FIRST ST. CHARLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH // ISSUE 18 // VOLUME 55

THE SPIRE

OCTOBER 14, 2026



Then he said to them all, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

-Luke 9:23 NRSV

Staying in Love with God

Our stewardship sermon series has us digging into John Wesley's Three Simple Rules: do no harm, do all the good we can, and stay in love with God. This third rule, stay in love with God, is a paraphrase of a much longer paragraph that Wesley wrote on the ordinances of God. We will open up this rule this coming Sunday (October 18).

Wesleyan practical theology points out that true faith expresses itself in concrete acts of piety and mercy.

What is piety? Our personal and corporate acts of devotion to God. Wesley described active piety as engaging in prayer, searching the scriptures, regularly participating in Holy Communion, fasting or abstinence, and Christian conferencing. Wesley believed we would grow closer to God by fellowshipping through small groups for "mutual accountability and spiritual growth."

What is mercy? Our acts of compassion when we actively feed the hungry, visit the sick, seek justice, and deny ourselves. That is the committed, daily practice of sanctification through intentional obedience to Jesus' commands of love. Wesley emphasized this in his sermon "Self-Denial," noting that "a day without cross-bearing is a day lost in the life of a Christian." Putting devotion and compassion together helps us to draw near to God, or to "stay in love with God."

When piety and mercy unite, stewardship transforms from a simple chore or task into a thoughtful diving call to obedience. Piety provides the structure and framework of duty, respect, and honor to God, while mercy provides the heartbeat of love and human connection. It has been said, without piety, stewardship can become self-serving; without mercy, it can become rigid and legalistic.

Active faith asks encourages us to create a balance where we are learning to love God so that we learn to love and serve people. Balance reflects an inner grace that begins to flow outward, and we find ourselves in a beautiful spiritual rhythm that keeps us coming back to God. Thought for the week: What comes to mind when you think of staying in love with God?

I am always thankful for your generosity and love. See you Sunday.

Pastor Kim

INCLUSIVITY MATTERS

LGBBQ













We had a wonderful time at our LGBBQ! Beautiful weather, yummy food and great company!







WELCOME



Blessing of the
ANIMALS























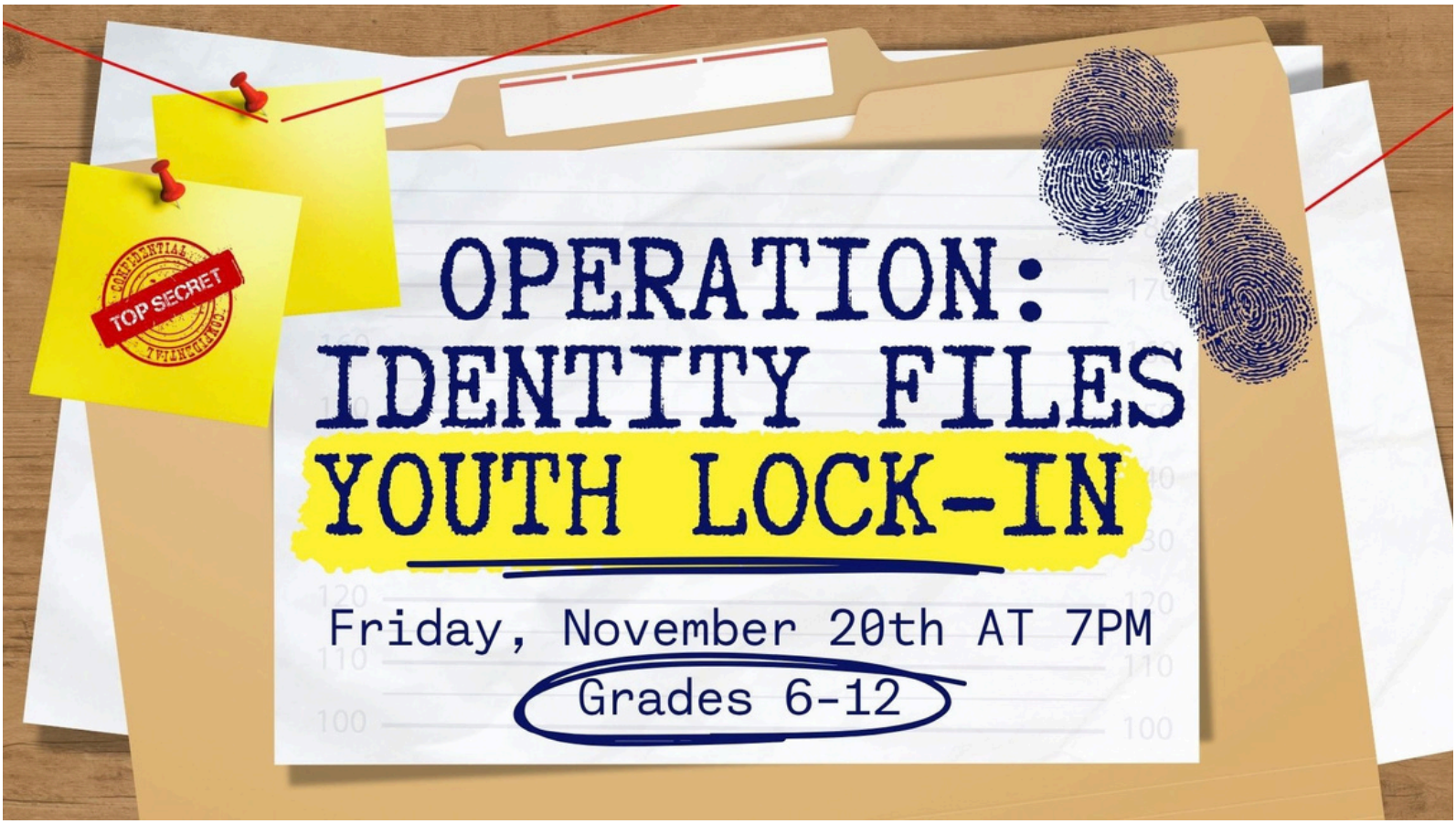




FIRST ST. CHARLES
YOUTH PRESENT:
HALLOWEEN
TRIVIA NIGHT
$25/person
$200/table
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
TRIVIA STARTS AT 7 PM


Fireside
FELLOWSHIP
YOUTH BONFIRE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
5-7PM
HOT DOGS
ENDLESS S'MORES
YARD GAMES
A WARM FIRE
YOU BRING:
A favorite side, appetizer, or dessert to share
(and a hoodie or sweater).
Bring a friend!

YOUTH


TOP SECRET
OPERATION:
IDENTITY FILES
YOUTH LOCK-IN
Friday, November 20th AT 7PM
Grades 6-12


YOUTH
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
6TH-12TH
GRADE
SUNDAYS AT 9AM DOWNSTAIRS IN THE
BLUE YOUTH ROOM

YOUTH


NEW YOUTH STUDY
STICK TOGETHER
SUNDAYS AT 9AM


YOUTH
GROUP
Sundays at 5pm

YOUTH & CHILDREN

Sponsored by
Youth & Children's Ministry

Winter Clothing Drive

Warm Hearts
— and —
Warm Bodies





We are collecting:

- Hats
- Gloves
- Scarves
- Jeans
- Boots
- Coats
- Sweaters
- Socks

Donations will be given to
Showers of Blessing Program
at First St. Charles UMC.

October 25th – November 8th

Children's Sunday School



Sundays at 9am
Check in at the First Kids desk!



Kindergarten-5th grade
upstairs in the gym

A BIG thank you to Officer Bussen

for visiting First Kids during Community Helpers Week!







SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES





SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

FISH PANTRY



ITEMS NEEDED:

PIE FILLING, MIXED/MISC VEGETABLES, JELLY, TOMATO SOUP, TOMATO SAUCE, PASTA SIDES, HAMBURGER HELPER/TUNA HELPER, MISC POTATOES (BOXED SCALLOPED, AU GRATIN ETC), PANCAKE SYRUP, WOMEN'S DEODORANT



Little Food Pantry

These are the most popular items for our pantry that serves our community –



tuna packets | granola bars | chili with beans | baked beans | fruit cups

You can drop food donations in the black bin in the atrium!

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES

Caregiver Support Group

Third Tuesday of the month
3 pm in room 300

QUESTIONS? CONTACT NICKI REYNOLDS:
NREYNOLDS6@CHARTER.NET



JOIN OUR WELCOME TEAM! IT'S THE BEST WAY TO MEET MEMBERS & GUESTS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, CONTACT OLIVIA!

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES



Showers of Blessing

October

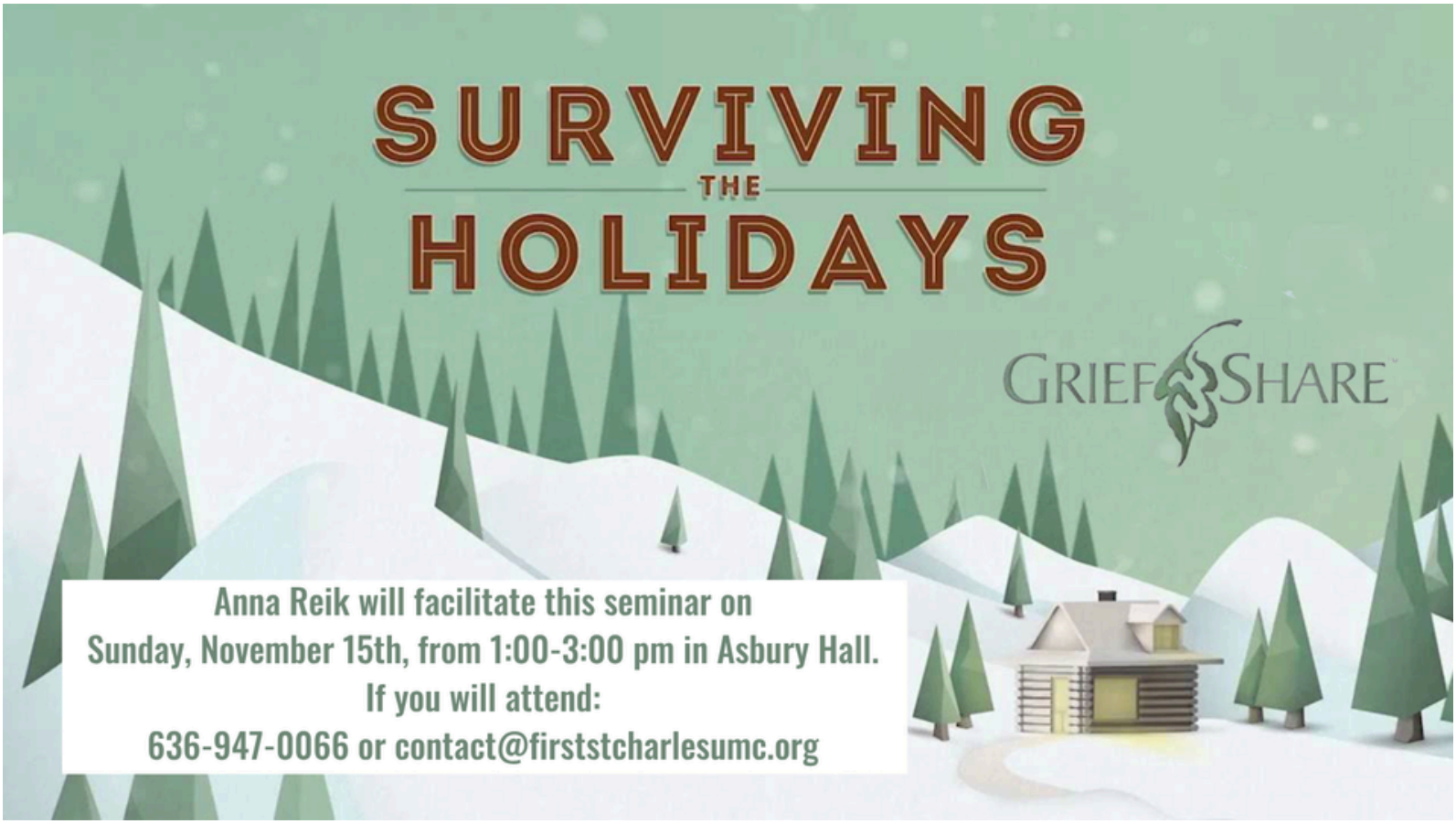
DONATIONS NEEDED:

- Hot Hands
- Rain Ponchos
- Disposable razors
- Hoodies
- Men's jeans (sizes 30-34)
- Gloves

SHOWERS VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

SMALL GROUPS & MINISTRIES





2026 Leadership Board



Kathy Avery



Donna Baeten



Rick Bahr



Tyler Brown



Margaret Harper



John McClure
Chair



Michael Monahan



Greg DeKoster
Finance Chair



Tim Mosher
Lay Leader Liason



Jarred Ray
Trustee Chair



Carissa Sanders

If you have thoughtful inquiries or concerns, you may reach out to the Leadership Board in confidence at:

ContactLeadership@firststcharlesumc.org

OCTOBER events

20 tues	**COMMUNITY CARE** Third Tuesday of the month 8-10 am
20 tues	**55+ BINGO POTLUCK** Third Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am
20 tues	**CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP** Third Tuesday of the month at 3 pm
20 tues	**LGBTQ+ SMALL GROUP** Third Tuesday of the month at 6 pm
23 fri	**HALLOWEEN TRIVIA NIGHT** All proceeds benefit our youth missions
10/25-11/8	**WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE** All donations will be given to Showers of Blessing
25 sun	**FIRESIDE FELLOWSHIP** A youth group bonfire at 5pm!
1 nov	**ALL SAINTS DAY** During worship our congregation will remember those who have passed