

THE SPIRE

AUGUST 27, 2025



You know, sometimes the Prayer of St. Francis just pops into my head. Especially when I'm feeling emotional or worried about things beyond my control. When I'm under pressure, it comes to mind, and it's soothing. The prayer's sentiments come from Christian teachings, inspired by the Beatitudes of Jesus.

Although the prayer is attributed to St Francis of Assisi, he didn't actually write it! Many believe it was named for him because it resembled his gentle, peaceful spirit. The prayer was first published in a French magazine in 1912 and became widely popular during and after World War I, especially after being printed on holy cards with an image of St. Francis.

No matter who wrote it or who it is named for, it has a special way of helping us refocus on what is important. I believe the beautiful prayer fits well with our calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously. This week, if you find yourself feeling the pressures of life, pray this prayer and be refreshed.

The Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Kim

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
KATIE ROAM

FIRST *friends*

AVAILABLE ON OUR  &  PAGES!



Michelle DeMumbrane

OLIVIA WOULD LOVE TO INTERVIEW YOU! LET HER KNOW
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED. SHE'LL EVEN COME TO YOU!



WELCOME

JOIN US IN WELCOMING
BETSY & JASPER
TO THE FIRST ST. CHARLES
FAMILY!

CHOIR IS BACK!

10 REASONS TO SING IN THE CHOIR THIS FALL

10. WE WEAR ROBES, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO WEAR ON A SUNDAY MORNING.
9. IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR HEART AND LUNGS!
8. IT RELEASES ENDORPHINS!
7. IT HELPS DEVELOP YOUR NATURAL BEAUTY!
(BY EXERCISING YOUR FACIAL MUSCLES!)
6. IT'S RELAXING! (EXCEPT DURING CHRISTMAS AND EASTER!)
5. DAD JOKES!
4. COOKIES!
3. YOU'RE A PART OF SOMETHING LIFE-AFFIRMING!
2. IT'S ECO-FRIENDLY - NO UPGRADES OR FOSSIL FUELS REQUIRED!
1. YOU'VE GOT A GUARANTEED PLACE TO SIT ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND EASTER SUNDAY!



CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, AT 7:00 PM.

***CALL THE OFFICE TO GET THE DOOR CODE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING!**

WE PRACTICE EVERY WEDNESDAY, AND SING AT THE 9:00 AND 11:00 WORSHIP SERVICES ON SUNDAY. IF YOU'VE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SINGING IN THE CHOIR, YOU ARE INVITED TO COME AND SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. IT'S A NON-AUDITION GROUP - ALL ARE WELCOME!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR EMAIL REV. STEVE WILLIAMS:
[SWILLIAMS@FIRSTSTCHARLESUMC.ORG](mailto:swilliams@firststcharlesumc.org)

NEXTGEN>>>

KIDS STUDENTS YOUNG ADULTS

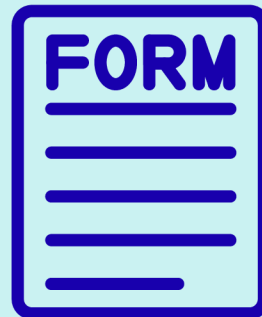
THE FUN BEGINS: SEPTEMBER 7TH

**NEW
THINGS**



**STREAMLINED
CHECK-IN
SYSTEM**

**YEARLY
INTAKE FORMS
FOR ALL KIDS**



**A NEW TWIST ON
YOUTH SUNDAE
SCHOOL!**

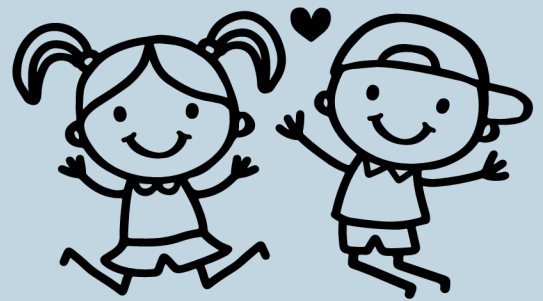
CHILDREN: 6 WEEKS - 5TH GRADE

NURSERY

6 WEEKS -
PRE-KINDERGARTEN

FIRST KIDS MAIN FLOOR -
SEA HORSE ROOM [AT] END OF HALL

DURING & IN BETWEEN SERVICES



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

K - 2ND: UPSTAIRS: FIRST KIDS GYM

3RD - 5TH: UPSTAIRS: FIRST KIDS
CLOWNFISH ROOM

- LED BY LAY LEADERS
- CURRICULUM BASED
- SNACKS!

MEET NEW
PEOPLE!



ADULTS

SUNDAY School

TAUGHT BY PASTOR DEBBY!

DOWNSTAIRS: RED YOUTH ROOM

- **FOLLOWS CHILDREN & YOUTH CURRICULUM**
- **RELAXED SPACE TO VIBIBE**



**DESIGNED TO GIVE ADULTS & PARENTS
THE OPTION TO BOUNCE BETWEEN BOTH!**

NEW

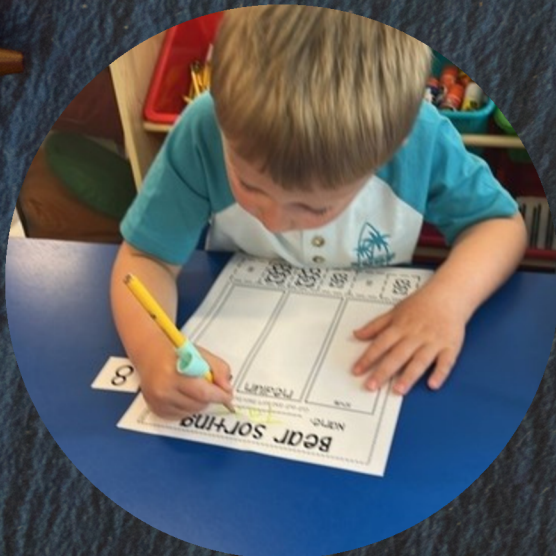
TAUGHT BY KATIE ROAM!

ROOM 105 (CHOIR WING)

- **FEW WEEKS OF CURRICULUM THEN
A BREAK - ALLOWING YOU TO POP
OVER TO DEBBY'S CLASS OR
ANOTHER SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTION**

BACK TO SCHOOL

@
first kids





worship WITH US



**In-Person Services
at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.**

Live Stream via



CONNECT ON THE GO

WITH OUR NEW PODCAST!

Catch up on sermons in the car, or share them with a friend across the country! Our new sermon podcast is now available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify. Find it by searching "First St. Charles" in your podcast app.



Apple Podcasts
(iOS)



Google Podcasts
(Android)



Spotify
(Android & iOS)

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[@firststcharlesumc.org](https://firststcharlesumc.org)

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

NEW SESSION!

GRIEF SHARE®

A 13-week group designed to offer healing, hope,
and support on your journey of grief.

Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm beginning August 18th

If interested contact Rev. Debby: dbartley@firststcharlesumc.org

Caregiver *Support Group*

*Third Tuesday of the month
6:30-7:30 pm in room 301*

QUESTIONS? CONTACT NICKI REYNOLDS:
NREYNOLDS6@CHARTER.NET



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

Now meets
on the 3rd
Tuesday of
each month!

LGBTQ+ SMALL GROUP

BRING YOUR OWN DINNER AND
ENJOY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!

SEPTEMBER 16TH
CATHERINE COLLIER ROOM
@ FIRST ST. CHARLES
6:00 PM

TINY TOT TIME

9/14 [AT] 4PM
gym at church

10/19 [AT] 4PM 
paint pumpkins at church

11/16 [AT] 4PM
friendsgiving at church

12/10 [AT] 5:45PM
hayride through O'Fallon lights



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

WALKING GROUP

AUGUST 28TH
[AT] 7:30AM

A person is walking on a concrete pier or walkway. In the background, there is a body of water and a city skyline with several tall buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

MEET IN THE ATRIUM

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Renew and reaffirm your confirmation into the
Christian tradition in a seven-week series led by
Pastor Kim

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 6:30PM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18TH



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES



who is this for?

- ✦ IF YOU'RE NEW TO FIRST ST. CHARLES.
- ✦ IF YOU'VE BEEN AROUND A BIT BUT WANT TO LEARN MORE
- ✦ YOU'VE BEEN AROUND AWHILE BUT ARE LOOKING TO GET CONNECTED
- ✦ IF YOU WANT TO MEET SOME AMAZING STAFF & LAY LEADERS
- ✦ ANYONE WHO WANTS A TOUR OF THE BUILDING

PLEASE RSVP TO MARSHA IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING!
MHUNT@FIRSTSTCHARLESUMC.ORG

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

Showers of Blessing

AUGUST

DONATIONS
NEEDED:

SHOWERS
VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

- ☀️ INDIVIDUAL BUG REPELLANT
- ☀️ TRAVEL-SIZED DEODORANT
- ☀️ COOLING TOWELS
- ☀️ MEN'S & WOMEN'S BELTS
- ☀️ MEN'S JEANS → SIZES 30, 32, 34



Every Monday & Wednesday, our Showers of Blessing ministry offers warm showers, clean clothes, and a friendly smile to folks in our community who could use a little extra care. It's a simple way to help people feel seen, loved, and valued.

We could really use more hands on Mondays—especially men who can help with our male guests in the shower area and reception. Your presence helps everyone feel comfortable and welcome.

You don't need experience— we'll help ensure you feel comfortable and equipped. Whether you can come every week or once in a while, you'll be making a real difference!

If you'd like to jump in and help, reach out to **bkelly@firststcharlesumc.org**.

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

**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

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



OUTREACH

**Thank you to
everyone who
came to the Red
Cross Blood
Drive!**



**We were
able to
collect 19
units!**



OUTREACH



Whether your pet is with us in body or spirit, join us for a time when we celebrate all creatures, big and small!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 5th
at 5 pm

All animals and their humans are invited to our special worship service for the blessing of the animals. Pet treats & human treats will be available.



INCLUSIVITYMATTERS

presents

TRANS 101

SEPTEMBER 28TH AT 4:00 PM

Featuring:

BEN GREENE

Transgender Author & Activist

Learn key terms, hear personal stories, and get practical tips for allyship. Open to all—whether you're a seasoned advocate or just starting out. Includes Q&A.



FIRST ST. CHARLES UMC

801 FIRST CAPITOL DR.

firststcharlesumc.org

FIRST ST. CHARLES
YOUTH PRESENT:

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

TRIVIA STARTS AT 7 PM

\$25/person
\$200/table

PROCEEDS BENEFIT NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

WE NEED:



VOLUNTEERS



AUCTION ITEMS



YOU!



BRING:

BEST COSTUME



YOUR FRIENDS



**YOUR TRIVIA
KNOWLEDGE!**



**GET YOUR
TICKETS
HERE!**

AUGUST & September

			27 SPIRE  CHOIR BEGINS!	Thursday 28 WALKING GROUP! 	Friday 29  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Saturday 30	
Sunday 31	Monday 1  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Tuesday 2	September  CHOIR		Thursday 4  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Saturday 6	
Sunday 7  YOUTH & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES!	Monday 8 GRIEFSHARE	Tuesday 9	55+  COMMUNITY CARE	Wednesday 10 SPIRE  CHOIR	Thursday 11 WALKING GROUP! 	Friday 12  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Saturday 13
Sunday 14 TINY TOT TIME 	Monday 15 GRIEFSHARE	Tuesday 16 LGBTQ+ CAREGIVERS	Wednesday 17  CHOIR	Thursday 18 ADULT CONFIRM	Friday 19  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Saturday 20	
Sunday 21 PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS 	Monday 22 GRIEFSHARE	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24 SPIRE  CHOIR	Thursday 25 WALKING GROUP! 	Friday 26  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Saturday 27	