

## May Newsletter

Beloved Church Family,

“So long, farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, goodbye”

With those words, the children said goodnight to the partygoers in the *Sound of Music*. Today I join them in that refrain as I say goodbye to you as your pastor after 18 years, 8 months, and 8 days on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. (But whose counting )

Like a trapeze artist who lets go of one trapeze but hasn't quite grabbed hold of the next, I'm finding the transition from ordained ministry to retirement both an exciting time and an anxious one. But as I write this, I know this analogy holds true for you all as well as you say goodbye to your longtime pastor and wondering about your future. So, I want you all not to forget that regardless of what we do or do not have a hold of at this moment, Christ has a hold of us and he will never let us go. Or as Margaret loves to say in moments like this, *“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”* Jer. 29.11

Thank you for your love and encouragement throughout my 18 years of ministering with you. Thank you for your dedication to the Lord and to his church. Thank you for your generosity both spiritually and materially. Thank you for your hospitality as you enjoy your lifelong friends made at SCPC and welcome newcomers in our church family. In the years to come when I am asked about the St. Charles Presbyterian Church where I was a pastor, I will be able to say with all sincerity that together we “Gathered in Hope, was Nurtured in Faith, and was Sent as Christ's Servants.” As much as anything, it was your willingness to grapple and grow into our mission statement that allowed me to stay as long as I have. It has been a blessing to witness the spiritual growth and commitment to Christ's church and I have been honored to live our mission statement with you under the guidance and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of each Sunday morning service, I seek to give you both a charge and a blessing. As I depart this congregation, my charge to you is from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 12, where he says: “Dear brothers and sisters. Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace.” This is my prayer for you, my friends, and my brothers and sisters.

Walt Disney closed his Mickey Mouse Club show with this blessing and with my own take I bless you:

Now it's time to say goodbye to all our company

J-E-S-U-S, C-H-R-I-S-T

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ

Forever, let us hold His banner high

Through the years, we'll all be friends wherever we may be,

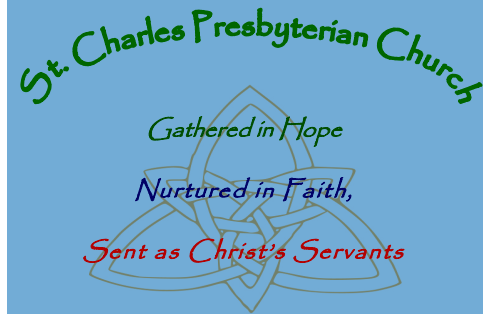
Oh, we gonna see you real soon

Why? Why, because we (Margaret and I) love you!

(So long, so long, so long)

Your friend in Christ,

Rev. Ronnie O.



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- May 5: Youth Group
- May 7: Book Club, 1:00 pm, Java with Jesus Area
- May 8: PEO, 12:30 pm, Java with Jesus area
- May 12: Mother's Day
- May 16: Session & Deacon's Meetings, 7:00 pm, AC a & b
- May 19: Pentecost; Ronnie & Margaret's Retirement Celebration & Luncheon, 10:30 worship, 12:00 luncheon
- May 21: VBS Volunteer meeting, 7:00 pm, Adult Classroom
- May 27: Memorial Day, Church Office closed

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

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Ryan McMaken             | 13 Jonah Smith   |
| 4 Judy Johnson             | 13 Samira Smith  |
| 8 Sam Gnolfo               | 13 Emma Spraul   |
| 8 Kelsey Litteken          | 14 Ed Farrell    |
| 11 Keziah Njofor           | 15 Bette Sill    |
| 12 Bradley Henslee         | 17 Ronald Osborn |
| 12 Mary Kelley             | 18 JoAnn Lynch   |
| 13 Brandy<br>Niederschmidt | 20 Dana Bova     |
|                            | 31 Janet Kniffen |

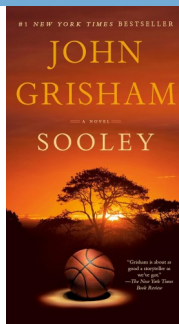


Happy Birthday to all of our beloved members born this month! May the coming year bring you joy and peace knowing the Lord loves you and your church family does too!



# RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

Book Club's monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 7th. They will be discussing, Sooley by John Grisham.. 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. June's selection will be *The Address* by Fiona Davis.



## SCRIP CARD INFO

**You may purchase scrip cards in the narthex before or after worship service. Please check the list of cards available on the bulletin table each week. Ask Nancy Brakeman or Sally Stumberg to help you. Please pay by cash or check.**

## SCRIP CARDS DIRECT

There is a list of the various SCRIP cards held in inventory for purchase at times other than the second Sunday of the month. Please see Howard Seeds after worship or call or text his cell (314-600-2051) to make arrangements to purchase cards in the church office. Thank you for supporting this fund-raising activity.

You can use the QR code to access the RaiseRight app and purchase scrip cards anytime if you don't want to wait to order through the church. Use QR Code or the enrollment code to link to SCPC F781B1LB17L36. If you have questions, please contact Howard at

[howard@scpcusa.org](mailto:howard@scpcusa.org) or call him on Monday or Friday afternoons at the church, 636 -946-4467 or 314-600-2051.

*Scrip cards orders are due the second Sunday of each month if you are having the church do your order.*



Lunch Bunch will be meeting this month on Wednesday, May 15th at Lewis & Clark at 217 S. Main St. Everyone gathers at 11:30 and all are welcome. A big thank you to Sally Stumberg who organizes this group and keeps it up and running! Thanks Sally!

*"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope."  
-Emily Brontë*



**VBS Volunteer Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, May 21st**  
meet in the Adult Classroom at 7:00 pm. All volunteers needed!



**May 5th, 4:30- Miniature Golf,** meet at Swing Around Town, 3541 Veteran's Memorial Parkway  
**Cinco De Mayo Dinner** at the Scott's, 16 Clear Vista, St. Charles  
**7:30 pickup**

# Baby Shower



Please join us in celebrating Loveline Njofor & big sister Keziah.

St. Charles Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, May 11, 2024**  
**1 to 3 pm**

Questions? Call or text Ruth Smith at (419) 706-8506

**\*For detailed information about Ronnie's last Sunday, please see page 9.**



Thank you for your generosity to our local Salvation Army. You gave \$305.20 and the Deacons added \$150 to that for a total of \$450.20! Your generous support will provide so much for those in need in our community.



The Pentecost Offering will be taken on May 19th. This is one of the four Special Offerings given through the PCUSA and a way for us to unite with other churches around the world to be the Church together. There are envelopes in the Narthex for your convenience. Detailed information is on the following page. Remember that 40% of the offering stays with us to support our Youth Group in their mission activities and trips. Thank you in advance for supporting our youth and others around the world!

### **Congratulations to our 2024 Graduates:**

Emma Carey is graduating summa cum laude from Lindenwood with a B.S. in Fashion Business & Entrepreneurship. She will be pursuing her master's degree in the fall.

Sam Gnolfo is graduating from the University of Missouri in Columbia from the school of parks, recreation, sport and tourism with a BS in Sports Management. He is planning to do a summer internship in stadium operations with the O'Fallon Hoots.

Chase Nagel is graduating from St. Charles High School and will be attending the Kansas State University in the Fall.

**Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.** Proverbs 16:3

Mulch Day was a big success! Thanks to everyone who showed up to help with a smile on their face and a willingness to pitch in! Our volunteer crew included: Marcus, Ruth, Samira & Jonah Smith, Shawn Nagel, Spence Kelly, Dave Brakeman, Greg Southard, Scott Carey, Bob Fletcher, Jerry Lyon, Peter Njofor, and Lee Ferry.



What a great way to serve our church and the surrounding community by making our grounds more beautiful!



The Pentecost Offering will be taken on May 19th

## ‘I Am Coming to You’

In John 14:18 we hear the words Jesus shared with the disciples at the Last Supper: “I am coming to you.” “I am coming to you” — words meant to inspire comfort, reassurance; for with these words, we know Jesus will always be at our side. This is the hope and inspiration that carries us forward and is fundamental to our faith.

It is important to talk about instilling this faith, this understanding — this assurance — from an early age. The Pentecost Offering helps our young people begin life with a strong start, a solid foundation of faith formed in the years from childhood through young adulthood that will last a lifetime.

Through our gifts, we are able to tell the story of our God, who is always there for us, coming to us.

The Offering supports partners like the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* initiative, which seeks to equip, connect and improve the quality of public education.

It also supports the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which gathers high school age young people for an event every three years focused on worship, disciple making, Christian compassion and justice, and biblical/theological education.

It enables young adults to share Christ’s light while living in solidarity with those on the margins of society and preparing themselves for a life of service through the Young Adult Volunteer program.

Forty percent of the funds we receive will remain right here with our congregation to support our Youth Group. The remaining 60% will be used to support children at risk, youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Our gifts, large and small, make a difference.

Over the past few weeks, you may have heard stories from those who have come to know the inescapable loving presence of God through transformational experiences, made possible, in part, through the Pentecost Offering.

One story is that of Maggie Collins, a Young Adult Volunteer whose strong commitment to the church’s role in advocating for peace placed her at the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. She says, “When donors give generously to the Pentecost Offering, it proves that our church and its members really want to empower young people and bring them into the church. It goes beyond just words and sends a message to young people we would like them to be a part of it.”

Our gifts, when combined with those from other congregations, help instill in our young people a heartfelt understanding of the ways God comes to us every single day. Please give generously ... for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



# 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\*

**Canned Pineapple**

**Canned Milk**

**Tomatoes**

**Tuna Helper**

**Jello**

**Applesauce**

**Pasta Sides**

**Mayo**



\*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

**Ramen bowls**

**Mac 'n' Cheese**

**microwaveable bowls**

**Individual chip bags**

**Granola bars**

**Breakfast bars**

**Pop Tarts**

**Peanut Butter crackers**

**Cheese crackers**

**Popcorn**

**Capri Sun**

**Kool-Aid Jammers**



6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9: 6-8



VBS is around the corner! Don't miss out on the updated information below and an 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 above, or click here: <https://vbspro.events/p/oe7af5>

All are welcome at the VBS Family Fun Picnic on Saturday, June 8th, from 11:30-1 pm at the conclusion of the VBS program. Come on out to the circle drive and enjoy hot dogs, chips, popsicles, bounce house, a bubble bus with music, and fellowship with your church family and VBS participants. This outreach event is open to the community whether you attended VBS or not, so invite some friends!

VBS Sunday is June 9th. Listen to the children sing, hear what they learned, and join us for a luncheon following the service. The church will provide a main dish and a dessert. Please bring a side dish to share.

VBS Snack Donations: Juice boxes and individually pre-packaged snacks for the VBS children are needed! Suggestions include goldfish, mini-cookies, animal crackers, fruit snacks, pretzels, chips, juice boxes, etc. Items must be individually pre-packaged for the "grab and go" snack station. Please place these donations in the designated bin in the Narthex by June 2nd. Thank you!



There will be a VBS volunteer meeting on Tuesday, May 21st, at 7:00 pm in the Adult Classroom in the Office area. All volunteers are needed!



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

## **Pastor Transition -- May Update from the Pastor Transition Task Force**

Since the April update we have completed our twelve-week, Sunday mornings mission discernment series. A final wrap-up meeting was held on April 14 to summarize the main findings. Over the course of this series there have been over two dozen different individuals that have attended one or more of the meetings with a weekly average of twelve to fifteen participants. The Session is thankful for the committed engagement that the participants applied to this work and the obvious hope and excitement it has generated.

The following week, at its regular April meeting, the Session appointed a Mission Team that will use these findings to create a written report that articulates how we understand God to be calling our congregation to ministry in the coming years, as well as clarifying the pastoral leadership we need to answer God's call. This report is called a Mission Study. The six members of this team are Ruth Smith (moderator), Nancy Brakeman, Beverly Butler, Kenda Carey, Greg Southard, and Paul York. An initial meeting was held on April 28 with the Pastor Transition Task Force (PTTF) to brief the team on its work. A first draft of their Mission Study report is anticipated by the end of May. When it is ready for review, the report will be presented to the congregation for its feedback and the final version must be approved by our Session before it is submitted to the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry (COM) for its review and approval.

We continue to be in regular contact with our two COM Representatives and met with them again in April to make more progress on our transition plan. Our agenda included making provisions for a temporary Moderator of Session while we are without an installed pastor, finding PCUSA sources and others for local demographic data that will be needed for our mission report, and details of the process to end our pastoral call with Rev. Ronnie. A necessary step at the end of a pastor's call is to hold a congregational vote to "dissolve the pastoral relationship." This vote must take place at a congregational meeting that is moderated by a pastor from the Presbytery. Back in February at the church officers retreat, we invited Rev. Ryan Landino, our Presbytery Leader, to be our guest preacher on May 5th along with Rev. Ronnie for the purpose of getting to know each other better. The Session has decided that rather than wait until Ronnie's last Sunday to hold this congregational vote, we would take advantage of Rev. Landino's presence to officiate this vote on May 5th, so a congregational meeting has been called for this date.

As you have heard, our pastor transition plan includes using guest preachers through most of the summer as has been our practice when Rev. Ronnie has been on vacation. These pulpit supply preachers have already been scheduled into July. Pastors Stephen Schwander, Nichole Torbitzky of Lindenwood, and Christi Tennyson who was recently with Presbyterian Children's Homes, have each agreed to preach at least twice for us. We can look forward to seeing some other familiar faces as well as some new ones this summer.

The Session expects our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to be put in place this summer. It is the Session's responsibility to nominate those who will be on the PNC and then 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.

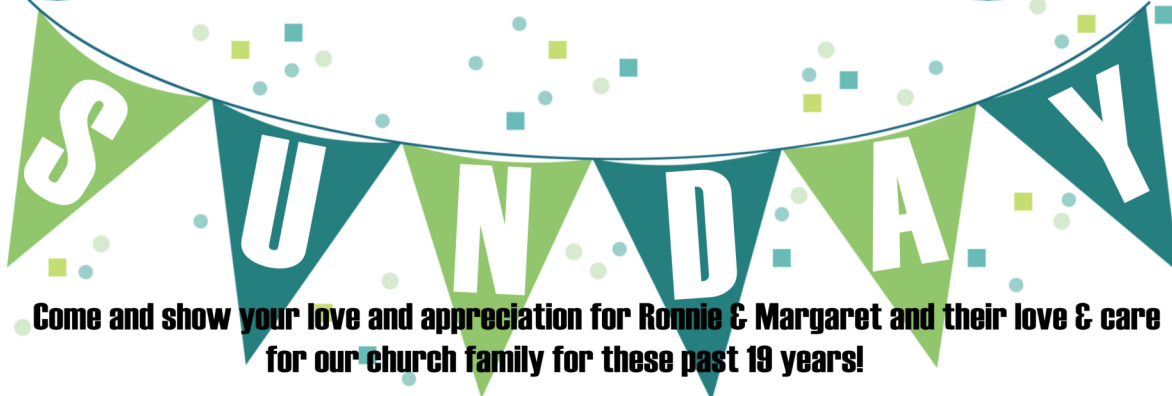
Once again, please keep Ronnie and Margaret, our church, our Session, our Mission Team, and us—the Pastor Transition Task Force—in your prayers.

Pastor Transition Task Force,  
Dave Brakeman, Travis McMaken, Angie Southard





# CELEBRATION



**Come and show your love and appreciation for Ronnie & Margaret and their love & care for our church family for these past 19 years!**



**RONNIE'S LAST SUNDAY, MAY 19**

**WORSHIP: 10:30 AM**

**LUNCHEON 12:00 PM**

**There will be special music, special moments to honor Ronnie & Margaret, special food & special guests. Please join us in the celebration!**



## WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

We are asking the congregation to help with the luncheon by bringing an assortment of sides, all of which Ronnie & Margaret love. Shawn Nagel is providing the meat, smoked Sloppy Joes, and dessert will also be provided. Here is a list of sides to choose from:

- ◆ BBQ bean, KC's Jack Stack style (online recipe is here: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/jack-stack-barbecue-beans-recipe-1915560>)
- ◆ Caesar Salad or Salads with grapes, figs, cranberries, nuts, pears, or strawberries
- ◆ Cornbread or any rustic bread
- ◆ Macaroni and cheese
- ◆ Bacon-wrapped asparagus or green beans
- ◆ Double-stuffed potatoes
- ◆ Fresh corn on the cob

You can also write a note to Ronnie and/or Margaret by using the Retirement Cards found in the Narthex.

Please check your email for other important information or call or text Kenda Carey (314 374-5968).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Mickey Mouse Word Search

U	O	G	S	P	E	F	V	G	J	N	I	Y	C	C	P	S
D	H	L	A	G	F	C	U	C	D	F	B	N	V	F	X	O
P	Z	O	Q	L	I	H	J	A	H	U	U	V	A	D	G	S
U	E	T	F	C	G	I	P	C	I	F	O	G	F	O	X	A
C	F	D	J	R	A	P	W	I	L	L	I	E	A	N	E	L
E	J	V	S	H	R	F	W	M	P	D	A	L	E	A	Z	T
D	Y	B	Z	Z	O	A	Y	B	T	K	O	W	K	L	J	Y
R	A	C	X	K	Y	N	C	B	R	M	W	R	A	D	H	N
E	E	L	L	Z	D	T	J	Y	P	L	U	T	O	M	I	Y
K	T	Z	T	F	C	A	L	K	V	N	T	J	H	I	N	W
W	H	I	A	D	M	S	D	R	Z	P	T	Q	U	N	P	F
C	C	C	E	I	K	I	H	L	A	N	G	O	E	N	F	B
D	N	C	R	S	J	A	V	P	Z	V	Q	X	C	I	U	U
A	O	H	U	N	G	M	H	Y	G	Z	B	O	I	E	H	G
I	S	B	Z	E	L	W	I	L	X	D	E	M	W	X	M	O
S	C	S	V	Y	S	H	P	Y	I	S	D	X	N	S	I	O
Y	S	E	R	U	M	W	A	P	W	V	D	F	U	Q	C	F
D	K	A	H	D	Z	Q	S	C	Q	S	Z	F	P	K	K	Y
D	W	L	K	U	V	V	J	N	W	P	R	E	R	X	E	H
R	P	A	L	C	Y	U	G	L	U	B	M	G	L	W	Y	I
W	X	O	Y	K	A	E	N	D	H	I	H	J	V	M	Q	F
L	L	T	V	X	T	F	N	J	B	S	T	R	G	P	W	U

PLUTO	DISNEY	MINNIE
SALTY	DONALD	GOOFY
DUCK	SEAL	DALE
FIGARO	FANTASIA	MICKEY
WILLIE	CHIP	DAISY

