

THE SPIRE

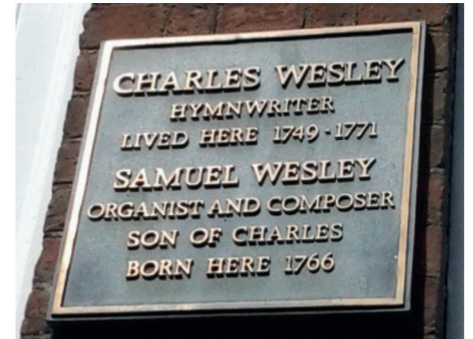
November 26, 2025



Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

In 2018, John and I went on the Wesley Pilgrimage in England. With 40+ fellow United Methodists, we walked in the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley, and Frances Asbury. One of my favorite places was Charles Wesley's home in Bristol, England, where he raised his musical family.

Charles Wesley wrote over 6500 hymns. Each hymn is picture of faith and a beautiful reflection set to poetry. Of the many gems he crafted, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (written in 1744)" holds a special place in my heart. It is a perfect hymn to usher in this Advent season.



Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Advent brings with it an anticipation and a desire for the arrival of Christ. Wesley's hymn captures this sentiment perfectly. It's not just about remembering a historical event, the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. It's about a present, ongoing expectation. Year after year, we are waiting for Christ to come into our lives anew, to transform us, to bring hope and healing to a broken world.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

We will be singing this hymn on Sunday, November 30, the first Sunday in Advent. As we sing these words, we're joining a chorus of believers that stretches back centuries. People from all walks of life, united in their hope for the coming of Christ. It's a powerful reminder that we're not alone in our journey of faith. We're part of something bigger than ourselves, a community of hope that spans time and space.

So, as we light the candles of the Advent wreath, as we listen to the familiar stories of the season, let's also sing "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." Let's allow Wesley's words to stir up our longing for Christ, to deepen our understanding of his love, and to fill us with hope for the future. It's a hymn that truly embodies the spirit of Advent.

Advent Blessings,
Pastor Kim

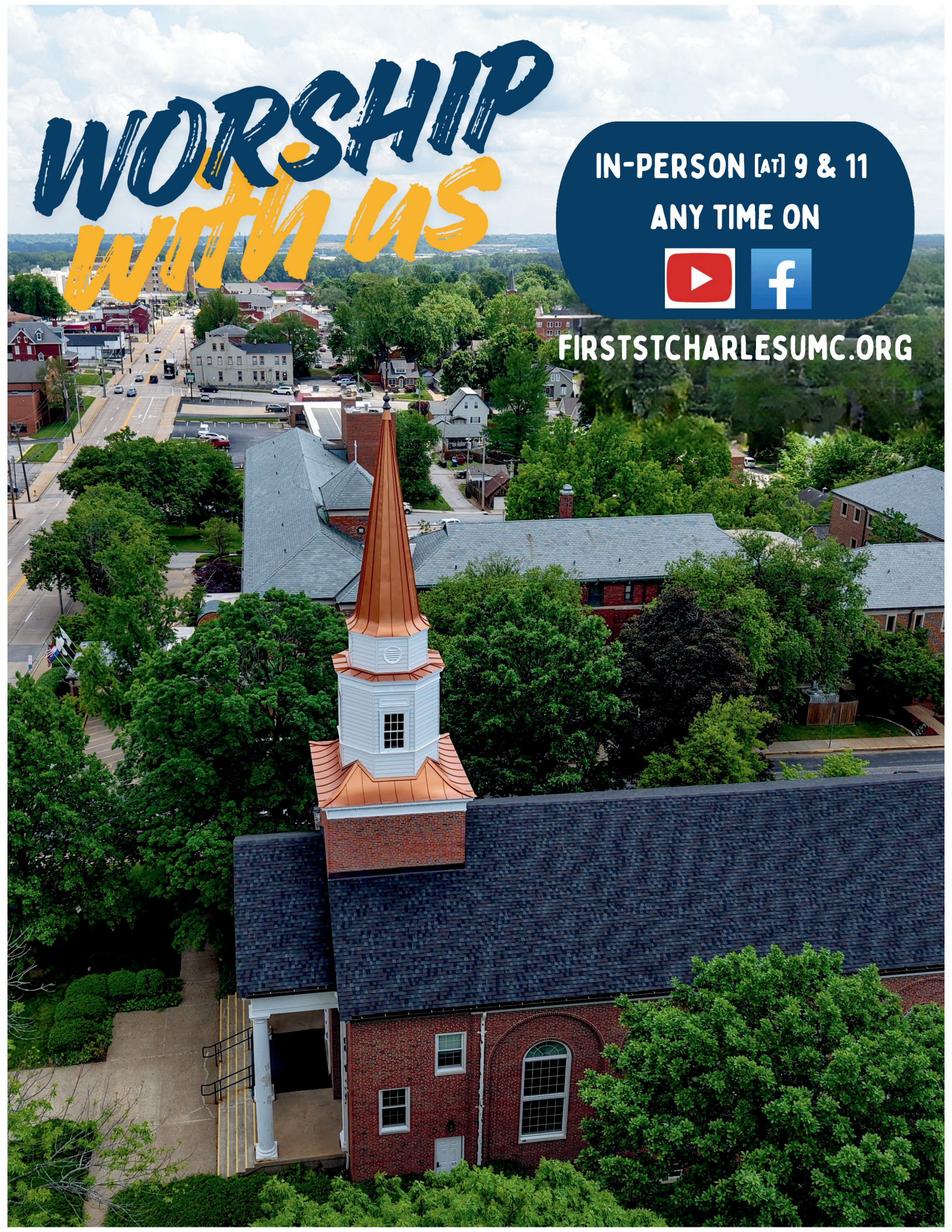
WORSHIP with us

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
Marsha Hunt
Kerri Johnson
Beth Kelley
Jack McCormick
Jim Nichols
Olivia Osterhage
Meredith Ramsey
Katie Roam

NEW

December SPIRE

*will be
published
on December
17th.*



Pecan

sale

\$12/BAG

for sale
in office



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



NOV
30

CANCELLED



DEC
7

WORK ON iNfOMERCiAl



DEC
14

RECORD iNfOMERCiAl



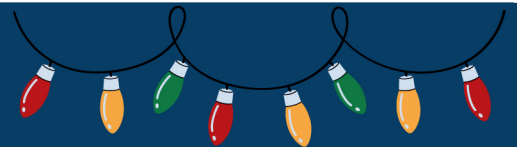
DEC
21

WHiTE ELEPHANT PARTY



DEC
28

CANCELLED





**FIRST KIDS THREE-YEAR OLD
CHILDCARE ROOM LEARNED ABOUT
HELPING OTHERS & DECIDED TO
COLLECT FOOD TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN
NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.**



*happy
thanksgiving*

**THEY WENT SHOPPING WITH THEIR PARENTS &
HELPED LOAD THE FOOD PANTRY BIN.
WE ARE PROUD OF OUR LITTLE HELPERS WHO
HAVE THE BIGGEST HEARTS!**

WORSHIP




MONROE ELEMENTARY

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

Blue
Christmas
a service of remembrance and hope

December 21st at 4 pm



A musical staff with a treble clef and several notes, including eighth and sixteenth notes, floating across the top of the page.

A “ballad” is a rhythmic poem that is often set to music. The form grew out of the oral traditions of using poetry and music to tell stories, or pass along important information.

The ballad grew in popularity during the Renaissance, where minstrels sang them.

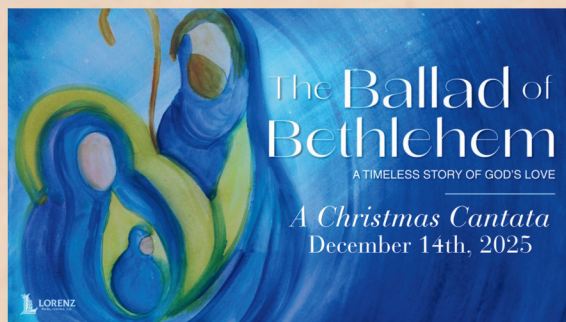
While ballads covered a wide range of topics, they were most often love songs, or songs that told the stories of the lower classes.

This makes the ballad a perfect vehicle for the story of Christ’s birth, as it is all about a poor couple, making a long journey, and giving birth, not in a home, but in a stable. In this stable they are surrounded by shepherds and magi – the outcasts of their day. And it is a love story as well – a story about how God loved us so much that God came to dwell among us.

On Sunday, December 14, at both the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services, the choir will be presenting *The Ballad of Bethlehem*, a musical re-telling of the Christmas story. Everyone is invited to come and hear this story told as only our choir can, along with instrumentalists and soloists and readers.

And there may even be some parts for the congregation to join in the singing! We look forward to seeing and hearing you on Sunday, December 14, as together, we tell
The Ballad of Bethlehem!

Rev. Steve Williams

A red ribbon is draped across the bottom of the page, partially covering sheet music. The sheet music includes the title 'HARK! THE HER' and the tempo marking 'Allegretto'.

HARK! THE HER

Jingle Bells

and play in recital.

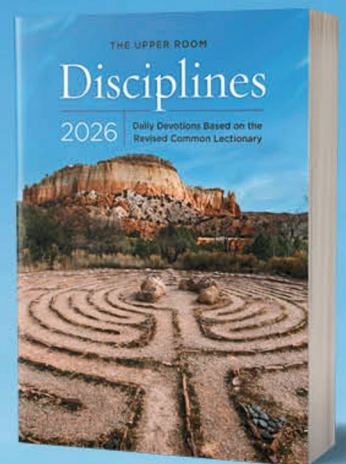
Note: We
Allegretto
16
4
3

December 28th

**ONE SERVICE ONLY
AT 10 AM**

IF YOU'D LIKE A 2026 DISCIPLINES BOOK -

Step into a Sacred Journey
with God—Every Day



CONTACT MARSHA BY 12/1.

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

NEW

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
SESSION - STARTING 11/30!**

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

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

**WALKING
GROUP**

**DECEMBER 11TH [AT]
7:30AM**



MEET IN THE ATRIUM

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



LGBTQ+ SMALL GROUP

BRING YOUR OWN DINNER AND
ENJOY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!

DECEMBER 16TH
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

bkelly@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



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!

OUTREACH

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!

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**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

			26 YOUTH THANKSGIVING SHOWERS MEAL SPIRE	27 <i>Thursday</i> 	28 <i>Friday</i> 	29 <i>Saturday</i>
<i>Sunday</i> 30 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 	<i>Monday</i> 1 ADVENT DINNER TABLE	<i>Tuesday</i> 2 ADVENT BRUNCH TABLE	<i>Wednesday</i> 3 December  CHOIR	4 <i>Thursday</i>	5 <i>Friday</i> 	6 <i>Saturday</i>
<i>Sunday</i> 7  MONROE ELEM [AT] 9AM 	<i>Monday</i> 8 ADVENT DINNER TABLE	<i>Tuesday</i> 9 ADVENT BRUNCH TABLE	<i>Wednesday</i> 10  TINY TOT TIME [AT] O'FALLON LIGHTS  CHOIR	11 <i>Thursday</i> WALKING GROUP!  COOKIE DROP OFF 8-3PM 	12 <i>Friday</i> COOKIE DROP OFF 8-11AM  JINGLE JAM	13 <i>Saturday</i>
<i>Sunday</i> 14 CANTATA! 	<i>Monday</i> 15 ADVENT DINNER TABLE	<i>Tuesday</i> 16  ADVENT BRUNCH TABLE COMMUNITY CARE LGBTQ+ CAREGIVERS	<i>Wednesday</i> 17 SPIRE  CHOIR	18 <i>Thursday</i>	19 <i>Friday</i> 	20 <i>Saturday</i>
<i>Sunday</i> 21 BLUE CMAS [AT] 4PM 	<i>Monday</i> 22	<i>Tuesday</i> 23	<i>Wednesday</i> 24  Christmas Eve	25 <i>Thursday</i>  	26 <i>Friday</i> 	27 <i>Saturday</i>

Happy Thanksgiving

Wishing you a day filled with gratitude, joy,
and the warmth of loved ones

