

THE SPIRE

November 12, 2025

**ALL SAINTS,
TRIVIA RECAP
& MORE!**



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Gratitude is more than just a polished response or a feeling reserved for a special holiday meal; it should be a way of life – a spiritual discipline that shapes our actions. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism,

considered a grateful heart a "mark" of a true Christian. It has been said that Wesley once learned a profound lesson from a poor porter who, despite having very little, was full of infectious joy and praise to God for simply having "life and being, a heart to love him, and a desire to serve him". The story goes that the porter's simple thanksgiving for God's love and care caused Wesley to reflect on his own spiritual state and realize he lacked that same level of genuine gratitude. Now there's a true feel-good story for this season of giving thanks.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul calls us to "give thanks in all circumstances". This is challenging. However, Paul is not asking us to be thankful for every difficult situation, such as pain, loss, or injustice. Instead, he invites us to find a place for gratitude within every situation, no matter how hard.

Practicing gratitude shifts our focus from our anxieties and perceived lack to the abundance of God's grace and faithfulness. It reminds us that God's mercies are truly "new every morning" and God's steadfast love endures forever (Lamentations 3:22-23). This shift in focus, this "attitude of gratitude," is a spiritual act that opens the door to God's presence and enables us to see God's hand guiding our lives. I have a colleague in ministry who likes to repeat the old Zig Ziglar quote, "It is your attitude, more than your aptitude, that will determine your altitude". Somewhere in that we can learn to exercise our "gratitude muscle."

Gratitude thrusts us into action, or, as I have heard it said, when we find blessing in what we have been given, our hands naturally open in generosity and service to others. We are called to be channels of blessing, using our gifts of time, talent, and resources to help those in need, remembering Jesus' words that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40).

This Thanksgiving season, let us commit to exercising our "gratitude muscle" not only for one day, but daily. Let us make a determined decision to count our blessings, large and small, and allow our thankfulness to transform our hearts, our lives, and our communities.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Kim Mitchell

◆ ◆ ◆
Gratitude ◆ ◆ ◆

◆ ◆ ◆
Joy AND BLESSINGS ◆ ◆ ◆

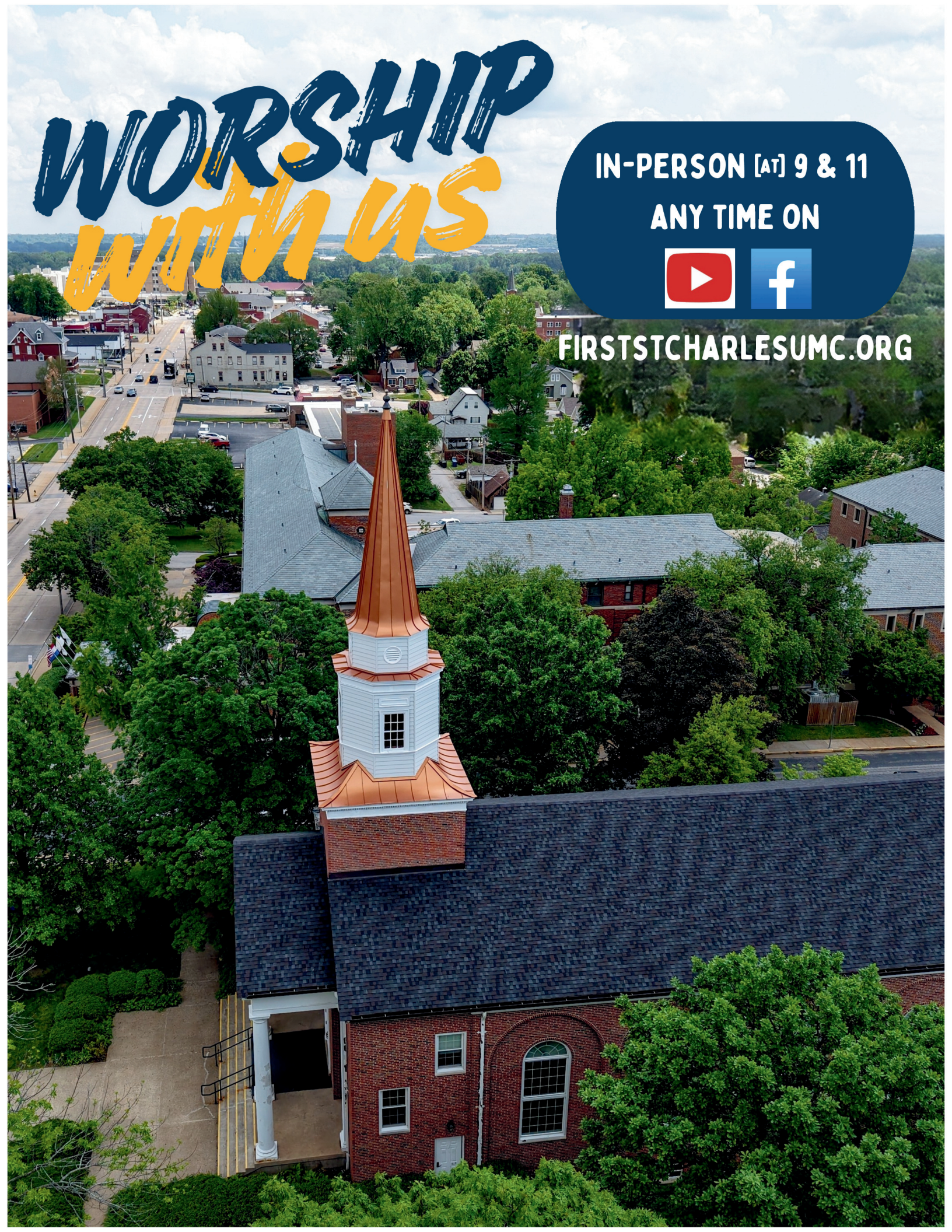
WORSHIP with us

IN-PERSON [AT] 9 & 11

ANY TIME ON



FIRSTSTCHARLESUMC.ORG



Meet the Staff

Rev. Kim Mitchell

Rev. Debby Bartley

Rev. Steve Williams

Patti Adams

Karla Curry

Stacey Davis

Eric Heien

Kerri Johnson

Beth Kelley

Jack McCormick

Jim Nichols

Olivia Osterhage

Meredith Ramsey

Katie Roam

December

SPIRE

*will be
published
on December
17th.*



NEW

Lift Up in Prayer

Chuck Kern,
husband of Jane Kern,
passed away October 23rd

Addah Harris,
passed away November 4th



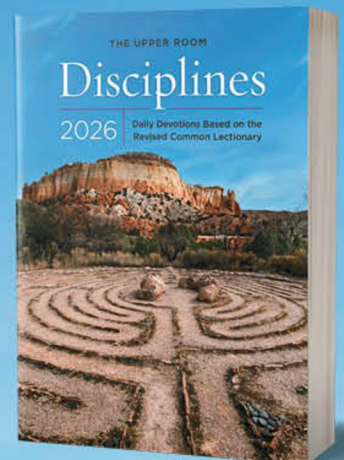
Pecan
sale

**COMING
SOON!**



IF YOU'D LIKE A 2026 DISCIPLINES BOOK -

Step into a Sacred Journey
with God—Every Day



CONTACT MARSHA BY 12/1.



Meet Meredith!

Meredith is joining the First St. Charles UMC staff as our Sunday School Superintendent!

Meredith has four kiddos and a seven month old Beagle named Molly. She loves watching her kids' sports games. They are a busy crew!



She is a certified Montessori Early Childhood Educator, currently working as a special education paraprofessional for the Orchard Farm School district where she works with kids with intense medical and behavioral needs.

Teaching and working with kids has always been her passion and she's looking forward to meeting everyone here at First St. Charles and growing in her faith alongside our youth & families.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

“youth sundae” school

ICE CREAM
SOCIAL

NOVEMBER 23RD @ 10AM

BLUE YOUTH ROOM



Children's Sunday School

Sundays at 10am
Beginning Sept. 7th!



Kindergarten-2nd grade
upstairs in the gym



3rd-5th grade
upstairs in clownfish room

YOUTH GROUP

Grades
6th-12th

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays at 5pm



COMMUNITY

Gather
around
the table



YOUTH GROUP

OUR YOUTH ARE COOKING & SERVING THE
SHOWERS OF BLESSING MEAL ON NOV. 26TH.

Thanksgiving Meal

SIGN UP BELOW TO DONATE FOOD ITEMS!



youth *VOLUNTEERS*



SIGN UP
TO HELP
WITH
THE
MEAL!





**FIREMAN TIM CAME TO
FIRST KIDS AND TAUGHT
THE PRESCHOOLERS ALL
ABOUT FIRE SAFETY.**





TRICK-OR-TREATING, GAMES, PUMPKIN CARVING



CANDY, PIZZA, & PARTIES!



TRICK
OR
TREAT



SPOOKY FUN
AT
FIRST KIDS!

**ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, WE HONORED ALL SAINT'S DAY.
IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WE REGARD ALL CHRISTIANS WHO
HAVE DIED AS SAINTS.**

**WE CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF THESE MEMBERS WHO PASSED
AWAY BETWEEN OCTOBER 31, 2024, AND OCTOBER 23, 2025.**

*Marjorie Nygaard
Harold McCormick*

*Jim Hedges
Helen Schroer
Norma Koetter*

*Barb Varker
Tammi Fogarty
Anita Hockett
Frank Hockett
Anne Wright
Janet Lashley*

*Dan Fagan
Bonnie Hagan
Verba Henderson
Helen LaBanca
Chuck Kern*



WE CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE REMEMBERED ON ALL SAINT'S DAY.

PERSON MEMORIALIZED

**BARB VARKER
KEITH WATTLEWORTH
CAROLYN HOWELL
KELLY SULLIVAN
TAMMI FOGARTY
JANET LASHLEY
TAMMI FOGARTY
JOAN CRENSHAW
BETTY & WES WERTZ
FRANK & ANITA HOCKETT
JOHN CROSS
CLARICE BURGNER
PERRY H. PATTERSON
BEN KOEBRICH
KENT DRUMMOND
GARY GRITTON
NAOMI GUTIERREZ
HAROLD & JOE OVERSTREET
AUSTIN WOOD
STEVE LONG
RICHARD THOMPSON
REV. FRED & IRENE LUMAN
JOHN BOYD
JIM HEDGES
JOE & KITTY MENELEE
BILL SIMON**

MEMORIALIZED BY

**JANE HARRER
ASHLEY POWELL
LYNN RATERMANN
LYNN RATERMANN
JIMMY & ANGELA FOGARTY
NEW CONNECTIONS CLASS
NEW CONNECTIONS CLASS
MYRON & MARY SHEETS
MYRON & MARY SHEETS
MYRON & MARY SHEETS
LU CROSS
LU CROSS
THE KELLER FAMILY
ANNA REIK
ANNA REIK
ANNA REIK
ANNA REIK
RUTH OVERSTREET
ROEMELL WOOD
ROEMELL WOOD
DOROTHY THOMPSON
DOROTHY THOMPSON
MARY STIEGEMEIER
MARY STIEGEMEIER
MIKE MENELEE
CAROL JUNE SIMON**



WE CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE REMEMBERED ON ALL SAINT'S DAY.

PERSON MEMORIALIZED

**NORMA KOETTER
CLIFF WALL
SHARON BYERS
FAE & GWYNN O'DONNELL
ALAN HULL
BILL POSEGATE
AL & MAXINE KERSCHEN
BOB KERSCHEN
GABBY HAENSSLER
BOB AVERY
BLANCHE & BOB AVERY
DEAN & PAT SMITH
FRED HUNT
SUSAN ALVORD
NATE & ALICE KNIKER
DAVE WILSON
GEORGE VEENSTRA
BRENDA HRITZKOWIN
BOB ROGERS
ROSALIE ADAMS
JANET LASHLEY
J.C. GONGAWARE
JOHN BOOKER
KNAPP & GROSS FAMILIES
MIKE THOMPSON**

MEMORIALIZED BY

**NICKI REYNOLDS
DAN & SHARON O'DONNELL
DAN & SHARON O'DONNELL
DAN & SHARON O'DONNELL
DAN & SHARON O'DONNELL
KERSCHEN FAMILY
KERSCHEN FAMILY
KERSCHEN FAMILY
MONA LOU HAENSSLER
AVERY FAMILY
AVERY FAMILY
MARDI & TED HOUSE
MARSHA HUNT
MARSHA HUNT
BOB & BEV VEENSTRA
BOB & BEV VEENSTRA
BOB & BEV VEENSTRA
DONNA SPAULDING
DIANA ROGERS
DIANA ROGERS
DIANA ROGERS
NANCY & JASON GONGAWARE
PEGGY BOOKER
BETTY & NANCY KNAPP
BARB KRYVKO**



WE CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE REMEMBERED ON ALL SAINT'S DAY.

PERSON MEMORIALIZED

**TAMMI FOGARTY
JANET LASHLEY
VIRGINIA & CHARLES CLAXTON
LOLA & GROVER KINSLOW
BEAU ANDRES
JIM HEDGES
BONNIE HAGAN
NORMA KOETTER
RONALD & ELAINE LAKIN
NANCY NAGEL
EARL COUILLARD
DON & MARGARET GOIAS
LEROY LUCAS
BONNIE HAGAN
DAVE COOKE
DAN FAGAN
FRANK & ANITA HOCKETT
BILL WHITAKER
BETTY HONEY
JOE LUCAS
JENNI MASON
JEAN PEDERSEN
LEO BIRCHLER
BERNELL & RUTH BICKMEYER
NEAL & MARGE MAGREW
HOWARD EITEL**

MEMORIALIZED BY

**RICK & KAREN BAHR
RICK & KAREN BAHR
DOUG & DONNA KINSLOW
DOUG & DONNA KINSLOW
DOUG & DONNA KINSLOW
BETTY HEDGES
BETTY HEDGES
BETTY HEDGES
PENNY DOBBS
PENNY DOBBS
DULCIE COUILLARD
DULCIE COUILLARD
EMILY LUCAS
MARY STEIGEMEIER
NICKI REYNOLDS
NICKI REYNOLDS
NICKI REYNOLDS
NICKI REYNOLDS
NICKI REYNOLDS
EMILY LUCAS
DACKERIE BOWES
DACKERIE BOWES
PAULA BIRCHLER
SCOTT & BARB MAGREW
SCOTT & BARB MAGREW
AL BAUSCHARD**



WE CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE REMEMBERED ON ALL SAINT'S DAY.

PERSON MEMORIALIZED

**JOE KINCAID
KATIE NIEDERBERGER
MARGARET CHRIST
PHILIP CHRIST
THERESA SCHULTZ
DAMAIN & EVELYN SPAULDING
JANET & DON SPAULDING
RUTH HRITZKOWIN
CHESTER HANSON
WARD & JANET DEKOSTER
ALLISON LAVASSEUR
WALLY & ROBERTA SCHUTZE
GERALD & LAVERNE BAETEN
GARY SCHULZE
ALLAN SCHULZE
ALISON BROWN
DOROTHY OWENS
BETTY HONEY
KEITH & ILENE HOUSE
DEAN & PAT SMITH
ALLEN MAXEDON
BARB VARKER
KIRBI HUNT
JOE MCCLARY
MARTHA CALDWELL
WYNETTE & LOY RATHY**

MEMORIALIZED BY

**FRAN BOGAR
MARGARET ANN NIEDERBERGER
MARGARET ANN NIEDERBERGER
MARGARET ANN NIEDERBERGER
KATHY SCHULTZE
DONNA SPAULDING
DONNA SPAULDING
DONNA SPAULDING
KIM CARVER
THE DEKOSTER FAMILY
THE DEKOSTER FAMILY
MIKE & DONNA BAETEN
MIKE & DONNA BAETEN
MIKE & DONNA BAETEN
MIKE & DONNA BAETEN
CINDY WYNN
MIKE OWENS
CAROLIE OWENS
TED & MARDI HOUSE
TED & MARDI HOUSE
JEAN MAXEDON & CATHY NATIONS
THE HARRER FAMILY
MARSHA HUNT
DONNA MCCLARY
DONNA MCCLARY
DONNA MCCLARY**



WORSHIP



MONROE ELEMENTARY

*Join us on December 7th at 9am as
Monroe Elementary students sing during
worship!*



The Ballad of Bethlehem

A TIMELESS STORY OF GOD'S LOVE

A Christmas Cantata
December 14th, 2025

[AT] 9AM & 11AM

Blue Christmas

a service of remembrance and hope

December 21st at 4 pm

December 28th

**ONE SERVICE ONLY
AT 10 AM**

Mondays at 6pm

**MORE INFO
COMING
SOON!**

The **Advent** *Table*

A new worship experience starting December 1.

Tuesdays at 10am

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

BACKPACK MINISTRY

FOR 12 YEARS, THE BACKPACK MINISTRY HAS ENSURED THAT OVER 100 KIDS AT LINCOLN & MONROE ELEMENTARIES HAVE ENOUGH FOOD OVER THE WEEKENDS & HOLIDAY BREAKS.

**ITEMS NEEDED BY:
DECEMBER 14TH**



CHRISTMAS BREAK ITEMS NEEDED

- Winter hats & gloves
- Toothpaste & brushes
- 16oz smooth peanut butter
- Kid-friendly cereal: 12-14oz
- Holiday candy

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



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

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRIEF SHARE™

Rev. Debby will facilitate this seminar on
Sunday, November 16th, from 2:00-4:00 pm in Asbury Hall.

Please let her know if you will attend:
636-947-0066 or dbartley@firststcharlesumc.org

WALKING GROUP

NOVEMBER 13TH [AT] 7:30AM



MEET IN THE ATRIUM

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

LGBTQ+ SMALL GROUP

BRING YOUR OWN DINNER AND
ENJOY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!

NOVEMBER 18TH
CATHERINE COLLIER ROOM
@ FIRST ST. CHARLES
6:00 PM

TINY TOT TIME

DECEMBER 10TH
[AT] 5:45PM

hayride through
O'Fallon lights



RSVP to Beth

bkelley@firststcharlesumc.org



SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

Showers of Blessing

NOVEMBER



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

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

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



Looking for a Quilting Group?

A Quilt in Time

is a new quilting group that meets at
church Tuesdays from 12:30-3:30pm

They make individual and group quilts
for a variety of charities and would
love to have new faces join them!





Transgender author & activist Ben Greene shared insights on building inclusive communities through meaningful allyship at our Trans 101 event. It was an incredible experience!



If you missed it or want to watch it again - it's on our YouTube page!



ADVENT DECORATING

All are welcome to help decorate the church for
Advent on **November 23rd at noon.**
Lunch will be provided!

Jingle

bounce
house

face
painting



Jam

cookies

photos
with
santa

December 13th
3-5pm





WE NEED COOKIES!

Jingle Jam

BAKE-OFF

Enter your prized holiday cookie at our Jingle Jam event on **12/13** and the community will vote on their favorite cookie!

TO ENTER:



Drop off 3 dozen of your most famous holiday cookies on 12/11 (8am-3pm) or 12/12 (8am - 11am)



Provide your cookie recipe to **bkelly@firststcharlesumc.org** by 12/8 so our guests can share your recipes with their family!

The winning recipe will be published in the 12/17 *Spire*, win a gift card to *Grandma's Cookies* and most importantly, earn bragging rights!



COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS!

TRIVIA NIGHT RAISED OVER ~~\$6,400~~ \$6,400
THESE FUNDS WILL SEND OUR KIDDOS ON MISSION
TRIPS, ENABLE US TO CREATE A SPECTACULAR VBS
PROGRAM THIS SUMMER AND MORE!

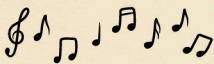
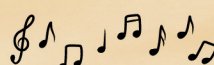
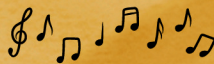




**THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO
SUPPORTED THE EVENT!
IT WAS A SPOOK-TACULAR
TIME!**



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

			12 SPIRE  CHOIR	13 thursday WALKING GROUP! 	14 friday  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	15 saturday
16 sunday SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS	17 monday	18 tuesday  COMMUNITY CARE LGBTQ+ CAREGIVERS	19 wednesday  CHOIR	20 thursday	21 friday  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	22 saturday
23 sunday  CHRISTMAS DECOR GOES UP	24 monday	25 tuesday	26 wednesday YOUTH THANKSGIVING SHOWERS MEAL SPIRE	27 thursday 	28 friday  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	29 saturday
30 sunday 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 	1 monday ADVENT DINNER TABLE	2 tuesday ADVENT BRUNCH TABLE	3 wednesday December  CHOIR		5 friday  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 saturday
7 sunday  MONROE ELEM [AT] 9AM 	8 monday ADVENT DINNER TABLE	9 tuesday ADVENT BRUNCH TABLE	10 wednesday TINY TOT TIME [AT] O'FALLON LIGHTS  CHOIR	11 thursday WALKING GROUP!  COOKIE DROP OFF 8-3PM 	12 friday COOKIE DROP OFF 8-11AM	13 saturday  JINGLE JAM