



FIRST ST. CHARLES

United Methodist Church

For the love of God,
by the power of the Holy Spirit, we
Gather new people to Christ,
and Go for Christ.

801 First Capitol Dr., St. Charles, MO 63301
636-947-0066

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Gather | Go | Grow

From The Pastor

God is on the move at First St. Charles. And, wow, what fun to be a part of it. As I write this introductory paragraph, it is the week following the graduation of our 2017 Confirmation Class. With their commitments, we are now sitting at 40 new members for the year, with more planning to join—and, yet we’re not even half-way through the year!

In this directory, you’ll see an introduction to many of our ministries—to the things we are doing for the purposes of Christ. It is only a glimpse into what happens here. At the end of the day, it is about lives that are being changed.

Most importantly, find please in these pages contact information for the many people who are a part of our community of faith. There are a lot of new names here. Please use this information to help connect with your sisters and brothers in faith, to initiate new relationships, and to strengthen the bonds that Christ is forming among us.

We are better and stronger together. Count me among those most grateful to be listed in these pages.

Blessings Always,

Pastor Bart

Clergy and Staff

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Bart Hildreth, Ph.D.	Senior Pastor
Rev. Deborah Bartley.....	Associate Pastor
Rev. Peter Norton	Associate Pastor
Rev. Diane Menke Pence*	Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Gottman*	Senior Adult Minister
Margaret Love*	Children's Minister

Program Staff:

Sally Jacobsen.....	Preschool Director
Kerri Johnson.....	Mother's Day Out Director
Jack McCormick*	Office Manager
Larry Ruebling*.....	Tech Specialist
Lindsey Willard*	Marketing Coordinator

Worship Music Staff

Carole Owens*	Choir/Music Director
Anne Brown*	Children's Music Director
Sharon Byers*	Organist
Sarite Christison*	Worship Leader
Karla Curry*	Accompanist

Support Staff:

Patti Adams	Accounts Receivable
Stacey Davis*	Treasurer/Accounts Payable
Brielle Ketcherside*	Administrative Assistant
Jim Nichols	Maintenance
Pat Williams	Communications Coordinator

What United Methodists Believe

United Methodists believe that the Bible is a living book through which the living God speaks to persons today. We share with others the basic affirmations of the Biblical revelation.

We believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Redeemer. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the power and presence of God ever working in persons to lift them into higher dimensions of living. We believe that men and women are both created in the image of God, are sinners, and that with God's help, they must choose whom they will serve and how they will live. We believe in sanctification, not as a fixed state but as a dynamic movement by the power of the Spirit toward the realization of God's aim in men and women.

We believe in the Church as the people of Christ, the community of faith, wherein the Christian life is nurtured and shared. We believe in responsible living in the world so that society may be transformed for the glory of God and with benefit to all persons. We believe in the life everlasting as a relationship with God which begins here and now and which continues as a creative relationship with God and with those who participate in the kingdom of heaven beyond death.

In our own way, we strive for a fully balanced understanding of these great Christian affirmations, holding personal practices in union with social witness.

Worship and Church Life

• **Worship**

On the first day of each week, Christians gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship God. Through prayer, scripture study, sermon, and music, the community of faith gives thanks and praise to God for His mercy, love, and care. In worship is found strength and guidance for the week to come. Anyone is welcome to participate in worship services at First St. Charles United Methodist Church. Child care is provided for all services of worship. In addition, a comfort room with one-way glass is available at the back of the sanctuary.

Sunday Services are held every Sunday at: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Special Services:

Ash Wednesday Services, Maundy Thursday Service, Good Friday Service, Blue Christmas (A Service of Hope and Remembrance), and Christmas Eve Services, including a Christmas worship service specifically geared towards families with young children.

- **Nursery Care**

The nurture and safety of children is our top priority. Nursery care is provided for children ages newborn through age 5 during all worship services and for various special programs during the year. The nurseries are tended by both paid staff and volunteers who are trained and have gone through background checks.

- **Fellowship Hour**

Coffee and Donut Fellowship Hour is held in the Atrium at 9:00 and at 10:30 a.m. These gatherings provide opportunities for visiting and fellowship with newcomers as well as old friends.

- **Prayer**

Prayer is foundational to our life together. The Congregation of First St. Charles United Methodist Church engages in the transformative power of prayer in several ways.

Sunday Morning Intercessory Prayers

The Prayer Chapel is open at all times on Sunday mornings.

Wednesday Morning Intercessory Prayer Group

Each Wednesday morning this group meets and prays over each prayer request we have received in the previous week. Notes of encouragement are then sent to individuals on the list. New members of the group are always welcome.

Prayer Requests

If you have prayer needs, we encourage you to fill out a prayer request card. These cards are located in the pews and in the booklet racks near the sanctuary. You can also send prayer requests through our website (www.fumcstcharles.org) or call the Church Office at (636) 947-0066 with your prayer requests.

- **Sacramental Life**

Holy Communion

Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is very important to all Christians. At First St. Charles United Methodist Church, Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month at all services and every week during the 8:00 a.m. service.

Recognizing the vital role the sacraments play in the life of the church, ALL are encouraged to participate. As United Methodists, the Holy Communion table is open to all who wish to receive the sacrament.

Holy Baptism

Baptism is important to us at First St. Charles United Methodist Church because it is the sacrament through which we are initiated into Christ's church and incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation. Baptism is a corporate promise whereby we make mutual commitments to one another. It is the custom of United Methodists to baptize persons of any age, infants through adulthood who have a relationship with the church.

Activities for All Ages

Church consists of many ministries emphasizing both education and fellowship. The purpose of all ministries is to provide a way to Gather to Christ; Grow in Christ; and Go for Christ.

Adult Ministries

- **Bible Study Groups**

These groups are dynamic, intense studies of the Bible. The courses not only teach God's word, but they teach each disciple to incorporate God's word into his or her life, while living out the challenge of the Gospel. New classes start several times each year.

- **Small Group Ministry**

These groups are offered to meet the interests of a wide range of people. Some small groups are formed around one affinity, for example, Young families with children, Couples Bible study, Outreach-oriented, Multicultural focus etc. These groups commit to doing life together through studying the scripture or a book, spending some social time together and working on a mission project together.

- **Short Term Learning Opportunities**

These groups offer classes to meet a wide variety of spiritual, emotion, financial and social needs. The classes are offered in spring and fall of each year.

- **New Members Class**

This class is offered to those interested in exploring membership and who are ready to join First St. Charles United Methodist Church. We offer this class several times a year.

- **Senior Adult Ministry – (SAM)**

SAM is for all senior adults, 55 and over, in our church and community. Monthly meetings include a meal with a program on the second Monday of the month, at 11:30 a.m. SAM also engages in outreach activities and trips.

- **Sunday School Classes**

There are many adult classes that meet on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. All ages and stages, as well as short-term, special interest classes are available. The welcome desk in the center of the Atrium is staffed with Hospitality Hosts who can provide information on current classes. Various topics of discussion include Biblical studies, personal and family life issues, and current issues. Many classes schedule service projects and social activities throughout the year. Visitors are always welcome!

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- **United Methodist Women (UMW)**

The UMW at First St. Charles is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. Unit meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at varying times. The unit membership is divided into smaller groups called “circles” which meet monthly, except during the summer. Meeting times for individual circles vary from morning to afternoon to evening. Membership is open to any woman, whether a member of First St. Charles or not, and guests are always welcome. Programs consist of devotional and educational material focusing on serving the Lord through mission both locally and on a global scale.

- **United Methodist Men (UMM)**

The UMM fellowship has breakfast meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. This group, which is open to all men, participates in a variety of activities throughout the year, including projects to benefit both the church and the community.

Youth Ministries

First St. Charles United Methodist Church is committed to raising young women and men for a lifetime of vibrant faith. Our number one goal in youth ministry is youth participation in worship with the full congregation. We look for every opportunity to invite the youth to lead and participate in worship. Additionally, we support young people to make their faith their own through Bible study and discussion. We also want to create an environment of Christian fellowship where the youth can build friendships that last a lifetime.

- **Youth in Worship**

Youth are invited to lead in worship in all areas of ministry. Our worship team is committed to coaching and involving youth in worship from everything from prayers, to music, to ushering, to creating art, to taking pictures. Please contact the pastoral staff about getting involved in worship.

- **Confirmation Classes**

Confirmation Class is designed to help youth make the decision to become disciples of Christ for a lifetime. Classes are offered for those in the 7th grade and older who have not previously been confirmed. This class is an opportunity to ask the deep questions of faith and encourage each other in choosing to live for Jesus.

- **Sunday School Bible Study**

Middle School and High School youth start Bible study in worship in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. After time for worship they engage with each other in Bible study and discussion until 10:30 a.m. We have both a Middle School and High School Sunday School Bible Study.



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- **Youth Group**

The youth group includes activities and fellowship for both Middle and High School students. First St. Charles's Youth Group program seeks to provide an opportunity for youth to grow in their faith, share in fun and fellowship together, and be in service and mission to God's world. The First St. Charles Youth Group meets every week during the school year and at various times during the summer. Numerous special activities are held throughout the year as planned by trained adult leaders and the youth leadership team.

Children's Ministries

Newborn through 5th grade

Children are precious gifts from God and are an important part of First St. Charles United Methodist Church. In ministering to children, we strive to help them grow in their understanding of God's love and to become disciples of Jesus Christ. First Saint Charles offers an assortment of programs for children throughout the year. Programs for children include the following:

- **SUNDAY MORNINGS**

Infants through age 2

A supervised nursery is provided for preschool-age children during the worship services.

A "Comfort Room" is located at the rear of the Sanctuary.

Preschool Children Sunday School 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

3, 4, & 5-year-olds

Sunday school classes are biblically grounded, educationally sound, age-appropriate, flexible, and fun to help children experience each Bible story. Children are offered a variety of activities to appeal to differing learning styles. Sunday school strives to engage all of the child's senses so they experience the love of God and the reality of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Elementary School Children "Stepping Stones Club" 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

During Stepping Stones Club meetings, elementary school children explore the Bible story and concepts through: art, cooking, science, games, missions, spiritual practices and storytelling/drama.

Elementary School Children "Stepping Stones Music Academy" 10:45 a.m. – Noon

When children sing scripture, they remember it for a lifetime. Reflecting on the message of the song as they sing instills understanding of spiritual truths and knowledge of God. At Stepping Stones Music Academy, children sing praise and traditional music and play instruments to praise the Lord.



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WEEK DAYS (Program and session dates and details are available at www.fumcstcharles.org.)

- **First St. Charles UMC Early Childhood Education**

Since 1982, First St. Charles United Methodist Church has provided early childhood education for children in the community. Children's programs strive to promote spiritual, physical and intellectual growth and development, creative expression, and reinforcement of a positive self-concept in a safe and healthy environment.

Crib (ages six weeks to 1 year)

Toddler Room (ages 1 to 2 years)

Pre-Primary Room (ages 2 to 3 years)

Preschool Preparedness Room (ages 3 and 4 years)

Preschool (ages 3 through pre-Kindergarten)

SEASONAL PROGRAMS (Refer to www.fumcstcharles.org for dates and details.)

- **SPRING - Family Lenten Program**

- **First St. Charles United Methodist Church invites families with children to a better understanding of Easter and Lent through the Family Lenten Program.**

- **SUMMER - Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School helps children to grow in knowledge and understanding of God's love for them and as disciples of Jesus Christ.

- **SUMMER – Day Camp**

Through Summer Day Camp at First St. Charles United Methodist Church, children (ages 7 – 12) of the community grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in a fun, camp environment.

- **WINTER - Family Christmas Program**

Families with children experience the miracle of Jesus' birth through a shared event at First St. Charles.

Music in Our Church Life

The mission of music at First St. Charles is to bring our congregants and musicians into a closer relationship with God. We believe worship is the central theme of our services with sacred music and contemporary music enhancing and encouraging worship. There are music opportunities for everyone from ages 3 through 103+. The choirs are non-audition and open to all who love to sing and praise the Lord.

The Sonrise Singers sing at the 8:00 a.m. service each Sunday morning. Those interested in singing should be in the choir room at 7:30 a.m. to rehearse for the service. The music is generally chosen from the hymnal and is easy enough to be learned in 15 minutes. New members are welcome!



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The Chancel Choir sings for the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services each Sunday morning. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room to practice for upcoming Sundays and concerts. The Chancel Choir presents several special concerts during the year including Easter, Patriotic and Christmas. The difficulty of the music ranges from fairly simple to complicated. If you are interested, please join us – we love getting new members!

The 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. services are Traditional worship services with the choir leading the singing. The organ and piano are the featured instruments with other instruments added on some Sundays. The 11:00 a.m. service features guitar, violin and piano and is in the style called New Traditions.

Methusiasm is the youth choir of students from the sixth through twelfth grades. They rehearse on most Sunday afternoons at 5:00 p.m. in the choir room. Methusiasm sings periodically for church services and leads the Sonrise Service at Easter. All youth are welcome!

Stepping Stones Music Academy meets on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. for one hour. The students range in age from kindergarten through grade five. Students learn to sing Christian music and play a variety of instruments. The Students sing at the 11:00 a.m. service 5 or 6 times per year.

Congregational Nurture

First St. Charles's ministry teams are concerned not only with the care of all church members, but also with its inactive members and individuals. These ministry teams oversee a variety of programs which minister to both members and non-members.

- **Caring Committee**

Members provide food for families during times of bereavement, including funeral luncheons.

- **Hospitality Ministry**

Every Sunday, a Hospitality team welcomes and assists individuals as they arrive for worship services.

- **Nurturing Ministries**

The Care of Souls Team (C.O.S.T.) keeps in touch with our homebound members and residential care residents through visits and phone calls. This caring ministry insures that our church stays in contact with those that can no longer attend worship, as well as lets these members know that our church remembers and cares about them.

The Bereavement group is volunteers who call and send caring notes to those in our congregation that have recently lost a loved one, letting them know that they are not alone in their grief.

- **Bus Ministry**

Volunteers drive the church's bus to provide transportation on Sunday mornings for those who are unable to drive to our worship services.

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Missions

First St. Charles is a missional church. We are always seeking opportunities to engage in and support community service activities and projects.

Members are involved in mission projects throughout the year, helping to spread the message of God's love and care. Some of these projects are:

- **Community Care Fund**

The purpose of this fund is to help individuals or households who are in a financial crisis and have an immediate need for gasoline or utility assistance (gas, electric, water). This ministry takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Servants provide our guests with breakfast and fellowship as they gather to receive assistance.

- **Food Pantry Sunday**

Members of First St. Charles bring donations of non-perishable food items to church on the third Sunday of each month. Between 800 and 900 items are donated each month and are given to the FISH food pantry.

- **Annual Conference Offering**

Each year the congregation of First St. Charles donates money for a mission project selected by the Missouri Annual Conference.

- **Showers of Blessing**

Every Wednesday our homeless neighbors are offered a warm meal, a hot shower, and personal care items and clothing.

- **Warming Center**

During the coldest days of the winter volunteers from our church have joined a coalition of churches who provide an overnight stay to people without a place to sleep.

- **Festival Of Sharing**

This is an annual interfaith event that seeks to generate financial and material resources to alleviate hunger, poverty, crisis and injustice in Missouri and throughout the world. Members of First St. Charles assemble designated "packs" that include: prison pack, readin' & writin' pack, personal hygiene pack, baby bundles, and student dental pack. These items are transported to the Festival, held at Sedalia, MO, on the third Saturday in October.

- **Kids' Backpack Ministry**

This is a program to provide weekend meals, contained in a backpack, for elementary kids at local schools. The backpacks are given to children who are going home to a house with insufficient food for their family.

- **Kairos**

This ministry brings the word of God to inmates in maximum security prison throughout the state of Missouri.

- **Christmas Giving Tree**

This program collects toys at Christmas time and distributes them through Kingdom House and Epworth Children and Family Services.

Outreach

We are committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with new people in our community. It is the responsibility of every member of First St. Charles United Methodist Church to witness what God has done in their life through word and deed. As a church we have developed several outreach opportunities to equip our congregation to witness the life changing presence of Jesus to new people.

- **Easter Riverside Services**

On Easter we hold worship services outside of the walls of our church at the Jaycee Stage in Frontier park to connect with new people outside of our congregation. We share together in the Good News that Jesus is risen and that we don't have to go through life alone. We can walk together with Jesus Christ.

- **New Comers Classes**

Throughout the year we follow up with guests in worship with phone calls, and letters. We host New Comers Classes to provide information about First St. Charles, the United Methodist Church, opportunities to connect with the congregation, and to develop relationships with new people and the pastors.