



# The Beacon

Official Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

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160 South Main

Spring 2021

(USA)

## Notes from Pastor Steve Spring 2021



He is risen! As I write these notes our church has just celebrated Easter on April 4<sup>th</sup> – and what a celebration it was! After more than a year of pandemic related lockdowns, shut downs, cancelled events, the absence of fellowship activities and meals, and restrictions of all kinds we were able to honor the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in a proper fashion. We were able to experience a Son Rise service led by our youth, we enjoyed a fellowship meal (breakfast), we had our traditional Easter egg hunt on the back lawn, and we concluded the morning by worshipping the risen Savior with Easter lilies, banners, and joy! He is risen indeed!

Even though we did have a wonderful Easter celebration and worship, please be aware that we are currently following several pandemic guidelines at this time. We do still require masks to be worn for all indoor church activities and gatherings (an exception was made for a brief moment during Maundy Thursday communion and at Easter fellowship breakfast where families only could sit together), we observe social distancing in worship, we continue the ban on singing in worship, we do not pass communion elements or

offering trays, and masks and hand sanitizer are made available for use throughout the building. I am hopeful that some of these restrictions will be lifted in the near future but as of April 11<sup>th</sup> all of these remain in place.

February was a banner month for our church family as we had two infant baptisms! Carolyn Renee Giesler was baptized on February 5<sup>th</sup> at a special service for the family only. Carolyn is the daughter of Jim and Kate Giesler, the sister of Nicolas Giesler, and the granddaughter of Rhonda Giesler. I am sure we will see Carolyn attending Sunday School and church with her brother and grandmother when she is old enough. On February 21<sup>st</sup> Elliott Michael Schaefer was baptized in another family-only service after our regular church service. Elliot is the son of Kyle and Rikki Schaefer, the brother of Harper, and the grandson of Rick and Marcia Schaefer. Elliot has already become a regular attender of worship and he occasionally will make his presence known to us – perhaps in reaction to one of my sermons? It is unfortunate that our church family could not celebrate in person for these events – yet another pandemic-related sacrifice we have made in the past year or so. But we do celebrate with both families and we will keep both Carolyn and Elliott in our prayers!

Maundy Thursday worship marked the first time since March 2020 that we actually participated in taking communion together.

Volume XVIII, Issue ii

### In This Issue:

<i>Notes from Pastor Steve</i>	1
<i>Baptism Photos</i>	2
<i>Valentine's Day</i>	3
<i>Hope of Spring</i>	4
<i>French Grandson Photos</i>	4
<i>Article by Pastor Steve</i>	5
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	6
<i>Son-Rise Service</i>	7
<i>Easter</i>	8
<i>Easter Eggs</i>	9
<i>Birthdays</i>	10
<i>April-July at a Glance</i>	11
<i>Photos</i>	12
<i>In Our Prayers</i>	12
<i>Church Officers</i>	12

Maundy Thursday celebrates the original Lord's Supper when Jesus gathered with his disciples in that upper room and had his last meal as a living human being with them. So of course we MUST partake of communion for this worship. (We did so only online last year.) Our communion elements were placed in the pews before worship in pre-packaged containers and everyone had to lower or remove their masks for a brief moment when they did

## Pastor's Notes continued

partake of these elements. But it was nice to be able to return to this semblance of “normalcy” in worship! The actions of a group of church strippers concluded this service and afterwards we departed in silence. Even though this service did take place on April 1<sup>st</sup>, this is no April Fool’s joke. The “strippers” actually stripped the chancel area of the sanctuary of all worship elements (the cross, the Bible, the banner, the paraments, the candlesticks, the communion pitcher, cup, and plate, etc.) and carried them out of the room. This reminds of us Jesus being stripped and beaten – one of the darkest and most barren days of all time. But don’t despair - the resurrection is coming!

What will the remainder of Spring and then the Summer bring in the life of the church? I know it is difficult to plan very far ahead as we continue to cope with this pandemic. But it is my hope that the next few months will bring a sense of “normalcy” back to our lives. Regardless, we know that God is always with us: For God is always above us, watching over us; God is always below us, supporting us and holding us up; God is always behind us, protecting and guarding us; God always goes before us, leading and guiding our way; God always stands right beside us, giving us a shoulder to lean on; and God is always inside us, bringing us peace and joy.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.* Proverbs 3: 5 & 6 (RSV)

Yours in  
Christ,  
Pastor Steve







## Valentine's Day to Share

Valentine's Day was made special for Marian Cliff Manor as well as many church members. Youth Group made the valentines and cookies were made by Marcia (who made the dough) and Rikki and Harper Shaefer, Kathy Roth, Patti Weakly, Barb Sherry, Julie and Mad-die Terry, and Rhonda Giesler.



## The Hope of Spring

By Barbara Fitzgerald

Easter came at the most perfect time this year. Nature was in full cooperation mode, showing off her most beautiful spring colors. The flowers were abundant and the trees in full bloom stood in stark contrast to the still leafless branches and bushes. Here and there some maples had tiny buds of leaves and some even had the beginnings of their greenery.

This spring is literally, “what the doctor ordered.” Many of us have had a rough winter, not just with the pandemic, but with family deaths, illnesses and other distressing events. Easter brought us out of despair and back into hope and faith. We have the vaccine now, and we have the beauty of God’s creation, and most of all we have the hope that Jesus’ resurrection brings to us.

I have never been a good winter person. By mid- February I am usually ready for its end. I’m sure a lot of us felt that way this year. But as I always tell myself when I am going through a “rough patch”, as my mother-in-law used to say, *nothing is permanent*. Situations may come and go, sometimes they last longer than at other times. I can put my faith in God, knowing that He will see me through it, and knowing that it will eventually change. Nothing in life stays the same, change is the only certainty. So even if I can’t change what is going on in my life I can use my faith in God to help me change my attitude. My attitude will color my feelings and thoughts, just as the colors of this spring change my feeling to one of joy and hope.

I pray that we will all be able to put this time of sadness and worry behind us, with faith that God is in control and all is well with us and our dear ones. Our spring world is telling us, “Look what God has created. Do not be dismayed. He is with us always. Rejoice in the goodness He bestows on us.”



**Grandma Joy French, Daughter Michelle French Curry, Grandson Adrion Russell Curry born March 22, 2021. 6 pounds 12 ounces, 20' long**



**Aunt Nichole French and nephew, Adrion.**



For the March 23, 2021 edition of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery's newsletter, Pastor Steve was asked to contribute a story. As most of our members do not read or receive this newsletter, we are re-printing the following article which he submitted and was published in March.

## ***Aren't We All New Worshiping Communities?***

*(Originally published in the March 23, 2021 edition of the Giddings-Lovejoy newsletter)*

When I joined the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery as a newly installed pastor in 2016, one of my first experiences was being approached by Barbara Willock and being asked if I would be willing to serve on a presbytery committee or team. Not having a familiarity with the various committees or teams of Giddings-Lovejoy, I found myself responding that I would be willing to serve “wherever there was a need.” So as 2017 began, I found myself appointed as a member of the New Worshiping Communities Commission (NWCC). My initial goals were to discern what “new worshiping communities” meant to this presbytery and why this was a “commission” and not a team or committee. Once I had answered those questions to my own satisfaction, I became an active part of the NWCC and have served as the moderator from 2019 to the present.

In its attempt to establish 1001 new worshiping communities throughout the PC(USA), our denomination has been actively promoting new ways for 21<sup>st</sup> century Presbyterians and other Christians to gather, to fellowship, and to worship together. These new worshiping communities have come in all shapes, formats, and sizes - but all have the focus of worshiping our God. Giddings-Lovejoy has been devoted to the development of new worshiping communities and consistent in offering guidance and support to them. We have nurtured the development of at least five new worshiping communities since the inception of the Giddings-Lovejoy NWCC in 2013. Presently we are providing support for three new worshiping communities: UKirk, Light for the Darkness, and HausChurch.

With the advent of COVID-19 and the ensuing pandemic infecting and disrupting our lives, all Christians in our country and around the globe have been trying to discern “new” ways to fellowship and worship together. We have all experimented with online services, streaming technology, Zoom meetings and gatherings, and the various and sundry issues and problems associated with them. If meeting in person we have dealt with social distancing, mandatory mask wearing, the absence of hymns and congregational singing, and the lack of unison congregational responses. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper has been for the most part suspended or regulated to “take home” elements in prepackaged containers. We have lost the element of human touch as hugging, greeting with a “holy kiss,” and even handshaking as all of these have been forbidden. Our worship life and circumstances have greatly changed. In essence, we have all become “new worshiping communities.”

Continued on next page.

There is a sadness associated with our longing for our former ways of worshiping together. But we have discovered that the Spirit of the Lord still resides with us and in our “new” ways of worshiping together! “Ecclesia reformata, semper reformada” – the church reformed, always reforming! To God be the glory for the new ways we have learned to worship as the people of God during this pandemic. May we, as the new worshiping communities we have become, always be willing to step out in faith and try new methods and ways of worshiping our God.

Rev. Steve Matthews

Moderator of New Worshiping Communities Commission of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery  
Presently serving First Presbyterian Church in Ste. Genevieve, MO





**Son-Rise  
Service 2021**

*He is not here:  
for he is **Risen**,  
as he said.*

—MATTHEW 28:6



## Easter 2021



### CHORUS.

*Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
The Kingdom of this World is become the  
Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and  
he shall reign for ever and ever,  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah.*





## BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

4 **Patty Weakly**  
 5 **John Weakly**  
 9 **Sandy Koller**  
 10 **Logan Moore**  
 12 **Martha Boyer**  
 13 **Noah Jacob**

### APRIL

4 **Rick Schaefer**  
 6 **Mary Berg**  
 11 **Luke Terry**  
 14 **Gretchen Jacob**  
 15 **Jacob Boyer**  
 23 **Ann Coulson**  
 26 **Phil Eydmann**  
 27 **Tamara Bradford**



### MAY

11 **Nichole French**  
 12 **Marjetta Stenberg**  
 14 **Barb Sherry**  
 14 **Pastor Steve**  
 15 **Julia Matthews**  
 16 **Sarah Boyer**  
 20 **Romaine Holman**  
 28 **Rhonda Giesler**

### JUNE

1 **Gloria Means**  
 5 **Cathy Grusling**  
 8 **Ciara Jacob**  
 9 **Donna Garleb**  
 10 **John Orem**  
 16 **Michaela Dickens**  
 17 **Leticia Hendrichs**  
 19 **Gary Rottler**  
 23 **Wade Terry**  
 24 **Jeff Eydmann**  
 29 **Kathy Roth**  
 29 **Jessica Boyer**



## APRIL

### AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 1 Maundy Thursday 6 pm
- 4 Easter
- 7 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 8 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 14 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 15 Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm
- 21 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 28 Food Pantry 1 pm

## JUNE

### AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 2 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 9 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 10 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 16 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 17 Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm
- 23 Food Pantry 1 pm

## MAY

### AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 5 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 12 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 13 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 19 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 20 Deacons' Meeting 6:30 pm
- 26 Food Pantry 1 pm

## JULY

### AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 7 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 8 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 14 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 15 Deacons' Meeting 6:30 pm
- 21 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 28 Food Pantry 1 pm



**Guess Who??!**



**Marcia's Team Wins 2nd Place in PickleBall Tournament!**



**Sweet Baby Elliott!**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Martha Boyer, Ray & Ann Albert, Rosa Lee Holcomb, Robin Schenck, Carol Wibbenmeyer, Toby John, Danny Wene, Donna Sparks, Kate, Shawn Tucker, Helen Ledbetter, Evelyn Malone, Randy Heberlie, Louise Peterson, Neva Walton, Loren Hagemann, Paul, Olivia Viox, Linda Hafley, Taylor Lawrence, Carol Mancuso, Marjetta Stenberg, Kade Rayoum, Joe Shirey, Kevin Budd, Glenda Gross, Roma Dortch, Ed Ade, Jeff Shirey, Mary Pettus, Gary Rackers, Mary, Del Loida, Bob Koller, Loretta Miller, Joan Emmendorfer, Amanda Coalter, Rick Murphy, Bob Gentry, Bill Gentry, Jacque Brillos, Dinah Weiler Arand, Bill Howran, Ceci, Joseph Mize, Sara, Stanton Weyand, Alyson Lee, Ryan Roth, Bob Havin, John Vogt, Rod Laubenstein, Clarice Huck, Rev. Paul Kabo, Mary Peura, and Ed Schmelzle.

All those serving in our military.

Those in nursing homes.

## Church Officers

### ELDERS

Bruce Terry  
Kathy Roth  
Donna Boyer  
Rick Schaefer  
Ed Millinger  
Joy French  
Joan Huck

### DEACONS

Marcia Schaefer  
Julie Terry  
John Weakly  
Kyle Schaefer  
Rhonda Giesler  
Ann Coulson  
Amy Pfaff



### MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STE. GENEVIEVE CELEBRATES THE GIFTS OF ALL AS WE SHARE THE MESSAGE OF THE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS OF JESUS CHRIST. WE BELIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES AND SUSTAINS US AS WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship	10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship	10:45 a.m.
Youth Group 2nd & 4th Sundays	1:30 p.m.

### CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church . . . . . 883-3272

Pastor . . . . Steve Matthews . . . 573 544-6361

Church Office Hours: Wed. 9 am to noon and 1-4 pm  
Thurs. 9 am to noon

Office phone . . . . . 573 883-3272

Church e-mail . . . . . [firpresb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firpresb@sbcglobal.net)

Church website . . . . . [www.stegenpresbyterian.com](http://www.stegenpresbyterian.com)

Administrative Assistant . . . . . Joan Huck

Clerk of the Session . . . . . Rick Schaefer

Church Treasurer . . . . . Marcia Schaefer

Pianist . . . . . Sharon Boyer

Choir Director . . . . . Julia Matthews

Moderators, Pres. Women . . . . . Marcia Schaefer

Donna Garleb

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Adult Hand Chimes	Wednesday	6:15 p.m.
Choir Practice	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Anna Circle	2nd Thursday	1:30 p.m.
Genevieve Circle	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
Lydia Circle	3rd Tuesday	6:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
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Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670