



160 South Main

# The Beacon

Official Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

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(USA)

Summer 2023

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## Notes from Pastor Steve Spring-Summer 2023



On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013, I made my first journey to First Presbyterian Church in Ste. Genevieve to deliver my very first sermon/message here. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the congregation of this church surprised me with a celebration of my 10-year anniversary of preaching at First Presbyterian. I knew that a church picnic was planned for May 21<sup>st</sup> but I was unaware that I was to be the guest of honor! It truly has been an honor to serve as pastor for this church and congregation for the past 10 years. Thank you for the hand-crafted cross and the chocolate cake – there should be a picture of the cross with an explanation of its design elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our church has been extremely busy thus far in 2023! I will only highlight a few of the activities that have occurred at First Presbyterian Church in since our last newsletter.

Shirley Myers was gracious in opening her house to us for an **Open House Reception** on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Food and drink, house tours, and great fellowship were all a part of this fun gathering after worship on this Sunday. Thank you, Shirley!

A special **Game Night** for church

members and friends took place on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we enjoyed refreshments and good fellowship as various groups gathered around to play a variety of games. A good time was had by all!

The **Easter** celebrations began with Palm Sunday worship on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We waved our palms in anticipation of our Lord and Savior arriving in our lives. We also celebrated communion, or The Lord’s Supper, on this Sunday morning. On Thursday evening, April 6<sup>th</sup>, we held our traditional Maundy Thursday worship service, which also included a celebration of The Lord’s Supper as we remembered and commemorated the very first communion service led by Jesus himself. On Easter morning, April 9<sup>th</sup>, we began the day with the youth-led SonRise service as we heard from several prominent people who witnessed the events of that first Easter season. After this service we gathered in the fellowship hall for breakfast before the children’s Easter Egg hunt on the back lawn. Easter morning was complete with our worship service at 10:45 pm where all declared: “He is Risen!”

The men of the church prepared and served a **Breakfast Brunch** after worship on April 16<sup>th</sup>. This was a hearty meal of all the breakfast favorites including eggs, pancakes, and lots and lots of bacon! Thanks to the men who planned, prepared, served, and cleaned up for this event.

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May 14<sup>th</sup> was not only **Mother’s Day** it was also the day we **Recognized 2023 Graduates** during our worship service. A special reception complete with cake and punch was provided for Maddie Terry, Logan Moore, and Chad Donze after worship.

May 21<sup>st</sup> included the **Picnic and Special Recognition of Pastor Steve** which I mentioned at the beginning of this article. We enjoyed pork steaks, hamburgers, hot dogs, and many

Pastor's Notes continued

wonderful side dishes to complement our meal. It was a perfect day for a picnic as well. Thanks to all who helped to plan and prepare this event.

As you can see from the above activities, we at First Presbyterian Church have been busy in 2023! In addition to the many fellowship and worship events, we continue to run and support the Helping Hands Food Pantry which is open four Wednesdays every month. Our Blessing Box is filled on a regular basis as we offer this food and clothing support to those in need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We offer Sunday morning Sunday School opportunities throughout the year and our annual Vacation Bible School is scheduled this year for July 23 – 27.

On a personal note I was moved by the recognition of our graduates on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Each of these young people hold a special place in my heart as I have had the great opportunity to get to know each of them through the past 10 years. Each of them participated in confirmation with me and they all have been very active in the life of this church. I will miss Logan, Maddie, and Chad. They have been supported and loved by this church family and they will remain in all our thoughts and prayers as they move forward in their lives. Congratulations and God bless!

I was not in worship on April 30<sup>th</sup> and I want to thank Rick for filling our pulpit in my absence. I will be traveling with Julia in Europe for the first few of weeks of June. I will not be in worship on June 4, 11, or 18. I understand that Joan Huck, Lisa Palmer, and Ann Coulson will be delivering messages on those Sundays. This church is certainly blessed to have so many who

are willing to share a message with our people when I am not in the pulpit. Thanks to Rick, Joan, Lisa, and Ann for their willingness to serve in this manner.

In closing I want to again share that it has been my great good fortune to have had the opportunity to serve as pastor to this wonderful congregation for the past 10 years. The future is still bright for First Presbyterian Church in Ste. Genevieve!

*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)*

Pastor Steve



Pastor Steve at a Presbyterian Church in Williamsburg.

**A Big Change!**

The large maple tree behind the O'Neille house has been removed. A new maple has been planted in its honor. See the pictures below.





# Valentine's Day 2023—Presbyterian Women baked cookies for residents at Marian Cliff Manor.



## Youth Group Valentines

The youth group made valentines to accompany the cookies going to Marian Cliff and to some church members.



## Super Bowl of Caring



## Lunch at Shirley's!



On February 19 following church, we were treated to lunch and a tour at Shirley Myers' historic home.



## IN GOD WE TRUST

He Traveled The Road of Life "Not Alone"

There were Loved ones traveling along side,  
as some would have to leave and travel their own road,  
others would take up the stride.

Tho the road varied from Gravel to Blacktop  
Hills to Mountains, Muddy to Potholes

He traveled on nonstop.

Then as the pace got slower, there were the ones he thought he lost on the way  
Encouraging him on when the hills were too steep.

Until he heard DEEP in his soul, "Tom this is the Day"

The road ahead is paved in GOLD,

The road is smooth and level you see,

"HE" is there for you because you BELIEVE!

Loving Memory Judy



### Game Night

On March 24 we gathered for pizza and homemade goodies and played games!



### Youth Retreat

Logan, Xavier, Amy, and Joan attended Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City March 31-April 2. A good time was had by all!



### The Addams Family

Two of our own were on stage in the high school production. Good job, Maddie and Wade!



### Soap Sunday

On April 16, laundry detergent was collected for the women's shelter.



Easter 2023

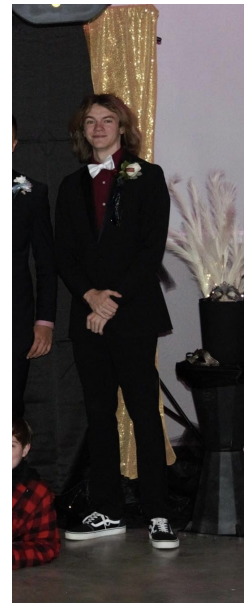




## Men's Brunch



## SGHS Prom 2023



*Presbyterian Women Giddings-Lovejoy  
Spring Gathering Saturday May 6, 2023  
Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Greater St. Louis*

Lisa Palmer and Judy Schmelzle attended the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy Saturday May 6, 2023. The Gathering was at the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Greater St. Louis. The theme for the day was "Making a Bigger Table."

There were two speakers for the day. Dr. Damayanthi Niles Eden Seminary Professor and Rev. Marybeth McBryan, Catholic Priest of St. Louis.

Dr. Niles shared thoughts from her publication: *Doing Theology with Humility, Generosity, and Wonder*. She suggested we not focus on making a bigger table, but on throwing out the table completely, allowing all denominations to gather with no barriers. Accepting each other's diversity allows strength and growth in our faith and belief in the one true God.

Dr. Niles pointed out that by only knowing and staying within our preferred denominations, we create a small God. While in reality, He is bigger than anything we can begin to explain or, sometimes, even accept.

Rev. Mc Bryan talked of her journey in her faith from initially entering a convent at 17 to become a Roman Catholic Nun. She became dissatisfied with the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church and left before taking final vows. Rev. McBryan went through a long journey in her faith and various occupations including marriage with two children to finally discerning her call to become a Catholic Priest.

There was a business meeting which included the election and installation of leader for the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy.

The day ended with Worship and the Lord's Supper celebrated by Rev. Liz Kanerva Associate Presbytery Leader of Giddings-Lovejoy. The Scripture for the service was read by Sister Su Mei in Mandarin.

The women attending were served a traditional Chinese meal by the women from the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church.





# JUNE

## AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 7 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 14 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 21 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 28 Food Pantry 1 pm

# JULY

## AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 2 Communion
- 5 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 12 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 13 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 19 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 23-27 VBS
- 26 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 27 Deacons' Meeting 6:30

# AUGUST

## AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 2 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 6 Communion
- 9 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 10 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 16 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 23 Food Pantry 1 pm



# Happy Birthday!

## JUNE

- 1 Gloria Means
- 5 Cathy Grusling
- 9 Donna Garleb
- 10 John Orem
- 17 Leticia Hendrichs
- 19 Gary Rottler
- 23 Wade Terry
- 24 Jeff Eydmann
- 29 Kathy Roth
- 29 Jessica Boyer

## JULY

- 21 Dayna Roth
- 21 Judy Rottler
- 31 Nicole Boyer

## AUGUST

- 15 Sharon Brooks
- 17 Connie McAvoy
- 23 Brenna Ferguson
- 27 Chad Donze

**Ste. Genevieve Care Center**

**Our beautiful Fair Queen Mary Blanford! Such a beautiful lady inside and out!**



**Marcia and Jacque Brilllos!**



## 2023 Graduates!

On May 14, our graduates—Logan Moore and Maddie Terry from high school and Chad Donze from college—were honored with cake and punch after the church service. Congratulations to each of you!

Pastor Steve also received chocolate cupcakes for his birthday.



When the SGHS seniors promenaded through Bloomsdale Elementary, Maddie and Harper found each other!



Chad graduated summa cum laude from Lindenwood University. He plans to attend Logan School of Chiropractic in the fall.



Steve Huck's daughter, Demi graduated from Central Christian College of Bible in Moberly. She and her husband Davin are in Nebraska training to become missionaries in Peru.







**Church Picnic**



## 10 Year Celebration!

At the church picnic on May 21, Pastor Steve was honored for his ten years of service to our church.



### Soapstone Form Cross

This special cross was presented to Pastor Steve by our congregation in recognition of his 10 years of service to our church. It is available to be viewed in Pastor Steve's study. The following gives the details of this cross:

*The pink soapstone form for this cross was made in Germany c. 1550! It was likely originally used to emboss gold or silver foil to then be placed over a wooden or plaster base. The cross bears all the iconography of the Crucifixion without the body of Christ, so we know the piece was post-Reformation. At the top is the INRI, followed by the rooster – "You will betray me 3 times before the cock crows." Across the arms are the sun and moon for the three days and nights, Christ's pierced hand, the bag of silver pieces and the can of anointing oil. Next are the cherubs – one with a hammer to drive in the nails and another with tongs to pull the nails out. There is a ladder for Jesus to climb the cross and the spear that pierced his side. Below those are the dice the Romans cast for his garments. Then we have the face of Christ, his burial shroud or possibly the Veil of Veronica. Finally, there are the skull and crossbones referencing Golgotha and supremacy over death.*



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Martha Boyer, Ray Albert, Rosa Lee Holcomb, Carol Wibbenmeyer, Toby John, Danny Wene, Kate, Evelyn Malone, Randy Heberlie, Louise Peterson, Neva Walton, Paul, Olivia Viox, Linda Hafley, Taylor Lawrence, Carol Mancuso, Marjetta Stenberg, Kade Rayoum, Joe Shirey, Kevin Budd, Glenda Gross, Roma Dortch, Jeff Shirey, Mary Pettus, Gary Rackers, Mary, Bob Koller, Joan Emmendorfer, Amanda Coalter, Rick Murphy, Bob Gentry, Bill Gentry, Jacque Brilllos, Bill Howren, Ceci, Sara, Stanton Weyand, Alyson Lee, Ryan Roth, Bob Havin, John Vogt, Rod Laubenstein, Mary Peura, ke Rutherford, Jim & Annie Jackson, Gloria Means, Donna Garleb., Helen Tucker, Noah, Brenda Stretch, Janet Schmelzle, Dave& Shellie Schmelzle, Mary Blanford, the Colman Schwent family, Norma Palmer, the Jim Donovan family, and Rick Donovan.

All those serving in our military.

Those in nursing homes.: Martha Boyer, Romaine Holman, Ike Rutherford, Mary Blanford.

### 2023 Church Officers

#### ELDERS

Bruce Terry  
Donna Boyer  
Joy French  
Joan Huck  
Sharon Boyer  
Rick Schaefer

#### DEACONS

Cathy Grusling  
Julie Terry  
Kyle Schaefer  
Amy Pfaff  
Ann Coulson  
John Weakly





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.  
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

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Anna Circle 2nd Thursday 1:30 p.m.  
Genevieve Circle 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Lydia Circle 3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

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  
Moderators, Pres. Women ..... Marcia Schaefer  
Donna Garleb

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