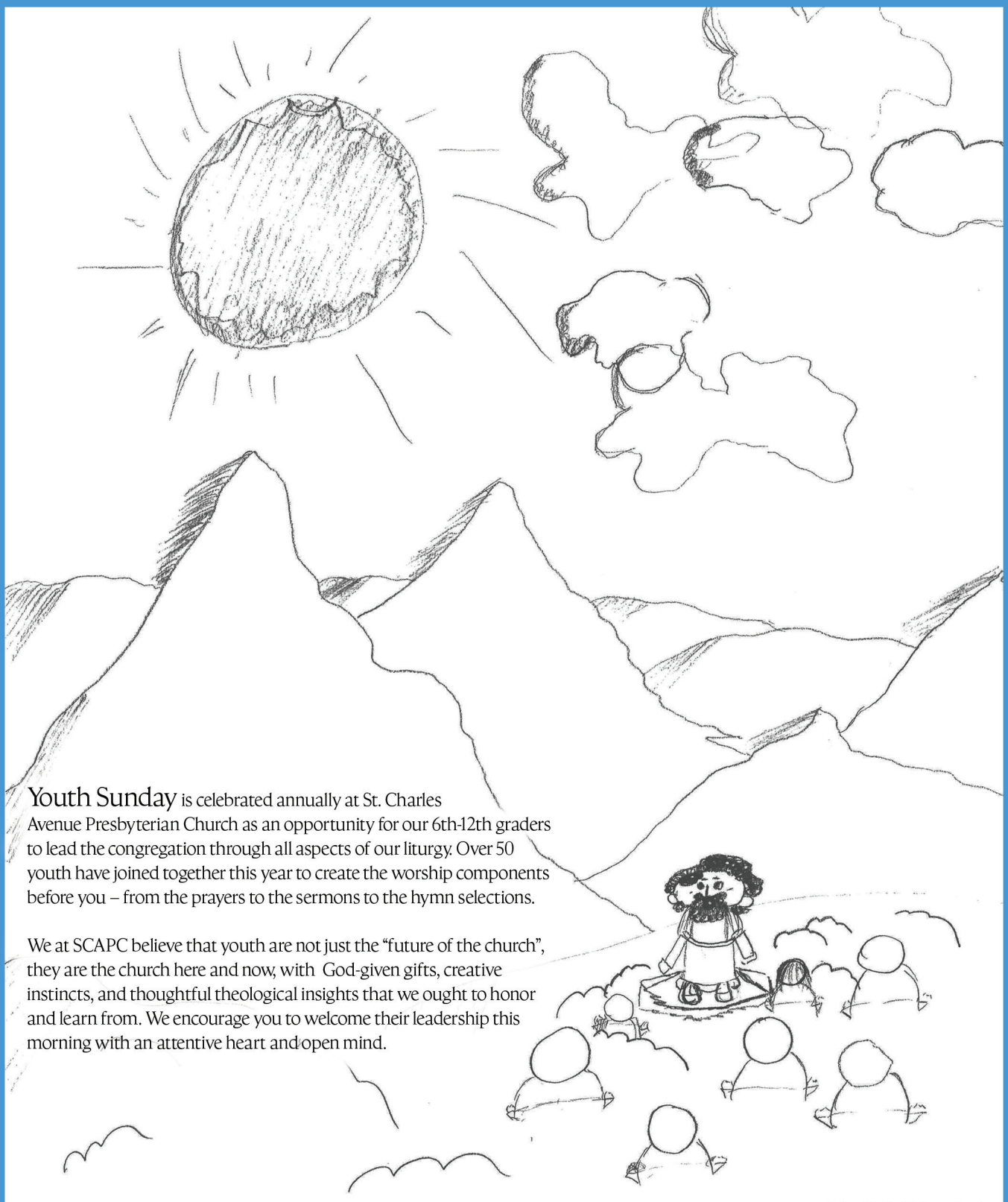
GOD'S POWER, UNEXPECTED PLACES

YOUTH SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 · 10:30 SERVICE



Youth Sunday is celebrated annually at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church as an opportunity for our 6th-12th graders to lead the congregation through all aspects of our liturgy. Over 50 youth have joined together this year to create the worship components before you – from the prayers to the sermons to the hymn selections.

We at SCAPC believe that youth are not just the "future of the church", they are the church here and now, with God-given gifts, creative instincts, and thoughtful theological insights that we ought to honor and learn from. We encourage you to welcome their leadership this morning with an attentive heart and open mind.

artwork by Mills Kehlenbach

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church • Sunday, February 1 • 10:30 a.m.

Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Chris Hazlaris

VOLUNTARY — "Beautiful Things" — Gungor

All this pain, I wonder if I'll ever find my way. I wonder if my life could really change at all.
All this earth, could all that is lost ever be found? Could a garden come up from this ground at all?
You make beautiful things out of the dust. You make beautiful things out of us.
All around, hope is springing up from this old ground. Out of chaos, life is being found in you.

Arden and Savannah Weiser, Parker Pugh, vocals; Harrison Currie, cello; Corinne Currie, violin; Jack Egan, guitar

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive, adapted from 1 Corinthians 1)* — Pearson Eubanks

The message of Jesus may seem like foolishness,
But we know it's what fulfills us.
There is power in love;
We know it's what saves us.
So when the world tells us to give up, or mocks how we love others,
We stand strong in faith.
Let us come together to worship God,
Whose wisdom is higher than that of the world.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY *by Emma Edgecombe* — Richard Roth

God, through this service, help us remember your love even in times we may not feel your presence. Help us to believe that you have a plan even when we feel down. Help us trust in you and show your love to everyone around. And help us to find the best way we can each worship you and become aware of your ways and signs of hope around us. Amen.

†*HYMN 450 — "Be Thou My Vision" — Slane

CALL TO CONFESSION — Craig Egan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *by Field Barba* — Liam Egan

Dear God, We admit there are times we have thought and acted out of pride, greed, comfort, and self-doubt, not love. Additionally, in times of darkness and despair, we have forgotten about your beacon of light that is always there for us. Appreciating your works of transformation even in the low moments of our lives is something that we all could benefit from. So we ask for the gift of your forgiveness now.

SILENT REFLECTION

KYRIE — Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us. — Blackmon

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *by Field Barba* — Jack Egan

God always accepts us even when we do not make it to the finish line of our aspirations. The act of God's continued forgiveness ensures that there is not a day that goes by when we do not have belonging or purpose in life. Know you are forgiven, and empowered to trust God's ways going forward.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *by James Gottsche* — Joy Griffith

Loving God, as we turn to your Word, quiet our minds and open our hearts to what you want us to hear. Help us receive these Scriptures not just with understanding, but with courage to let them shape how we live. Show us where you are calling us to grow, to show mercy, and to serve. May what we hear today draw us closer to you and to one another. Amen.

FIRST READING (response: **Thanks be to God.**) — Micah 6:1-8 — Livie Montgomery

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Amelia Grace Lemoine and Sadie Meyer

GOSPEL READING — Matthew 5:1-12 — Turner Mazzanti

SERMONS — "God's Power, Unexpected Places" — Gigi Frankowski, Paul Curry, and Vivian Kane

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Nicene Creed"‡ *(unison)* — Evan Eubanks

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn 581 "Glory Be to the Father" Gloria Patri
INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP Evelyn Vorhoff
THE OFFERING
Call to the Offering Caroline Wheeler
Offertory Anthem "Cantate Canticum Novum" Forrest
Sing a new song. Cantate canticum novum. When darkness falls, when spirit is lost, bravely sing, sing a new song, a song of light.
When all is silence and nothing is clear, bravely sing, sing a new song, a song of faith.
Let it rise up from the spirit of truth, and echo from heart to heart. Joyfully sing, sing a new song, till all are filled with love.
The Chancel Choir
*Doxology, Hymn 606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Old Hundredth
*Prayer of Dedication *by Kate Brown* Adeline Lemoine
Heavenly Father, We bring you these offerings not to win your affection or appear self-righteous, but as a symbol of our love and devotion to you. Through these gifts, and the energy and efforts they represent, we pray for the work of your kingdom. Bless these offerings, that they may be used to build up our Church and support our community.
In your name we pray, Amen.
•SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Ashley Brown
Invitation to the Lord's Table
Prayers of the People *(by Youth Sunday School Class)* Bizzie Guy, Logan Lanier, Caroline Schmidt
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God, we know that often times the things that break our hearts are callings from you. For that reason, we lift up the things that make us sad and mad, with the hopes that you can help and also give US the tools to co-create a better world with you.
We pray for those who are alone and forgotten in nursing homes, that we may see their humanity and visit them more.
We pray for the ways politics divides us. Before we judge people based off their political affiliations, God give us the strength to be curious and get to know who they really are.
We pray for racism in the world, that we hold people accountable who treat others as lesser and help them see that all humans are equal.
We pray for our tendency to stereotype others in the world because they look or act different than us. May we keep an open mind that they may have gifts we don't see under the surface, and might even become our friends if we let them.
We pray for those who are food insecure in our city, and specifically, for our leaders, that they can better distribute resources so all can be safe and healthy.
We pray for the issue of entitlement in us and others. Help us have more humility.
We pray for the bullies of the world that they might find more kindness. We pray for the bullied of the world, that they can know their worth and find strength. And we pray for all of us in the middle, that we get the bravery to not be bystanders to injustice.
We pray for those who are rude to workers; God help us all be more respectful, and flip how we view people we may judge as beneath us.
We pray for those experiencing homelessness, not only that they find success, but that we as a society are more generous to counter that problem.
We pray for greed in the world – help us reshift our priorities towards love instead of material things.
We pray that we act on the messages we've heard in this service today. Specifically, we pray to better trust your power - above us, in us, and through us - even if the world tries to convince us that your love won't work or can't possibly be present around us.
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer *(Hymnal, page 35)*
Words of Institution
Communion of the People Youth Elders
Prayers after Communion

Sending

*HYMN 203 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" Chereponi
*CHARGE *by Sophie Thomas* Jason Hardie
As we go from this place, may we trust that God's power is at work in ways we do not always expect. May our eyes be opened to see hope where the world sees hopelessness, and courage where things feel small or overlooked. May God use our kindness, patience, and forgiveness to bring light into hard places and purpose out of every situation. Go in peace, confident that God is still working in and through you.
*CHORAL RESPONSE "An Irish Blessing" Blackmon
•*VOLUNTARY

*please stand as you are able; † *latecomers seated*

In Today's Worship

‡We use the NICENE CREED on Sundays that we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at both services because the Nicene Creed is the most ecumenical of our creeds, and we believe we are joining our Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and most Protestant churches in affirming as we partake in Christ's body. Presbyterians believe we are one part of the one holy catholic and apostolic church that the Nicene Creed professes, alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ from other communions.

TODAY'S YOUTH USHERS are Sophia Curry, Madison and Sadie Duvernay, Robert Hope, William Graves, Liam Kennedy, Sterling and Suzie Lanier, Marian and Virginia Vorhoff, and Braden Wheat; and ADULT USHERS are Buddy and Luanna Cambas, as co-captains, Stephanie Currie, Danny Franklin, Derrick Heyl, Bebe Marchal, and Kate Prechter.

TODAY'S ACOLYTES are Wyn and Eleanor Ziegler.

TODAY'S COMMUNION SERVERS are youth elders Harrison Currie, Gigi Frankowski, Arden and Savannah Weiser.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Jean Ellen Vorhoff and Gilbert and Nadine Vorhoff by the Robbert W. Vorhoff Family.

FOR FAMILIES: THE "PRAY GROUND" in Frampton Fellowship Hall is set up for families looking for a child-friendly space to watch the service via livestream. Coloring sheets, puzzles, and books for children are there. Parents must remain with their children in the Pray Ground. THE NURSERY is also open for children age 3 and below from 8:15-noon in the Bear Classroom which is in the corner classroom on the first floor.

Sunday School 9:30-10:15 AM | DETAILS AT SCAPC.ORG/SUNDAY-SCHOOL

ADULT CLASSES:

We Believe...1700 Years with the Nicene Creed

January 4 -February 8 | Phifer Library | led by Chris Currie | recordings posted at scapc.org/sunday-school

The year just finished, 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. This class explores the early Trinitarian and Christological beliefs and the desire to reach some sense of consensus about 'one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,' why these words we declare in our oldest creed matter and affect our lives as Christians who stand in the tradition of the Nicene Creed.

Writing from the Heart: Journaling as Sacred Practice

January 4 -February 8 | 2nd floor conference room | led by Harriet Riley

When the world feels chaotic and you are seeking quiet in the storm, a spiritual journal can be the best way to process feelings and thoughts. A journal can also be a path to nurture your faith through interactive prayer. Using the recently published *The Book of Alchemy: A Creative Practice for an Inspired Life* by Suleika Jaouad, this participatory class explores journaling as a spiritual practice.

Announcements

This week's WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUT program will be a King Cake Tasting! Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. in Frampton Fellowship Hall. Children's dismissal will take place at 6:20 and the tasting will follow at 6:25. SCAPC member Saskia Ozols will give a presentation of the painting she was commissioneded to create for the Rex Organization/School of Design that celebrates their 2026 theme of re-birth and renewal. Painted in the manner of a 17th century Flemish vanitas painting, it visually represents cycles of life. Saskia will walk us through some of her creative thought processes and share some photos of its creation. The cost for dinner is $10/adult, $5/child, and $25/family. On the menu will be Cajun shrimp salad, oven "fried" fish, broccoli and wild rice casserole, corn on the cobb, and coleslaw. Make your dinner reservation on the SCAPC app or at scapc.org/wno. Reservations close tomorrow at 5 p.m. or earlier if capacity is reached. Our pastor-led Bible study meets weekly at 5:15 p.m. in the Phifer Libraby for an examination of Paul's Letter to the Romans.

The 40/50's YAK, SNACK, & READ BOOK CLUB meets next this Tuesday, February 3, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Land Building. Join your fellow book lovers for snacks and discussion! Our book is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Prior reading is not required!

The NEEDLE ARTS GROUP will meet next Sunday, February 8, from 4-6 p.m. in the Land Building Lakeside Room. If you enjoy crocheting, knitting, sewing, cross-stitching, or any other needle arts, come join us!

YAF PARADE WATCH: Join the Young Adults and Families on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:15 pm outside Sophie B. Wright School (Napoleon & St. Charles) to watch the Druids and Alla Mardi Gras parades together! Wear your sequins, bring your drinks, and let's have fun together! Family friendly! Questions? Email Caitlin, caitlin@scapc.org.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Sheelah Strong Black and her family on the death of her brother, Robert Alexander Strong, who died on Sunday, January 25.