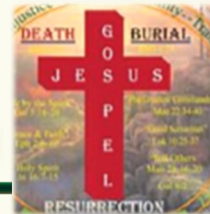




*** THE MIRACLE NEWS ***



First Step Back Home
PO Box 966
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Do We Give Enough Thanks at Thanksgiving? *by Paul Kruse*

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It just occurred to me in trying to write this article, that I do not give enough time in Prayer and Thanksgiving to **God** on Thanksgiving Day. I thank **God** every day for everything I can see, hear and touch, and the many things I can't. But since we have deemed Thanksgiving Day the day we should probably give extra time in thanking **God**, it seems to me that one little prayer before the meal is just not enough!

I feel extra time should be given to reading verses in the Bible about how and what we really need to be thanking **God** for. So here are some verses that may help us do that. Also, I challenge you all to do this during your Thanksgiving Day gatherings.

1 Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: His Love endures forever. Good luck visualizing forever. I can only think of this as in the heavenly realm which is also way beyond my understanding. I just have to trust and believe in it. Woe to those who don't!

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Devote, to me, means long term adoration and action. So do we really commit to long term action of prayer? I Pray all the time in silence thanking **God** for everything that happens to me, small or large in my daily walk, for what I know He has consecrated.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Amen!

Philippians 4: 6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will

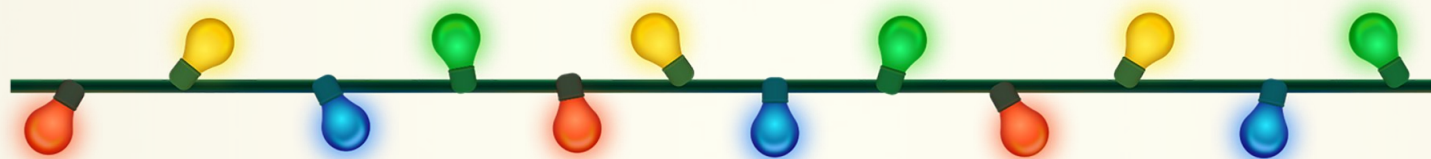
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Anxiety is one of my problems. I just want to get things fixed right away that are broken, humanly and physically. But when I turn to **God** for peace, He gives it to me and I thank Him for the blessings! I do feel much better when the broken things get fixed. Then I thank Him again.

Psalms 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped. My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. Sounds like a song, ha! But every night I sing to **God** until I fall asleep. He probably gets tired of the same old song, but maybe not.

Psalms 50:14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and perform your vows to the Most High. My vows are to Love **God** with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love the poor as myself. Since I started doing this 15+ years ago, I have seen hundreds of miracles for the poor and in my own life. I pray always that other people will follow our examples.

Finally, **Psalms 100:4 Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and His courts with Praise: Give thanks to Him and Praise His name!!** Thank you **God** in **Jesus'** Name!!! Amen!





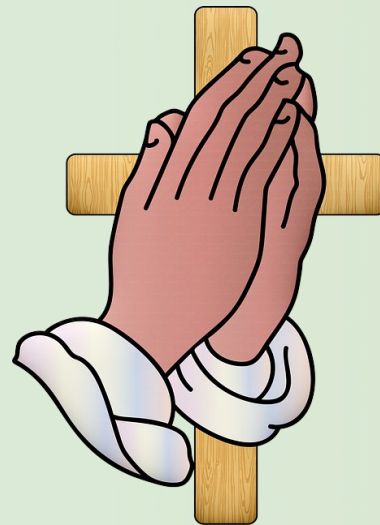
ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

The government can't do it. The doctors can't do it. And the scientists can't do it. It's up to us, **God's** people. We the People need to come together, often in **Prayer**, to irradiate this devilish COVID-19 disease. Pray with me this simple prayer now and SEND THIS TO ALL YOUR CONTACTS. Use these words and/or others you can think of that are similar.

OUR FATHER, WE PRAY, BY THE POWER OF YOUR ONLY SON JESUS, WHOSE NAME BY WHICH WE COMMAND THE COVID-19 VIRUS, TO BE BEHIND US AND NEVER COME BACK AGAIN - IN JESUS'S HOLY, LOVING AND PRECIOUS NAME, AMEN!

ALSO WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED A SPEEDY RECOVERY AND WE PRAY FOR ALL THE FAMILIES WHO LOST LOVED ONES AS WELL. AMEN!!!

We need this to go out to and be prayed for by millions of **God's** believers, in His Son **Jesus'** name, all over planet earth. As **God** says in 2 Chron. 7:14 – paraphrased: *If **God's** believers humble ourselves, and pray and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways, then He will hear from Heaven and will forgive our sins and HEAL OUR LAND!*



Emergency Weather Response Covid Style



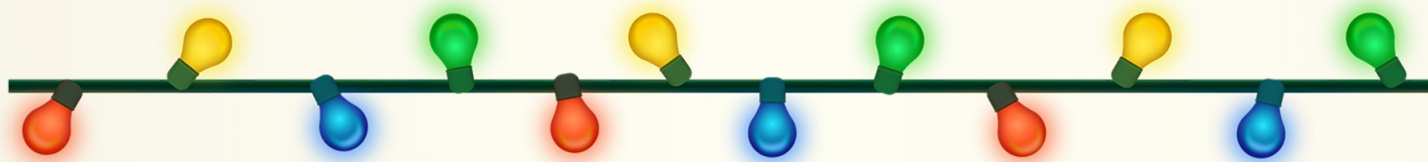
The 2020-21 Emergency Weather Response Program, led by the St. Charles Continuum of Care Community Council, begins its sixth year of operation this month. Program leader **Kathy Thompson** of LINC St. Charles said this year's program will be an expensive one.

Concerns of COVID for the homeless clientele and for the many volunteers who normally help run this program have caused plans for this year to be motel-based, as churches are unable to open their facilities for this activity and many of the volunteers who have

helped to run it in the past are not available this year due to most being high risk seniors. Transportation, instead of being done by volunteers, will be done through taxis so that will be an added expense as well. Thompson thinks the program could cost as much as \$6,000- 7,000 this year.

The ERW program is activated anytime the weather is predicted to dip to 20 degrees or less between November 14 and March 13, 2021. On days of activation, homeless neighbors can call the **ERW HOTLINE** at **636-395-0492** for instructions on how to access lodging.

Anyone interested in helping to fund this year's program can send a check to **LINC St. Charles, 9 Love Park Lane, Wentzville, MO 63385** stating it is for the EWR program.



Cookie Visits

by Lana Kruse

One of the fun things Paul and I have been able to do in these recent months has been to meet FSBH donors at their homes and say “thanks” with a cookie or two and a personal note from our Board. Cookies come from our ministry friend **Debbie Chisnell** of **Debbie’s Cookie Creations**.

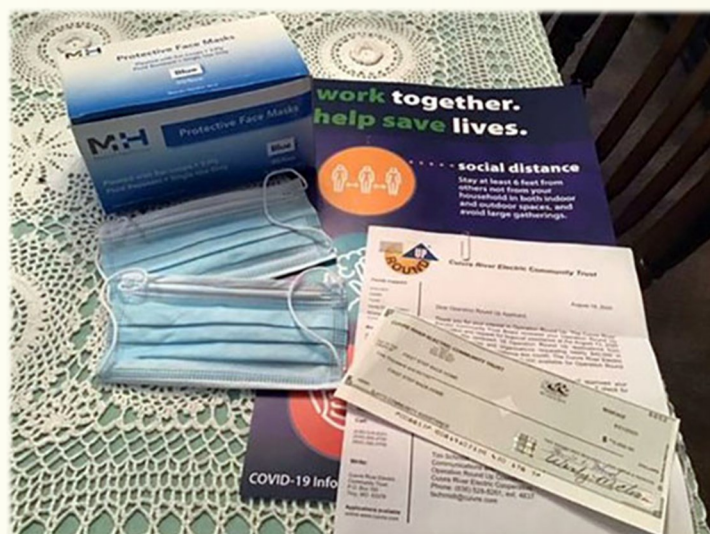
One beautiful sunny morning at the end of October, we stopped at the home of a relatively new donor who lives in our community. What a delight to have met **Mrs. Sharon Kovac**! We social distanced and talked briefly in her front yard, and realized she has been a part of two churches that have been long time supporters of our ministry, **Central Presbyterian Church**, Clayton, and **Dardenne Presbyterian Church**, Dardenne Prairie. She’s even been “all over the world” on missions trips with our wonderful mission cheerleader **Rev. Dr. Randy Mayfield** who is retiring at the end of the year from Central Presbyterian Church after 41 years of service there.

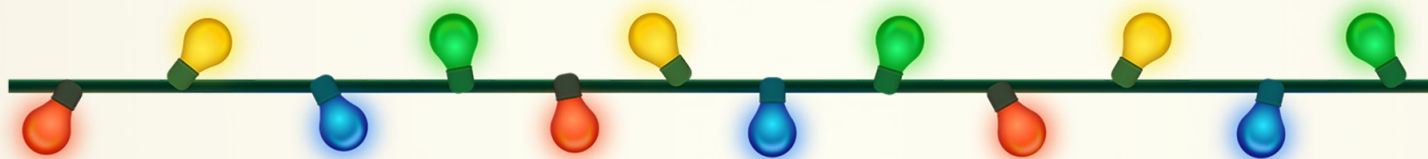


Masks and Money!

Thanks to the **St. Charles County Health Department** for 200 masks for clients & volunteers and to **Cuivre River Operation Round Up Program** for the \$5,000 funding to cover about 100 motel nights for the homeless who call daily for help.

It takes everyone coming together to help us help others. We appreciate so much the ongoing support of our community in the war on poverty, especially during this COVID pandemic!





RunnyMeade Fall BBQ

It was a beautiful but windy Saturday afternoon on October 17th. FSBH co-hosted, along with **First Baptist Church O'Fallon**, our first neighborhood BBQ for residents of **RunnyMeade Mobile Home Park**. Since our event was held on the common ground near where we built a playground for the kids, we ended up with lots more young folks than adults at this fun event.

In addition to hot dogs, brats and burgers, everyone was served (Covid style) chips, cookies, caramel apples and cotton candy. We look forward to future opportunities to connect with these neighbors and to work together with **FBC – O**.

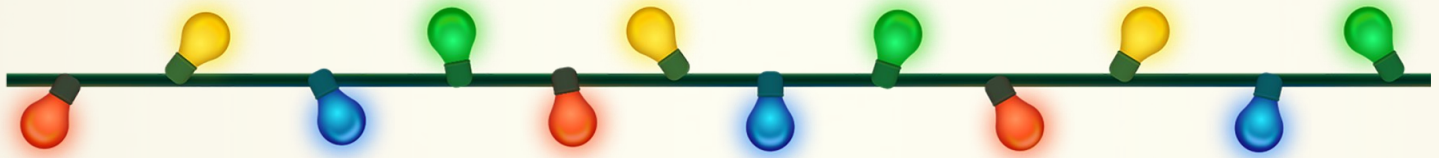


Rolling Meadows Drive-Thru BBQ

FSBH Board members **Tom Street**, **Cheryl Street** and **Chris Bray** along with **Gateway West Church** coordinated a drive - thru BBQ on a chilly, sunny 60 degree Sunday afternoon in early October at **Rolling Meadows Mobile Home Park**, for residents who live there. We served out about 150 brats, burgers and dogs along with chips and cookies to residents who drove through the parking lot to order what they wanted and take it back home.

It's been a long time since we've been able to have any social gatherings at this place this year, so it was fun to do this one Covid style. We're planning to host a similar event for Thanksgiving Dinners on Saturday, November 21st.





School Back Packs Supplied for FSBH Clients

New Life Church- Jennings held a free lunch and back pack drive last August. We're so thankful for service-minded people who have blessed school kids from our ministry with filled backpacks from their annual out-reach project.

They prepared 21 backpacks with school supplies for kids served by FSBH. Thanks **Steve & Karen George** and crew! Even though the kiddos didn't leave their homes for school this fall, they still needed fresh and current supplies.



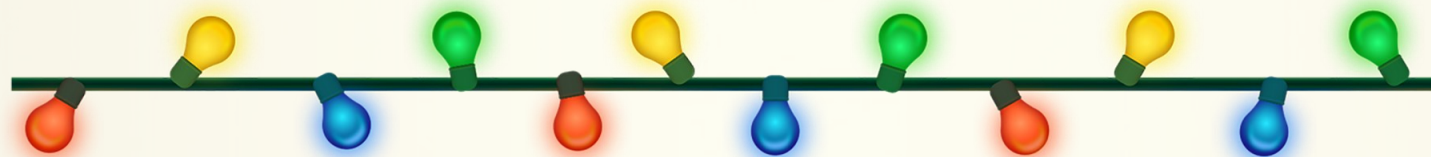
Bikes for Clients

Ministry friends **David and Nanette Hughson, St. Peters**, brought over 3 family bikes recently for Paul to pass on to clients. One was **David's**, one **Nanette's**, and the blue one had been Dave's son **Andrew's**, who received it as a high school graduation gift many years ago and died from a second recurrence of cancer on Jan. 2, 2018 at the age of 28. They were finally ready to pass this on to someone in need. They said **Andrew** would have wanted it to be so.

Now just waiting to see who **God** brings to us that could use some local bike transportation.

Thanks, Hughsons, for thinking of **FSBH!**





FIRST STEP BACK HOME

12th ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

A special celebration for the homeless and needy families!

Drive Through Event by Pre-Registration Only – No Walk-ins

(COVID STYLE – Clients will stay in their cars. No access to building this year.)



Saturday, December 19, 2020

12 – 3 pm

Wentzville United Methodist Church,
725 Wall Street Wentzville, MO 63385



Toys for Tots
Holiday Music



Bibles, Diapers, Laundry Baskets

Wave to Santa!

Brown Bag Snacks will be provided.

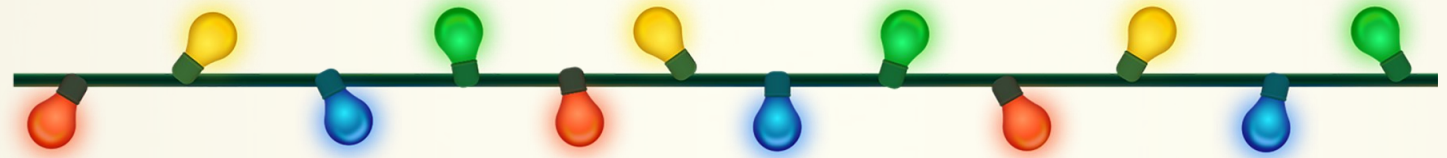


Come celebrate **Jesus is the Reason for the Season** with us!

Family registration: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa8ae23a13-fsbh>

Volunteer registration: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa8ae23a13-volunteers>

Whoever is kind to the needy honors God. *Proverbs 14:31*



THANKSGIVING DINNER DRIVE-THRU

NOVEMBER 21ST
3-5PM

ROLLING
MEADOWS
CLUBHOUSE
PARKING LOT

TURKEY
SIDES
DESSERT



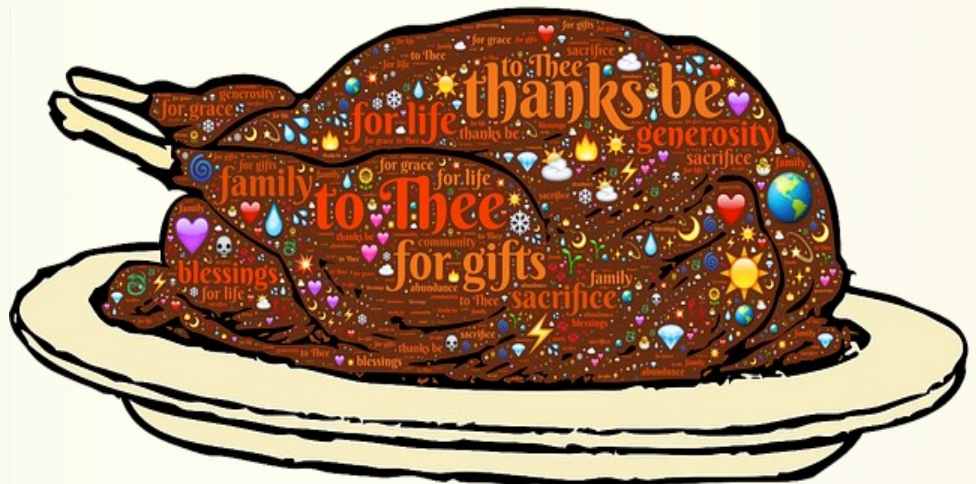
Thanksgiving Dinner Drive-Thru Event For Rolling Meadows Families

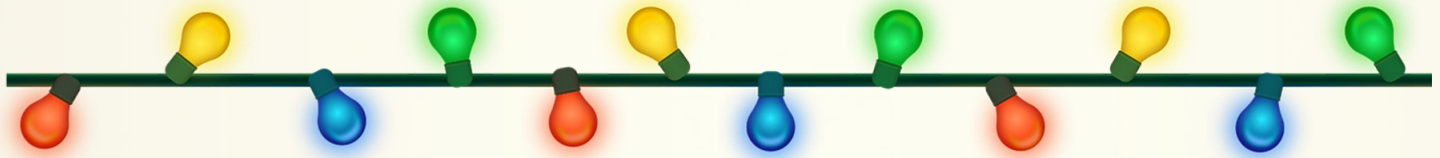
Our 5th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for residents at Rolling Meadows will be held a little differently this year. We'll be having it COVID style. That means a drive-thru event with masked and gloved servers who will hand off pre-packaged food to-go boxes to the driver of each car that comes by. Most everything will be happening outside, so we're hoping for another great weather day. This event will be hosted by **FSBH** and **Gateway West Church** and take place Saturday, November 21, 2020 from 3 – 5 pm. Thanks to **FSBH** Board Member **Cheryl Street** for organizing all the details!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Giving Thanks for Thanksgiving Meals

Once again friends from **New Life Church St. Louis** will be preparing grocery boxes filled with Thanksgiving groceries – turkeys and all the trimmings- for many of our mobile home client families. We're expecting to serve about 30 families with supplies from this generous church group. About 80 people will be blessed with this provision.





Recent Donor Acknowledgements

We want to thank several businesses, churches and community groups who have financially supported FSBH this past quarter with these recent gifts.

- \$5,000 – **Cuivre River Electric Cooperative** Operation Round Up
- \$2,500 – **Central Presbyterian Church**, Clayton
- \$2,500 – **MasterCard** – match from employee donation
- \$1,500 – **Home Maintenance Solutions**, Wentzville
- \$1,200 – **Mission Financial**- St. Peters
- \$ 1,200 – **Element Church**, Wentzville
- \$1,000 – **Local Business Owner** who wishes to remain anonymous
- \$ 800 – **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters
- \$ 750 – **Ameren UE**
- \$ 500 – **Vilatte Institute**
- \$ 400 – **Warrenton Christian Church**
- \$ 300 – **Chapel of the Lake**, Lake St. Louis
- \$ 165 – **Abbie** corporate match for employee contribution
- \$ 100 – **Ladies Auxiliary of Knights of Columbus Council 823**, St. Charles
- \$ 79 - **Thrivent** Choice Dollars as allocations from **Dennis & Donna Hall**
- \$ 50 – **Network for Good** – Happy Birthday Fundraiser of Donor
- \$ 35 - **New Life Nazarene Church** - \$5 for each visitor who attends their services
- \$ 28 - **Amazon Smile** Designations
- \$ 5 – **PayPal** Giving Fund

Thank You

We are so very thankful to all of you who think of donating to our public charity when opportunities present.

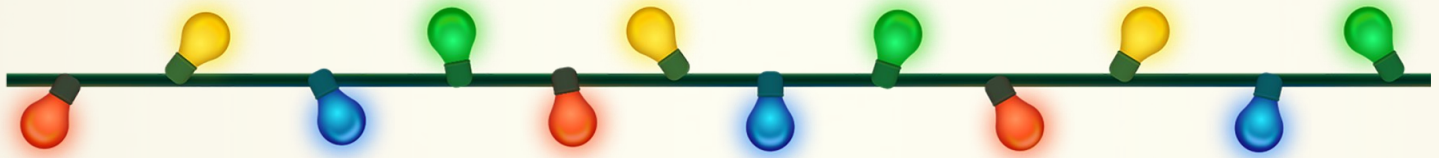
DivvyUp Socks Donation Makes for Many Happy Feet

We were approached by a custom sock company out of Florida that gifts a pair of socks for every pair sold. This company was started in 2014 as a college project of the founder with a \$400 up front loan from a professor and has become a large, successful one gifting more than 100,000 pair of new socks back in 2018.

Last month we were blessed to receive 588 pair of new socks, both men's and women's sizes, and have been able to pass those along to our frontline ministry helpers to give to the homeless on the streets in St. Louis and around here. We're told we'll be receiving new socks on a regular basis. What a blessing. As their customer service representative **Michael Hotaling** said, "we will be able to incorporate your organization into our system and ensure you always have clean socks on-hand (or foot)!"

If you're looking for some cute holiday gifts, consider browsing the **DivvyUpSocks.com** site. For every pair you purchase, another pair will be donated to a worthy charity.





Donation Methods to Support FSBH

We want to remind you that your tax-deductible charitable donation is a great way to support the ministry. We are a public charity per IRS Regulations of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations will be receipted for tax-deductible documentation purposes. Here are several options to consider:

- **Corporate Matching Grant Donations**
 - Some matching grant companies are **AT&T, Wells Fargo, Monsanto, Boeing, MasterCard, Pfizer, VMWare, and Thrivent Financial Services.**
 - Boeing and perhaps other corporations offer **volunteer time grant matches.** If you volunteer 25 hours with our ministry, Boeing will send a \$250 cash gift.
 - If you work for a company that offers match gifting, please initiate the paperwork for this to be done, and we'll complete the required elements so you and others can participate.
- **Write a Check payable to "First Step Back Home"** and send to the following address:
First Step Back Home, Inc.
Paul Kruse
PO Box 966
O'Fallon MO 63366
- **Log onto our ministry website and click PayPal** for direct donation via your credit card. There is a small fee charged to the ministry with this option. www.firststepbackhome.net
- **Thrivent Members** can create an "Action Team" and receive \$250 "seed money" twice per year for charitable causes. Details can be found at this link: thrivent.com/actionteam..
- When you shop online, use **Amazon Smile** and choose **First Step Back Home** as your charity. They will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. You can use this direct link to our page: smile.amazon.com/ch/20-8676289



Toys for Tots will be a very much appreciated element of the 12th Annual Christmas Wonderland this year.

Meal Ministry Update

This year has been challenging for our Meal Ministry. We are thankful for the groups that are able to provide meals to the families staying at the **Economy Inn** during this time.

There are more openings on the calendar due to groups that are unable to serve because of concerns about the virus, but some groups that work on a fill-in basis have been able to cover many of those. The permanent openings at this time are 1st Mondays, 2nd Tuesdays, 3rd Tuesdays, 3rd Fridays (odd months only), and 5th Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The calendar is always available online at firststepbackhome.net/meal-calendar. If you are interested in serving, contact **Kim Orf** at korf18@hotmail.com.



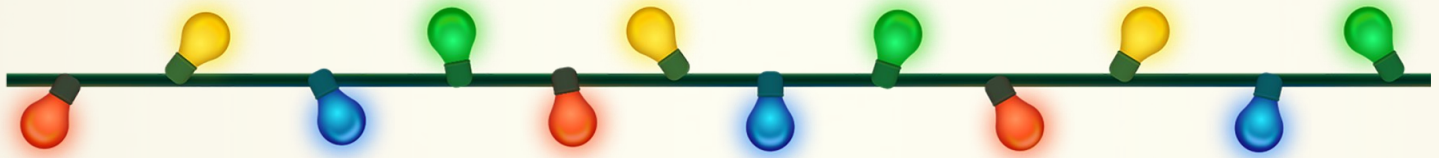
Servers from **Faith Christian Family Church** getting ready to serve on August 17.

Wentzville Faith Network Hears About Community Meals Program Idea

Collaborating with 24 others representing community organizations and churches at the **Wentzville Faith Network (WFN)** Meeting October 15th at the Wentzville City Hall Conference Room, **Paul and Lana Kruse** shared the vision of developing a community meals program in the Wentzville area some day after Covid ends. Our current motel meals program was described and the vision for that to be expanded to serve the public in a greater capacity at some point in the future was proposed. A public-served community meals program would need to be accomplished through a kitchen licensed by the St. Charles County Department of Health, and all food would need to be prepared on-site. After describing the concept of a community meals program, the group agreed to think about options and bring ideas to the next meeting in January.



Group facilitator **Rev. Kurt Charlton** of **Wentzville Christian Church** said that the WFN was formed four years ago by the Wentzville Police Department and exists to promote networking, awareness and unity of organizations concerned with the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of the Wentzville community. The group meets on the third Thursday quarterly at various locations in the area. Newcomers are always welcome to attend.



Personal Care and Comfort for Our Homeless Neighbors



Thanks to **Cheer STL Angels All-Star Cheerleading Program** from **O'Fallon** who collected 75 lb. of small sized toiletries, and to a new organization called "**Covered MO**" led by **Amy Everhardt**, **St. Charles**, who dropped off 60 warm and fuzzy blankets, many of our homeless neighbors will feel care and comfort these days.

FSBH ministry partners "**Blessing in a Bag**" led by **Jennifer Hall**, and "**Mind the Gap**," led by **Ed Kallery**, were given these resources to hand out to the homeless on the streets of **STL** where they serve each Thursday evening year round. So many blessings in each step of this!

Thanks to many young ladies from **Cheer STL** for collecting items over the past year, under the leadership of **Mrs. Cherie Fromm**. Their group also helps with meals at the local motel, so I asked **Cherie** how they got involved with us. Here's what she shared with us:

*"**Cheer St. Louis** is the largest training facility for cheerleading and tumbling in **St. Charles County**. The mission statement for our organization is this: **Cheer St. Louis** builds character, class and physical fitness in its athletes through a standard of excellence, while teaching life lessons and fostering an environment for children to flourish and grow into better people and reach their full potential.*

*The **Cheer St. Louis Angels All-Star Cheerleading Program** consisted of about 14 teams last year ranging in various experience and skill levels. On average, each team had 16 to 20 athletes, ranging from ages 4 to 18 years old.*

*Gym owners **Karrie and Ricky Schulte** and their coaching staff encourage each team to do at least one "give back" event for community service each competitive season. We first learned about your program (**FSBH**), when one of our teams, **The Guardian Angels** (level 5, elite team, with athletes from 10 to age 18), made **Blessing Bags** and donated them to **FSBH** in 2018. Since then, the interest in helping has continued, with **Cheer St. Louis** families participating in your meal distribution, and continuing to give toiletries and paper products to hotel guests during meal distribution.*

*In our cheerleading program, primarily the prep and elite teams are those who travel for competitions and were asked to collect items and donate to this cause. These teams do about 8 to 10 competitions a year, with about half of those being out of town. The items were collected between December 2019 and March 2020, as our season was cut short due to COVID-19. A normal competitive cheerleading season typically runs through May, with the goal for teams to earn bids to participate in the cheerleading Worlds and Summit competitions in **Walt Disney World**. Although all eligible teams did earn bids, the athletes were unable to participate due to COVID-19. However, if we are able to get back on the road to competition this year, we will be continuing to collect for your cause!"*

