



SCPC Quarterly Newsletter



ST. CHARLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FALL 2025

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Hello Fall!

Summer flew by and fall is almost here. The nice weather feels like it already is!

Our church experienced a fun summer with VBS, small group get-togethers, and many plans and preparation for the season ahead in our life together at SCPC.

In this quarterly issue, we have updates about our regular monthly events, special events in our church and the community, information about our annual financial Stewardship campaign, and ways you can serve the church this season.

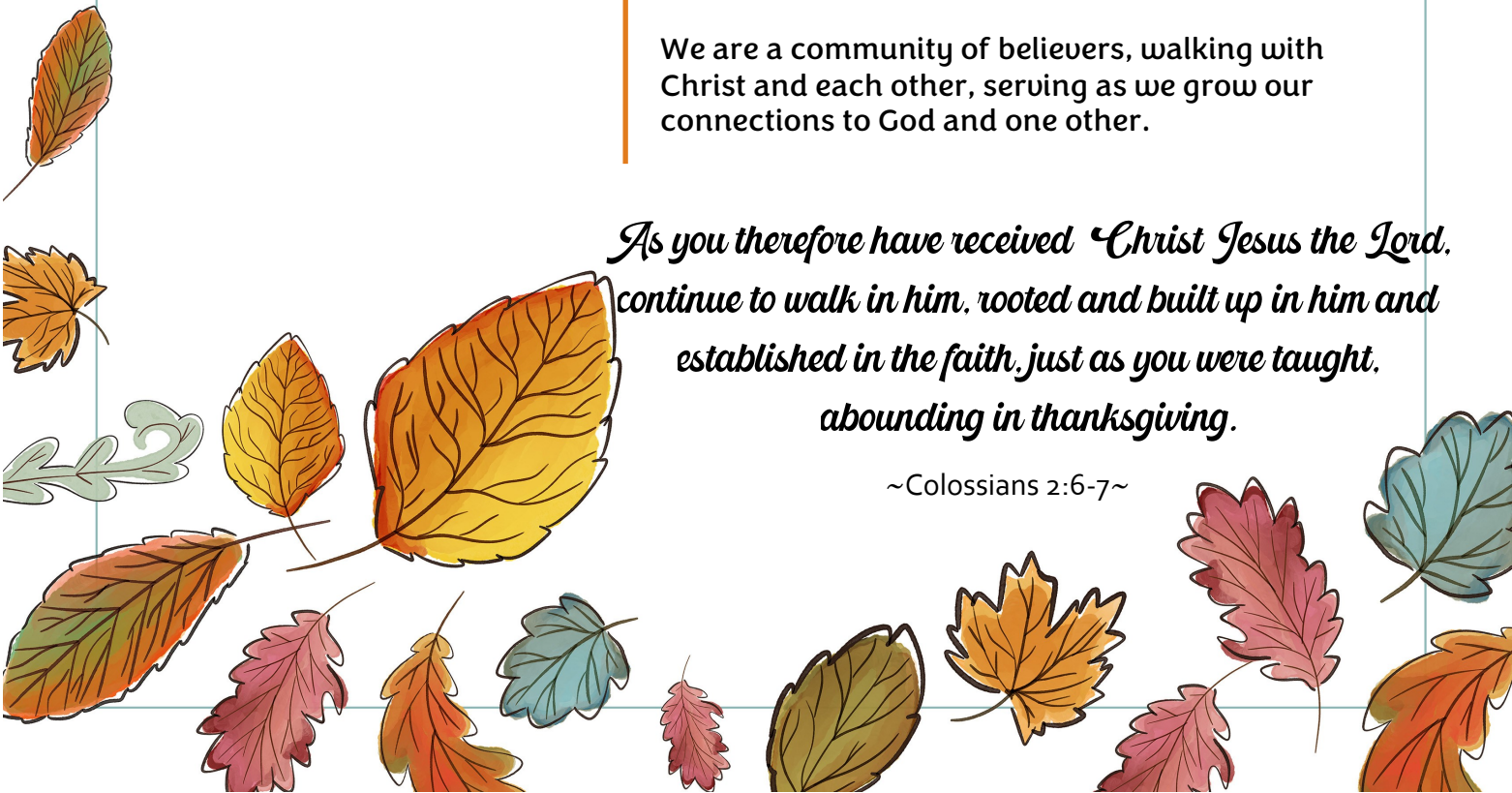
Don't miss the lovely note and pictures from our recognition and celebration of Beverly Butler on her retirement.

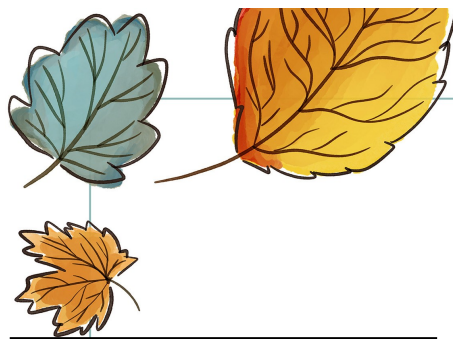
And remember, Spiritual Formation classes begin for all ages on Sunday, September 7, our official kick-off to the season!

We are a community of believers, walking with Christ and each other, serving as we grow our connections to God and one other.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

~Colossians 2:6-7~





Fall Calendar

September

September 2 | Book Club, 1 pm, Adult Classroom B
September 4 | Judy & Duane Conrad's 70th Wedding Anniversary
September 4 | Women's Fellowship Group, 7-8:30 pm, Parlor
September 7 | Spiritual Formation Classes resume, 9:30 am
September 10 | PEO, 12:30-3:30 pm, Parlor
September 10 | Prime Time, 5:30-7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
September 10 | Confirmation classes begin, 5:30 pm, Adult Classroom A
September 10 | Dinner & Discussion Group, 6 :15, Prime Time, at the church
September 17 | Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am
September 18 | Session Meeting, 7 pm, Adult Classroom A
September 21 | Family Sunday, coffee fellowship following worship
September 21 | Prospective Member Dinner & Fellowship, 4-7 pm, The Smiths
September 24 | Dinner & Discussion Group, 6 pm, The Smith's home
September 27 | Session Retreat, 10 am-12 pm, Adult Classroom A
September 28 | VAT get-together after church

October

October 2 | Women's Fellowship Group, 7-8:30 pm, Parlor
October 5 | Peace & Global Witness Offering/World Communion Sunday
October 7 | Book Club, 1 pm, Adult Classroom B
October 8 | PEO, 12:30-3:30 pm, Parlor
October 8 | Prime Time, 5:30-7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
October 8 | Dinner & Discussion Group, 6 :15, Prime Time at the church
October 15 | Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am; Confirmation class, 6:30 pm, ACa
October 16 | Session Meeting, 7 pm, Adult Classroom A
October 19 | VAT get-together after church
October 22 | Dinner & Discussion group, 6 pm, The Smiths; Confirmation class, 6:30 pm
October 26 | 2026 Financial Pledge Dedication Sunday

November

November 4 | Book Club, 1 pm, Adult Classroom B
November 6 | Women's Fellowship Group, 7-8:30 pm, Parlor
November 12 | PEO, 12:30-3:30 pm, Parlor
November 12 | Prime Time, 5:30-7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall; Confirmation class, 5:30 pm
November 12 | Dinner & Discussion Group, 6 :15, Prime Time at the church
November 16 | Youth Sunday worship; VAT get-together after church
November 19 | Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am; Confirmation class, 6:30 pm, ACa
November 20 | Session, 7 pm, Adult Classroom A
November 23 | Confirmation Sunday; Thanks=Giving; Hanging of the Greens
November 30 | First Sunday of Advent

Recurring Weekly & Monthly Events

Weekly:

Tuesday Tinkers-every
Tuesday at 9 am
12 Step Groups-
Tuesday at 6 pm,
Saturday at 10 am
Confirmation-
most Wednesdays
September-November

Monthly:

Book Club-
1st Tuesday, 1 pm
PEO-
2nd Wednesday, 12:30 pm
Lunch Bunch-
3rd Wednesday, 11:30 am
Dinner & Discussion
Group-
2nd & 4th Wednesdays,
6 pm
Prime Time-
2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm
Women's Fellowship-
1st Thursday, 7 pm
Session-
3rd Thursday, 7 pm

Deacons are meeting
quarterly on Sundays
following worship



Monthly Events this Fall

Lunch Bunch

This diverse group meets the 3rd Wednesdays of every month at 11:30 am for a time of connection sharing food and fellowship. Anyone can join at any time and come when you can. The dates and locations for this fall are:

- September 17, 1818 Bistro, (formerly Braddens), 515 S. Main Street
- October 15, The Wine Café, 703 S. Main St.

Sally Stumberg graciously organizes The Lunch Bunch group so please call her if you have any questions, (314) 580-6424. Lunch Bunch will not meet during November or December.



Dinner & Discussion Small Group

The Dinner & Discussion Group continues to meet this fall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. During Prime Time Wednesday, they eat dinner at the church at 6:15 pm and meet in the Adult Classroom B afterwards for discussion. Otherwise, they meet at Ruth and Marcus Smith's home, 3108 Bowman Ridge in St. Charles for dinner at 6 pm followed by discussion time. Bring whatever you have to share-leftovers, snacks, or even nothing. Kids are welcome to come and hang out together! Anyone is welcome to join us, even if you don't read the book. This fall they will be reading *Living into Community*, by Christine Pohl, where they will explore together what it means to live in and as a Christian community. Their meeting times are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ♦ September 10 (Prime Time) | October 22 (Smiths) |
| ♦ September 24 (Smiths) | November 12 (Prime Time) |
| ♦ October 8 (Prime Time) | December 10 (Prime Time) |

For more information or questions, call or text Ruth Smith, (419) 706-8506.

Women's Fellowship Group

Please join this women's group as they resume meeting on Thursday, September 4, from 7-8:30 pm in the Parlor. They regularly meet on the 1st Thursday of every month, September-May, with the exception of January,

when they will meet on January 8. Anyone is welcome to join and all are encouraged to come to the September 4 meeting to discuss this year's bible study. Refreshments are always included in their meetings. Please see Jess McMaken if you have any questions.



Monthly Events this Fall



Prime Time

Prime Time kicks off on Wednesday, September 10, 5:30–7:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall. This program is for K–6th graders and includes recreation time, dinner, and bible study. 7th–12th graders are welcome to participate and will be utilized to help with set-up, clean up, and/or activities. Everyone is welcome for dinner! Listed below are the dates, themes and menus.

Date	Recreation	Meal	Dress-Up/Activity
9/10/25	Sports Night	Sloppy Joes, Tater tots, Fruit salad, brownies, cookies	Wear your favorite Sports gear
10/8/25	Fall Cookout	Hot dogs, chips, apple slices, S'mores	Wear your Halloween Costume
11/12/25	Veterans Night	Chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, assorted cakes	Bring a friend, veteran
12/10/25	Christmas Celebration	Spaghetti & meatballs, garlic bread, fruit salad, cupcakes	Wear red & green

Book Club

If you love to read, consider joining Book Club this fall on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 1 pm in Adult Classroom B.

September's selection is *The Two-Family House*, by Lynda Cohen Loigman. This debut novel tells the story of two women, living side by side in a Brooklyn brownstone who give birth on the same night minutes apart. It is multi-generational saga, depicting the close bond between these two women as they raise their families and how that bond starts to fall apart.

October's book is *The Girl You Left Behind*, by JoJo Moyes. It begins in Paris during World War I and involves a young wife, Sophie, who must serve the German soldiers at her hotel

while her husband is away fighting at the front. The soldiers become obsessed with the portrait of her that her artist husband painted. A century later, this same portrait becomes the center of a battle for its' worth and troubled history.

November's selection is *The Women in the Castle*, by Jessica Shattuck. Its' setting is at the end of WWII in a crumbling Bavarian castle. It is a dramatic but nuanced portrait of war and its repercussions that explores what it means to survive, love, and ultimately to forgive in the wake of unimaginable hardship.

I hope you will take the opportunity to read these amazing books and share your perspective with other fellow readers. Please call the church office if you have any questions.



Special Events this Fall

Fall 2025 Confirmation Classes

Using the “Colaborate Presbyterian Confirmation” curriculum, this fall Pastor Marilyn and Mary Kay Lyon will be co-teaching nearly weekly confirmation classes preparing 4-5 of our youth-age disciples for full membership in our St. Charles Presbyterian Church family.

We will commission our confirmation students and their parent-selected adult mentors for this special season of Presbyterian learning during worship on Sunday, September 7.

Classes will then begin in conjunction with the fall Prime Time kick-off on Wednesday, September 10 and will continue for 10 weeks through mid-November.

Plans include the confirmation students participating in at least one hands on service-type mission project this fall. Our confirmation students will also create and lead a worship service for Sunday, November 16.

Our confirmation of students for mission as St. Charles Presbyterian Church members during worship is planned for Sunday, November 23.

As part of our loving and supportive “cloud of witnesses” please hold our confirmation students, their parents, their adult mentors, and their class co-teachers in your prayers and be open to invitations to help along the way as we engage in this Presbyterian membership learning adventure together.

The Spiritual Formation Committee of the Growing Our Connections with God and Each Other Teams:

Hilary Kelly, Mary Kay Lyon, Jess McMaken, Transitional Pastor Marilyn Gamm



Youth Video Game Fellowship Time

After finding an old Xbox in the church, Jonah Smith, Ryan McMaken, and Masoma Litumbe decided to start “Video Game Addicted Teens” or VAT for short. (Don’t worry, none of them are actually addicted!) Starting this fall, they will meet at the Smiths, 3108 Bowman Ridge, St. Charles, for monthly VAT get-togethers to play video games and have fun. Any teen who likes to game is welcome to join them on the following Sunday afternoons after church until mid-afternoon.

September 28
October 19
November 16

Prospective Member Picnic September 21

All are invited to Ruth & Marcus Smith’s house, 3108 Bowman Ridge, St. Charles, for dinner and fellowship on Sunday, September 21 from 4-7 pm. This is a chance for those who are new to the church to get to know other members and learn how to get connected. There will be a short information session about membership. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able. Main dish, drinks, and lawn games will be provided. RSVP to Ruth at (419) 706-8506 (text or call.)

Family Sunday Sunday, September 21

Coffee Fellowship
following worship

Bring a family member or
anyone you consider
family to worship and
celebrate with us!



Fall Community Events



St. Charles City Market

- ⇒ Saturdays from 7:30 am-1 pm
- ⇒ Located on Main Street between Clark & Monroe Streets
- ⇒ Special Events this Fall:
- ⇒ Apple Festival, September 13 *please note, this market is held at the New Town amphitheater
- ⇒ Coffee Festival, September 27
- ⇒ Pumpkin Festival, October 18
- ⇒ Chili Cook-Off, November 15
- ⇒ Holiday Market, November 29

For more details of these events and other events they are having this fall, go to st.charlescitymo.gov on their community page/events. You can also go to their Facebook page: St. Charles Market.

September Events



St. Charles Fair:
Sunday, September 21,
11 am-5 pm, Blanchette Park
Face Painting
Carnival Games
Pony Rides
Live Music



Oktoberfest:
Frontier Park
Sept. 26, 4-11 pm
Sept. 27, 10 am-11 pm
Sept. 28, 10 am-5 pm

October Events

Legend & Lanterns:
Weekends in October
Sat. 10/11, 11 am-6 pm
Sun. 10/12, 12-5 pm
Sat. 10/18, 11 am-6 pm
Sun. 10/19, 12-5 pm
Fri. 10/24, 5-8 pm
Sat. 10/25, 11 am-8 pm
Sun. 10/26, 12-5 pm
A spirited journey through
Halloween history, located on
Main St.

Pumpkin Glow:
October 24 & 25, 5-8 pm
Historic Main St.-
Shops are open late & Main
St. is aglow with pumpkins!

Trick or Treat on Main:
Friday, Oct. 30, 3-5 pm
*for costumed children
12 and under

November Events

Veterans Day Parade:
November 8
Parade at 11 down Main Street
Celebration from 12-5,
Lewis & Clark Boathouse
parking lot, including
memorial ceremony, food,
vendors, & music

Christmas Traditions:
Begins November 28 and
every weekend in December
and Christmas Eve
A holiday tradition for 50
years where the holiday
spirit of the past comes alive
for young & old.
There is storytelling, history,
fairy tale whimsy, and
holiday customs from
around the world.



Fall Community Events



Presbyterian Children's Homes and ServicesSM

Chapters
of Change



PCHAS St. Louis Luncheon-Chapters of Change

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Location: Sheraton Westport Chalet, 191 Westport Plaza Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146

A luncheon event benefiting
the children of PCHAS

*True religion is this:
to look after orphans in their
distress.*

~adapted from

James 1:27

This luncheon is a special opportunity to learn more about the vital work PCHAS is doing. Anyone from our congregation is welcome to attend and hear the stories of hope and triumph from the staff, PCHAS families benefiting from their programs, and community leaders who are making a difference. During the luncheon you will see the innovative ways PCHAS is providing Christ-centered care and support to children and families in need. To RSVP, please go to www.pchas.org/luncheon-st.louis-25, or contact Aleisha Mulnix, Development Officer, at 314 499-0395.

MOD Pizza Fundraiser to benefit the Charlotte O'Brian Scholarship Fund

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Mod Pizza-1988 First Capitol Dr. (across from Schnuck's)

Visit MOD pizza for lunch after church or any time that Sunday and 20% of your purchase goes to help fund the music scholarship at Lindenwood University in memory of our friend and church member, Charlotte O'Brien. All you have to do is mention SCPC when you are making your purchase. It is that simple, so make plans for a meal at MOD on Sunday, October 5!



FUNDRAISING



Ways to Serve this Fall

We have consistently served **FISH** of St. Peters for many years. They count on our monthly donations so they can serve our community. Below is their September Wish list. Please give as you are able and look for their October and November lists in the announcements of our weekly bulletin.

- Fruit Cocktail
- Applesauce
- Canned mixed Vegetables
- Canned pasta
- Canned milk
- Canned chili
- Spaghetti sauce
- Hamburger Helper
- Pancake mix

Sign up to serve one Sunday for the Welcome Team



Thanks to the small, but committed volunteers who served on the Welcome Team this summer! Your smiling faces and warm welcome as you pass out bulletins, greet worshipers, and help the acolytes have made a difference to new visitors and old friends alike. Please consider serving our church community and growing connections with each other and God in this way. A sign up sheet for

the fall is located on the Church Connections counter in the Narthex. If everyone signs up for just one Sunday per season, we'll have an abundance of smiling faces to greet us each week!

More details
to come!



Deacons Monthly Mission Offerings for Fall

September:

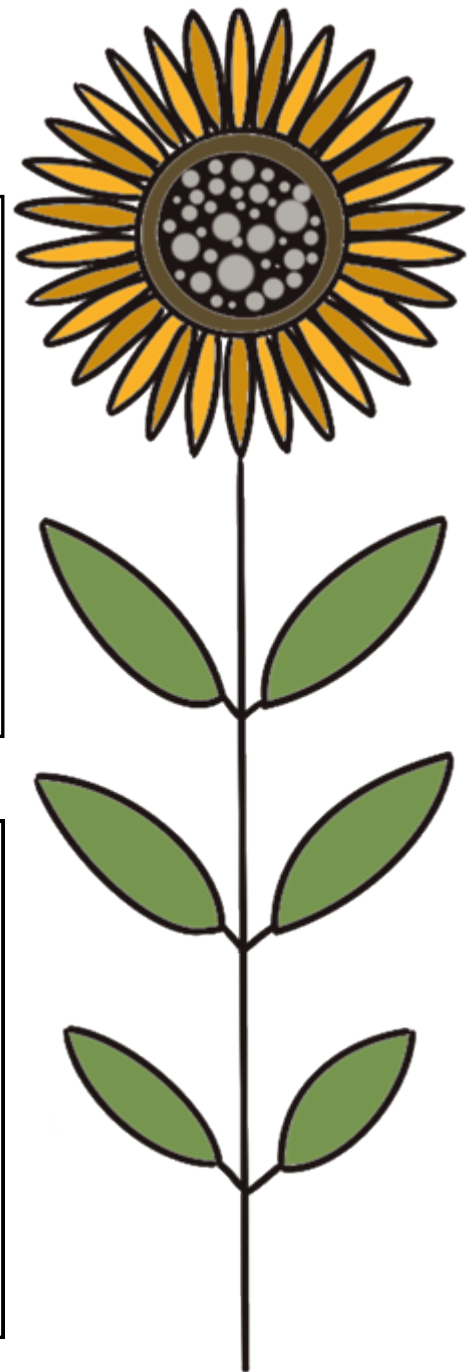
Volunteers in Medicine—We have supported this vital organization in our community for many years and continue to do so as their work is important to the health and well-being of many. More details about this offering will be in the September bulletin announcements.

October:

Peace & Global Witness— This is one of the four special offerings for the PCUSA that we support. More details about it are on page 9.

November:

Thanks=Giving—Our annual fall fundraiser for the Deacons is a popular one! Start thinking and preparing now for the handcrafted items that you will be donating. Some ideas to get you started are knitted or quilted items, baked goods, artwork or any special artisan skill that you may have. This event will be Sunday, November 23.





PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



*Let us then pursue what makes for peace
and for mutual upbuilding.*

Romans 14:19

Backpacks Filled with Help and Hope

Handwritten on bright orange construction paper, the first grader's simple message was surrounded by smiling stick figures, hearts and flowers.

"I am thankful for my food," she wrote to the friends she has never met at Chester (Virginia) Presbyterian Church.

For the past 12 years, Chester Presbyterian Church, in the Presbytery of the James, has partnered with Marguerite Christian Elementary School to provide backpacks of food for children to take home over the weekend – as well as a drive-through café that meets the needs of 90 to 105 residents weekly.

Jane Ward, a retired high school marketing teacher who coordinates the congregation's "Backpack Buddies" program, said, "Even though you wouldn't think there's poverty here because we're pretty middle class, you'll find a lot of low-income residents. And because many in our community make minimum wage working in restaurants or food service, their families need the food to get them through the weekend."

She continued, "When the school asked us this year if we could increase the number of backpacks we provide, I knew we couldn't manage it, but thankfully another church stepped up. If it wasn't for us, there would be some little kids hungry on the weekends. I wish I could feed them all."

Confronting hopelessness through acts of compassion is just what the Peace & Global Witness Offering has sought to achieve for more than 40 years. The annual Offering enables congregations like the Chester Church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in their community and across the world.

Peace & Global Witness, which is highlighted during A Season of Peace, Sept. 7–Oct. 5, is traditionally received on World Communion Sunday. The Offering is unique in that half of the gifts received are directed to efforts at the national church level for peacemaking and global witness work around the world, while 25% is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to presbyteries for similar ministries at the regional level.

The Chester Church's Backpack Buddies program exemplifies the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s longstanding commitment to peacemaking. Feeding the hungry who are living in systems of poverty helps to pursue what makes for peace in the lives of our neighbors.

"When children don't eat, they can't learn," said Jane. "Through programs like 'Backpack Buddies' and the Peace & Global Witness Offering, churches can continue to address food poverty in their communities. In our congregation and across the PC(USA), many hands make light work."

We are the Church, together. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Loving God,
may we see your face in those
we meet in our neighborhoods
and around the world.

Show us how we might be bringers
of peace to all of your people.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 7–OCTOBER 5, 2025



“Growing Connections with God, Each Other and Our Community”

October Fall Financial Stewardship Campaign

Based on our 2024 Mission Study Report and now also guiding our newly adopted in July 2025 Session Organization Manual, the theme for our 2026 financial stewardship campaign is once again – “Growing Connections with God, Each Other and Our Community.”.

This year we will kick-off our financial stewardship campaign on Sunday, October 5 in conjunction with the powerful unifying and inspiring visions behind World Communion Sunday.

Our financial stewardship campaign will again include a “Prayer Walk” around our SCPC facilities following a regular worship service with the Rev. Dr. Mark Miller as our guest preacher, concluding with sharing refreshment goodies together in the fellowship hall.

During our Prayer Walk a “tour guide” church leader will guide participants to various spaces throughout our church facility. At each stop an SCPC “docent” will share about the mission and ministry that has and currently happens within the area, along with any dreams for something new in that space. The “visit” to each space concludes with the “docent” offering a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s love that is and has been shared there, for the lives that may be or have been changed there, for the encouragement, the hope, the support that God provides through our SCPC church family in and through these spaces.

Our financial stewardship campaign will continue to be a focus for weekly worship on October 19 and 26, concluding with the dedication of our 2026 estimate of giving cards during regular worship on Sunday, October 26.

We have chosen 2 Corinthians 5:17 as our Scripture and hymns 418 “God Bless Your Church with Strength!” and 376 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” to support our 2026 financial stewardship campaign theme of “Growing Connections with God, Each Other and our Community.”

We are excited about the ways our SCPC mission and ministry is already living into our theme and to invite your financial support as we continue to anticipate the calling of a new pastor to serve with our church family in 2025!

The Stewardship, Budget, and Finance within Cultivating Resources Team:

Dave Brakeman, Larry Simpson, Transitional Pastor Marilyn Gamm

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Retirement Celebration for Beverly Butler

My dear church family,

You are absolutely the best! No words can express my gratitude for the display of your love to me this past Sunday, August 24th. It was such a beautiful expression of love and gratitude that I continue to be overwhelmed by it. It really was my pleasure to serve you in the church office these past 10 years. Thank you for that privilege and thank you for such an outpouring of love. The retirement gift is more than generous and truly humbles me. Thank you.

Thank you to Pastor Marilyn, Kenda Carey, Jess McMaken, Mary Kay Lyon and all of those who furnished food. The flowers were/are beautiful, and the cake was not only tasty but one of the loveliest I have ever seen, and the eating tables even had real flowers! How much better can you get?!

Seriously, I brought nothing to you when I came to SCPC but a broken spirit. Your love has more than healed my spirit and has given me joy knowing that you love me just like I am. Thank you.

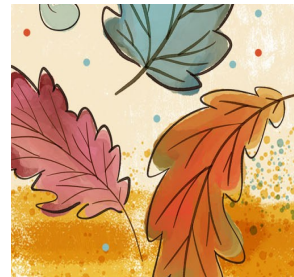
Blessings to all,

Beverly Butler



Wisdom in Action, Jesus: A Wisdom Teacher

Meditation by Fr. Richard Rohr, August 8, 2025



Father Richard teaches that to become wise, we must move into life itself, encountering people and places that challenge our ways of thinking.

Jesus came to teach us the way of wisdom by bringing us a message that offers to liberate us from both the lies of the world and the lies lodged within ourselves. The wisdom of the gospel creates an alternative consciousness, solid ground on which we can really stand, free from every social order and every ideology. The preaching of the gospel pulls the rug out from under us, and we have to put our life on a new footing. First we have to act. We have to cross over a threshold and live differently, so that we're compelled to think differently and ask challenging questions.

To get a real grasp of the gospel's truth, we have to cross over and enter into solidarity with at least one person who's different from us. For example, if we're afraid of a different culture or religion, then we'd best head in that direction. If a certain set of people scare us, then we have to get to know them. For a while, we have to endure being with people who live or think differently and learn to view reality from their standpoint. Jesus says we have to love our enemies, because doing so is the only way to grasp the whole picture. It's the only way to learn to love the other side of our own soul.

We can't try to solve it with our minds; we simply must act. The problem isn't solved in the head but in the gut, in the whole body (including the head, but that doesn't come until later). That's what I mean when I speak of the risk and leap of faith. This is a very Franciscan approach to life. St. Bonaventure and Duns Scotus put love as prior to knowledge, probably building on Francis' own headlong dive into life. First, we agree to give ourselves, and then we will understand, not the other way around. Otherwise, we get caught in all kinds of protective reasons why we don't need to give ourselves to life and we never make the dive.

First I have to act, and then I'll understand—meaning the whole person will understand. Then I'll know what I know. But I really won't know *why* I know, nor will I be able to offer proof to anyone else. It's the mysterious wisdom of faith, the wisdom we learn only when we are on the way. Nobody else can teach us this lesson, neither the pope nor biblical authorities; we have to go down this road ourselves. That's what the "primacy of action" means. Persist at that deeper place in yourself where the "both-and" is located. This is the place of the soul and the place of wisdom toward which we have to move. Don't be afraid! Fear comes from a need to control, and we are not in control anyway.

