ST. CHARLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER



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A NEW FALL SEASON AT SCPC WITH RENEWED COMMITMENTS AND FRESH OPPORTUNITIES

"And suddenly you know:
It's time to start something new
and trust the magic of beginnings."

Meister Eckhart

I don't know about you, but for me the new year truly begins when autumn arrives. The unhurried, sun-soaked days of summer give way almost overnight to the vibrant rhythm of back-to-school, thoughtful preparation for the winter and the year ahead, and a stirring renewal of familiar commitments alongside the pursuit of fresh ones. There is something about the crisp fall air that fills us with an unmistakable urgency to begin again. And so it can be with your participation through SCPC.

We have exciting new things unfolding in our church community:

- Welcome Neighbor STL Supper Club
- All Church Hay Ride
- New ways to serve and support our church community and the St. Charles community at large

And the ongoing opportunities that start fresh this fall:

- Spiritual Formation classes launching with new studies of the Bible
- Children and Youth events such as Prime Time
- Adult events such as the Dinner & Discussion Group, Lunch Bunch, Women's Fellowship Group, & Book Club

On the following pages you will find details about each of these events and opportunities, and my heartfelt hope is that you will discover a place to participate and serve that feels just right for you. To help guide you, there is a contact person listed for each group and a page listing the committees or teams currently seeking new members, the chairperson for each one, and suggestions on how you can serve and support them. If you are curious or have further questions, please reach out to the committee chairperson—they will be delighted to help you. Our church carries a long and fruitful legacy of serving one another, serving God, and serving our community. Come and be a part of that blessing with us!

Kenda Carey

So let us not grow weary
in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest time
if we do not give up.

Galations 6: 9

FALL CALENDAR 2026

SEPTEMBER

September 1, 1 pm | Book Club, Java with Jesus area
September 3, 7 pm | Women's Fellowship Group, Java with Jesus area
September 7, Labor Day
September 9, 5:30-7:30 pm | Prime Time
6:15 pm | Dinner & Discussion Group, Prime Time dinner followed by discussion in the Adult Sunday School room
September 13 | Spiritual Formation classes resume; Teachers & Helpers commissioned during Worship
September 16, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch, Gingham's Restaurant
September 17, 7 pm | Session, Adult Classroom
September 19, 10 am | Giddings-Lovejoy Celebration of Service
September 20 | Called Congregation Meeting following Worship; All Church Officer Collaborating & Coordinating Retreat
September 23, 6-8 pm | Dinner & Discussion Group, home of the Smith's
September 27, 7 pm | Welcome Neighbor STL Supper Club @ SCPC

OCTOBER

October 1, 7 pm | Women's Fellowship Group, Java with Jesus area
October 4, World Communion Sunday & Kick-off 2027 Financial Stewardship Campaign
October 6, 1 pm | Book Club, Java with Jesus area
October 10, 5-8:30 pm | Skin & Bones Sculpture Studio Open House @ SCPC
Faith in Football Day at LU; kickoff is 1 pm
October 14, 5:30-7:30 pm | Prime Time
6:15 pm | Dinner & Discussion Group, Prime Time dinner followed by discussion in the Adult Sunday School room
October 15, 7 pm | Session, Adult Classroom
October 18, 1-6 pm | St. Charles Interfaith Festival @ Frankie Martin's Garden
October 21, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch, McSmith's Kitchen
October 22, 12-1 pm | Presbyterian Children's Home & Services Fall Luncheon
October 28, 6-8 pm | Dinner & Discussion Group, home of the Smith's

NOVEMBER

November 1 | All Saint's Sunday Time of Remembrance
November 3 | Election Day; Book Club, 1 pm, Java with Jesus area
November 5, 7 pm | Women's Fellowship Group, Java with Jesus area
November 8 | Veteran's Sunday
November 11, 5:30-7:30 pm, Prime Time
6:15 pm, Dinner & Discussion Group, Prime Time dinner followed by discussion in the Adult Sunday School room
November 19, 7 pm | Session, Adult Classroom
November 22 | Thanks=Giving, following worship
November 26 | Thanksgiving Day
November 29 | 1st Sunday of Advent

*Details about all of these events are on the following pages

FALL FUN FOR KIDS!

PRIME TIME STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9
HERE ARE THE DATES, THEMES, MENUS & ACTIVITIES

DATES	THEME/RECREATION	MEAL	DRESS-UP/ACTIVITY
9/9/26	Welcome Back!	Sloppy Joes, tater tots or fries, fruit salad, cupcakes	Dress like a student or teacher
10/14/26	Halloween/Fall	Hot dogs/brats, chips, apple slices, s'mores	Wear your Halloween costume or fall colors
11/11/26	Thanksgiving/ Veteran's Day	Spaghetti with meatballs, green beans, garlic bread, brownies	Bring a veteran
12/9/26	Christmas	Chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, cake	Be festive or wear red & green

Looking ahead to winter

Prime Time will include Bible Study & recreation time for youth K-6th grade with dinner in-between, and Mary Kay Lyon will lead a Bible study for older youth after dinner. Any adults are welcome to join the Prime Time kids for dinner & stay for the adult Dinner & Discussion group.

The Spiritual Formation Committee is seeking Prime Time helpers for K-6 Bible study and recreation time, and kitchen crew help with dinner. Please reach out to Hilary Kelly, Jess McMaken, or Mary Kay Lyon if you are interested.

Spiritual Formation classes begin Sept. 13 for K-6th grade, and 7-12th grade. The Spiritual Formation Committee is seeking a co-teacher with Mary Kay Lyon for the 7-12th grade class.





SCPC FALL COMMUNITY GROUPS FOR ADULTS

These ongoing groups welcome new members at any time and are a fun and gratifying way to deepen our relationships as a church family and with God. Please feel free to contact the leader of the group or groups you are interested in or contact the church office (636 946-4467)..

Lunch Bunch
Meets monthly | 3rd Wednesday | 11:30 am
St. Charles restaurants
September 16 | Gingham's
1566 Country Club Plaza Dr.
October 21 | McSmith's Kitchen
3791 New Town Blvd.
Contact Person | Sally Stumberg
This social group meets monthly at various restaurants around St. Charles to share lunch and good conversation together. It is a great avenue for meeting new people, learning about St. Charles, and SCPC!

Book Club
Meets monthly | 1st Tuesday | 1 pm
Java with Jesus area
Contact Person | Lisa Brown
Not only do they read good books, this group enjoys great conversation with each other about those books. They always welcome new participants!
September Book | *The Reading List*
by Sara Nish Adams
October Book | *Theo of Golden*
by Allan Levi
November Book | *The Island of Sea Women*
by Lisa See

Women's Fellowship Group
Meets monthly | 1st Thursday | 7-8:30 pm
Java with Jesus area
Contact Person | Jess McMaken
In this women only group, friendships have deepened and faith journeys have been strengthened. They meet to enjoy each other, good snacks, and Bible study. This fall they will begin again on Thursday, Sept. 3rd. Come to the first meeting and be a part of the decision making for their Bible study this year.

Adult Spiritual Formation Class
Sundays | 9:30 am | Adult Classroom
Contact Person | Kenda Carey
Adult Spiritual Formation class will begin on **Sept. 13** and meet weekly with the exception of Nov. 29th. This fall they will embark on a study of the Psalms, focusing on how these ancient poems in scripture can become modern personal prayers. The book, *Sessions with Psalms: Prayers for All Seasons* by Alicia & Eric Porterfield will be their guide.

Dinner & Discussion Group
Meets bi-monthly | 2nd and 4th Wednesday
2nd Wednesday | 6:30 pm | SCPC Adult Classroom
4th Wednesday | 6–8 pm | home of Marcus & Ruth Smith
3108 Bowman Ridge Dr.
St. Charles, MO
Contact Person | Ruth Smith
This is a relaxed group that shares a meal, grows in faith, and builds relationships together. They decide on a book or Bible study to read and discuss together, and follow an Advent and/or Lent devotional during those seasons. On the 2nd Wednesday, they meet for dinner at Prime Time and stay for discussion in the Adult Classroom in the church office area. On the 4th Wednesday they typically meet at the Smith's home and share a meal by bringing "whatever is already in their refrigerator or pantry to share," followed by a discussion of their current book. This fall they will be reading, *Companions on the Journey*, by Tracey D. Leslie. This book explores the foundational spiritual practices of our faith and encourages us to view discipleship as a lifelong journey, deepening our relationship with God and each other. Come and join them starting September 9th!



SCPC NEW EVENTS THIS FALL

Come and be a part of the new things happening in the life of our church

Welcome Neighbor STL Supper Club

Sunday, Sept. 27 | 6 pm | Fellowship Hall
Cost: $40/person | Minimum of 15 meals must be purchased
Reservations required and due by September 20
Contact Persons | More information, Janet Ferry; Reservations, Kenda Carey

This is a special event that our church is hosting to support the work of **Welcome Neighbor STL**. Their mission is to foster a community where people who are refugees and immigrants are respected and flourish as our friends and neighbors. They do this work through teaching English, driving lessons, citizenship classes, family outings, holiday gatherings, and vaccine appointments. Their Supper Club events include a meal prepared by refugee chefs and they directly benefit from the proceeds. It is an opportunity for us to hear their stories, experience their culture, and make new friends. Our Supper Club event will be an Afghan meal that includes: Bolani, Kabuli Polao, Mantu, Ashak, and Gosh E Fil. Please visit their website at welcomeneighborstl.org/supper-clubs/menus for descriptions of the food and more details. The church office will begin taking reservations in early September.

Church Hayride

Saturday, Oct. 24 | 6 pm | Broemmelsiek Park
Cost: $8/person | Registration/Payment in advance
Contact Person | Jess McMaken

This event is for any church participant and you can bring your friends! After the hayride there will be fellowship time around the campfire and s'mores. Look for a sign-up sheet in early fall.

Presbyterian Children's Home & Services Fall Luncheon/ Hope Outshines Hardship

Thursday, Oct. 22 | 12-1 pm
Sheraton Westport Chalet
191 Westport Plaza Dr. | St. Louis, MO 63146
Reservations due Oct. 9

This luncheon is open to anyone in our church and is a great opportunity to learn about the work that PCHAS is doing and how our support sustains them. Look for additional details in upcoming bulletin announcements.

Faith and Football Day Lindenwood University

Saturday, Oct. 10 | 1 pm Kickoff
Lindenwood vs. SEMO

Experience the thrill of Division 1 football and enjoy an unforgettable day of community, competition, and celebration. Kickoff is 1 pm but the fun begins before that so grab your tickets and come early for free parking and pre-game tailgating. Go to gofevo.com for tickets or scan the QR code from the flyer in the Narhtex.

St. Charles Interfaith Festival

Sunday, October 18 | 1-6 pm
Frankie Martin's Garden
5372 St. Charles Street
Cottleville, MO

To commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America this year's St. Charles Ministerial Alliance Festival is "Celebrating Religious Freedom." There will be Food Trucks, Music and Booths to visit. Admission and Parking are FREE!

Skin and Bones Sculpture Studio Open House SCPC Garage & Parking Lot

Saturday, October 10 | 5:00–8:30 pm

SCPC member Zack Southard and business partner Landon Morse invite you to explore their new studio and see their work. Enjoy studio tours, artwork for sale, and participate in their chalk drawing area. Come show your supportand don't miss the sculpture reveal!



1st Sunday Coffee Hour
Sign up to be a Coffee Hour Host

Hosts this Fall:
Sept. 6-Kenda & Scott Carey
Oct. 4-Bryan & Angie Porter
Nov. 1-Tom & Marilyn Patterson

Every 1st Sunday, we have a Coffee Hour where you can come early or stay late and enjoy coffee and goodies and visit with friends, new and old. With a low commitment, this is a great opportunity for families to serve. All you have to do is arrive by 10:00-10:15, bring goodies to share, set-up the table, and clean-up afterwards. The coffee and supplies will be ready for you and the early-to-church folks will get the coffee brewing!

Available Dates for Hosting:
December 6
January 3
February 7
Look for the sign up sheet on the Church Connections counter in the Narthex.

SCPC Success Friends

A mission supported by the H2O Committee
Send one note of encouragement each month to a student at St. Charles High School's Success Campus.

This long-term ministry helps students stay in school. Write a monthly note of hope for your assigned student and place it in the white mailbox in the Narthex. Notes are delivered each month on a designated date. You may also include a small treat or holiday gift card. Please see **Kenda Carey** if you are interested or have questions.

HOW CAN YOU SERVE WITH SCPC THIS FALL?

There are many ways to serve with and through our church community, from low to higher commitment. There's a place for you here at SCPC.

Spiritual Formation Class Co-Teacher
Prime Time Leaders/Kitchen Crew Helpers

Share your love of God's Word and experience the joy of working with the youth in our church by being a Spiritual Formation class teacher for the 7th-12th grade class. You will co-teach with Mary Kay Lyon and all materials are provided for you.

Become a Prime Time Leader/Helper by serving at the monthly Prime Time Wednesday events. Here's how:

- Be a K-6th grade Recreation or Bible Study leader
- Be a Kitchen Crew helper to prepare and serve dinner.
- Be a dessert baker and showcase your love to bake. There is a list of desserts needed on the kitchen door so you can sign up now!

Prime Time is the 2nd Wednesday of each month, Sept.-May, from 5:30-7:30 pm. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Hilary Kelly, Jess McMaken, or Mary Kay Lyon.

Worship Service Help

The Welcome Team is seeking **greeters, attendance takers, acolyte helpers, and offering ushers.** Serve one or two Sundays a month by arriving by 10:15 a.m. Contact **Ruth Smith** for details or sign up at the Church Connections counter.

Choir Members

Share your love of music and enrich our worship experience by singing once a month. No experience required! Please see **Paul York** for more details.

Deacons' Monthly Mission Offerings

September: School supplies for FISH
October: PCUSA World Communion Offering
November: Deacons' annual Thanks=Giving Fundraiser

Please support these offerings with your generous gifts.

WHERE DO YOU FIT AT SCPC?
MEET YOUR COMMITTEE/TEAM

SCPC offers many opportunities to serve, share your gifts, and make a meaningful difference. Find the committee that's right for you!

Building Dreams Team
Chairperson: Ruth Smith



Ruth is an assistant professor at Ohio State University. She is married to Marcus and they homeschool their 3 children. Ruth is very active in our church life.

The Building Dreams Team explores new possibilities for using our building to continue our work towards our vision of building connections with God, each other, and our community.
Please contact Ruth at: ruthmcsmith1987@gmail.com for more information.

Building & Grounds
Chairperson: Jerry Lyon



Jerry is retired and when he is not working in and around our building, he is serving as Grandpa to Norah and Tommy.

The Building & Grounds Committee helps to keep our building and grounds updated, organized, and looking beautiful. The Tuesday Tinkers comprise this group and they are always looking for additional folks who enjoy tinkering. Join them on Tuesday mornings at 9.

Stewardship, Budget & Finance
No chairperson at this time
Looking for new members to serve with Paul York.

The Stewardship, Budget & Finance Committee helps our church faithfully manage its resources. The committee supports responsible budgeting, financial planning, and generous stewardship so our many ministries can thrive. The church is seeking new members to serve on this important committee.

*The Building Dreams Team, Building & Grounds, and Stewardship, Budget & Finance committees all fall under the Cultivating our Resources Team umbrella.

WHERE DO YOU FIT AT SCPC?
MEET YOUR COMMITTEE/TEAM

The Welcome Team



Ruth Smith



Meredith Gnolfo

The Welcome Team is part of Growing Our Connections with Each Other Team. Serve as a greeter, acolyte helper, offering usher, or attendance taker. Most roles require only one or two Sundays a month and little time, yet they play an important role in smooth worship, accurate records, and welcoming members and visitors. Please contact Ruth Smith at: ruthmcsmith1987@gmail.com

H2O
HEARTS & HANDS TO OTHERS
Co-Chairpersons: Sue Barklage
Kenda Carey



You can contact Sue at: srbarklage@gmail.com



You can contact Kenda at: kenda@scpcusa.org

The Hearts & Hands to Others Committee or H2O as it is known, focuses on mission work in the community, primarily with St. Charles High School. We provide support to their Success Campus in different ways, one of which is a hot cocoa bar during finals. Their members, along with other SCPC members, write monthly notes to students who need hope & encouragement to stay in school. This committee falls under the umbrella committee of Growing Our Connections with Our Community. New members are always welcome!

Each of these committees and teams welcomes your unique gifts and willingness to serve. Reach out to a chairperson or committee member to discover how you can deepen your connections with God, SCPC fellow members and friends, and our wider community. Your presence and participation matter.

PARTNER IN FINANCIAL GIVING: TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT SCPC



"GO AND DO LIKEWISE." – JESUS

2027 Financial Stewardship Campaign

A Changemaker is a risk-taker, someone who puts their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Jesus was a Changemaker.

The Good News is… so are we. Made in the image of God, partnering in fulfilling Jesus' purposes, empowered by the Spirit, WE are "assets" in our Creator's mission and ministry called and sent soaring into the world on the wings of Christ's Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

This year's financial stewardship campaign is about hatching new ideas and flying to new heights, risking something big for something good.

Beginning October 4 on World Communion Sunday and continuing through October 25 each week we'll hear thematic messages using versions of Jesus' feeding the multitudes stories to showcase that our true wealth lies in the Compassion, Collaboration, Creativity, and Empowerment that energizes and sustains us through periods of change, for change, for the sake of a better world.

The birds on a wire logo for this worship series features an orange bird symbolizing adventure having decided to "take off" into new endeavors. It represents claiming our passion for making change in the world and letting that energy move us in some way. Together with the birds resting on a cross it also symbolizes "hatching new ideas" – a nest activity – and the nurturing of fledglings. All of these are necessary when making change.

"Buy a Boiler" Capital Campaign

During worship Sunday, August 23, 2026 the Session announced it is launching a "Buy a Boiler" capital campaign. The capital campaign goal is the lowest bid of $50,370.00. In order to accept this bid and pay our 50-percent deposit we hope to receive all pledge cards by September 20th. If you can pay your pledge by then, that would be great, but if not, the card requests you to note when you expect to pay your pledge, which we hope will be no later than the end of October.

The Session has also called a Congregation meeting following morning worship on Sunday, September 20, 2026 in part for the purpose of approving using up to $20,000.00 of The Fund administered by the Legacy Commission to support the "Buy a Boiler" Capital Campaign. Although the Session and Legacy Commission are hoping the entire capital campaign will be funded through our congregation's extra gifts supporting it, if needed we are prepared to ask permission to use a limited amount of those restricted Legacy Fund monies to make up any difference.

Your generosity at all times is greatly appreciated. If you have questions about this extra giving opportunity please talk with Building and Grounds Ruling Elder Jerry Lyon. Thank you.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

GIDDINGS LOVEJOY CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

On September 19, the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy will honor individuals from churches in the presbytery for their faithfulness of service that inspires and encourages others. These individuals are nominated by their church's Session and SCPC's has nominated Hilary Kelly and Wanda Romine to be recognized. Both Hilary and Wanda have shown themselves to be good and faithful servants throughout their time as members of SCPC. Congratulations Hilary & Wanda!

CALLED CONGREGATION MEETING

The Session has called a Congregation meeting following morning worship on Sunday, September 20, 2026 for the purpose of approving using up to $20,000.00 of The Fund administered by the Legacy Commission to support the Boiler Replacement Capital Campaign; and to elect a Ruling Elder to fill an unexpired Class of 2028 term serving on the Session and to become the Elder Chair of the Legacy Commission. Please plan to attend.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, Nov. 1, we will have a time of remembrance during worship to honor those saints who have gone before us. This is a sacred opportunity to remember those you love and want to honor, regardless of when they left this earth. Please submit the names of who you wish to honor to the church office by Tuesday, Oct. 27.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new picture directory is now available. Anyone can access the most up to date version using the QR code available in the narthex or from the church office. Just point your smart phone's camera at the QR code and click on the yellow text icon that pops up. If you would like a printed copy, a few will be available in the Narthex or you can contact the church office.

SCPC IN PICTURES

VBS 2026-JUNE 20











VBS 2026 was an out of this world experience! The mission project, “Birthday in a Box,” that they created was a big success. They supplied 24 birthday boxes to FISH who were overwhelmed with the generosity. Thank you VBS’ers & helpers!

HONORING DAVE & NANCY BRAKEMAN

On August 2, our church recognized and honored Dave & Nancy Brakeman for their many years of faithful & fruitful service to St. Charles Presbyterian Church. Dave & Nancy wore many hats in the life of our church and each one was worn well! They will be greatly missed and we wish them many fun adventures in their new life in Colorado. Thank you Dave & Nancy! Blessings on your new journey.



