



160 South Main

The Beacon

Official Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri

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(USA)

Winter 2022

Volume XIX, Issue I

Notes from Pastor Steve Winter 2022



A new year begins! My prayer for 2022 is that God continues to bless First Presbyterian Church and the many ministries that are the focus and life of this congregation. 2021 was another unusual and somewhat difficult year as we continued to manage this pandemic which is still impacting our community and our world. But the Spirit of God still flows through the ministries of this church and its people – thanks be to God!

The Advent and Christmas season of 2021 was a celebration of joy for our church. The Live Nativity Scene in early December was a sight to behold as kids, grandkids, and friends of the church helped to make this a very moving event. On this warm evening many, many visitors stopped by to see this live presentation of Mary & Joseph, the shepherds, the kings, the angels, and, of course, three lively donkeys – all attending to the babe in the manger. Thanks to all who helped to organize and participate in this special evening.

A wonderful Christmas pageant was presented by our children, youth, and those young at heart during worship in the Advent season. This retelling of the nativity story was re-enacted in full costume and it was a touching presen-

tation of this story from Luke which needs to be told again and again.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service was the culmination of the Advent season. This beautiful and moving worship is always a highlight of our Christmas celebrations. I hope you had a merry and happy Christmas in 2021!

A personal joy for my family during December 2021 was the birth of my grandson, Philip Matthews, on December 3rd. Philip had some early breathing difficulties and spent a few days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, but he is at home and doing GREAT now! Thanks for all the thoughts and prayers of support for Philip.

The First Presbyterian Church Annual Corporate and Congregational Meeting took place after worship on January 9th. This meeting always summarizes the many ministries of our church for the previous year – I hope you were present to hear these.

One thing that has changed in the ministries of our church is that Ed Millinger has “retired” as the manager/administrator of the Helping Hands Food Pantry. Ed had been the face and the hands of the majority of this ministry and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude for the many, many hours of work he committed to this special ministry serving those in need in our community. The next time you see Ed Millinger tell him “thank you” for his service on behalf of this church! Ed had served

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in this capacity for several years and now others are stepping up to fill his rather large shoes! More information to come about the “reorganization” of our food pantry responsibilities and roles in the near future.

Also in January, we install our church officers for the new year. Sharon Boyer is a new Elder serving on the Session and Patti Weakly is a new Deacon serving on our Board of Deacons. Rick Schaefer was also elected to a second 3-year term to

Pastor's Notes continued

continue serving as an Elder on the Session. We presently have six Elders serving on the Session (Sharon Boyer, Joy French, Joan Huck, Kathy Roth, Rick Schaefer, Bruce Terry) and six Deacons serving on the Board of Deacons (Ann Coulson, Amy Pfaff, Marcia Schaefer, Julie Terry, John Weakly, Patti Weakly). Our church could not operate without all these people being willing to serve in positions of leadership. A special thanks to all those who serve in leadership roles in our church.

What will the remainder of Winter and then the Spring of 2022 bring in the life of the church? 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: For God is always above us, watching over us; God is always below us, supporting us and holding us up; God is always behind us, protecting and guarding us; God always goes before us, leading and guiding our way; God always stands right beside us, giving us a shoulder to lean on; and God is always inside us, bringing us peace and joy. Go now in peace, into this new year of 2022, my friends!

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



Summer Memories!

VBS



All Church Fish Fry and Picnic

The church fish fry and picnic was held on September 25th, 2021 at Lake Forest Marina Pavilion. Pastor Steve supplied the fish and hush puppies and church members supplied the sides and desserts. A great time was had by all!



Fall Hay Ride



Food Pantry



Boy Scout Food Drive



**And we cannot forget the
Blessing Box.**



**Plaza Chiropractic Food Drive for
our Food Pantry.**



A Time and a Purpose for Everything

Barbara Fitzgerald

It doesn't seem possible that time can pass so quickly during this time that has taken so much of our attention for almost two years. Time is a precious commodity, especially as we get older. The Bible tells us that there is a time for everything and a purpose for all things under heaven. In the beginning of the pandemic it seemed difficult to find a purpose in much of anything. But gradually I discovered that even during those first months when we were staying home, there was still a lot I could do, not just for my husband and I at home, but by making regular phone calls, writing letters, sending cards, and keeping in touch with those of our family and friends who were also stuck at home. That connection gave me a sense of a purpose in that time.

Now when I reflect on those things, I see how other people were doing what they could for others also. A friend stopped in the yard when I was outside, and gave me flowers to plant in our garden, a neighbor brought us a box of food and offered to shop for us, others called to check on us and offered to do things for us. Pastor Steve called and chatted and checked up on people, including us. It was a time when I felt the goodness of all those around us. There was purpose in all those acts, and coming from the heart the love was passed on to all to us.

I have tried to continue to keep up with all the friends and family I had remained close to during those first few months, but it seems that as soon as life opened up for us, I found myself back to being busy and not stopping to make those calls as often as I had. My purpose now has broadened and even expanded beyond what it was a couple years ago. But I find that I am seeking to do things that are more meaningful and more important to me. Time does go faster as we age, and now that I am looking at what is important to me, it still comes back to the fact that "there is a time for everything." I feel fortunate that I had that time in our home when I could be still and learn that people are more and more important to us as we get older. This is the time in my life to act on that belief.



Thank Offering

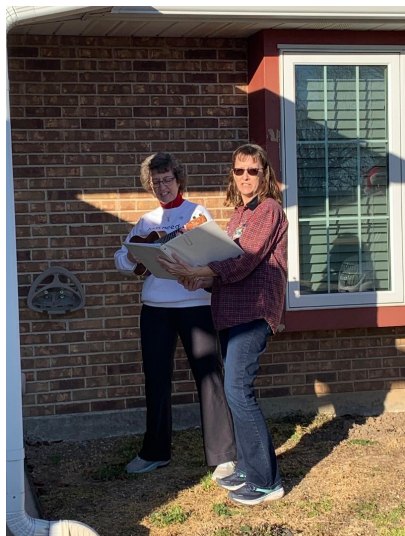
The Thank Offering luncheon was held, marking our first food gathering in a LONG time. The cake was beautiful and Elliott apparently approved of the food!



Live Nativity 2021



Christmas Caroling



Time With Santa



JANUARY

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 9 Installation of Church
Officers, Cong. Meeting
- 12 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 13 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 19 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 20 Deacons Meeting 6 pm
- 26 Food Pantry 1 pm

FEBRUARY

AT A GLANCE

Consult your weekly bulletin for possible changes in this schedule.

- 2 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 9 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 10 Session Meeting 6 pm
- 16 Food Pantry 1 pm
- 17 Deacons' Meeting 6 pm
- 23 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

Christmas Program



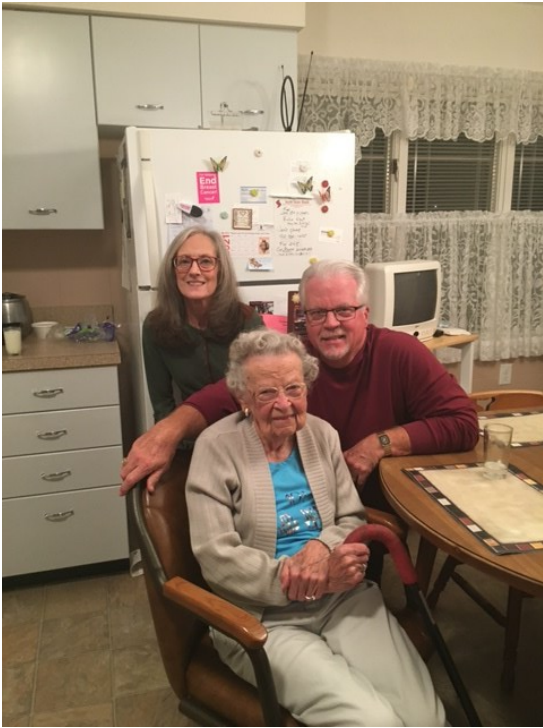
Lydia's Circle

Lydia's Circle met at Patti Weakly's house on December 13 for their Christmas party. They made purses full of personal need items for the mothers at the family shelter in St. Francois County.



Children's Time





John and Patti help celebrate John's mother's 101st birthday!

Member Happenings!

Elliott turns one and below, Elliott's final adoption hearing.



The Schaefers celebrating Halloween in style!



More Santa pictures!



IN OUR PRAYERS

Martha Boyer, Ray Albert, Rosa Lee Holcomb, Carol Wibbenmeyer, Toby John, Danny Wene, Donna Sparks, Kate, Evelyn Malone, Randy Heberlie, Louise Peterson, Neva Walton, Loren Hagemann, Paul, Olivia Viox, Linda Hafley, Taylor Lawrence, Carol Mancuso, Marjetta Stenberg, Gene Operle, Kade Rayoum, Joe Shirey, Kevin Budd, Glenda Gross, Roma Dortch, Ed Ade, Jeff Shirey, Joe Rozier IV, Mary Pettus, Gary Rackers, Mary, Del Loida, Bob Koller, Loretta Miller, Joan Emmendorfer, Amanda Coalter, Rick Murphy, Bob Gentry, Bill Gentry, Jacque Brillos, Dinah Weiler Arand, Bill Howren, Ceci, Joseph Mize, Sara, Stanton Weyand, Alyson Lee, Ryan Roth, Bob Havin, John Vogt, Rod Laubenstein, Mary Peura, Jeff Paulus, Peggy Webb, Herb Cassidy, Ike Rutherford, Jim & Annie Jackson, Gloria Means, Donna Garleb.

All those serving in our military.

Those in nursing homes.: Martha Boyer, Romaine Holman, Ike Rutherford, Herb Cassidy.

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

2021 Church Officers

ELDERS

Bruce Terry
Kathy Roth
Joy French
Joan Huck
Sharon Boyer
Rick Schaefer

DEACONS

Marcia Schaefer
Julie Terry
Patti Weakly
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.
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