIR	WALKING GROUP!	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
<i>Sunday</i> 26	<i>Monday</i> 27	<i>Tuesday</i> 28	<i>Wednesday</i> 29	<i>Thursday</i> 30	<i>Friday</i> 1	<i>Saturday</i> 2
	GRIEFSHARE		BLOOD DRIVE CHOIR		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
<i>Sunday</i> 3	<i>Monday</i> 4	<i>Tuesday</i> 5	<i>Wednesday</i> 6	<i>Thursday</i> 7	<i>Friday</i> 8	<i>Saturday</i> 9
May GRIEFSHARE			CHOIR		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	