



# The Beacon

Official Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

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(USA)

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## Notes from Pastor Steve May/ August



I don't believe any of us could have foreseen what has transpired in our world in 2020. This pandemic has upended life as we knew it – and this certainly has included the life of our small church here in Ste. Genevieve. We had to cancel 12 consecutive worship services and all the other meetings of our church groups during those three “shut down” months. Even though we were unable to meet together in person, **we were still the church** and we continued to do our best to serve God in our little corner of the universe.

Not being able to gather caused First Presbyterian to miss so many events in the life of our church: Palm Sunday, Easter and all its grandeur, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Pentecost, as well as birthdays, anniversaries, honoring our graduates, our Fellowship events, Presbyterian Women's meetings, our Leadership Workshop, even Session and

Deacon meetings. As these items are gradually re-established in the life of our congregation, may we never take our many blessings – such as the freedom to gather together - for granted.

I am saddened to have to mention that we lost three of our church members during the months of May and June. Doris Judy passed away on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, John Brillos died on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and Gus Garleb died on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the families of Doris and John and Gus in your prayers at this time. Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do in times like these and I know the families of Doris, John, and Gus appreciate the continued prayers of their church family. I have written a brief comment on each of these church members which appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

I prepared and delivered a worship experience, including a sermon, each week during the pandemic suspension of in-person worship – with Ed Millinger videoing and editing these “worship experiences.” I hope you were able to view a

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least a few of these during the pandemic shutdown. They were not the same as an in-person worship experience, but they were the best we were able to manage under the circumstances. These would not have been possible without the tireless work of Ed, so please express your thanks to him for his

## Pastor's Notes continued

efforts. Also my great thanks to the guitar and vocal group, consisting of Marcia Schaefer, John Weakly, and Becky Millinger, for providing music for most of these video and online worship experiences. Our worship services continue to be broadcast on Ste. Genevieve Community Access television, channel 991, each Sunday at 7:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 7:00 pm. These services are not live, they are viewings of the previous Sunday's worship service. These are also uploaded to YouTube, under *Stegentv*, and may be viewed there at any time.

I appreciated the efforts of Jill Kenik and Rick's adult Sunday School class which met via zoom for several weeks – they have now resumed their in-person gatherings. I also appreciated the many comments via email, text, phone calls, and even letters, in response to my video and online sermons for the past several months. I guess people had more time to think and write about them, but I received more feedback on my messages in the last three months than I have in the last three years previous to the shut down.

My visitations to our homebound and elderly members have been basically eliminated during this pandemic, but I have tried to contact most of them by phone on a regular basis – as many of

them do not use email or texting. I also contacted many of our members by phone as a way of staying in touch during the shut down. This new "phone ministry" has its good and bad points and, once again, is not quite the same as an in person experience. But we all had to make adjustments in various ways in our lives. If you or a loved one would like to receive a phone call from the pastor, please let me know.

The Presbytery cancelled or postponed many events during the pandemic. The May Presbytery Gathering was cancelled and re-scheduled for June 13 – via Zoom. I attended, from my living room, and there were a few glitches as this two-hour meeting with over 125 in attendance unfolded. There will also be an August Presbytery Gathering via Zoom. So anyone can attend the next Presbytery meeting – and that includes you, if you are so inclined! Go to the Giddings-Lovejoy website for details.

We will have a special commemoration of the new fire pit circle and benches that Luke Terry built for our church as his Eagle Scout project. And we will recognize our graduated Seniors, including Jacob Boyer, Jared Kenik, and Luke Terry, in a special way. These are important and timely milestones that cannot be overlooked, even during a pandemic. So

mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>! We will combine these events in an outdoor gathering behind the Silversmith's House, either after worship or in the early evening – watch your bulletins for specific details.

I was originally planning to be on vacation for two Sundays in July. Those vacation plans are now cancelled (Julia and I had planned a trip to Europe on the Danube River, which was re-scheduled from last summer, it is now re-scheduled for next summer). I also planned to attend an October workshop, which has been cancelled. I do not have a present request in with the Session for time off as making plans is most difficult at this time. The Session has indicated they would be willing to grant me a Sunday or two off on short notice – so I may be gone some Sunday without having previously informed the congregation about it!

Speaking of being gone, I missed worship on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. I developed a sore throat that Saturday and I was concerned that it could be the beginning of something more serious. Therefore I decided to err on the side of caution and chose not to be present that Sunday morning. Fortunately I did not develop any other symptoms and appear to be fine. Thanks to Rick Schaefer for

Pastor's Notes continued

filling in for me at the last moment! I encourage anyone who is feeling the least bit ill or sick to NOT attend worship or church meetings. This is a prudent practice at any time, but as we are still dealing with this pandemic, it is a crucial step as we try our best to keep everyone safe right now.

We missed worshipping together on Pentecost Sunday – but we certainly need to rely on the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us, to guide us through these trying times.

May God bless you and yours as we continue to move forward together in ministry in 2020.

*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

## HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

Last year we served an average of 31 families and 107 people every month. This year through the first six months we have averaged 23 families and 79 total people. We missed out on the Girl Scouts "April Showers" collection of personal care items and we missed receiving the United States Postal Service food drive efforts. But we did receive a large donation of food items from the Ste. Genevieve Democratic Club and the Quarry Workers Union. In addition to these new donations we were recipients of a very nice amount of money through our own members and those outside of our church family Terry Rottler and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support throughout these difficult times.

Ed Millinger, Food Pantry Coordinator

*Song lyrics recently sung in church, as requested.*

Church (take me back)

There was a time that I swore I would never go back I was blind to the truth, didn't know what I had I was running, I was searching

But every place I turned for healing Left me more broken than the last Take me back To the place that feels like home To the people I can depend on To the faith that's in my bones Take me back To a preacher and a verse Where they've seen me at my worst To the love I had at first Oh, I want to go to church Tried to walk on my own but I wound up lost Now I'm making my way to the foot of the cross It's not a trophy for the winners It's a shelter for the sinners And it's right where I belong Take me back To

the place that feels like home To the people I can depend on To the faith that's in my bones Take me back To a preacher and a verse Where they've seen me at my worst To the love I had at first Oh, I want to go to church I want to go to church.



## A Pastor's Memories: John, Doris, & Gus

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die . . . Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2a*

My first Sunday to preach at First Presbyterian Church in Ste. Genevieve was on May 19, 2013, so I have now served at this church for seven years. As the pastor, I have a perspective that is unique in the congregation – I have the opportunity to see the members of this church at their best and at their worst, during times of great celebration and in the midst of trying and difficult circumstances. I would now like to share my perspective on our three church members who have died in recent months: John Brillos, Doris Judy, and Gus Garleb.

**John Brillos:** As I began to preach in this church in 2013, I received many comments from members about my messages. John always had a thoughtful comment to share with me on Sunday mornings. He went beyond the “nice sermon” or “wonderful message” typically received and would always ask a pertinent question or make a pointed comment on the substance of the message. As I came to know John I really began to appreciate the knowledge and insight that he possessed about life and the church. He was truly a pillar of this church community, leading both by example and by role. John was honored with the “Lifetime Membership” awarded by the Presbyterian Women before he and Jacque moved to the Little Rock area to be near their daughter Nancy.

**Doris Judy:** Doris and her husband, Al, moved to Parkwood Manor to be close to their daughter Donna. As I began to visit with Doris, I learned she was an ordained minister in the UCC who was honorably retired. She loved to sing and one of the first things she did was to join our chancel choir. Doris became a mainstay in the choir during her years with us – several times we had three generations singing in the choir as Doris, Donna, and her granddaughter, Sarah all sang. After Doris and Al joined our congregation I learned that Doris was also a poet. She shared her poetry with me and I used some of it for our worship devotions during one Lenten season – with her permission, of course. Doris’ singing voice and singing spirit will be missed by me and all who knew her.

**Gus Garleb:** As I was being considered to be the called minister for this congregation, Gus was serving as an Elder on our church Session. He was most supportive of me and at one point talked to me individually to assure me that he would do everything he could to make sure that I was called to serve this congregation. I greatly appreciated his support and his words to me at that time. Later I learned that Gus and Donna had only joined this church in 2003 or 2004. This amazed me as I assumed they had been lifelong members, because of the fact that they both held leadership roles in the church and in the way the congregation seemed to accept them as family. Gus epitomized the spirit of First Presbyterian church: a person of quiet conviction and faith who was always willing to reach out and help others.

*May God continue to hold John, Doris, and Gus in the palm of His hands.*



## First Presbyterian Guidelines for Worship during the Pandemic

Beginning June 14<sup>th</sup>, our church resumed in-person worship services after a 12 week period of online and broadcast services only. The following information was provided to our church members at that time. It has now been updated with the current (as of July 5<sup>th</sup>) policies for worship put in place by our Session on June 25<sup>th</sup>. **The Session meets again on July 9<sup>th</sup> and may make further revisions at that time.**

**First and foremost**, *we hope that anyone who has any concerns about returning to in-person worship feels perfectly comfortable in staying home for a longer period of time.* Our worship service will continue to be broadcast on Ste. Genevieve Community Access television and will be uploaded to YouTube. If requested, Pastor Steve can also provide you an email copy of his message or he will mail you a print copy of his message.

**Secondly**, we ask anyone who is not feeling 100% healthy on any given Sunday to stay at home. In addition, those who are at higher risk for the coronavirus, including: anyone over 65 years of age; anyone who has health concerns, especially respiratory issues; and anyone who may be immunocompromised - are encouraged to consider staying at home as well.

### **The following conditions will apply to all those who choose to worship in-person at First Presbyterian Church until further notice:**

You will be asked to maintain social distancing with everyone attending worship, with the exception of your own family.

You will be met by an Elder or Deacon and you will be reminded about social distancing.

It is suggested that **you wear a mask** upon entering the building and at all times that you are inside – if you do not have one, masks are available at the church. ***This is a suggestion only, no longer a requirement.***

Before entering the sanctuary, you will be asked to use the hand sanitizer provided.

All worshippers will be seated by an usher according to social distancing guidelines. Please understand that **seats will be assigned** and you will be expected to sit only in the area designated for you by the usher. Families will be seated together.

At the conclusion of the service, you are to remain seated until the ushers dismiss you – this will take several minutes as we will dismiss in a manner which will allow for social distancing.

### **Other notes about our worship service:**

The offering will be collected by asking you to place your gifts in the collection plate as you leave the sanctuary.

There will be no communion until further notice.

There will be no congregational singing of hymns or congregational choral responses until further notice.

Hymnals and pew Bibles will be removed from the sanctuary. If you wish to use a Bible, please bring your own.

Bulletins will be placed in the pews which are to be used for seating - bulletins will not be handed to you upon entering.

Any type of physical contact is discouraged – no handshakes and no hugging. Social distancing (approximately 6 feet of space between people) should be maintained when at all possible.

The service will be streamlined: no Children's Moment; only one scripture passage read; no hymns; etc. Worship will last approximately 45 minutes to limit the amount of time anyone spends in the sanctuary. It will be "Short Service Sunday" **every** Sunday!

As space in our sanctuary is limited due to social distancing guidelines, some worshippers may be seated downstairs in the fellowship hall and will watch the service live via closed circuit television. *All the conditions established for worship in our sanctuary will be followed by those worshipping downstairs.*



## First Presbyterian Guidelines for Worship during the Pandemic, continued

We realize that these conditions may seem restrictive, but we believe they are necessary at this time for the safety of our church family. Please feel free to express your opinion of our worship conditions to any of our currently serving Elders: Donna Boyer, Becky Millinger, Ed Millinger, Kathy Roth, Rick Schaefer, Barb Sherry, or Bruce Terry – or to Pastor Steve.

In addition, the Session now will allow other groups of our church to begin meeting at the discretion of their respective group leaders. The Session expects these groups to practice social distancing and other safe practices during their gatherings.

*Pastor Steve on behalf of the Session of First Presbyterian Church*



# Congratulations

Congratulations to our recent high school graduates, Jacob Boyer, Jared Kenik, and Luke Terry! We are very proud of you.

Everyone is invited to attend an outdoor celebration of our three graduates at 7 pm on Sunday, July 26.



## **Horizons Magazine:** The Magazine for Presbyterian Women

“Horizons” is a magazine by and for Presbyterian Women. It is published every two months. The issues have different themes throughout the year. An example of a devotion in one magazine is entitled “I Have (No) Doubt” based upon John 20:24-35. One article discussed “What Presbyterians Believe”. Another article gives suggestions and reviews of books such as “Small Great Things” a novel by Jodi Picoult. Each issue has a supplement to the Horizons Bible Study. A one year subscription can be purchased for \$19.95. You will receive 6 issues plus the 2020-21 issue of PW/HORIZONS Bible Study and access to six fully digital issues of the magazine viewable from your iPad, iPhone, Blackberry Torch, Playbook, Android, Mac, and PC! For more information contact Judy Schmelzle at 573-883-3004 or email: [judysandeds692att.net](mailto:judysandeds692att.net).



# Harper, Pastor Steve Page & Old Friends





# JULY

## AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 1 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 5 Church Service, 10:45 am
- 8 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 9 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 12 Church Service, 10:45 am
- 15 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 16 Deacons' Meeting 6 pm
- 19 Church Service, 10:45 am
- 22 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 26 Church Service, 10:45 am
- 26 Grad Celebration, 7 pm

# AUGUST

## AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 2 Church Service 10:45 am
- 5 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 9 Church Service 10:45 am
- 12 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 13 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 16 Church Service 10:45 am
- 19 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 20 Deacons' Meeting 6 pm
- 23 Church Service 10:45 am
- 25 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 30 Church Service 10:45 am

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Martha Boyer, Ruth Haas, 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 Hagermann, Paul, Dorothy Martinelli, Olivia Viox, Linda Hafley, Taylor Lawrence, Carol Mancuso, Marjetta Stenberg, Gene Operle, Kade Rayoum, Joe Shirey, Kevin Budd, Helen Drury, Glenda Gross, Roma Dortch, Tristan Schenck, the Lynn Messier family, Ed Ade, Jeff Shirey, Joe Rozier IV, Mary Pettus, Gary Rackers, Marcie, 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, Chris & Denise Marsh, Dick Reiss, Bob Gentry, Patrick Jame, Rick Murphy, Bob Gentry, Austin Veath, Shellie Schmelzle and Claire Fischer.

All those serving in our military.

Those in nursing homes: Virginia Foulk, Zelma Basden.

## BIRTHDAYS

### May

11 Nichole French  
 12 Marjetta Stenberg  
 14 Barbara 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

### July

21 Dayna Roth  
 21 Judy Rottler  
 31 Nicole Boyer

### August

12 Herb Cassidy  
 15 Sharon Brooks  
 17 Connie McAvoy  
 22 Rev. Paul Kabo  
 23 Brenna Ferguson  
 27 Chad Donze



## 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

### 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