

## April Newsletter

### Pastor Transition Update from the Transition Task Force

In our previous updates since the October mission discernment exercise, you've heard that more data was desired for our mission study and more time for all members of our congregation to adjust to the changes that are coming. There are now just two Sunday morning meetings left in this 12-week activity. The final topic will be discussed on April 7th and then a concluding wrap up meeting will be on Sunday, April 14th. Everyone is welcome to participate in these meetings, and we especially encourage you to join us if you have not yet had the chance to do so.

There were four central and common themes that emerged from the October discernment exercise where we can focus to grow in faithfulness: 1) Using our Talents/Gifts more fully; 2) Engagement with/Outreach to the Community outside our congregation; 3) Strengthening Fellowship within our congregation; and 4) Embracing Diversity of identities and needs within our congregation and within our community. We've been spending three weeks on each of the four themes while we've examined these guiding questions: Week #1 - What are we doing well?; Week #2 - What could we do better?; Week #3 - What kind of leadership do we need to get there? There have been over a dozen individuals who have participated in these sessions, with an average of fifteen individuals attending each week.

All of this emphasis on a mission study and the following report is because it drives our pastor search. It is both our resume that describes us as a church, and a job description for the new pastor we need to lead us forward. The Mission Report Team is now being formed to write this document and will be appointed by the Session. If you feel you are being called to join this team, please contact one of us on the Pastor Transition Task Force.

After the October discernment exercise led by Rev. Bart Brenner, the Session also determined that an officer training retreat for our elders and deacons would be particularly beneficial at this time. We held this training with the leadership of our new Synod of Mid-America Executive, Rev. Deborah Boucher-Payne and our Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy Leader, Rev. Ryan Landino. In this year of transition, our officers will be taking on more of the responsibilities, roles, and functions that our pastor often handles, and they need to be well prepared for this. The event was well received by our officers, was informative about how our Presbytery can be a resource to us, and provided the needed environment for us to get to know our Executive leaders and for them to get to know us and our needs.

(continued on next page)



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Pastor Transition Update.....1-2
- April Calendar ..... 3
- April Birthdays ..... 3
- Recurring & New Events ..... 4
- Deacon's Corner ..... 5
- Hearts & Hands to Others ..... 6
- VBS: Outback Rock..... 7
- Spring Word Find.....8
- Devotion & Thank You..9
- Save the Date.....10



In addition, Ryan Landino offered to be our guest preacher this Spring and we have invited him to do so on May 5th, with Rev. Ronnie assisting with the liturgy. We believe this is another chance to deepen our relationship with Ryan and to demonstrate who we are as a church.

Last year our Presbytery's Commission on Ministry (COM) assigned the Rev. Bill Smutz to be our resource and liaison for our pastoral transition. However, he has moved on to serve a church out of our area and so in March we were assigned two, new COM Reps, Rev. Jen Warren-Hauser (interim pastor at Granite City First United Presbyterian Church) and Rev. Jay Losher, a retired Presbyterian pastor. The Pastor Transition Task Force has met with both of them and Rev. Warren-Hauser was also able to meet our Session at its March meeting.

Both of our new COM Representatives expressed their approval of the progress we've made in preparing for our pastoral transition and essentially told us to keep doing what we're doing. They also supported our desire for a shortened time frame that avoids a long transition period with an interim pastor. Our plan is still to use guest pulpit supply through much of the summer as we generally do during Ronnie's vacation time. Then, we expect to call a "bridge" pastor that will serve us while we do our actual pastoral search and call work. Our timeline anticipates hiring this bridge pastor in late August or September, and then we believe it is possible that we could call our new permanent pastor to start as early as January 2025. We are now lining up pulpit supply for the summer. We hope that a number of folks who have served as pulpit supply for us in the past will be able to visit us once again this summer. However, some of our long-time favorites have recently retired or moved away, so we'll get to know some new faces as well.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will be forming when our Mission study and report is completed and accepted by both our Session and Presbytery. If service on the PNC interests you, and you feel called to this important work, now is the time to get involved so you are intimately familiar with our Mission Study and with how the pastoral search and call process works. The Session will be nominating the PNC and the actual serving members will be voted on by the congregation at a congregational meeting. As with all congregational meetings there will be a two-Sunday advance notice of this meeting.

Once again, please reach out if you would like to get involved in the Mission Study process or the Pastor Nomination process. Also, please join us for the last two weeks of our mission discernment process. And, finally, please keep Ronnie and Margaret, our church, our Session, and us—the Pastor Transition Task Force—in your prayers.

Dave Brakeman, Travis McMaken, Angie Southard



# April

April 1: Church Office closed

April 2: Election, FH, 6 am-7 pm; Book Club, 1:00 pm, Java with Jesus area

April 10: PEO, 12:30 pm, Java with Jesus area

April 13: Mulch Day; meet at the church at 9:00 am

April 17: Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Llywelyn's Pub, St. Charles

April 18: Session & Deacon's Meetings, 7:00 pm, AC a & b

April 21: New Adult Spiritual Formation Class starts; 9:30 am, Adult Classroom B

## WEEKLY

Spiritual Formation Classes, 9:30 am; Worship, 10:30 am

Tinkers meet Tuesdays, 9:00 am at church

AA Groups: Tuesdays, 6:00 pm; Saturdays, 10:00 am; meet in the Parlor



April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

*No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep, and we know it.*  
- Hal Borland

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carlene Elmore
- 1 Masoma Litumbe
- 2 Rosemarie Raffel
- 2 Nancy Brakeman
- 4 Jerry Lyon
- 5 Ron Hauser
- 6 Sally Stumberg
- 13 Carol Eoff
- 15 Riley Mitchum
- 20 Samantha Mersnick
- 20 Tom Patterson
- 24 Wanda Romine
- 25 Dennis Ziesmer
- 28 Ruth Bohnert
- 29 Slade Nagel
- 30 Eddie Carroll
- 30 Max Gingrich



Happy Birthday to all of our beloved members born this month! May the coming year bring you joy and peace knowing the Lord loves you and your church family does too!

There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye. There is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they wander by.

- William Cullen Bryant





## April Fool's Day

### ORIGINS OF APRIL FOOLS' DAY

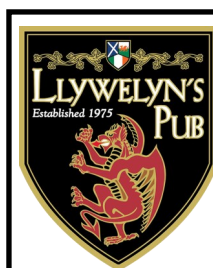
Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools." These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

**April 1 is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year.**  
**– Mark Twain**

## RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

Book Club's monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 2nd. They will be discussing, The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend by Katarina Bivald. Lively discussion will begin at 1:00 pm in the Java with Jesus area. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Brown at 636 441-1771. May's selection will be Sooley by John Grisham.



**Lunch Bunch** will be meeting this month at Llywelyn's Pub on April 17th at 11:30 am. Please join them at the St. Charles location at 100 N. Main Street.

Join the **Tinkers** every Tuesday at 9:00 am for fellowship, coffee & cinnamon rolls, and a little work. They keep our church running!



### Mulch Day-April 13th

The Building & Grounds Committee needs your help spreading mulch around the church grounds. Show up at 9:00 am and stay as long as you can. The whole process should take anywhere between 1-3 hours. If you have tools such as a rake, shovel, spade, or work gloves, bring them along. Please contact Jerry Lyon with any questions: 636 795-0611.

### New Spiritual Formation Class

Starting **April 21st**, the Adult Spiritual Formation Class will be reading and studying The Way of the Heart by Henri Nouwen. This short but meaningful book focuses on a deeper spiritual path with God through solitude, silence, and prayer and presents the inspiring challenge of surrendering the compulsive noise of the world for the way of the heart that leads to God. This is a great follow-up for the Purple Theory Lenten sermon series we've been hearing from Ronnie. Books and discussion questions will be available on the first meeting which will take place during the regular 9:30 hour in Adult Classroom A. For more information, please contact Kenda Carey in the church office Tues.-Thurs., 8:30-12:30.

### Christian Education Committee Looking for New Members

CE meets once a month after the 10:30 worship hour. There are many opportunities throughout the year to assist with the coordination of church activities such as Spiritual Formation classes, Youth Group, VBS, Prime Time Wednesday, and more. There is something for everyone and your voice and input are valued. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the church office or Hilary Kelly at 636 487-4774.

## Easter Baskets for FISH

Deacons did a wonderful job decorating and assembling **18** Easter baskets which were donated to FISH to help families in our community celebrate Easter.



The Easter themed tags are so pretty and make the baskets more festive. Deacons would like to thank everyone who generously donated to make the baskets a big success! Thanks to Janet Ferry, Christiana Manyane, and Nancy Brakeman for assembling them.



Deacons will be supporting our local Salvation Army during the month of April. They are serving a meal during this time and more details about that will follow soon in case you would like to volunteer to help. Look for information in the weekly announcements or contact Ruthie Farrell. The offering for Salvation Army will be taken on Sunday, April 28th, during worship.

The Salvation Army on 4th Street serves lunch Monday-Friday, and dinner, Monday-Thursday and they have a food pantry open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They have several programs that help with homelessness prevention and emergency assistance. When the basics of food and shelter have been provided, they have many other programs that assist individuals and families, such as after-school activities, worship opportunities, and creative arts education. Please show your support for this organization during the month of April by giving your time and/or money. Thank you!



Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

John 12:26



# HEARTS AND HANDS TO OTHERS

...in our Community, nation, and world

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

Mother Teresa

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.”

Matt. 25:40

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL

Please give what you can and remember that no donation is too small

### FISH FOOD PANTRY\*

- Salad Dressing\*\*
- Yams\*\*
- Tomato sauce\*\*
- Miscellaneous Potatoes\*\*
- Pie filling
- Toilet paper
- Adult toothpaste



\*\*FISH is completely out of these items

\*Please be aware that FISH, as a general rule, is always in need of household items, such as blankets, sheets, pillows, underwear, socks, etc. They use much of their monetary donations to purchase these items as a larger family in need can diminish them quickly; however, they always accept these types of new or used items in good condition.

### FT ZUMWALT EAST SNACK SHACK

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Ramen bowls</b>          | <b>Pop Tarts</b>              |
| <b>Mac ‘n’ Cheese</b>       | <b>Peanut Butter crackers</b> |
| <b>microwaveable bowls</b>  | <b>Cheese crackers</b>        |
| <b>Individual chip bags</b> | <b>Popcorn</b>                |
| <b>Granola bars</b>         | <b>Capri Sun</b>              |
| <b>Breakfast bars</b>       | <b>Kool-Aid Jammers</b>       |

To SCPC Community:

Thank you for the prayers extended to Dale and me during the past weeks. We appreciated the hospital visits from Beverly, Ronnie, and Kenda as well as the cards and notes. Dale is trying to challenge himself to be the best he can be!

Wanda Romine



VBS is coming this June! Don't miss out on every opportunity to participate, volunteer, or support!



## OUTBACK ROCK Weekend Vacation Bible School

When: Friday, June 7th, 6:00-8:30 pm

Saturday, June 8th, 9:00-11:30 am

Who: Children ages 4 years through entering 6th grade

(Nursery care will be provided for siblings of attendees and children of volunteers, ages 0-3 years)

Cost: \$10 per child

To register please visit the church website, [scpcusa.org](http://scpcusa.org), scan the link below, or click here: <https://vbspro.events/p/oe7af5>

Join us on Saturday, June 8th at the conclusion of VBS for a Family Fun Picnic on the church driveway from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Free food, bounce house, games, and fellowship will be available for all to enjoy! Everyone is welcome, so please bring a friend!

VBS Sunday is June 9th. Listen to the children sing, hear what they learned, and join us for a luncheon following the service. Again, everyone is welcome!



### VBS NEEDS YOU!

Many volunteers are needed to make this a fun learning experience that runs smoothly for every participant. Visit the VBS table in the Narthex during the month of April and find a volunteer position that is just right for you! Contact Jess McMaken with any questions: 636 328-8916 or [jess.mcmaken@gmail.com](mailto:jess.mcmaken@gmail.com).



**Outback Rock**-where kids can explore God's monumental love and learn to have an unshakeable faith!

# Spring Flower Word Find

Find and circle the words.



APRIL  
BABY ANIMALS  
BASEBALL  
BEES  
BIRDS

BLOSSOMS  
BUTTERFLY  
FLOWERS  
FRESH AIR  
GARDEN

GRASS  
KITES  
MARCH  
MAY  
NEST

PLANT  
PUDDLES  
RAIN  
SUNSHINE  
TULIPS

UMBRELLA  
WINDY  
WORMS



# Live Under the Blessing-A Devotion

by Henri Nouwen:

Jesus suffered and died for our sake. He suffered and died, not in despair, not as the rejected one, but as the Beloved Child of God. From the moment he heard the voice that said, "You are my Beloved, on you my favor rests," he lived his life and suffered his pain under the Blessing of the Father. He knew that even when everyone would run away from him, his Father would never leave him alone.

For us, the greatest temptation is to lose touch with the Blessing. We are Beloved Sons and Daughters of God. When we live our suffering under the Blessing, even the greatest pain, yes, even death, will lead us deeper into the forgiving and lifegiving heart of God. But when we think we are not loved, when we reflect on ourselves as living under a curse, when we say or think: "I am not good," our suffering will lead us to despair and our death cannot give life.

**For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, "Do not fear; I will help you." - Isaiah 41: 13 (NIV)**



A big Thank You to the many volunteers who helped make Prime Time possible this session! Your commitment to caring is so valuable!

## Director:

Margaret Osborn

## Kitchen Staff:

Ginny Andres

Lisa Brown

Nancy Brakeman

Christiana Manyanye

## Table Decorations:

Martha Henslee

## Bible Study Leaders:

Ruthie & Ken Farrell

Ed & Kim Farrell

## Recreation:

Hilary & Spence Kelly

## Adult Devotion Leader:

Ruth Smith

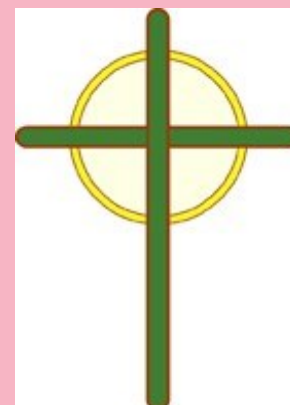
## Dessert Makers:

Peggy Brown

Wanda Romine

Ruth Smith

Mary Kay Lyon



St. Charles Presbyterian Church  
Founded 1818

# Save the Date



Please join us as we celebrate the retirement and faithful service of:

**Reverend Ronnie D Osborn**  
**St. Charles Presbyterian Church**  
**2005-2024**

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Worship 10:30 am | Luncheon 12:00 pm

131 Gamble Street, St. Charles, MO 63301 | 636-946-4467

Look for more details in  
upcoming bulletins and  
emails

