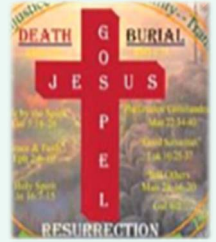




*** THE MIRACLE NEWS ***



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

Connecting With God Daily

by Paul Kruse

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SOCIAL MEDIA:**

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Ever feel like **God** doesn't always hear or answer your prayers?

Look at Isaiah 65:24: *"Before you call I will answer, while you are still speaking, I will hear you."*

So that settles that! **God** loves us with an everlasting love (See Jeremiah 2:13). He created us and knows what is best for us. So, whatever happens we know **God** is there and hears our prayers to Him. Our hearts **must be open to the Spirit's influence and Salvation**, or **God's** blessings cannot be received.

Here are some of the obstacles that keep **God** from answering us. Matthew 6:12 says *"forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."*

- ♦ **Sin in our lives**
- ♦ **Disobeying God**
- ♦ **Having unconfessed sins**
- ♦ **Not forgiving others**

It will always be the **Gospel** that makes us worthy; but we need to do our part if **God** is going to work in our lives. Ephesians 4:32 tells us, *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ has forgiven you."*

Here are some things we can do:

Thessalonians 5:17 says, *"Pray without ceasing."* When I run out of things to pray about, I have a four-sentence prayer I say, and sometimes repetitively, no matter what I'm doing.

I love you, **Lord Jesus**.

Thank you, **Lord**.

Forgive me, **Lord**.

Help me, **Lord**.

And at night I also pray:

- Lord's Prayer
- 23rd Psalm
- Greatest Commandments – to Love **God** and Love Others
- Favorite Verses



In Philippians 4:6 Paul says, *"In everything by Prayer and supplication with thanksgiving in your heart let your prayers be known to God."*

Our main concern should be not becoming discouraged and stopping our prayers because of our temptations, hard times and trials. Luke 18:1 records **Jesus'** words – *"Pray and don't lose heart."*

God Loves us and is concerned about every detail of our lives. We must meet His conditions before He will answer - and the answer could be **yes, no or wait**. But no matter what, we should always end our

(Continued on Page 2)



Connecting With God Daily (continued from page 1)

prayers with these wise ones from Hebrews 10:36, "Not my will **Lord**, but Yours, be done."

We must continue trusting Him regardless of His answer. **God's** timetable is not same as ours. It may take a while sometimes. Also, repetitive prayer won't hurt either. **God** needs to know we're serious. We just always remember **God** is with us! Isaiah 41: 9-10 says, "You who I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from the farthest regions, and said to you, you are my servant, I have chosen you, and not cast you away, fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your **God**. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the **Lord** with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Have you ever cried out, "**God** Help Me!" Remember **God** knows all the troubles and problems you face. We have 100% coverage in **God's** promises which covers all our problems large or -small, even in seemingly hopeless times. **God** promises to stay involved in the life-long process of **Spiritual growth**. Philippians 1:6 tells us, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has began a good work in you will complete it until the day of **Jesus** the **Christ**."

Colossians 2:6-7 says, "And now just as you have trusted **Christ** to save you, trust Him, too, for each day's problems, live in vital union with Him. Let your roots grow down in Him and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you go on growing in the **Lord**. And become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all He has done."

2 Peter 1: 5-8 tells us, "Make every effort to add to your faith, goodness, and to goodness knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control, and to self-control, perseverance, and to perseverance, Godliness; brotherly love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge our **Lord Jesus** the **Christ**."

This is a lot to take in, but we also get encouragement when we see **God** work in answering our prayers. I'll have a problem and pray that I can figure it out, and BAM! **God** answers it. We see miracles in our ministry all the time and we are just blown away watching **God** solve problems every single day! A good example of this recently is that I spent \$2,000 on a car for a client and was wondering how this expense would affect our cash reserves. Then I went to the post office to get the mail and, BAM! I found an unexpected \$4,000 donation check to the ministry. Wow! What a **God** we have!

Thank You **God** in **Jesus'** name! Amen!

God Bless You and thank you for your support!



St. Charles Rotary Event Benefits FSBH

The November 15 St. Charles Rotary's "Taste of St. Charles" will have a Casino Night theme this year. Tickets for the event will be used for games throughout the evening and winnings will be translated to raffle prizes at the end. Four local charities will benefit from this creative fundraiser, **FSBH** being one. In addition to the games, participants will enjoy tastings from several local restaurants who will feature their special cuisine items.

Online tickets (\$50 each) are available from the **FSBH website**. When you purchase some, indicate **FSBH** in the memo box to give us credit for the sales. We're obligated to sell some.



Trucker Church Team Treats Nation's Drivers

A Trucker Appreciation BBQ was held at the **TA Truckstop** in Foristell on November 4, 2022, a record-breaking warm day of 83 degrees. Our Trucker Church team shared physical food and spiritual food too. We met drivers from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Florida and Haiti. It was an encouraging time for them and us! **Marion & Marshall Wright** from **Power of God Trucking Ministry** and **Mike Gulley** from **2nd Chance Ministry** joined in the effort with **Paul & Lana Kruse**, founders of the trucker church ministry, which spawned FSBH some 17+ years ago.

Lots of burgers, brats, dogs and the trimmings were served out in the late afternoon and early evening on a very busy day at the truck stop. Drivers were reminded we hold a Sunday morning service in the Driver's Lounge at 10 am each week.



14th Annual Christmas Wonderland Can You Help Us Make It Happen?



FIRST STEP BACK HOME
14th ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND
A special celebration for the homeless and needy families!
Drive-thru Event by Pre-Registration Only – No Walk-ins



Saturday, December 10, 2022
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!

Register here: <http://tiny.cc/FSBHxmas2022>

By early November most of the 120 client slots for our annual **Christmas Wonderland** event had already been filled by the homeless and fragile families in our service area.

Now we need some **VOLUNTEERS** to make it all come together. If you're able to help us on Friday, December 9 or Saturday, December 10th, please sign up on **this Sign-Up Genius Link**. We need a helper team to lead the clean-up phase at the end of the event, getting the venue back into spit-spot shape before we head out. And we need runners to assist our Chief Elves in getting items staged and out the doors to the correct gazebo spaces along the perimeter of the church parking lot.

Donations needed include some **\$25 gift cards** from Walmart, Target or local grocery stores. We've always had enough for each of the 120 families to receive one. This year we are short on the gift cards as of early November.

We're anticipating an ample supply of toys from the **Toys for Tots** program, which have been made available to us in the past. And we have gifts for teens, food snack/treat bags and diapers all arranged for this year.



Death Prevention is Goal for Winter Warming Centers

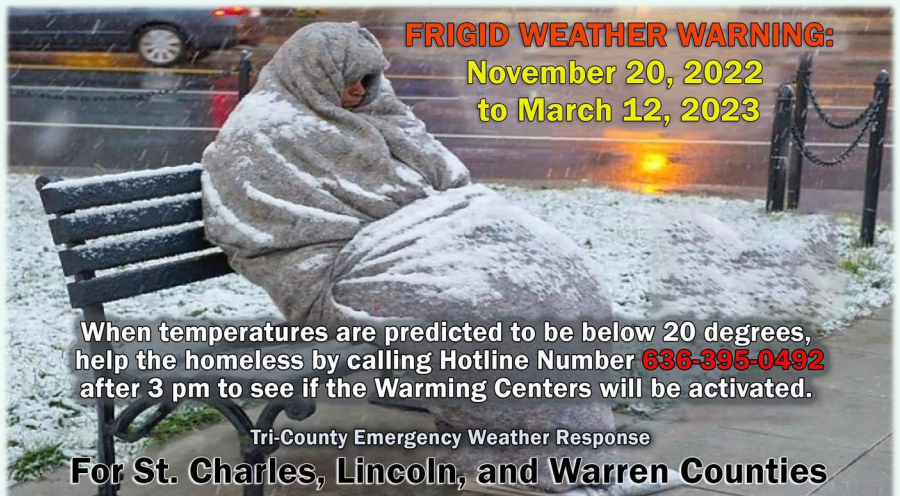
From mid-November through mid-March each year, if temperatures are predicted to be 20 degrees or below overnight, the Emergency Weather Response (EWR) Program of the St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties Continuum of Care will activate **Free Warming Centers** in selected churches to provide safe sleeping accommodations for our unhoused neighbors and their pets.

The primary purpose of the EWR Program is death prevention. 2022 will be the 8th year for this essential program in our three county region. To date there have been no deaths in our area due to hypothermia. First responders often guide the homeless to locations that are open on bitter cold nights. A total of 11 sites will share in the provision of this service this year.

To locate the nearest warming center, **call the hotline number at 636-395-0492 after 3 pm** for the most current information. Transportation services may be available.

Trained volunteers at each warming center site will be on hand to greet, check in, oversee the evening activities, provide food, prepare laundry, clean up and load a van where supplies are transported from one church to another during the winter season.

Please keep the hotline number handy and pass it out to any homeless person you encounter during the cold winter season. If you or your church would like more information about how you can become involved, please call **LINC Director Kathy Thompson** or Warming Center Coordinator **Tiffany Jackson** at 636-332-5127 x 222 or 314-295-6177 (cell).



24th Annual Community Services Summit

On Tuesday, October 25, 2022, **FSBH** collaborated with local social service agencies at the **24th Annual Community Services Summit**, hosted by the St. Charles County Community Council at **Calvary Church** in St. Peters.

More than 300 service providers spent the day learning about new ways to engage and impact their work with fragile families in our region.





Mobile Home Park Activities In Full Swing

It was a gorgeous fall day for our Rolling Meadows Mobile Home Park **Back to School BBQ** September 24th. More than 100 meals were served and lots of school supplies distributed as well.



Thanks to FSBH Board members **Tom & Cheryl Street** for coordinating this event and promoting the re-start (post-COVID) of our Sunday School program later this fall in the Rolling Meadows Clubhouse.



Thanksgiving Dinner At Mobile Home Park

Plans are under way for the traditional **Thanksgiving Dinner** for families from the community on Saturday, November 19th. **Gateway Church**, St. Peters, friends will help prepare sides and serve the meal again, as they have for the past six years.





Client Services Overview: January through October 2022

Your dollars are essential to helping us help others! Here's an overview of where they've gone for the first 10 months of this year. 275 client households, representing 370 adults, 202 children and 17 seniors have been impacted by your gifts, as services have been rendered in all the categories listed below. **THANK YOU** so much for every penny you direct our way. We will continue to use these funds wisely as we help the homeless and fragile families in our region.

Service Summary

Service Date Between: 1/1/2022 to 10/31/2022

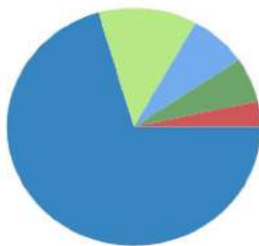
Organization(s): First Step Back Home



St. Charles, Lincoln, & Warren
Continuum of Care

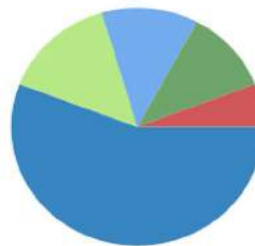
First Step Back Home

Top 5 Services by Units



■ Motel Vouchers-Homeless
■ Fuel
■ Food
■ Rent Payment Assistance
■ Utility Assistance

Top 5 Services by Clients



■ Motel Vouchers-Homeless
■ Fuel
■ Food
■ Rent Payment Assistance
■ Utility Assistance

Service	Units	Total	Clients	Families	Adults	Children	Seniors
Assistance to purchase vehicle	14.00	\$11,648.31	11	10	16	4	0
Car repair	13.00	\$2,448.21	13	13	22	10	0
Cell phone	14.00	\$186.51	1	13	14	3	0
Cell Phone Minutes	5.00	\$524.55	5	5	6	8	0
Clothing	15.00	\$1,458.70	14	13	16	3	0
Food	43.00	\$2,783.04	34	33	41	16	0
Fuel	73.00	\$1,636.68	40	39	69	43	5
Healthcare	1.00	\$20.00	1	1	1	0	0
Household Goods	2.00	\$335.43	2	2	4	1	0
Mobile Home Expenses	13.00	\$2,975.93	5	5	8	13	0
Motel Vouchers-Homeless	409.00	\$37,856.96	153	153	195	85	12
Personal hygiene items	4.00	\$59.86	4	4	6	4	0
Rent Payment Assistance	35.00	\$8,569.98	31	31	47	21	0
Rental Arrears Payments	7.00	\$1,933.42	7	7	10	7	1
Rental Deposit	13.00	\$2,650.00	13	13	18	14	1
School Supplies	3.00	\$695.87	3	3	4	2	0
Storage	12.00	\$2,250.66	9	9	12	14	0
Transportation	8.00	\$1,348.77	7	6	8	5	0
Utility Arrears	6.00	\$1,618.12	6	6	5	17	0
Utility Assistance	20.00	\$3,633.60	16	16	21	13	1
Utility Deposit Assistance	2.00	\$252.50	2	2	4	4	0
Organization Total:	712.00	\$85787.26	275	274	370	202	17



More Bunk Beds for Clients in Need

Another family was blessed by **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** ministry. A bunk bed was built on-site for two brothers who moved into one of our mobile homes last September.

The family had been displaced after their rental housing was sold when a new owner acquired the property. They had been sleeping in motels for the past six months.

Sleep In Heavenly Peace is a national organization that provides bunk beds for families with children that can't afford beds. <https://shpbeds.org/chapter/mo-wentzville/>

2nd Annual Gospel Fest

God provided a beautiful weather day for our **2nd Annual Gospel Fest** on September 10, 2022 at Rotary Park in Wentzville. Radio host and published author **Steve Gregg**, from **The Narrow Path** ministry, brought biblical teachings on the Protection of Children and Spiritual Warfare. Several local Christian ministries provided materials and shared ways the community could engage in supportive services. Wentzville business owner and ministry friend **Bruce Petrov** spoke on ways to get involved in the local political scene and at our school board meetings. It was an encouraging and uplifting day of fellowship and connection. FSBH Board members **Tom & Cheryl Street** organized the event this year. FSBH Board Member **Dave Bonney**, who also leads the Broken & Beautiful ministry to women leaving Missouri prisons, organized ladies from his group to share their life changing experiences with the group.

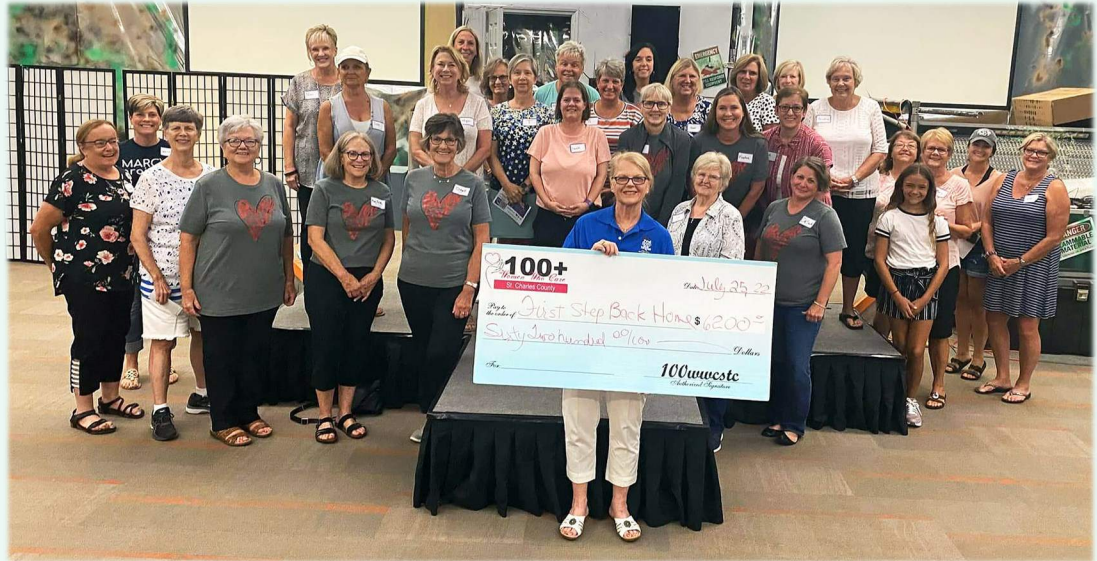




100 Women Who Care Group Selects FSBH

FSBH was selected to receive the quarterly donations from the **100 Women Who Care** organization last July.

A total of \$6,350 was provided to help with the ongoing needs of people to be lodged, gas tanks to be filled, food to be fed and more!



100+ Women Who Care STC is a group of women that gathers four times a year for a meeting, and each member (or team of women) writes a \$100 check to a charity that the group selects.

This combined donation of \$10,000+ makes a real impact, without time-consuming fundraising events and planning. <https://www.100wvcstc.org/>

Cars For Clients

One of our ministry volunteers is a single mother with a 21-year old son. This young man struggles with ADHD and works in the fast-food industry. He recently started a new job in O'Fallon. Unfortunately, the old car that he needed to travel from his home in Wentzville did not pass the required inspections for renewing his plates. He could not afford the cost of further testing and repairs. He and his mom managed to put together \$2,500 to pay for a better vehicle, but used car prices are high, and they couldn't find anything in that price range. Our ministry was able to donate \$2,000 to help cover the cost, and they found a dealer in St. Charles that would accept exactly \$4,500 for the car. What a blessing to this family!





HomeBank Employee Fundraiser

One day last August we got a call from an unknown person that they had a check for us! In this case, it was **Home Bank VP Kailee Saxbery**, who said the bank employees held a fundraiser and wanted to donate \$243.85! This will help with cell phones, fuel and motel nights for homeless who call for help.

HomeBank is a relatively new neighbor, with a temporary facility close by. They are building a permanent bank in Lake St. Louis now. Hopefully this is just the start of a long relationship with them.



Toiletries Help Our Street Outreach Team



About 65 pounds of hotel-sized toiletries were gathered by the **Cheer St. Louis** group thinking of helping the homeless once again. **Cate Fromm**, sophomore from North Point HS in Wentzville, brought them to us one day last summer with her mom.

Many have been blessed by this shower of love and concern! Our street outreach team LOVES getting these sample-sized toiletries to hand out on their weekly interactions.

Helpful Resources for Families

LIHEAP Energy Assistance Program offers a one-time payment to help with home energy bills in the summer and winter seasons. The **ECIP Program** helps pay an energy bill when there is a sudden, unexpected, uncontrollable loss of financial resources, life-threatening situation. <https://mydss.mo.gov/utility-assistance/liheap>

Affordable Connectivity Program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>



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. Some gifts have been made in honor or in memory of loved ones.

- \$21,854.31 – **Lake Forest Charity Classic** Final Proceeds from July Golf Tournament
- \$6,350 – **100 Women Who Care**, St. Charles County (See story on page 8.)
- \$2,000 – **Central Presbyterian Church**, Clayton
- \$1,200 – **Element Church**, Wentzville
- \$1,200 – **Mission Financial**- St. Peters
- \$1,000 – **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters
- \$ 800 – **Canasta Club** and **Vilatte Institute**, for children's school needs
- \$ 750 - **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, Manchester
- \$ 400 – **Warrenton Christian Church**
- \$ 300 – **Chapel of the Lake**, Lake St. Louis
- \$ 243.85 – **HomeBank**, Lake St. Louis (See story on page 9.)
- \$ 100 – **Boeing** Corporate Match from retired employee
- \$ 64 - **Thrivent** Choice Dollars as allocations from Dennis and Donna Hall
- \$ 55 – Memorial in honor of **Ron Ritter** from **Gary & Barb Collins**
- \$ 50 – **Church of God**, Grubville
- \$ 20 – **AT&T** corporate match for employee gift
- \$ 6 – **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.

Blessings Abound!

Loving, practical service from **Chesterfield Presbyterian Church** members who put together about 30 survival food bags for the homeless we serve. Essential items for a 2-3 day supply to carry them over when food pantries are closed. **Paul** and **Pastor Owen Tarantino** are shown below.

We met this church leader last spring while attending our friend **Randy Mayfield's** concert at this church.





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 **Industrial Ally, 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: 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. Use this direct link to our page: smile.amazon.com/ch/20-8676289



Meal Ministry Update

We are thankful for the individuals and groups of dedicated volunteers who prepare hot meals and serve at the Economy Inn in Wentzville. The food and service are also appreciated by the families who are in need of sustenance for body and soul. Over the last quarter, new servers included **Mary Pickett** and a group from the **Church of Latter Day Saints.**

We still have many open dates for groups that would like to volunteer. The [calendar](#) is available for viewing online. To volunteer to help in the Meal Ministry, contact our Meal Coordinator, **Krista Zahn** at 636-299-0347 or email fsbhmeals@gmail.com.

