



The Beacon

Official Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

Ann Coulson, Editor—anncoulson@gmail.com



160 South Main

January-February 2021

(USA)

Notes from Pastor Steve January/ February 2021



In many ways 2020 was a difficult year – we not only dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic but we also had five of our church members pass away. We lost John Brilllos, Doris Judy, Gus Garleb, Jean Henson, and Ginny Lavender. We also lost three good friends of the church and church family in 2020: Mike Rottler, Zelma Ruple Basden, and Ruth Haas. May God continue to hold all of them in the palm of His hands.

Many of our church members and friends have been directly impacted by Covid-19. Several people have tested positive for this coronavirus and thus have had to quarantine or otherwise isolate themselves from others. Even without testing positive themselves, many have had to quarantine as a result of direct exposure to someone with a positive test

In addition, our church family has had to miss many of our traditional celebrations and fellowship opportunities, such as: Maundy Thursday worship; our Easter SonRise service and all the other Easter traditions and festivities; Pentecost celebrations; Vacation Bible School; our in-person worship for three months; many people missing from worship because of Covid-19 concerns; our traditional fellowship dinners in-

cluding Thanksgiving; our youth Christmas program; almost all of our fellowship activities planned for 2020 – to include our annual fish fry and picnic! It has been a truly unusual year.

And yet, **the church has survived!** We continued with our Helping Hands Food Pantry and Blessing Box ministries; we worshiped together online or via television when we could not gather in person; we did resume our in-person worship in limited circumstances – wearing masks, socially distancing, and without singing. Our members have continued to support our church financially and with your time and talents. We still have much to be thankful for as the body of Christ!

Our Christmas Eve worship service **was held** complete with communion and candlelight. It was take-home communion and the candles just sat in the windows, but we did celebrate! The birth of the Christ Child brings a new light into this world and we are called to spread this light to all!

We now turn the page to 2021 and we hope and pray that the end of this pandemic is now in sight. Bless be the ties that continue to bind us together in Christian love. Thanks be to God!

A special thanks goes out to our Guitar & Vocal Group made up of Marcia Schaefer, Becky Millinger, and John Weakly for continuing to provide much of our music during our restricted worship services. As we are still not

Volume XVIII, Issue i

In This Issue:

<i>Notes from Pastor Steve</i>	1
<i>Congrats to Schaefers</i>	2
<i>New Church Officers</i>	2
<i>Ginny Lavendar</i>	3
<i>Rottler Memory Quilt</i>	3
<i>Lost Friends</i>	3
<i>Pre-School Sunday School</i>	4
<i>Fellowship Comm. Report</i>	4
<i>Pres. Women Report</i>	5
<i>Jan/Feb at a Glance</i>	6
<i>Birthdays</i>	6
<i>New Worship Restrictions</i>	7
<i>In Our Prayers</i>	8
<i>Church Officers</i>	8

allowing singing in worship (as of the printing of this article), this group has been meeting regularly and recording music for our use during worship.

Our annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting was held after worship on Sunday, January 10th. At this meeting we heard reports from the various committees and groups of the church as to their activities in 2020. Thanks to the many people who worked to keep our church minis-

Pastor's Notes continued

tries going in the past year. The church budget for 2021 was presented at this meeting and the pastor's terms of call for 2021 were approved by the congregation. Also on January 10th we had the installation of our newest church officers: Joan Huck and Joy French as Elders to serve on the Session and Amy Pfaff and Julie Terry as Deacons to serve on our Board of Deacons. Please keep all of our church leaders in your prayers.

At a special called Presbytery Gathering on January 9th we accepted the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Craig Howard as our Presbytery Leader. Rev. Howard led us through the hosting of the General Assembly and has put this presbytery back on sound financial and administrative footing during his tenure here – he will be greatly missed by all in our presbytery. Also at this gathering we were introduced to our Bridge Presbytery Leader, Rev. Rob Jenson, who will be filling this role until a new permanent Presbytery Leader can be appointed. We also approved the Rev. Liz Kanerva as our new Associate Presbytery Leader. The next regular Presbytery Gathering is scheduled for Thursday, February 4th. It will be a virtual meeting so if anyone would like to attend see Pastor Steve for details – you can



attend from your own living room!

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, 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

Congratulations to the Schaefers who welcomed Elliott into the family in December. A miracle for Rikki, Kyle, and Harper, as well as Marcia and Rick, making it an extra special Christmas!



New Church Officers for 2021

On Sunday, January 10th, Pastor Steve officially installed four new church officers for 2021. These officers were elected by the church membership in December and their terms will run through 2023.

As Deacons serving on the Board of Deacons: Amy Pfaff & Julie Terry.

As Elders serving on the Session: Joan Huck & Joy French.

All four of these officers have previously been ordained as either Deacons or Elders in our church so they will be resuming their previous roles to active service on the Board of Deacons and the Session.

Special thanks are due to Elders Barb Sherry and Becky Millinger for their service to our church as they are now rotating off as active members of the Session.

Virginia Mae Lavender
(February 29, 1928 – December 30, 2020)

It is with great sadness that the First Presbyterian Church mourns the death of one of our long-time members, Virginia Mae Lavender. Ginny went home to be with her Lord on December 30, 2020. She was born during a leap year on Leap Day so Ginny had only celebrated 23 actual birthdays - but she was 92 years young when she died. She was an avid golfer and a very faithful church member and she will be greatly missed by her church family. We offer our condolences and our prayers to Scott, Chrissy, and Bailey at this time



Memory Quilt

Gary Rottler received this memory quilt from his sister Vickie. She made this quilt from their brother Mike's shirts. What a gift of love!

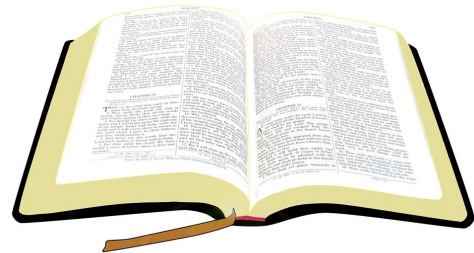
**Members and Friends
lost during the past year.**

**John Brillos
Doris Judy
Gus Garleb
Jean Henson
Ginny Lavender
Mike Rottler
Zelma Ruple Basden
Ruth Haas**



New Pre-School Sunday School Class

Rhonda Giesler and Marcia Schaefer were excited to begin a Preschool class this fall with Harper Schaefer and Nicolas Giesler. We have studied Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, and the Christmas story. Each week we have our lesson including a craft and a snack. We love to play musical instruments too - imagine that! We would love to have more students! If you know of anyone interested in attending, please contact Rhonda or Marcia.



Fellowship Committee Report 2020

January 24th - Game Night - About 20 people attended and had fun - as usual.
 February - A planning meeting was held and monthly events were set for the rest of the year.
 March 22nd - A Men's Breakfast was to be held after Church service, but the event was cancelled due to Covid.
 July 26th - Dedication of the Firepit and Recognition of Graduates. There were about 25 in attendance.
 The activities for the remainder of the year were all cancelled due to Covid.

Report for Annual Congregation Meeting - January 10, 2021
Presbyterian Women

Officers - Chairwoman - Marcia

Vice-Chairwoman - Judy Schmelzle

Secretary/Historian - Barb Sherry

Treasurer - Joy French

Missions - Rhonda Giesler

Birthday/Thank offering - Kathy Roth

Memorial Fund - Barb Sherry & Sandy Koller

Literature - Judy Schmelzle

Circle moderators - Anna Circle 1 - Judy Schmelzle - meets 2nd Thurs. @ 1:30

Lydia Circle 4 - Kathy Roth meets 3rd Tues @ 6:30

Sponsored chili luncheon in January.

One work day - February - baked valentine cookies for Marian Cliff Manor; youth group did valentines

Led the World Day of Prayer at our church on March 6, 2020

Hosted one bereavement meal for the Gus Garleb family.

In lieu of our annual fundraiser during Rural Heritage Day, a yard sale was held at the Oneille House and half of the proceeds (\$360.00) were donated to the Presbyterian Women.

Provided cookies to Marion Cliff Manor for Veterans Day;

Prepared Christmas cards for Marion Cliff Manor residents

Sponsor the Giving tree providing gifts to nursing home residents - this year; 13 to Riverview and Care Center.

Supported a child with Child Fund International, Presbyterian Children's Home, and Backpacks for Friday program at SG School District.

JANUARY

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 1 New Year's Day**
- 6 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 10 Installation of Church
Officers, Cong. Meeting**
- 13 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 14 Session Meeting 6 pm**
- 20 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 21 Deacons Meeting 6 pm**
- 27 Food Pantry 1 pm**

FEBRUARY

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 3 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 10 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 11 Session Meeting 6 pm**
- 17 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 18 Deacons' Meeting 6 pm**
- 24 Food Pantry 1 pm**

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

- 17 Richard Fieg**
- 20 Mark Shaughnessy**
- 21 Bailey Lavender**



FEBRUARY

- 3 Shirley Myers**
- 6 Sharon Boyer**
- 11 Rosa Lee Holcomb**
- 19 Barbara Fitzgerald**
- 24 Ray Albert**
- 29 Kaden Buatte**

Updated Worship Restrictions for the First Presbyterian Church

The Session of First Presbyterian Church meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. At each meeting since the pandemic began one of the items of concern is to consider what types of restrictions or conditions need to be in place for the safety of all who may choose to worship here. As of this date (January 13, 2021) the following restrictions/conditions have been put into practice by our church Session for all those attending worship:

Masks are required to be worn. Masks are available at the church at all times.

Social distancing (maintaining an approximate distance of 6 feet) is expected to be followed while in the sanctuary – both seated and standing. Seating is every other pew which is marked by the placement of bulletins. Family groups may choose to sit together in a single pew. If our numbers of people in worship exceed our capacity to social distance some worshipers will be asked to sit downstairs in the fellowship hall to watch the service remotely (but live) via television.

No physical contact – all human-to-human contact is strongly discouraged (handshaking, hugging, any direct person-to-person contacting is not permissible). Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance to the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

No singing and only limited congregational responses. No hymns or singing of any kind by congregational members or choirs during worship. Limited and quiet congregational responses will be allowed – i.e. repeating the Lord's Prayer and our Affirmation of Faith quietly is now permissible.

No passing of materials from person to person or between persons. Bulletins will be placed in the appropriate pews, no communion passed, no offering plates distributed – offering plates will be available next to the doors.

The Session hopes all in attendance will abide by these restrictions. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope that these can be removed in the near future.





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, Gene Operle, Kade Rayoum, Joe Shirey, Kevin Budd, Glenda Gross, Roma Dortch, Tristan Schenck, the Lynn Messier family, Ed Ade, Jeff Shirey, Joe Rozier IV, Mary Pettus, Gary Rackers, Leticia Hindrichs and family, Mary, Del Loida, Bob Koller, Barb Casper, Mary Peura, Ken Barley, Loretta Miller, Sharon Brooks, Clarice Huck, Joan Emmendorfer, Amanda Coalter, Sam Ewing, Rick Murphy, Austin Veth, Claire Fisher, Bill Gentry, Jacque Brilllos, Dinah Weiler Arand, Bill Howren, Ceci, Dana, Larry Feltner, Joseph Mize, The Gonz and Noelle family, Sara and Shellie Schmelzle.

All those serving in our military.

Those in nursing homes.

2020 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

2020 Church Officers

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

Marcia Schaefer
John Weakly
Julie Terry
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

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