



The Spire

Volume 47 Number 1 January 10, 2018



first kids
LEARNING CENTER

First St. Charles United Methodist Church

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Prayers for a year of peace, at home and in God's world, to you and yours.

2018 is beginning as an exciting year for Children's Ministries at First Saint Charles United Methodist Church.

Effective 1/1/2018, the FUMC Preschool (established 1982) and FUMC Mother's-Day-Out childcare program (established prior to the preschool) have merged into one organization called **FirstKids Learning Center**.

This new organization seeks to provide excellent preschool and childcare services in a Christian environment. FirstKids is aligned with the mission of the church and positioned to grow enrollment, improve curriculum and attract new families to First St. Charles UMC during 2018.

The Sunday-morning space is sometimes difficult for families. Families of children and youth often enter First Church through non-Sanctuary doors during weekdays and Saturdays. *FirstKids*, Summer Day Camp, Vacation Bible School, "Keepsake Christmas," the Lincoln School partnership and other events are examples of doorways that bring families with children into the life of the church. Every doorway into the life of the church is a doorway to community and prayer and growing in faith.

A COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low by thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition is used in the Covenant Renewal Service, often celebrated on New Year's Eve or Day. Reference: Page 607 in the United Methodist hymnal.

THANK YOU, CHURCH, for welcoming the least and the lost, the seeker and the found, the very young and the very old — no matter what door they enter.

Shalom, Meg Love—Children's Minister



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Staying Connected

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family and friends of those who have recently passed away:

Joan Maher who passed away on December 19, 2017.

Virginia Moore who passed away on December 29, 2017.

Georgia Beth Barksdale, who passed away on January 2, 2018, sister of **Larry (June) Hopkins** and aunt of **Denise (Tom) Prigge, Brooke Prigge** and **Paige Prigge**.

Maurice Illy, who passed away on January 2, 2018, father of **Jim (Jill) Illy**.

Joy Gawith, who passed away on January 4, 2018, sister-in law of **Wanda (Dick) Saip**.

A Look Ahead

January 12—New Fire Prayer Service

January 14—Serendipity Circle new meeting time 5:00 pm

January 18—Evensong worship begins 6:00 pm

January 20—Worship at Mt. Carmel

Staff

Rev. Bart Hildreth, Ph.D.

Rev. Debby Bartley

Rev. Peter Norton

Rev. Diane Pence

Rev. Dr. Ken Gottman

Margaret Love

Jack McCormick

Carole Owens

Larry Ruebling

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Jim Nichols

Stacey Davis

Patti Adams

Pat Williams

Brielle Ketcherside

The Spire is published on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Articles for the January 24, 2018, *Spire* are due in the church office by January 17, 2018.

You may email them to

fumc_stcharles@sbcglobal.net with the word *Spire* as the subject.

Inclement Weather Policy



In case of bad weather during the week, the church will follow the weather schedule of the St. Charles School District. If the schools are closed for weather reasons, all church activities are also cancelled for the entire day, including all evening activities. On Sunday, the church may close in cases of extreme weather. All closings will be announced on television channels 4 and 5 and on Facebook and by email, if possible. Always use your best judgment and stay safe.



A NEW FIRE PRAYER SERVICE

This Friday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m., we are holding a prayer service in the Sanctuary to commemorate the 1953 fire which destroyed our church at its former location on Fifth Street. As a part of the service, we will present a booklet of memories, reflections and dreams of the people of First St. Charles UMC. Please join us as we look back at this significant event in our past and our dreams for the future of First St. Charles.



DRIVERS NEEDED FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Drivers are needed for the St. Peters Senior Center's Meals on Wheels program. Currently, drivers are needed for Tuesdays and Thursdays. You must have your own vehicle. You will choose one day a month or more, whatever fits your schedule. Meals are picked up at the Senior Center and delivered per route instructions they provide. The delivery usually takes about an hour to an hour and a half.

If you would like to volunteer for this much-needed program, please call Mary Evans at the Senior Center for more information. Her number is 636-278-1609.



Save the Date — New Fire Bible Study

There is a 5-week, church-wide, New Fire Bible Study starting the week of February 11. A number of small groups are forming. Small group signups will be open beginning January 14 through February 4. Please stay tuned for more details.

Fish Food Pantry Report Paul Boughton



On the third Monday morning of each month, Les Peters and I, load up my truck with the groceries and supplies that are brought to the church for the Fish Food Pantry. I have the privilege of taking these bags of food to Fish.

I want to let everyone know how appreciative the workers at Fish are to receive this food. They are amazed at how much comes from our church each month. This year the supply from the Boy Scout food drive was half what it usually is. I have been told several times how important we are to the mission at Fish, and how our December contribution literally saved the day for many people needing food for the holidays.

Sometimes things become so routine that we forget what a difference we are making in the lives of people. Our food pantry drive is one of those things that is truly making a difference.



Are you Concerned about Memory Loss?

We are too. First St. Charles United Methodist Church has established a partnership with the Alzheimer's Association. The Faith Outreach Ambassadors for our congregation are Mary Stiegemeier and Gayle Horn.

If you have questions, Mary and Gayle are trained by the Alzheimer's Association to assist you. Faith Outreach Ambassadors serve as full mission volunteers of the

Alzheimer's Association and are liaisons between faith communities and the greater Missouri Chapter. Their mission is to raise awareness, assist with education, and connect people to Alzheimer's Association services and support. If you have Alzheimer's disease, know someone who does, or know a caregiver and have questions, or if you just need someone to listen and help, contact Mary or Gayle. Mary's number is 636-441-0240 and Gayle Horn's is 636-946-3561.

Worship at Mount Carmel on Saturday, January 20th

Please join us as we worship with our friends at Mount Carmel Retirement Center on Saturday January 20th.


Our own Greg Nelson's message will be "God is With Us."

We will gather in the Mount Carmel lobby about **9:30 a.m.** to "walk and roll" residents to their chapel.

Please join us as we sing, pray, celebrate communion and share the Good News!

We expect to have our friends back to their rooms about 10:30 a.m.

Email Joan Crenshaw at joancren71@gmail.com or call 636-699-8764 so we know to count on you!



Thank You! Thank You from SAM for Blessing Bags!

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the Senior Adult Ministry was able to fill 500 treat bags with candy for the congregation to distribute to people who were working on Christmas eve or Christmas day. All the treat bags were taken and distributed. Thanks for being the hands of God.

Operation Backpack

The new semester has started and our food pantry is empty. Would you be willing to help feed our neighborhood children? We are in need of the following items:

Individual mac-n-cheese cups

Tomato soup

Oatmeal

Applesauce cups

Fruit cups

Canned vegetables.

Please bring your donations to the Backpack Ministry cupboard in the atrium.



UMW CIRCLE CHANGE FOR 2018

The Serendipity Circle is moving its meeting night to the 2nd Sunday of the month starting **Sunday, January 14 at 5:00 p.m. in the Catherine Collier room.** At this meeting we will be discussing the book *Hiding in*

the Light by Rifqa Bary. This book is available at St Louis County libraries and on Amazon.com. All women of the church are invited to join us.

Please contact Dee Dee Kassel at 636-896-0637 or Palmyra22@hotmail.com if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you there.



Evensong Worship Service Coming in January

Larry Ruebling

Many years ago, on a trip through England, my wife, Avis and I had the opportunity to participate in an Evensong worship service at the Church of England in London. It was a wonderful experience, sitting in the carved wooden choir stalls, and hearing the echo of hymns ringing throughout the stone church! I have always remembered that evening as both contemplative and very spiritual. Therefore, I have always thought that we should offer an opportunity to worship, similar to what I experienced, here at First St. Charles UMC. So now, I am pleased to announce that we are offering an **Evensong worship service beginning January 18, 2018, at 6:00 pm.** This 45 minute service will be held each Thursday in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to participate.

To explain a little more about an Evensong service, here are some excerpts from an article written by Guy Hayward from the web site: <https://www.choralevensong.org/about.php>. Please visit the web site if you would like even more information.

"Evensong is a 45-min long peace-inducing church service in which the 'song' of voices sounding together in harmony is heard at the 'even' point between the active day and restful night, allowing listeners time for restful contemplation – Church members, agnostics and atheists alike. It is both free of charge and free of religious commitment, and its 470-year-old choral music tradition - established around 1549."

"The origins of Evensong can be found in the services that Jesus himself led with his disciples that later evolved into Christian scripture, poetry and doctrine. The service thus has a direct lineage back to the very beginning of Christianity, and even beyond that to the older Judaic tradition. Perhaps one of the reasons Evensong is so effective is that it packs so much of this deep history into 45 minutes, in an elegantly simple form."

"As an English language service, Evensong dates back to the time of the Reformation, using elements of the old monastic Offices of Vespers. The liturgy that the Church uses to this day was laid out in Archbishop Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer, the first version of which appeared in 1549."

"The fact that Evensong has had such a long evolution means that one has a powerful sense of connecting present with past, of tapping into something much

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greater than ourselves. As we come together in a church at the end of the day we join a vast community enduring both through time and in the same place, by acting in the same way as countless people have done before us for over a thousand years."

"Evensong may also literally "en-chant" our land through chant. The concept of perpetual choirs has been around for millennia, and some choirs in Britain come close to this ideal by singing Evensong each day of the week, throughout the year, every year. Thinking another way, the global choral evensong tradition may function as one large perpetual choir, "enchanting" the world."

The Evensong for our church will be a little different than those by the Church of England but will provide you with an opportunity to experience the spiritual connection with God through hymns, quiet contemplation and prayer.

Our basic order of service will be as follows: Prelude, processional hymn, opening comments, opening prayer with quiet contemplation, Lord's prayer, hymn, first lesson from Psalms, Apostle's Creed, hymn, special music, hymn, second reading from Psalms, Offertory with special music, hymn, quiet reflection, two hymns, Benediction and postlude.

As you see, it is a very simple family friendly service with lots of singing and there will be no sermon or message. I am sure that you will leave our Evensong worship service filled with the Holy Spirit and with a stronger connection to God!

Whatever we may believe, evensong is a beautiful tradition just waiting to be witnessed that can give respite and inspiration during our busy modern lives.



FUNERAL LUNCHEON TEAM

Volunteers are needed to support the group that provides meals for funerals. First St. Charles offers each family a meal either before or after the funeral services. It's such a help for the family not to have to worry about a meal that day. You can help by providing a dish, helping to serve or helping with cleanup. If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact Jane Harrer at 314-606-6552.



Missing Blue Choir Robe

The choir is missing a blue choir robe. It is marked #82 and is sized for a tall person. If you have seen this robe, please return it to the choir room.