

SCPC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Stay Connected This Summer

Summertime is here and with it, a new quarterly format for our usual monthly newsletter. Inside you will find all of the regular information such as monthly events, holidays, news of the church, and much more, plus new information for the summer months including community events, special events for our church that take place in the summer, and other information that will benefit you as a member of this congregation.

Savor this Summer

It is normal for us to relax more in summer. After all, we tend to travel more, take time off from work and other responsibilities more, and implement new or seasonal activities into our lives. What if we took that a step further this summer and really savored the season? What rhythms can you practice this summer that will nourish you, encourage you, and bring you hope? Here are a few examples:

- Put a dent in your TBR pile of books by designating a planned reading time during your day. It can be as little as 15 minutes.
- Fix your favorite meal on repeat. You could even use local ingredients from the farmer's market.
- Create a seasonal hangout ritual with someone you would like to see more. This can cost very little or nothing at all. (think bike ride, favorite park stroll, coffee date, or backyard grill).
- Allow yourself a guilty pleasure-have the ice cream, book the massage, treat yourself to something that you wouldn't normally have or do.

The point is to savor this season and look for the abundance of God's gifts to us, Here's to creating more joy and hope this summer!



Inside this Issue

Summer Calendar	2
Monthly Events	3
Summer Community Events	4
Ways to Serve this Summer	5
Church Updates	6-7
Let's Celebrate & Show Gratitude	8-9
VBS Recap	10
Waking Up to God-A Meditation	11
One Great Hour of Sharing Banner	12

Important Dates

- 07/04 Independence Day, church office closed
- 08/24 Founder's Day Sunday
- 09/07 Spiritual Formation classes resume



Summer Calendar

Recurring Weekly & Monthly Events

Weekly:

Tuesday Tinkers-every
Tuesday at 9 am
12 Step Groups-
Tuesday at 6 pm,
Saturday at 10 am

Monthly:

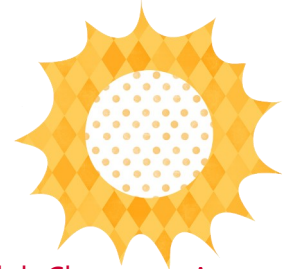
Book Club-
1st Tuesday, 1 pm
Women's Fellowship-
1st Thursday, 7 pm
PEO-
2nd Wednesday, 12:30
pm
Lunch Bunch-
3rd Wednesday,
11:30am
Dinner & Discussion
Group-
2nd & 4th Wednesdays,
6 pm
Session-
3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm
Deacons are meeting
quarterly on Sundays
following worship

June

June 11, 12:30 pm | PEO
June 12, 7 pm | Session meeting, Adult Classroom A
June 15, 10:30 am | Father's Day, Litany for Fathers during worship
June 18, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch, Novellus

July

July 1, 1 pm | Book Club, TBD
July 4, Independence Day, Church office closed
July 9, 12:30 pm | PEO, TBD; Session Meeting, 7 pm, Adult Classroom A
July 16, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch, Magpie's Café

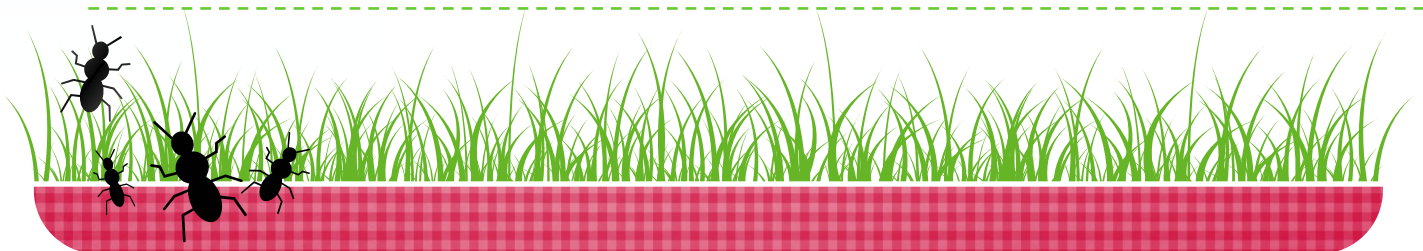


August

August 3, Spiritual Formation Committee Meeting following worship
August 5, 1 pm | Book Club, TBD
August 10 | Deacon's meeting following worship
August 13, 12:30 | PEO, TBD
August 16, 8 am-2 pm | Ambassadors of Harmony Workshop, FH and classrooms
August 20, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch, McAlister's Deli
August 21, 7 pm | Session meeting, Adult Classroom A
August 24, 10:30 am | Founder's Day, with communion

"Summer afternoon-summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

~Henry James



Monthly Events this Summer



Book Club

Summer is a great time to re-commit to a reading life and the **SCPC Book Club** has some great selections for you to dive into for the hot summer months.

June's selection is *Once We Were Home*, by Jennifer Rosner. Based on true stories of children during WWII, this heart-wrenching novel raises questions of complicity and responsibility, belonging and identity, good intention and unforeseen consequences, as it confronts what it really means to find home. Book Club has already met and discussed this one, but it is a beautiful read, deeply moving, and highly recommended.

July's selection is *Salt to the Sea*, by Ruth Sepetys, a book that takes place during WWII in the winter of 1945

telling four stories of four refugees whose lives converge as they try to seek passage aboard a ship that promises safety and freedom. This book will be discussed on Tuesday, July 1.

August's selection is *The Stars Are Fire*, by Anita Shreve. This story is about a pregnant mother who faces devastating loss after a wildfire destroys her home and she faces rebuilding her life while awaiting news of her husband.

Book Club is open to all and you may join at any time. They meet the 1st Tuesday of every month at 1 pm at the church. Please call the church office to learn more or if you have questions.

Dinner & Discussion Group

The Adult Dinner & Discussion Group will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays over the summer months, June-August, at the Smiths, 3108 Bowman Ridge, St. Charles. Come at 6 pm for dinner and bring whatever you have to share-- leftovers are welcome--or nothing at all. They always have enough to share! Dates are:

- * June 11
- * No meeting on June 25 or July 16
- * July 23
- * August 13
- * August 27

This is a small, laid-back group that always welcomes new people so feel free to join at any time. This summer they will be finishing their study of the beatitudes and deciding on a new study for the fall season. If you have any questions, you may call or text Ruth Smith at (419) 706-8506.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am for a time of connection, sharing good food & stories.

Anyone is welcome to join at any time. The dates and locations for their lunches this summer are:

- ♦ June 18, Novellus, 201 N. Main St.
- ♦ July 16, Magpie's Café, 903 S. Main St.
- ♦ August 20, McAlister's Deli, 1598 Country Club Plaza Dr.

Sally Stumberg graciously organizes the Lunch Bunch group so feel free to call her with any questions that you might have, (314) 580-6424.

Don't miss out on some al fresco dining this summer!



Summer Community Events



This popular community event series is back and takes place the 2nd Saturday of every month at Second St. in Frenchtown. Food trucks and local breweries begin serving at 6 pm and live music is from 7-10. Hot Summer Nights series is free and tickets are not needed. Gather a group and join in the music and fun! For more information, go to stcharlescitymo.gov.

Summer 2025 Dates

June 14 -Blues Night August 9-Pop Night
July 12 -Country Night September 13-Rock Night

Other concert & music events to enjoy this summer (all free!):

Music on Main-3rd Wednesday, June-September, 5-7:30 pm

Beale St. Concert Series, Streets of St. Charles-2nd Wednesday, May-October, 6-8 pm

St. Charles Municipal Band- Frontier Park, every Thursday, June-August, 7:30

St. Charles Market
fresh produce & crafts
from local vendors

Saturday Mornings
7:30 am-1:00 pm
through November 29
on Main Street between Clark & Monroe



Tomato Festival-June 21, crafts for kids, salsa competition, and tomatoes from local vendors
*for more information, visit stcharlescitymo.gov and search for tomato festival



Other Markets in our Area:

Frenchtown Sunset Market-Second St.
August 14 & October 9, 4-8 pm
Food & drinks, live music, & local farmers
and artisans

New Town Market-Sundays, 10 am-2 pm
New Town Amphitheatre
June 29
July 27
August 24



Ways to Serve this Summer

FISH- Friends In Serving Him

Our friends at FISH have been serving God by serving people who are less fortunate in St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren counties since 1969. They provide food, clothing, linens, and housewares in a clean thrift store that gives dignity to those who shop there. Please give as you are able. They count on our support now more than ever.

June Wish List

Pancake syrup
Tuna Helper
Canned Yams
Canned Carrots

Canned Potatoes
Canned Pineapple
Applesauce
Jelly

*Look for new monthly lists this summer in the bulletin announcements

Deacon's Summer Mission Offerings

Deacons are providing us with two ways to serve our community this summer: collecting backpacks for FISH (their most requested "back to school" item), and collecting items for blessing bags for people who are unhoused. There is detailed information on both of these missions in the narthex but here are the main details to know:

Backpacks: 5-10 would be ideal for FISH's needs (these will be collected at the end of the summer)

Items for the Blessing Bags for the people who are unhoused (they are in need of 20 each):

Socks	Chef Boyardee microwave cups with spoon
Baby wipes	\$5-\$10 McDonalds gift cards
Kind/uplifting notes	mini toothpaste
Band-aids	Toothbrushes
Cough drops/mints	new or gently used size L t-shirts
Lip balm (need 6 more)	

For their monthly mission offerings, they collected \$375.70 for the Pentecost/VBS offering on June 8. Thank you for your generosity! They will have a special offering for FISH in July, and a general mission offering for the Presbytery in August.

Summer Welcome Team

Thanks to the volunteers who served on the Welcome Team this spring! **A new sign up sheet for summer and early fall is located on the Church Connections counter in the Narthex.** 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.

Festival of the Little Hills

Our famous ice cream sandwiches will be back in August to serve the St. Charles community and provide SCPC with needed funds for youth and other missions.

Dates: Friday, August 15
Saturday, August 16
Sunday, August 17

We will need ice cream sandwich makers, ice tea makers, booth workers, set-up and tear-down volunteers, and lots of people buying ice cream sandwiches!

Be on the lookout for more details in upcoming bulletin announcements and sign-up sheets in July. For questions, contact Scott Carey, (314) 220-0045.

Working the festival in any capacity is so much fun and helps our church, but please consider working a shift or two during the festival as this is the hardest and most needed job to fill.



Church Updates

PNC Update

In late April the Pastor Nominating Committee requested our Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy to do the necessary background check on a promising candidate so we could schedule a face-to-face meeting with this candidate. During this time interval our Presbytery Leader began a 12-week leave of absence and then we had the St. Louis tornado that had a serious impact on our Presbytery. Nevertheless, we did finally get the go-ahead from Presbytery so we have begun planning for this candidate to visit us this summer.

Like many of you, we wish this process could move along faster. The reality is that it simply takes time to align the schedules of our candidate and their current commitments and those of our PNC members, plus those of our candidate's family and also our Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, since they too will plan to meet with our candidate during their visit. And because we don't yet know if we will decide to extend a call to this candidate or even if they would accept a call, we continue to search for and evaluate new candidates each week. Within the last month we have found several new potential candidates and we are in the process of discerning whether to invite them to apply and learn more about them, or to dismiss them and move forward with other candidates.

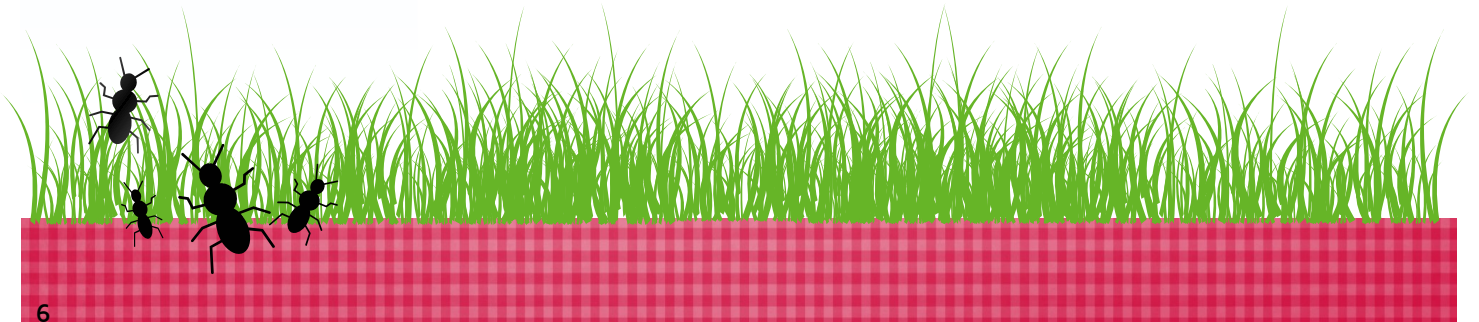
We ask for your continued prayers for our PNC and for our candidates as we work each week to find our next pastor.

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. "

Acts 20:28



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH



Church Updates

Building Dreams Team Update

One of the major themes of our discernment process has been how do we best steward our building to grow connections with God, with each other and our community. Last fall, we formed the Building Dreams Team to explore the dreams our congregation shared for what our spaces could do or be. Since then, we have been working to explore options for renting spaces, fielding requests, and giving tours to potential tenants. The income generated is only one benefit; the relationships we build with our tenants, and the work that they do, helps us better fulfill our church mission and vision.

As of June, we have one tenant utilizing both dedicated and shared spaces, in addition to the groups that regularly meet in our building (weekly 12-step groups, PEO, St. Charles County Election Authority, annual Girl Scouts Powder Puff Deby, and Ambassadors of Harmony). These include:

- Forward in Faith Ministries International is a new church that has been nesting at SCPC since March. Forward in Faith utilizes the chapel for Sunday worship and Friday evening prayer service and the parlor for Bible studies on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. This May, they hosted a picnic with 60 in attendance, and two of their children attended our VBS in June.
- Beginning July 1st, we anticipate Heartstone Academy will begin to lease our space to prepare for their launch in August. This new micro-school is founded by Dr. Adrian Gutierrez and Dr. Hannah Gutierrez, chiropractors with a belief that “true education nourishes the body, strengthens the spirit, and awakens the mind to its fullest potential.” The school is based on organic learning, “where courage, curiosity, and whole living meet” and will include healthy meals prepared daily in our kitchen, plenty of outdoor activity in the playground, and a daycare, preschool, and kindergarten in the lower level new wing. This will mean the lower level new wing will not be available for SCPC uses. Learn more about Heartstone Academy at: <https://www.heartstoneacademy.com>

While we continue responding to rental inquiries, our team, along with Session, plan to explore other options for cultivating this resource and using it to grow our connections with our community. This may include hosting community conversations with leaders and organizations in our community to learn more about our place in the fabric of St. Charles and opportunities to meet the needs of the community. If you are interested in getting involved with our Building Dreams Team, please contact Ruth Smith.



Let's Celebrate and Show Gratitude

Herb Garden

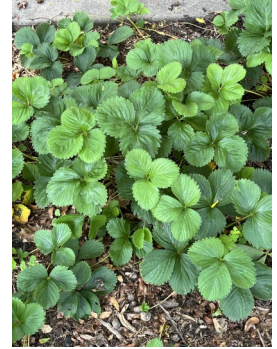
Have you seen our herbs?

The next time you're at church, check out the herb garden on the back patio.

You are welcome to harvest the herbs, pick strawberries, and even take cuttings for your own garden! If you forget scissors there are always some behind the stage. (Please remember to put them back).

Herbs to choose from:

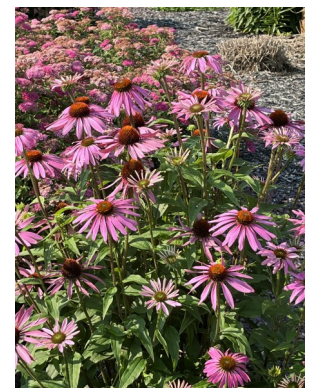
- Lemon Balm (new this year): Although it's just getting established, by next year, we'll have a full bed! This herb is great as a tea or added to baked goods. It has numerous health benefits and smells wonderful too!
- Peppermint
- Oregano
- Creeping Thyme-our only inedible square
- Chives
- Strawberries-the first fruit appeared in May! Keep an eye out next spring for a more bountiful crop.



**Thank you to the Smith family for providing and caring for our herbs*

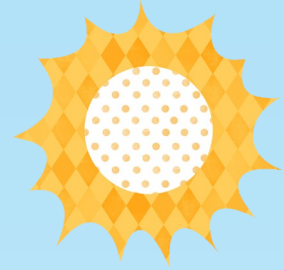


Our building is blooming in other places too! A big THANKS goes to Jerry Lyon, Bob Fletcher, & Marcus Smith, who have faithfully watered and tended to our flowers, and cleared overgrown brush and tree limbs to make our grounds more beautiful.





Congratulations to Masoma Litumbe, son of Emmanuel Litumbe and Christiana Manyanye, on his acceptance to the National Junior Honor Society. Membership is based on scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Masoma is a student at DuBray Middle School. We are so proud of you, Masoma!



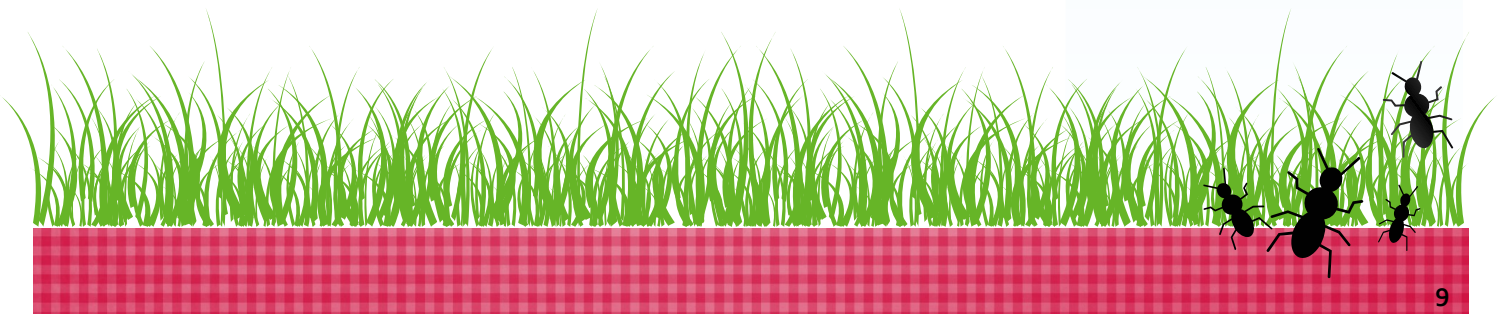
**Let's celebrate each other by acknowledging our accomplishments and goals. If you know of someone (child or adult) who has achieved a special goal, recognition, or award, please let the church office know so we can spread the word and celebrate together.*

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. "

Colossians 3:17

New Tools for the Tinkers

Our Tuesday Tinkers were recently blessed with new tools: a set of magnetized screwdrivers, two needle nose pliers, two crescent wrenches, a LED flashlight, and 100 foot garden hose! All of these generous items were given by Ronnie and Margaret Osborn in honor of Rich Beard, who was a Tuesday Tinker. These new tools will be put to good use by our dedicated Tuesday Tinkers. Please show your gratitude when you can to our Tinkers who do so much behind the scenes and many times after hours to keep our building running and in good shape.





VBS 2025

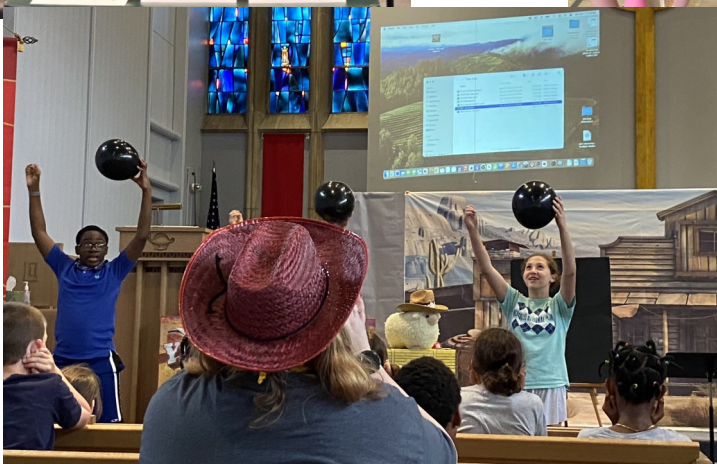
Yee Haw

"For this is how God loved the world. He gave his one and only son that everyone who believes in him, will not perish, but have eternal Life."

John 3:16

SCPC hosted another fun-filled weekend at Yee Haw Vacation Bible School. There were 15 children who attended the ranch to learn a very important message: **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS! YEE HAW!** The VBS'ers learned that God gives each of us unique gifts. For example, the gift of being an artist, an athlete, a musician, or a great friend. God also gives us gifts of joy, happiness, friendships, and things we need. But they also learned about the most important gift of all that God gave to the whole world: the gift of Jesus! The VBS'ers also had a blast singing, playing, and creating. Their day began at "Saddle Up Sports" where they played familiar and new games. Then they visited Bible Adventures, where they learned Bible stories in exciting and fun ways. Their final visit was to Projects with a Purpose, where they made dry soup mix to gift to someone. The Yee Haw VBS concluded on Saturday with a family picnic where good food was eaten and much fun was had in the bounce house, even in the rain. A highlight of the weekend was a visit from a cowboy named Rawhide McSpur. Rawhide used his gift of music to remind everyone of God's love. If you missed worship on VBS Sunday, watch the video online where Rawhide makes a visit, and listen to some of the kids tell their stories about VBS. Yee Haw!

Thanks to everyone who helped make VBS a special weekend, especially Jess McMaken who made everything come together in such a fun way.



Waking Up to God

A meditation from the Center for Action and Contemplation



When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it!"

—Genesis 28:16

Author Barbara Brown Taylor considers how God shows up in all things:

The Bible I set out to learn and love rewarded me with another way of approaching God, a way that trusts the union of spirit and flesh as much as it trusts the world to be a place of encounter with God.... People encounter God under shady oak trees, on riverbanks, at the tops of mountains, and in long stretches of barren wilderness. God shows up in whirlwinds, starry skies, burning bushes, and perfect strangers. When people want to know more about God, the Son of God tells them to pay attention to the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, to women kneading bread and workers lining up for their pay.

Taylor admits how easy it is to miss these ever-available encounters with God:

According to the Talmud, every blade of grass has its own angel bending over it, whispering, "Grow, grow."

How does one learn to see and hear such angels?

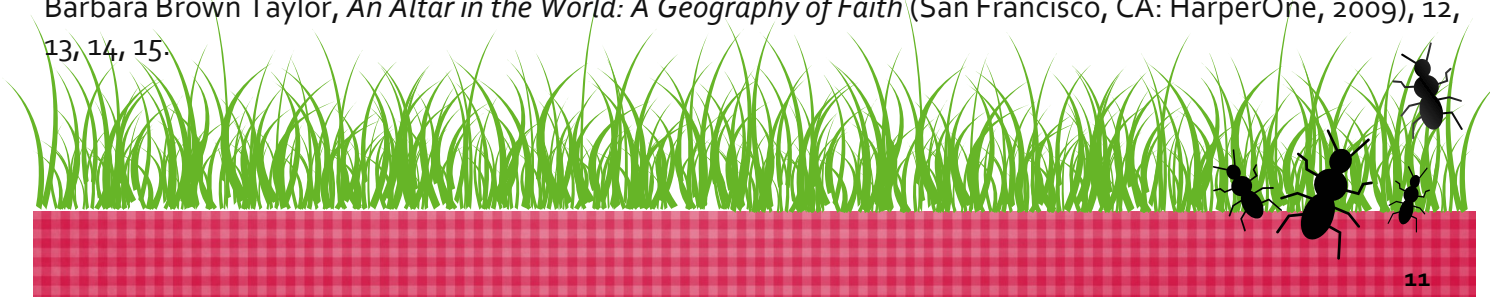
If there is a switch to flip, I have never found it. As with Jacob, most of my visions of the divine have happened while I was busy doing something else. I did nothing to make them happen.... I play no apparent part in their genesis. My only part is to decide how I will respond, since there is plenty I can do to make them go away, namely: 1) I can figure that I have had too much caffeine again; 2) I can remind myself that visions are not true in the same way that taxes and the evening news are true; or 3) I can return my attention to everything I need to get done today. These are only a few of the things I can do to talk myself out of living in the House of God.

Or I can set a little altar, in the world or in my heart. I can stop what I am doing long enough to see where I am, who I am there with, and how awesome the place is. I can flag one more gate to heaven—one more patch of ordinary earth with ladder marks on it—where the divine traffic is heavy when I notice it and even when I do not. I can see it for once, instead of walking right past it, maybe even setting a stone or saying a blessing before I move on to wherever I am due next.

Human beings may separate things into as many piles as we wish—separating spirit from flesh, sacred from secular, church from world. But we should not be surprised when God does not recognize the distinctions we make between the two. Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.

Reference:

Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* (San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2009), 12, 13, 14, 15.



Have you seen the new banner hanging in the Narthex? SCPC received this banner last August from the Presbyterian Mission Agency because of our 25 years of participating in all four Special Offerings of the PCUSA. We are a Four for Four congregation! Rev. Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo, Ministry Engagement and Support for the Presbyterian Mission Agency presented it to Jerry Lyon and Dave Brakeman who attended the quarterly Presbytery gathering. Thank you SCPC for 25 years of commitment and support in helping others!

