



160 South Main

The Beacon

Official Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

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(USA)

Winter 2023

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Notes from Pastor Steve – Winter 2023



Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany have all passed us by since our last newsletter. I hope that everyone experienced a joyful and wonderful holiday season!

The church Hayride & Bonfire took place at “The Island” on Saturday, October 22nd. We had great weather and a good time was had by all 21 participants in the evening’s events. Thanks to Rick and Marcia for once again hosting this fun fall activity!

I was in Chicago the first weekend of November to celebrate the wedding of my niece, Sarah, who is Ann Coulson’s oldest daughter. Thanks to Joan Huck for sharing the message on November 6th.

The following weekend I was in the woods in northern Missouri for the opening of Missouri’s deer season. It was another great hunt for me and some of my good friends. Thanks to Lisa Palmer for sharing the message with our congregation during worship on November 13th.

We did not celebrate the Lord’s Supper during the month of November as I was not available the first two Sundays of the month. We celebrated communion on December 4th, again on Christ-

mas Eve, and on the first Sunday of January, which was January 1st. Our 2023 upcoming communion dates are February 5th, March 5th, and April 2nd.

A special thanks to Marcia Schaefer, John Weakly, and Donna Boyer for providing all the music for worship on November 27th. Sharon was in Texas celebrating Thanksgiving with her mother. This “new” trio did a great job leading the music for worship and I hope they we will be willing to play and sing again sometime in the future.

The traditional First Presbyterian Live Nativity took place on the evening of December 3rd. Thanks to everyone who helped to organize and who participated in this event. A special thanks to Barb and Mike Sherry for providing their donkeys for this event. John Weakly, Marcia Schaefer, and Becky Millinger provided Christmas music from the porch of the Silversmith’s House as a part of the evening’s festivities. This group has also been playing for the Ste. Genevieve Care Center on a monthly basis and their ministry of music is greatly appreciated by all who experience it. Look for pictures of the Live Nativity in the winter newsletter.

For our Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony during worship services last season I tried a little different approach: our presenters were from the “same (or similar) name” category. On the first Sunday of Advent we had Judy Rotler, Judy Schmelzle, and Judy

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Runk presenting – this should have been a major clue to my intent! The second Sunday of Advent, Donna Boyer and Donna Garleb were scheduled to present but Donna Garleb could not make it so Joan filled in for her. The third Sunday we had Barbara Sherry and Barbara Fitzgerald lighting our candles; Rick Schaefer and Rikki Schaefer on the fourth Sunday; and then Cathy Grusling and Kathy Roth on Christmas Eve . Thanks to

Pastor's Notes continued

all these members for agreeing to put up with another of my "unusual" ideas for worship.

I encouraged church members to read through the entire Bible during 2022. We read diligently through the year and only had the Book of Revelation remaining to read for December. Since Revelation is such a difficult book to read and understand, I delivered a three-part series of messages on Revelation during worship on the last Sunday of November and the first two Sundays of December. These were not "traditional" Advent messages, but I hope they were helpful for those who were completing the Bible reading challenge - and for all who were in attendance on those Sundays to hear them. I offered more traditional "Christmas" messages in worship for the remainder of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Our church had a Church Movie night on December 16th, hosted by the Terry family. We watched "The Grinch" while enjoying popcorn, snacks, and a fancy hot chocolate bar! A good time was had by all!

On December 18th we had our children, youth, and adult Christmas pageant presented during worship. It was a wonderful retelling of the Christmas story in the style of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Thanks to Sharon, Marcia, Amy, Joan, and everyone else who helped to put this pageant together. We celebrated our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service on December 24th - thanks to Sharon, Donna, and Marcia for providing the music for this evening. Christmas Day was a cold Sunday morning in 2022 but we did have a wonderful worship service. Thanks to Joy and Barb and everyone who helped to decorate the sanctuary and the church for the

Christmas season!

A memorial service for the family of Frank Myers was held in our church on Monday, December 12th. A huge thank you to the women of the church who prepared, served, and cleaned up after a meal which was provided for 30 to 35 family members and friends in our fellowship hall.

A memorial service was also held in our church on Wednesday, December 28th, for Al Judy, the father of Donna Boyer. Al and his wife Doris were members of our church while they lived here in Ste. Genevieve.

We held our Annual Corporate and Congregational Meeting on January 8th. At this meeting we heard reports from the various ministries of our church, received the Session-approved budget for 2023, and the congregation elected a Nominating Committee for 2023.

I have now returned to using the lectionary scriptures from *The Common Lectionary* as my primary scripture passages for Sunday worship. In 2022 I did not use this resource as the basis for my sermons - most of you probably did not even notice! I still reserve the right to "go off" the lectionary on any given Sunday as the Spirit so moves me, but it is a good discipline for a preacher to use the lectionary scriptures provided. *The Common Lectionary* (revised in 1992) is an attempt to cycle through the central messages and the primary scriptural passages of the Bible in a three year period.

As of the end of 2022, I am no longer serving as Moderator of the New Worshiping Communities Commission for our presbytery. My six-year commitment to this commission has now been completed. It was a successful tenure as our presbytery now has four new worshiping communities currently in existence. I have now

been asked to moderate the presbytery Administrative Commission for the closing of the Lutesville Presbyterian Church. This should be a short-term commitment as it generally takes 6 months or so to decommission a formal church organization in this presbytery. I would ask for prayers for the Lutesville Presbyterian Church and their remaining congregation of six members.

Lent begins on February 22nd this year with Palm Sunday (April 2nd), Maundy Thursday (April 6th), and Easter (April 9th) not far behind. I hope you are able to join us for regular worship during February and March as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter! He is risen! He is risen indeed! "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (*John 1: 29b*)"

It may still be Winter but Spring is just around the corner!

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



Parker Leeim James Donze, born January 19, 2023.

Hay Ride





Good Story, shared by Gloria

A pastor asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast. “Lord, I hate buttermilk,” the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.” Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, “And Lord, you know I don’t much care for raw white flour”. The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn’t the only one to feel uncomfortable.

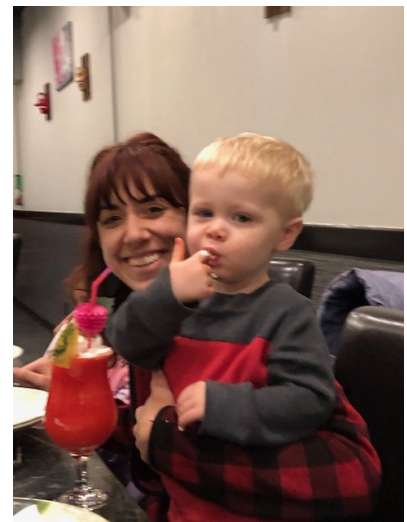
Then the farmer added, “But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don’t like, when life gets hard, when we don’t understand what you’re saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen.”

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today. Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don’t really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it. AMEN!

Scouting for Food!



Elliott is 2!



Thank Offering Luncheon



“These Days” Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

“These Days” is a daily devotional booklet published quarterly by Presbyterian Publishing. It is published especially for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Presbyterian Church (USA), The United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ. Each day there is a scripture followed by a short reflection ending in prayer. For example January 10, 2023 devotional focused on the scripture Psalm 40:1. It was entitled "Patience and Certainty". Subscription time is here. They are ordered in bulk and delivered to church then distributed. There is a sign up sheet if you are interested in receiving this booklet. Or contact Judy Schmelzle at 883-3004 or email judysandeds69@att.net.

Essay
By
Barbara Fitzgerald

Walking down the hallway, I looked out the window and thought we were having a blizzard “white out”. As I walked into the little sitting room and got up close to the window and looked out, I could see that it was thick, thick fog. Everything had vanished into the whiteness.

The lone maple in the front yard was a pen and ink sketch in black against the enveloping fog. The houses across the street were just blurred objects lost in a haze of white. Was this a real world or a dream? It was all so ethereal and so very beautiful. I knew the sun was somewhere above it all, but on a morning like this, it was hard to believe that something so powerful and filled with such brilliancy could ever be concealed by something so insubstantial and untouchable.

Sometimes life is like that. We can't see the power of God, because our vision is fogged over by the thickness of the ruminating thoughts that cloud the “true sight” of the spirit, unseen, yet ever present, able to let us see what is obscured and know that God is always there, even when we can't feel his light and presence.

It is times like these when I know that I need to stop, breathe and let God's peace enter my heart and mind. May you always be aware of God's peace within and around you.

Music at November 27 church service provided by Marcia, John, and Donna.



Movie Night



Lydia Circle Christmas Party



Christmas Walk



Christmas Caroling



**Live
Nativity**



**Presents
from
Santa**





**Santa Is Not
Just for Kids!**



**Thank you,
Santa!**



FEBRUARY

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 1 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 5 Communion**
- 8 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 9 Session Meeting 6 pm**
- 13 Cookie Making 9 am**
- 15 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 19 Reception at Myers'**
- 22 Food Pantry 1 pm**

MARCH

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 1 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 5 Communion**
- 8 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 9 Session Meeting 6 pm**
- 15 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 22 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 23 Deacon Meeting 6:30 pm**

APRIL

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**
- 26 Food Pantry 1 pm**

MAY

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 3 Food Panty 1 pm**
- 5 Communion**
- 10 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 11 Session Meeting 6 pm**
- 17 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 24 Food Pantry 1 pm**
- 25 Deacon Meeting 6:30 pm**

Happy Birthday!

FEBRUARY

- 3—Shirley Myers
- 6—Sharon Boyer
- 11—Rosa Lee Holcomb
- 19—Barbara Fitzgerald
- 24—Ray Albert

MARCH

- 4—Patty Weakly
- 5—John Weakly
- 9—Sandy Koller
- 10—Logan Moore
- 12—Martha Boyer

APRIL

- 4—Rick Schaefer
- 11—Luke Terry
- 15—Jacob Boyer
- 23—Ann Coulson
- 26—Phil Eydmann
- 27—Tamara Bradford



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, Dinah Weiler Arand, Bill Howren, Ceci, Sara, Stanton Weyand, Alyson Lee, Ryan Roth, Bob Havin, John Vogt, Rod Laubenstein, Mary Peura, Ike Rutherford, Jim & Annie Jackson, Gloria Means, Donna Garleb., Helen Tucker, Noah, Brenda Stretch, Janet Schmelzle, Dave & Shellie Schmelzle, Derek Morganthaler, Mary Blanford, the Coleman Schwent family, Norma Palmr, Chad Donze and Mary Carris.

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

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

