

THE SPIRE

MARCH 11, 2026



**Youth Group gets
out into the
community**

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.**

Lift up in Prayer

Ashley Powell, wife of Andrew and mother to Ethan & Sadie, passed away February 4th

Alice Vlassos, passed away February 14th

June Gilbert, mother of Alice Gilbert, passed away February 16th

Bill Rzepka, passed away February 26th

Jerry Jones, husband of Claudette, father to David (Jennifer) Jones, grandfather of Mia & Macy Jones, passed away February 27th.

Susan Bullock, wife of Bob Bullock, passed away March 5th.

WELCOME!



WELCOME
to the world

Sterling Joy Paes

born March 3rd to parents
Sarah & Clint and joins
big sister **Blakelyn**.

YOUTH GROUP



Our Youth Group
took a tour of Oasis
Food Pantry





SUN'S Out FUN'S Out

@FIRSTKIDS



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

WALKING GROUP

MARCH 12TH AT
7:30AM

CONTACT OLIVIA IF YOU'RE
ATTENDING!



LGBTQ+ SMALL GROUP

BRING YOUR OWN DINNER AND
ENJOY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!

MARCH 17TH
CATHERINE COLLIER ROOM
@ FIRST ST. CHARLES
6:00 PM

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

FISH PANTRY

ITEMS NEEDED:

HAMBURGER/TUNA HELPER, PASTA SIDES,
DISH SOAP, KETCHUP, MUSTARD, MAYO,
CANNED PEARS, SYRUP, CANNED YAMS,
TOILET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS



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

Backpack Ministry

- * FRUIT CUPS
- * INDIVIDUAL CHIPS
- * 16 OZ SMOOTH
- PEANUT BUTTER
- * RAMEN NOODLES
- * SPAGHETTIOS

ITEMS NEEDED BY:
MARCH 13TH

SPRING BREAK NEEDS



Showers of Blessing

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

The Smith Family

What prompted you to get involved in the Showers ministry?

We feel like it's an important service our church offers with high impact. It's also an opportunity to educate our kids on the challenges our neighbors face.

What do you enjoy about serving at Showers?

We enjoy getting to serve & connect directly with the community, as well as with other church members who are volunteering.

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

Don't be hesitant! There are many veteran volunteers who provide support and it's a welcoming environment for everyone!



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



SAVE THE DATE



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

APRIL
26TH

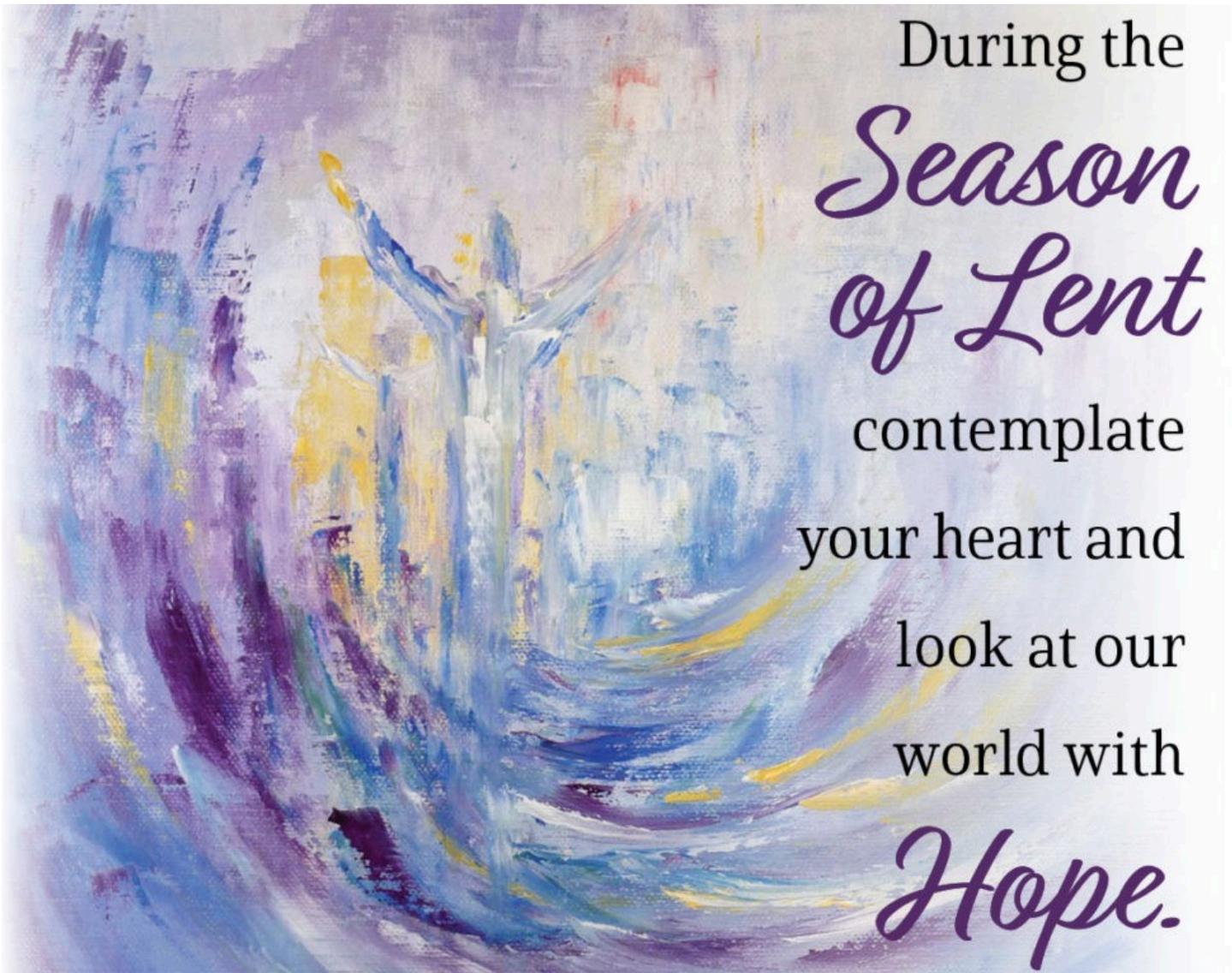
8:30-11:30

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

FIRST ST. CHARLES
UMC ATRIUM

Kids Against Hunger®

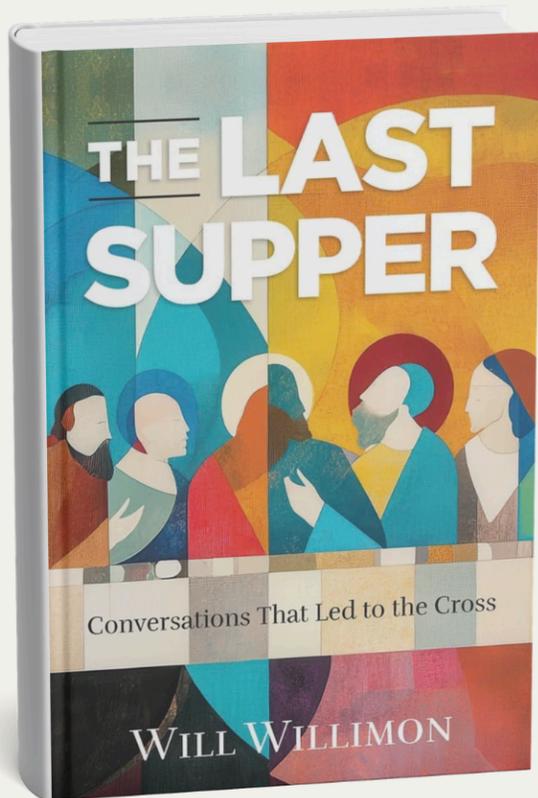
FEEDING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD



During the
*Season
of Lent*

contemplate
your heart and
look at our
world with

Hope.



ADULT

STUDY



Sundays at 10am

February 22nd-March 29th

Room 162 (Red Room)



PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 29th | 9:00 & 11:00 AM



A LENTEN CANTATA

Portraits in Grace

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2ND AT 7PM

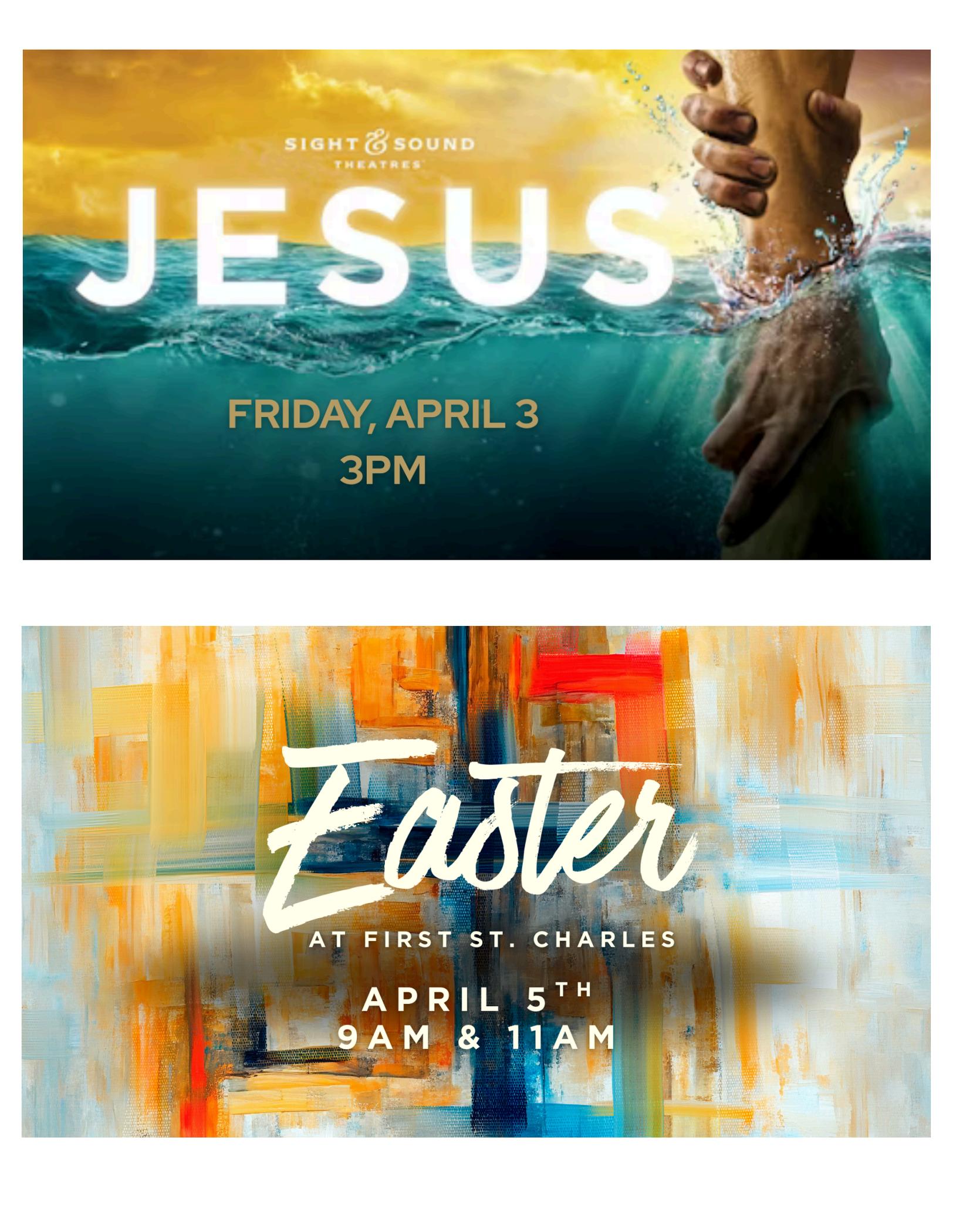
A hand is shown being held underwater, with water splashing around it. The background is a bright, golden sunset over a body of water. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

SIGHT & SOUND
THEATRES

JESUS

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

3PM

An abstract painting with vertical brushstrokes in shades of blue, orange, and white. A prominent red cross is visible in the background, partially obscured by the text.

Easter

AT FIRST ST. CHARLES

APRIL 5TH
9AM & 11AM

SNACKS

EGG
HUNT

GAMES

PHOTO
BOOTH

BOUNCE
HOUSE

PRIZES

SATURDAY
APRIL 4TH

10AM-12PM

HOP AND HUNT

WE NEED:

CANDY

Preferably small candy that will
fit inside the eggs!

You can drop bags of
candy off in the church
office!

thank  you

Here we
go again

HELP



March & April



				11 Thursday SPIRE CHOIR	12 Friday WALKING GROUP!	13 Saturday CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	14 Sunday
Sunday 15	Monday 16 NEW GRIEF SHARE SESSION!	Tuesday 17 COMMUNITY CARE CAREGIVERS - NEW TIME! LGBTQ+	Wednesday 18 CHOIR	Thursday 19	Friday 20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Saturday 21	
Sunday 22	Monday 23 GRIEF SHARE	Tuesday 24	Wednesday 25 SPIRE CHOIR	Thursday 26 WALKING GROUP!	Friday 27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Saturday 28	
Sunday 29 PALM SUNDAY	Monday 30 GRIEF SHARE	Tuesday 31	Wednesday 1 April	Thursday 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY CANTATA	Friday 3 GOOD FRIDAY JESUS MOVIE	Saturday 4 HOP N' HUNT EASTER FUN EGG HUNT	
Sunday 5 Easter Sunday	Monday 6 GRIEF SHARE	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8 SPIRE CHOIR	Thursday 9 WALKING GROUP!	Friday 10 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Saturday 11	

Lenten prayer

Dear God, During Lent help us to keep our eyes on Jesus. Help us to spend more time talking and listening to you. Help us to share what we have with others and be sorry for times we have done wrong.

Amen

