

St. Charles Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Ronnie Osborn, Pastor
131 Gamble Street, St. Charles, MO

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St. Charles Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

purpletheory Habits and routines help us stay on track in many areas of our lives – whether it's our physical, mental, or emotional health. That's why weight loss programs like Noom, meal kit delivery services like Blue Apron, and boutique fitness studios like Orange Theory, have thrived over this last decade. Unfortunately, too often we forget daily habits and routines which can also help us grow in our spiritual lives as well. In this series, Purple Theory, we will explore several spiritual disciplines, or faithful habits, that can help us deepen our relationship with God. Lent is the perfect time to commit or recommit to a spiritual discipline, as we enter a season of self-examination in preparation for Easter.

PurpleTheory | Sermon Series

February 14, Ash Wednesday: *Self-examination* | Scripture: Psalm 51:6-12

If we want to grow in our relationship with God, it is important to be honest both with God and with ourselves about where we are in our faith, where we would like it to be, and make a plan.

February 18, Week 1: *Prayer* | Scripture: Romans 8:26-27

As we learn a rhythm of prayer, we become connected to God in new and exciting ways. Prayer is the breath of Christian life.

February 25, Week 2: *Scripture* | Scripture: Psalm 1:1-3

Reading and meditating on Scripture lay the foundation for Christian life.

March 3, Week 3: *Fasting* | Scripture: Matthew 6:16-18

Fasting is meant to change our hearts and deepen our relationship with God, yet sometimes we turn it into a diet or show.

March 10, Week 4: *Confession* | Scripture: 1 John 1:5-9

Confessing our sins brings us out of the darkness of the world and into the light of living as a Christ follower.

March 17, Week 5: *Worship* | Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

The spiritual discipline of worship is not (just) about showing up to church on Sunday! It is about weaving worship through our everyday lives in different ways.

March 24, Palm/Passion Sunday: *Silence* | Scripture: Mark 14: 26-41

When we practice being silent, we can deepen our connection with God.

March 28, Maundy Thursday: *Loving Others* | Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 31, Easter Sunday: *Gratitude* | Scripture: Luke 24:1-12; 52-53

Christ is risen! God's grace calls us to lives of gratitude.



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February 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		

February is the border
between winter and
spring.
– Terri Guillemets

Feb. 3: Deacon & Elder Training, 9-4, meet
in Adult Classroom A & B

Feb. 6: Book Club, 1:00 pm, Java with Jesus
area

Feb. 7: Prime Time session begins, 5:00, FH

Feb. 11: Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch, FH,
following worship

Feb. 14: PEO, 12:30 pm Java with Jesus area; Ash Wednesday service,
7:00 pm

Feb. 18: 1st Sunday of Lent

Feb. 21: Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, First Watch, St. Charles

WEEKLY

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

Tinkers meet Tuesdays, 8:00 am at church

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 James Burnitt
- 6 Bill Horn
- 7 Marcus Smith
- 7 Sandy Miller
- 12 Doug White
- 13 Martha Henslee
- 13 Dave Blinne
- 14 Jonathan Scott
- 15 Anna Scott
- 18 Grace Scott
- 21 Hilary Kelly
- 22 Tim Luley
- 23 Lilyan Wilson
- 24 Nicole Besselman
- 27 Jeanie Roy



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 too!



Let yourself be drawn by
the stronger pull of that
which you truly love.”
– Rumi

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Mission Discernment

classes continue on Sundays through March 24 during the regular 9:30 time slot. If you would like your voice heard as to how our church is moving forward with growth and a new pastor, please make a commitment to come and participate. It is well worth your time!



VBS DIRECTOR NEEDED

The CE Committee is actively looking for a director for VBS this summer. It will be a weekend format, running Friday evening, Saturday morning, and a Sunday service. The exact date it will be held will be at the discretion of the director's schedule, sometime in early June. Please consider this short term commitment that has been a part of our church's community outreach for many years. Please see Brooke Scott or any other member of the CE committee if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Thank you!

PRIME TIME BEGINS FEB. 14!

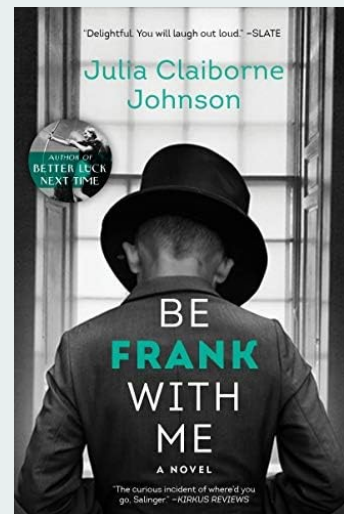
Another session of Prime Time will begin on Wednesdays, Feb. 14th-March 20th, for six weeks. You can register your child with a form found in the Narthex. Children will have dinner together, enjoy recreation time, Bible lesson, and arts and crafts from 5-7. There are themes for each week reflected in the dinner menu and suggested clothing they can choose to wear. The first dinner will include fish sticks, mac 'n' cheese, applesauce, and cupcakes.

SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON AND FUNDRAISER

The Youth Group will host a Souper Bowl luncheon on Sunday, Feb. 11th immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. Soup, salad, drinks and dessert will be provided to help support youth in upcoming mission activities. They will also be collecting cans of soup to donate to FISH. On Sunday, Feb. 4th, they will hand out bags to take home as a reminder to bring back filled with soup for the next Sunday. Let's show our support for our youth!

Lenten Dinner and Devotional

Join us for dinner and devotional this Lent each Wednesday, starting Feb. 14th. We will eat dinner with Prime Time at 6:15 and then gather in the Parlor for a Lenten devotional. We will be focusing on the spiritual disciplines of prayer, scripture, fasting, confession, worship, and silence. All are welcome! Please see Ruth or Marcus Smith for questions.



Book Club will meet Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 1:00 pm in Java with Jesus to discuss *Be Frank with Me* by Julia Claiborne Johnson. Nancy Brakeman will lead the discussion. All are welcome!

**FIRST
WATCH**

STREETS OF ST CHARLES

Join Lunch Bunch on February 21st at 11:30 at First Watch located at the Streets of St. Charles at 1405 Beale St. Enjoy good food and even better conversation!

2024 Per Capita
Please pay by **March 31st** **\$36.00**



I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

2 Timothy 1:3-5

THANK YOU'S THE CHURCH HAS RECEIVED:

Place of Safety wishes to express our gratitude for your donation of gently used shoes received in December 2023. We truly appreciate and value your continued support over the years. Your contribution will change many children's lives in their struggling environment. The women and children are continually blessed and inspired by your dedication and generosity that answers our prayers. We could not do this work without you.

Sincerely,
Veronica Reichold & Kim Fogerty



Dear Donors,

FISH volunteers are 50 strong and the majority of us are retired. Our director, Sharon Mueller, is outstanding. She is the guiding force that glues us all together into an efficient team. And we love what we do. We feel blessed to have the physical ability and the opportunity to serve God through the good works of **FISH**.

Of course none of this would be possible without your generous monthly food donations and the individual donations that keep our "store" shelves well stocked. Our income from sales allows the purchase of staples—meat, milk, eggs, cheese and bread. This requires volunteer efforts in shopping, sorting, and shelving. We have periodic food drives, and need "outside" help in collecting, organizing, and again, shelving.

When all the pieces fall into place, wonderful things can happen. Last year we served 566 families, 879 adults and 686 children. We are noting a definite uptick of those in need during these tough economic times.

Our records show that last year you generously donated 526 items. Every item was appreciated by us and by the eventual recipient. We can only encourage you to "keep it coming!"

May all in your congregation know God's blessings in this new year.

Sincerely,
Mary Kay, a FISH volunteer



To the Members of SCPC:

We would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to our friends and family here at St. Charles Presbyterian Church, for all the prayers and thoughts that have been going out for our son, Chris P. He is at home recovering and will hopefully get to start drinking water soon. Again, thanks to everyone for their prayers.

Bev and Mike Wade

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

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

FISH FOOD PANTRY*

Pasta Sides (i.e. Pasta Roni)

Jello (box)

Pudding (box)

Pasta Sauce

Gravy

Saltines crackers

Kleenex

Laundry Detergent

Shampoo



****FISH is in dire need of
children's winter boots,
shoes, socks, and coats.**

*You may not 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 used items in good condition. Just something to consider as you plan your donations for 2024.

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



**HEARTS
AND
HANDS
TO OTHERS**

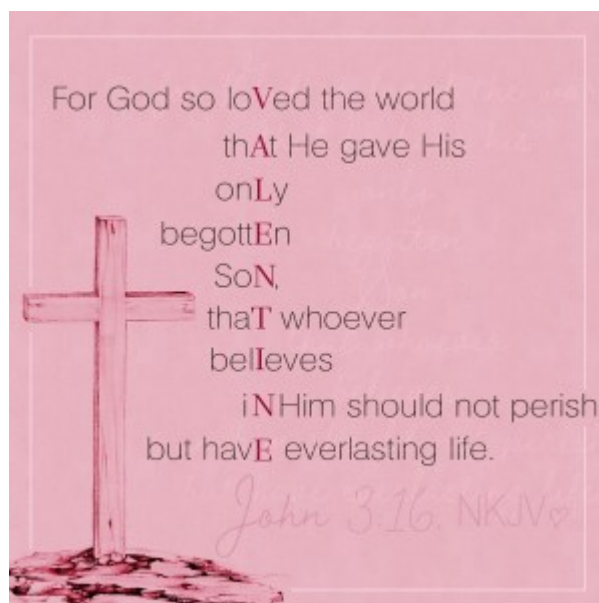
**...in our Community,
nation, and world**

**"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



Devotional Reading from 4th Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois

Written by Nancy Benson-
Nicol, Associate Pastor for
Caring Ministries and
Spiritual Formation



Prayer

Great and glorious God,
give us the confidence and
assurance to make choices
that preserve the dignity
and well-being of others
and help us to embrace the
responsibility that comes
with our freedom in Christ
— even when it is difficult.
Amen.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. (NRSV)

Reflection

Situations in which “can” and “should” conflict make the process of decision-making quite difficult, especially in community settings. The contesting Christians of first-century Corinth found themselves in a battle of wills over a number of issues (rumors of marital improprieties, purity practices, political allegiances), with the conflict over meat sacrifices central to this passage.

A coastal city bustling with merchants and citizens from many foreign lands, Corinth exemplified the robustness and the complexities of a cosmopolitan landscape in which the public sphere and religious ritual were intertwined. Temples to various gods and idols dotted the city square. Meat was a precious and rare commodity for most people, so they reserved the preparation and consumption of meat for the practices of ritual sacrifices in these temples. Christians partaking of this meat with a clear conscious (untethered to the false gods of the temples) sought Paul’s counsel on whether they should be forced to abstain from this practice because of the “weakness” of those in the faith who still believed in the existence and power of the idols and the symbolic significance of these sacrifices. “Shouldn’t our freedom of Christ supercede these superstitions?” was the question at stake.

Paul’s pastoral theology leads him to offer the counsel of practicing forbearance in love as an ethical principle. One *could*, in good conscience, eat the meat, yet making a different choice for the sake of supporting those who wavered in their convictions is what one *should*, in conforming to Christ, choose instead. Love in action was paramount, and in this case, demonstrating loving regard for the good of the community through *inaction* (abstaining from meat) held top priority.

VALENTINE'S DAY

♥ WORD SEARCH ♥

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

ADMIRER
 CANDY
 FALL IN LOVE
 GIFT
 I LOVE YOU
 PINK
 ROSES

BE MINE
 CHOCOLATE
 FEBRUARY
 HEART
 KISS
 RED
 SWEETHEART

BOUQUET
 CUPID
 FLOWERS
 HUG
 LOVE
 ROMANCE
 VALENTINE



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THE COLD by Wendell Berry

How exactly good it is
to know myself
in the solitude of winter,
my body containing its own warmth,
divided from all by the cold;
and to go separate and sure
among the trees cleanly divided,
thinking of you
perfect too in your solitude,
your life withdrawn into
your own keeping
—to be clear, poised
in perfect self-suspension toward you,
as though frozen.
And having known fully the goodness of that,
it will be good also to melt.



St. Charles Presbyterian
Church
Founded 1818

BRAIN TEASERS

1. What is special about these words: job, polish, herb?
2. A doctor and a bus driver are both in love with the same woman, an attractive girl named Sarah. The bus driver had to go on a long bus trip that would last a week. Before he left, he gave Sarah seven apples. Why?
3. A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?
4. I can't be bought, but I can be stolen with a glance. I'm worthless to one, but priceless to two. what am I?
5. Turn me on my side and I am everything. Cut me in half and I am nothing. What am I?

- Answers to Brain Teasers:
1. They are pronounced differently when the first letter is capitalized.
 2. An apple a day keeps the doctor away!
 3. The river was frozen.
 4. Love
 5. The number 8.