

# ***THE SPIRE***

December 17, 2025



# CHRISTMAS AT FIRST ST. CHARLES



**21**

DEC

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

📍 Sanctuary

🕒 4:00PM

**22**

DEC

## ADVENT TABLE

📍 Multipurpose Room

🕒 6:00PM

**23**

DEC

## ADVENT TABLE

📍 Multipurpose Room

🕒 10:00AM

**24**

DEC

## CHRISTMAS EVE

📍 Sanctuary

🕒 3:00PM

📍 Multipurpose Room

🕒 5:00PM

📍 Sanctuary

🕒 7:00PM

**28**

DEC

## SUNDAY- ONE SERVICE ONLY

📍 Sanctuary

🕒 10:00AM

**4**

JAN

## DE-DECORATING DAY

📍 Whole Church

🕒 12:00PM

# Mary's Yes: The Courage to Say 'Let It Be So'

*Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord let it be with me according to your word (Luke 1:38 NRSV)."*

Mary's song from Luke chapter 1 is such a beautiful affirmation of faith. I don't know about you but if an angel approached me with any kind of news, I might be running in the opposite direction. Mary didn't run away. Instead she said, "Here am I!" and ran to see her cousin Elizabeth to find support and share the miraculous news of her own pregnancy. Would I have such a faith as that?

Mary's faith leads to poetry of praise:

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation (Luke 1:46-50)."*

Mary's song teaches faith through humble trust in God's promises, courageous obedience to God's will despite uncertainty, and joyful worship of God's desire to overturn injustice.

*He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever (Luke 1:51-55)."*

The good news is that God favors the lowly, scatters the proud, and fulfills faithfulness across generations, even in difficult circumstances. That doesn't mean that all fear is gone. Mary's yes brought about courage and offers us a story and a song that emboldens our own faith to step out of fear and into trust. So, let's turn inward to examine our own faith. Does it manifest as a heart overflowing with praise, a radical trust in God's redemptive plan?

Let's pray for the courage to simply say, 'Let it be so.'

Merry Christmas,

*Pastor Kim Mitchell*

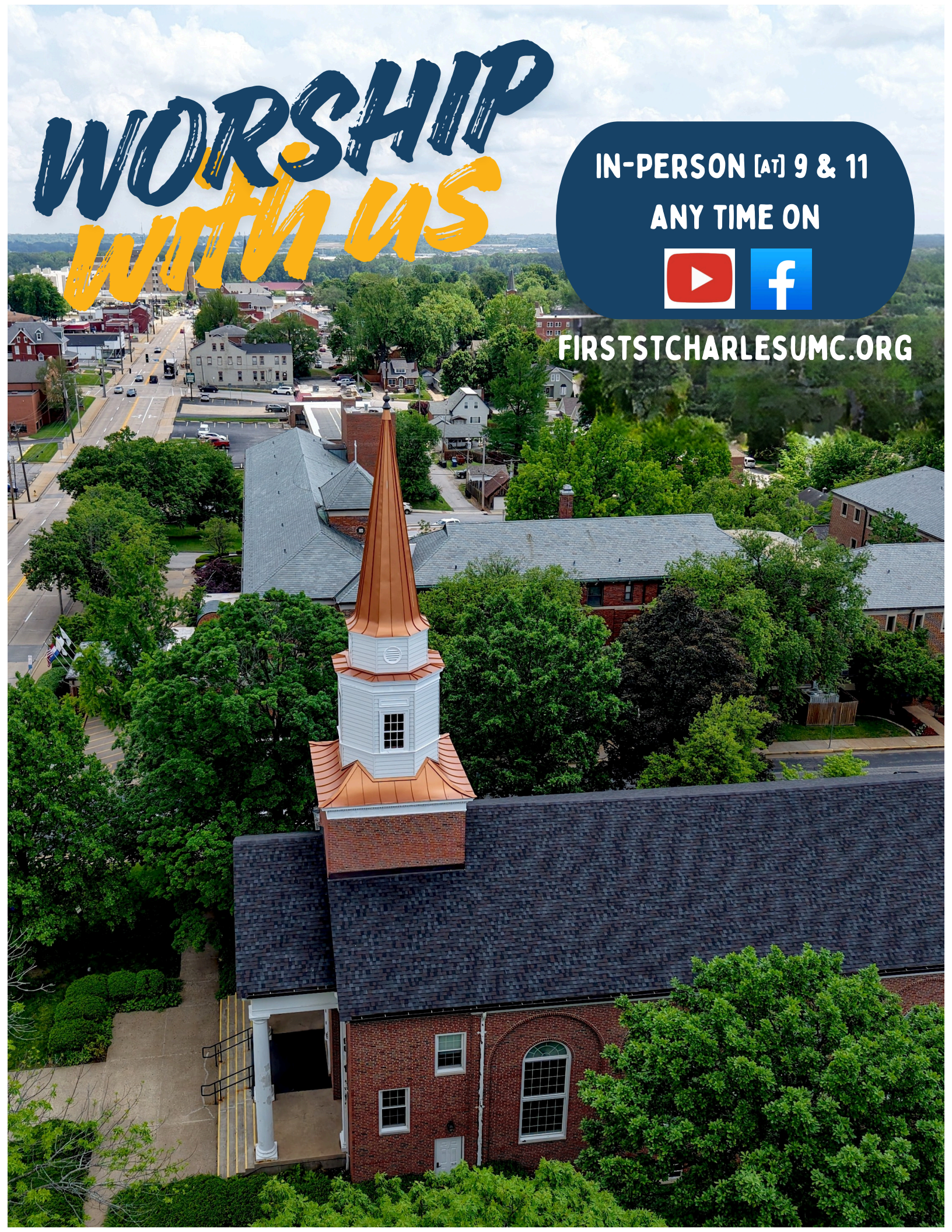
# WORSHIP with us

IN-PERSON [AT] 9 & 11

ANY TIME ON



[FIRSTSTCHARLESUMC.ORG](https://firststcharlesumc.org)



## 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

NEW

# Pecan

sale

## \$12/BAG

FOR SALE IN  
OFFICE



# OFFICE closed

HAPPY  
*holidays*

Happy  
New Year

DECEMBER 25TH

DECEMBER 31ST

JANUARY 1ST

Christmas  
Day

2026

# CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

## JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

### DURING ADVENT

- Learn Christmas carols & prayers
- Make Christmas crafts to take home each week
- On 12/21, parents are invited to join us as we journey to manger, sing songs & enjoy a special Christmas treat together!

Check in at the desk  
outside the atrium and  
then head upstairs!

The Songs of Christmas



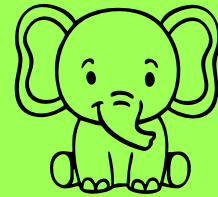
# YOUTH *group* SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

@ 5PM

DEC  
21

WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY



DEC  
28

CANCELLED



FAMILIES & FRIENDS -

Join us  
Christmas Eve  
at 5pm for the  
story of why  
Christmas Trees  
aren't perfect.

wiggles  
welcome!





**Merry  
Christmas!**

**FROM THE FIRST KIDS TEACHERS**



**HOT CHOCOLATE, JAMMIES,  
CRAFTS, AND MUCH MORE!**

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**FIRST KIDS KNOWS HOW TO GET  
IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!**



# CHRISTMAS

## Christmas Eve

**3 PM**

*Traditional*

**5 PM**

*Family*

**7 PM**

*Traditional*



## Community Care

Christmas Offering 2025

# WORSHIP



**Rev. Steve Williams led the Chancel Choir and several instrumentalists in a beautiful Christmas Cantata. If you missed it or want to watch it again, you can find it on our Facebook or YouTube pages at both the 9am & 11am on 12/14.**



**The Monroe Elementary M.A.S.C.O.T.S came and sang during the 9am on 12/7, under the direction of Mrs. Rich!**



# Blue Christmas

a service of remembrance and hope

December 21st at 4 pm

December 28<sup>th</sup>

**ONE SERVICE ONLY  
AT 10 AM**

**Mondays at 6pm**



## *The* **Advent** *Table*

A new worship experience starting December 1.

**Tuesdays at 10am**

### *You're Invited*

Join us throughout Advent for a warm and welcoming “Dinner Church”-style journey as we gather around tables to eat, hear a Gospel story, and reflect together on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We'll meet on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for a shared meal and conversation, and again on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for those who prefer a daytime option. Each week will offer gentle storytelling, honest discussion, and the simple gift of being together in this holy season. All are welcome! Come as you are, bring your curiosity, and make room for an Advent practice that nourishes both spirit and body.

I hope to see you around the table!

*-Katie Roam*

# SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES



## LIGHT *of the* WORLD

A B E G I N N E R ' S   G U I D E   t o   A D V E N T

SUNDAYS @ 10 AM  
NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 22  
ROOM 162 (RED ROOM)

**KATIE ROAM LEADS A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!**

## 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

**WALKING GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN -**

**JANUARY 8TH  
AT 7:30AM**

A person wearing a blue jacket and a backpack is walking a small dog in a snowy field. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm glow. The person is walking away from the camera, leaving a trail in the snow.

**LGBTQ+  
SMALL GROUP**

**BRING YOUR OWN DINNER AND  
ENJOY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!**

**JANUARY 20TH  
CATHERINE COLLIER ROOM  
@ FIRST ST. CHARLES  
6:00 PM**

# SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

## FISH PANTRY

### ITEMS NEEDED:

PIE FILLING, CAN YAMS, MISC. BEANS, MISC, CANNED MEATS, OATMEAL, CAN MILK, CANNED TOMATOES, TUNA HELPER, MISC. CRACKERS



## 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\*

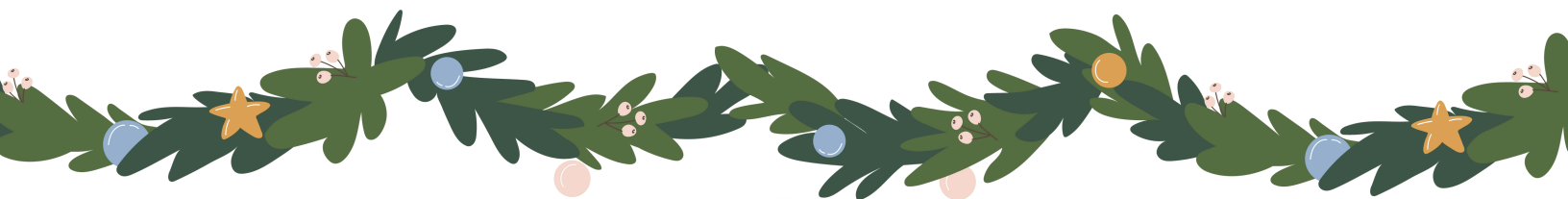
# SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES



will benefit those served by  
***Showers of Blessing***

Women's Jeans (any size),  
Men's Jeans (30, 32, 34),  
Men's Shoes/Boots, Belts, Hot Hands,  
Disposable Razors, Toothbrushes,  
Chapstick, Deodorant

Please place your **unwrapped** gifts under  
the tree in the atrium by **December 31st.**



*what goes UP must come DOWN.*

**JANUARY 4TH AFTER THE 11AM SERVICE**

**JOIN US FOR DE-DECORATING THE CHURCH -  
REMOVING ALL THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.**

*pizza & soda provided*



# SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

## Showers of Blessing

### December



SHOWERS  
VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

❄️ HOT HANDS

❄️ MEN'S JEANS → SIZES 30, 32, 34

❄️ MEN'S & WOMEN'S HOODED SWEATSHIRTS

❄️ MEN'S & WOMEN'S DISPOSABLE RAZORS



**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](mailto:oosterhage@firststcharlesumc.org)

PAUL BOUGHTON IS

*Retiring*



After **17** Years

OF SERVICE TO  
SHOWERS OF BLESSING

HIS LAST DAY WILL BE DECEMBER 31ST

Be sure to congratulate Paul and thank him for his faithful dedication to serving our neighbors.

*Thank you, Paul!*

# Canaan Wellspring

## Presents

# جافرا Jafra

Jafra is the young Palestinian girl who will guide you on a journey into the world of Palestinian dabke dance and folklore. Through her storytelling, you will discover the history of dabke, the stories woven into the lyrics of our folk songs—many of them composed and passed down by Palestinian women through oral tradition.

### Tickets & Info



Jan 10,  
2026  
6:00-8:00



Purser Center at  
Logan University



## Warming Center

That chill in the air means that the St. Charles County's Emergency Weather Response will soon be upon us! First St. Charles UMC will be on call for warming center the following weeks:

Jan 11-17

Jan 25-31

Feb 8-14

Feb 22-28

This vital, life-saving ministry provides a warm meal and a place to stay for those in need during nights when temps drop below 20°. Volunteers work in shifts to check-in guests, serve meals, and monitor guests overnight. Help is also needed with meals and laundry. Training is provided. To sign up to serve, scan the QR code.



**SIGN-UP TO  
VOLUNTEER**



**Ohhhh the weather  
outside was frightful...**



**...but the FUN had at  
Jingle Jam was  
DELIGHTFUL!**





## 2025 Jingle Jam Cookie Contest Winner










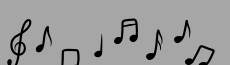




Roll-Out Sugar  
Cookies

Sophia  
Sheets



# December & January

				17 Thursday	18 Friday	19 Saturday	20 Sunday
				<b>SPIRE</b>  <b>CHOIR</b>			
<b>Sunday</b> 21 <b>BLUE CMAS</b> [AT] 4PM 	<b>Monday</b> 22 <b>ADVENT DINNER TABLE</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> 23 <b>ADVENT BRUNCH TABLE</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> 24 <b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Thursday</b> 25  <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>Friday</b> 26 	<b>Saturday</b> 27	
<b>Sunday</b> 28 <b>10 AM SERVICE ONLY</b>	<b>Monday</b> 29	<b>Tuesday</b> 30	<b>Wednesday</b> 31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 	<b>Thursday</b> 1 <b>Happy New Year 2026</b> 	<b>Friday</b> 2 	<b>Saturday</b> 3	
<b>Sunday</b> 4 <div>January</div>	<b>Monday</b> 5	<b>Tuesday</b> 6	<b>Wednesday</b> 7  <b>CHOIR</b>	<b>Thursday</b> 8 <b>WALKING GROUP!</b> 	<b>Friday</b> 9 	<b>Saturday</b> 10	
<b>Sunday</b> 11 <b>WARMING CENTER</b>	<b>Monday</b> 12	<b>Tuesday</b> 13	<b>Wednesday</b> 14 <b>SPIRE</b>  <b>CHOIR</b>	<b>Thursday</b> 15	<b>Friday</b> 16 	<b>Saturday</b> 17 	

2026

*Save the Date*



**VBS**

*June 24-26*

@CMU



**UNITE 2026**

**JULY 11 - 15**