



160 South Main

The Beacon

Official Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

Ann Coulson, Editor—anncoulson@gmail.com



(USA)

November-December, 2020

Volume XVII, Issue v

*Notes from
Pastor Steve
—November/
December*



Fall is here and the end of 2020 is near! That's good news for most of us as we anticipate better days ahead in 2021. But let's not be too quick to overlook the remainder of 2020 and all the blessings God will provide in November and December. November includes All Saints Day (Nov. 1st), Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 22nd), Thanksgiving (Nov. 26th), and the first Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29th). December takes us through the remainder of Advent: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Dec. 6th), 3rd Sunday of Advent (Dec. 13th), 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec. 20th); Christmas Eve and our traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service; Christmas Day; and the 1st Sunday of Christmas (Dec. 27th). So much to celebrate and look forward to, even in the midst of this ongoing pandemic in our community, our nation, and our world. Don't forget to thank God for the many blessings we receive each and every day!

I served on the Administrative Commission of the presbytery which worked with the closing of the Fredericktown Presbyterian Church. This church held its final worship service on September 20th with members, towns-

people, former pastors, and friends in attendance. It was a bittersweet service full of laughter and tears for all concerned. May God continue to bless the ministries that will continue in Fredericktown even in the absence of this faithful congregation.

I officiated at Jean Henson's memorial graveside service on September 25th. The Pilot Knob graveyard is located next to the Pilot Knob Church about 15 miles south of Rolla. This is near Edgar Springs where Jean and her husband lived and farmed for many years. Jean's ashes were placed between her husband and her son in this lovely and well-kept little graveyard. The family expressed their appreciation to **our church family** for providing a "church home" for Jean for these past few years. Jean will be greatly missed by our congregation. Her shining presence at worship, in Sunday School, in the choir, and at various church events was always a welcome sight. May God continue to hold her in the palm of his hands.

Rikki Schaefer will be completing Jean's spot in the liturgist rotation for 2020 and Richard Fieg is now leading the Older Adults' Sunday School Class in Jean's place. Thanks to Rikki and Richard for stepping up and filling in these important ministries. The Older Adult Sunday School class is now meeting after worship on Sunday mornings.

Both Jean's unforeseen death and my working with the

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closing of the Fredericktown church were sad occasions and I certainly needed something to lift my spirits. So my days spent traveling in Indiana and elsewhere at the end of October were perfectly timed! The trees and fall foliage were beautiful and this served as a nice relaxing get-a-way. Julia and I spent most of our time in Parke County, Indiana, which bills itself as the "covered bridge capital of the U.S." We didn't make it to all 31 of the covered

Pastor's Notes continued

bridges in the county but we did get to see 19 of them!

I understand that worship went well in my absence – as it always seems to do. Thanks to Rick Schaefer for filling in for me in my absence. I am also taking the Sundays of November 15 and 22 as vacation days – my traditional “time in the woods.” This means that I will not be at the church from November 9th – November 22nd. I will still be available by phone and email if anyone needs to reach me during this time. Please text me, leave a voice message on my phone, or email me and I will try to get back to you that day.

The Session voted to NOT host the Isaac Lausen Trio in our church for the Christmas Walk this year. With the increasing cases of Covid-19 in our county they decided to err on the side of caution. They also feel we should NOT host a card-signing and sing-a-long that weekend. The live nativity scene should be OK as it is held outside.

The Session did approve my request to restart the Time With Children and Youth during worship on Sunday mornings. I felt bad one morning a few Sundays back when we had 5 young children in the sanctuary for worship but no way for them to really participate. Joan has agreed to continue leading this time in worship.

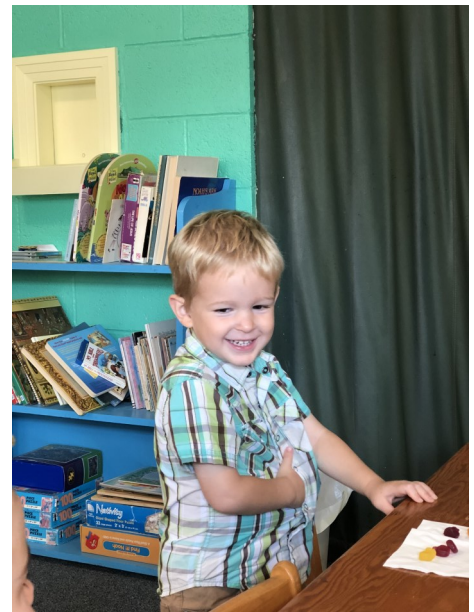
We continue to **practice social distancing** during our worship services and **masks are recommended** (NOT required). We have resumed some of our congregationally voiced worship responses (Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Affirmation of Faith, The Lord’s Prayer) but we still are **NOT singing** in worship nor has our choir resumed singing. We also encourage **limiting human contact** (no Passing of the Peace, no passing of Offering plates, no commun-

ion) and we dismiss slowly to avoid people gathering in groups at the conclusion of the service. These restrictions will remain in place until further notice – probably through the end of 2020.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons are traditionally times for family get-togethers and shared meals. If you are gathering with family and/or friends during these seasons, please continue to practice safe protocols (regular hand washing, social distancing when possible, wearing masks when possible, limiting human contact, etc.).

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



Church Officers

ELDERS

- Bruce Terry
- Kathy Roth
- Donna Boyer
- Rick Schaefer
- Ed Millinger
- Becky Millinger
- Barb Sherry

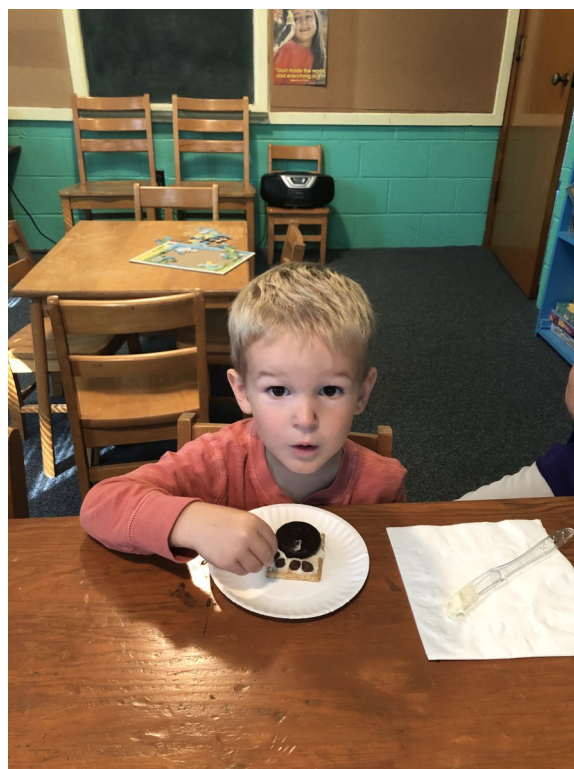
DEACONS

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

Cookies for Marian Cliff

Presbyterian Women are having their annual cookie collection for the residents of Marian Cliff Manor for Veterans Day. If you are able, please have your cookies at church on Tuesday, November 10th by 5:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Rhonda Giesler at 883-0795.

Children's Sunday School



Celebrating God's creation of all animals, Harper and Nicholas made bear claws for snack.

Blessing Box

Wondering what you can contribute to the Blessing Box? In addition to food, we often have other items show up in the box. A lot of times we have things sitting in our closets or cabinets untouched for years that may be useful to others right now. Examples are hats, gloves, scarves and mugs. Even though it isn't our main mission to distribute items other than food, we are able to place small items in the box for others to use. If you have items you would like to donate, contact Marcia at 314-852-0988 or bring to church. Monetary donations are also always welcome.



Rick and Marcia in North Carolina. Check out the waterfall!

FREE COVID-19 TESTING

November 11, 2020

12 pm—6 pm

Ste. Genevieve County Firehouse

550 Pine Street

Ste. Genevieve

Register at
health.mo.gov/communitytest or
 877-435-8411

Cards for Marian Cliff

Due to the necessity of social distancing, we will not be hosting our annual Cards and Carols night during the Christmas Walk. We will, however, have cards available for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to prepare for the residents of Marian Cliff Manor. Cards can be completed and returned to church for delivery. Any questions, please contact Rhonda Giesler.



Live Nativity

We will be celebrating the Christmas season at First Presbyterian Church - socially distanced of course! On Saturday, December 5th we will continue our annual tradition of the presentation of the live nativity. Mark your calendars and join us as we provide this performance for our community. All ages are welcome. We will meet at the church at 6 p.m. Any questions, contact Joan Huck or Marcia Schaefer.

Award

Dakota Boyer, grandson of Donna and Rod Boyer, recently received the Ted Boyer award which is given to a 6th grader who exemplifies leadership, sportsmanship, character, and football skills. Congratulations, Dakota!



God is always with us, let us then be joyful

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:8

This quote reminds me of what Pastor Steve says at the end of every service. Sometimes I can really “hear” something when I see it in print and then say it out loud. Reading what God says to us in the Bible gives me the assurance of His love for us.

As we age we have so many losses to adjust to. We lose friends, we lose some of our physical abilities, and we lose the energy and vitality we had in our youth and middle age. Then we must adjust to all the upheaval in the world today; social and political unrest and a pandemic that we feel is so much out of our control. Yes, actually it is all out of our control. So what do we do? First we accept what is happening and then we give thanks to God for the blessings we do have. Every day can hold joy if we look for it.

If faith replaces fear, and we know with certainty that we are safe in God’s care, we can find joy in the sunrise, the new day, our friends and family, and the fall colors to come that will bring us a beautiful display of God’s artistry in nature. I have had days when I felt blessed to just talk to a friend and know we are both smiling, because we care enough to support each other and tell each other humorous accounts of our daily life.

I can say with certainty that I am able to adapt to all of life’s changes and challenges when I put my life in God’s care. This is what Pastor Steve’s prayer says...God is always with us.

“No matter where you may find yourself, no matter what you may be doing, always remember that God is with you. Because:

God is always above you, watching over you.

God is always below you, supporting you and holding you up.

God is always behind you, protecting you at all times.

God always goes before you, leading and guiding your path.

God always stands right beside you, when you need a shoulder to lean on or a special hug.

And most important of all, God is **inside** you as well, bringing you joy and peace.”

I can’t end this little essay without another short quote. I include it as a tribute to Jean Henson, a dear friend for quite a few years, whom I volunteered with at the Bolduc House. Jean always knew she was in God’s care, and showed no fear...she just lived her own life with joy and faith in her own inimitable style. Here it is. I have taken it from Daily Word. “Just by living life, I am sharing the abundance of spirit. Love and joy are contagious and people can’t help but be uplifted by them.”

Barbara Fitzgerald

BIRTHDAYS

November

- 7 Ike Rutherford
- 8 Mike Sherry
- 11 Drew Newman
- 19 Ken Barley
- 21 Kyle Schaefer
- 22 Jacob Donze
- 22 John Brilllos
- 22 Ed Millinger
- 30 Mary Blandford
- 30 Tom Rottler



December

- 17 Jordan Jacob
- 19 Jared Kenik
- 20 Mary Peura
- 20 Becky Millinger
- 30 Brenda Stretch
- 31 Jacque Brilllos
- 31 Judy Schmelzle



GIVING TREE

Keep a look out for our annual giving tree for local nursing home residents around the first week in December. Rhonda Giesler will coordinate this effort.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

NOVEMBER

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 4 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 5 Session 6 pm
- 10 Cookies to Marian Cliff
- 11 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 18 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 19 Deacons Meeting 6 pm
- 25 Food Pantry 1 pm

DECEMBER

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 2 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 5 Living Nativity
- 9 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 16 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 23 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 25 Christmas Day!



IN OUR PRAYERS

Martha Boyer, Ray & Ann Albert, Rosa Lee Holcomb, Robin Schenck, Carol Wibbenmeyer, Toby John, Danny Wene, Donna Sparks, Kate, Shawn Tucker, Vernon Hull, Helen Ledbetter, Evelyn Malone, Randy Heberlie, Louise Peterson, Neva Walton, Loren Hagemann, Paul, Dorothy Martinelli, Olivia Viox, Linda Hafley, Taylor Lawrence, Carol Mancuso, Marjetta Stenberg, Kade Rayoum, Joe Shirey, Kevin Budd, Glenda Gross, Roma Dortch, Tristan Schenck, the Lynn Messier family, Ed Ade, Jeff Shirey, Joe Rozier IV, Mary Petrus, Gary Rackers, John Jones, Leticia Hindrichs and family, Mary, Del Loida, Bob Koller, Barb Casper, Mary Peura, Ginny Lavender, Loretta Miller, Sharon Brooks, Clarice Huck, Joan Emmendorfer, Amanda Coalter, Sam Ewing, Rick Murphy, Bob Gentry, Austin Veath, Claire Fischer, Bill Gentry, Jacque Brilllos, Dinah Weiler Arand, Bill Howren, Ceci, Joseph Mize, Sara, Lester Wingerter, Stanton Weyand, Alyson Lee, Ryan Roth, Ed Schmelzle, Bob Havin, John Vogt, and Rob Laubenstein.

All those serving in our military.

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

Church website 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

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
160 South Main Street
Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670