



# church matters

Monthly Newsletter

Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson- Faith in Ferguson

## FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As a new summer season begins, so will many new things in our church life. To start, we have been announcing that Pastor Kerry and his wife Oona will be arriving in June. This has been moved to July. Pastor Kerry will give his first sermon as our Designated Co-Pastor on Sunday, July 4! We know it's a holiday weekend, but please attend if you are able.

Our next event will be on the Sunday Mike and Kerry are installed as Co-Pastors by our Presbytery. This date has not yet been scheduled but we are hoping to also do this in July with a celebration picnic following. We ask that you stay tuned for more information on this event.

Once we have celebrated the installations, the PNC will transition into a support team for our new co-pastor, who, as Mike puts it, will hit the deck running!

Before we know it, we will be planning a retirement celebration for Pastor Mike, retiring at the end of February 2022, and sending him out with as much love and support as he can handle, to enjoy the next season of his life..

The PNC is thrilled that First Pres can start living out its new vision with Pastor Kerry, who comes with a world of urban experience, energy, enthusiasm, and some of his own fresh ideas.

Many blessings,

Paula Bujewski, on behalf of the PNC

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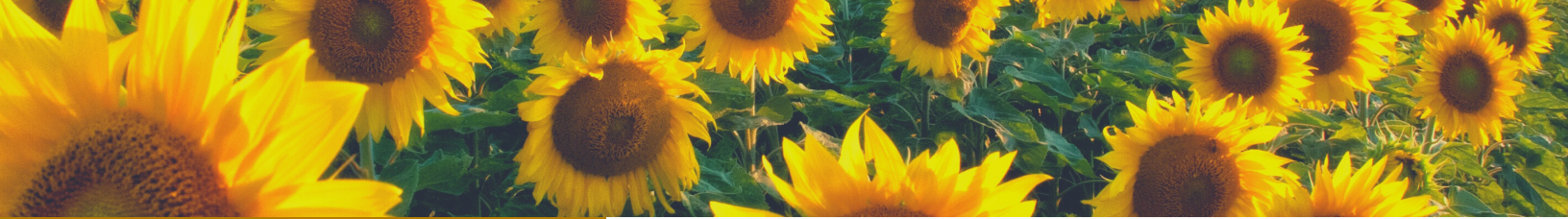
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## Worship Information

We are currently live streaming our Sunday Worship Services and offering in-person services.

- **10:10 am CST- Facebook Live**

### New Sound and Recording Equipment for the Sanctuary

We not only new have high-speed internet distributed throughout the building, but we are waiting on equipment for the audio/video installation. The 'chips' coming from China have caused problems with electronics across the board and the expected ship dates keep changing. Unfortunately, this is industry-wide, but we expect that installation of our system will occur in June or July, hopefully, before Dr. Allison arrives.

We are very excited about being able to record and broadcast on different platforms other than FaceBook Live. Stay tuned for updates.

Duane Mazzacavallo

## WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU IN CHURCH AGAIN!

Pandemic church attendance has been minimal since we resumed in-church worship services. We're thrilled that some have decided to attend in person since they have been fully vaccinated. As the number of people becoming fully vaccinated continues to rise, we hope you will consider attending worship in person once again.

We are still respecting CDC guidelines, spreading out, masking, not using hymnals or bulletins, and using a number of other precautions to ensure the safety of our congregants and visitors.

This is the perfect way to slowly begin getting comfortable in a public setting. We miss you and hope to see you soon!



## A BIT OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY

Have you ever looked at this photo and wondered where the original First Pres was located? I always assumed it was at Elizabeth and Church Streets but Kathy Noelker of the Ferguson Landmarks Commission set me straight! It was actually located at Clay and Church, next to where the Kennedy's house would later be built. Coming off Elizabeth, Church Street ended in a cul de sac behind the church and the street was not opened up until 1952, probably for Fire Trucks after the "new" City Hall and Fire Station were built. The Atwood family, who lived at 118 South Clay (later owned by the Hallorans and seen on the Hoarders TV show) donated the land for First Pres and then again for the present-day church built in 1927 after the original church burned.

Duane Mazzacavallo



# CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON JUNE 13, 2021

An in-person and Zoom Congregational Meeting ( link to the meeting will be sent by email as we get closer to this date) will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, June 13, 2021. Please plan to attend. The following is the agenda for the meeting.

We will be addressing the following issues:

**1. Approve the Corporate Officers:**

Duane Mazzacavallo – President  
Lee Weltmer – Treasurer  
Karen Schriefer – Secretary

**2. Notify the Congregation of the following:**

Karen Schriefer – Recorder  
Jodie Hamer-Schlobohm – Assistant Recorder  
Karen Schriefer – Clerk of the Session

**3. Review and approve the Annual Finance Report.**

**4. Approve changes to Article VI. Board of Trustees of the Corporation By-Laws.**

This change was recommended by a vote of the Session on February 21, 2021. The revision reads as follows:

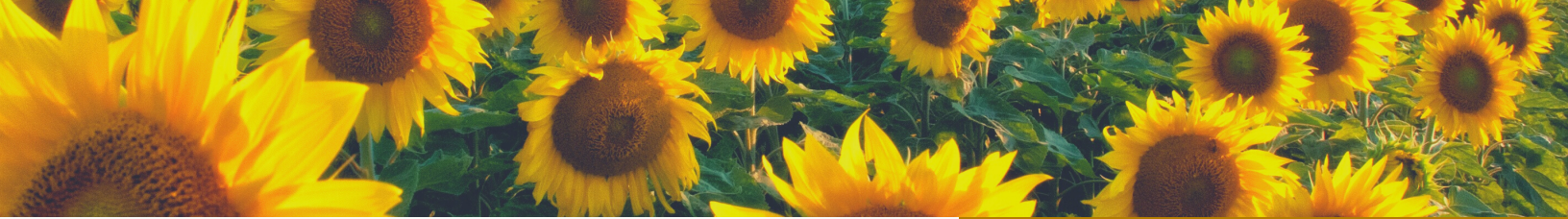
The Board of Trustees shall consist of nine a minimum of three Active members, three one of whom shall be elected annually to three-year terms at an Annual Corporation Meeting held at the time of the Annual Stated Congregational Meeting.

**1. Elections of New Elders and Trustees:**

Elders – Class of 2023 (June 2024)  
Wendy Dean  
Debby Koenig  
Maureen Rutherford  
Heather Tallent

Trustee – Class of 2023 (June 2024)  
Duane Mazzacavallo

**2. Approval of change in Rev Trautman's standing from Pastor to Designated Co- Pastor**



## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

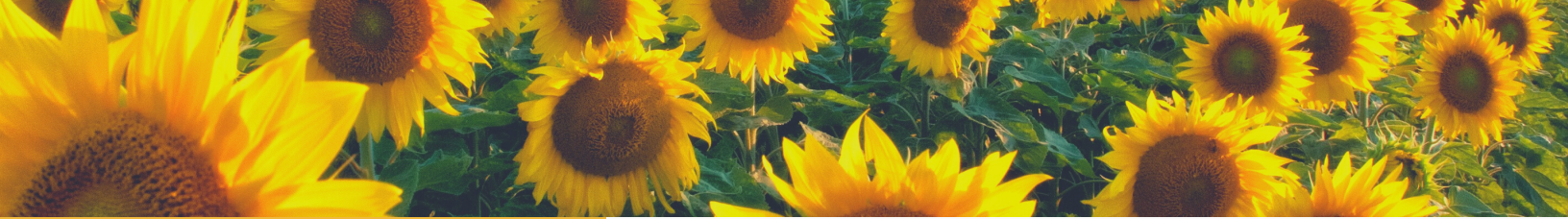
Our facility will be put to good use again this year by not one, but two organizations, both start their programs on June 7 ending around August 1st:

1) SoulFisher Ministries is returning with their elementary-age tutoring program using the upstairs classrooms Monday thru Friday. They will serve students breakfast and lunch using our kitchen but dining is upstairs in the “Choir Room”. For more information about this organization, go to [soulfisherministries.com](http://soulfisherministries.com).

2) The new addition is the Summer Day Camp for the Strength and Honor Mentoring and Tutoring Program for ages 5-15 that fosters education, character, and social development. They will use Fellowship Hall Monday thru Friday. Their breakfast and lunches will be brought in already prepared by Operation Food Search. For more information about this group, go to [Mysah.org](http://Mysah.org).

3) The Urban Mission Program is still on hold due to COVID. Later this year we may have an Americorps group staying with us but that is not firm just yet.





## FAITH FINDERS: ADVENTURES FOR KIDS



Are you missing  
Sunday School?  
So are we!



Faith Finders is a community of our youngest members on their own adventure seeking out understanding and the meaning of God's love.

Join our Google Classrooms to find lots of resources for our Faith Finders.

*Contact us for more information!*

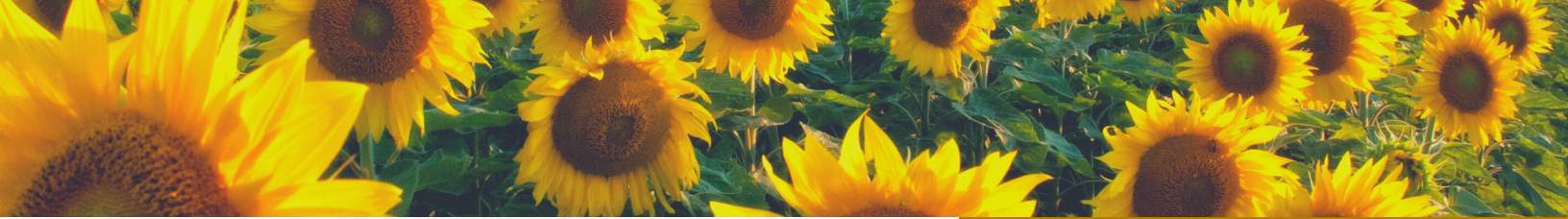


### **Worship Bags!**

We are so excited to introduce our themed worship bags! Enjoy activities in these crafted bags for seasonal worship.

Keep your bags and send them back to church to have them filled with more goodies!

[Click here for our Faith Finders Adventures](#)



# YOUTH MINISTRY

I (LaHaji Thomas) am officially licensed as a social worker and will be providing therapy for a low cost to youth and young people within the Ferguson community and throughout Missouri.

Boys 2 Mentors is gearing up for their summer internship program. If you have a son between the age of 8-16 that may be interested in this program, please reach out to LaHaji Thomas at (314) 629-7024.

Congratulations to **Nicole Tallent**, who is on her journey to becoming an EMT soon. One test away and she'll be certified!

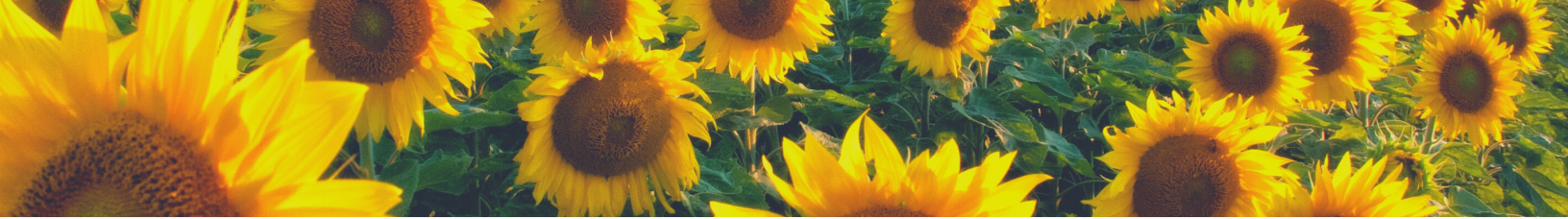
Best,

LaHaji Thomas  
Youth Coordinator

## Message from LaHaji

I have been working with Boys 2 Mentors, a local program that mentors young men on the journey to becoming mentors within the St. Louis Community.





## Outreach at FPC

### **An update from the Outreach Committee ... we are LISTENING!**

When Kerry and Oona were in St. Louis in April, Monica and Jan met with Kerry after church to discuss Outreach at FPC. Our history of offerings and how funds have been used in the past was reviewed and then we shared what was on our hearts. Kerry noted that we were pointing to listening to what our community wants and needs instead of providing what we think our community wants and needs. It was a great meeting and between Kerry and Mike we are in the process of discerning how we can find out what is needed in Ferguson and beyond and how we can connect to the myriad of resources available in St. Louis. For example, if job interviewing or job training are needed in our community, what are the resources that are available that we can facilitate to connect the person to the best training. The need is great, but the possibilities and resources are there!

Monica and Jan would like to invite you to LISTEN with us! We recommend three things:

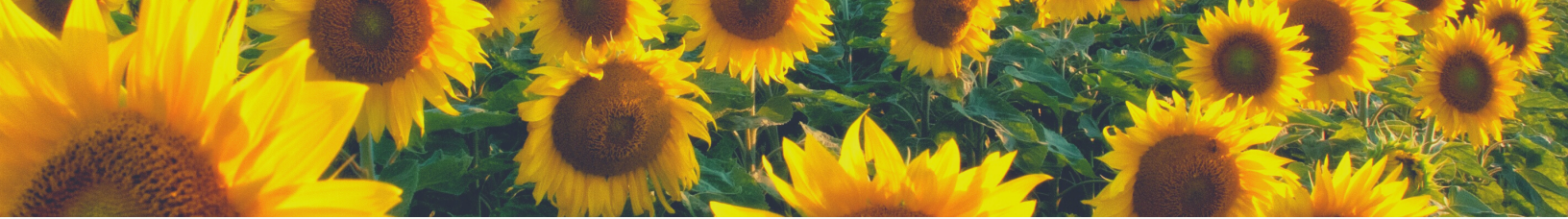
1. *Read the book: The Moment of Life by Melinda Gates*
2. *Listen to Dr. Art McCoy's interview on DonneyBrook - Next Up <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcV32GSBOKI> McCoy's interview starts about 30 minutes into the YouTube recording. McCoy is retiring from serving as the Superintendent in the Jennings School District and will begin a new role as the Workforce Development Leader for the Regional Business Council.*
3. *Pray for LISTENING and guidance to where we might best serve our brothers and sisters.*

Both Mike and Kerry are in action around how we can LISTEN in the community and how we can put ourselves in the midst of the need and then connect the need to the training. If you know of a resource in St. Louis that supports people through special training like job interviews or career counseling, or financial planning, or parenting lessons, or absolutely any supportive training ... please send an email or call Monica and Jan. We are LISTENING to who you are connected to because our strength is in working together as a community. We all benefit when someone feels empowered and loved and worthwhile.

It is a default to "decide" what we think is needed and we are moving in the direction of "listening" to what is needed. God and our brothers and sisters will guide our hands and feet to provide the love and resources to fill the need. We are excited about the direction and the path that is ahead of us.

**Thanks and Peace!**

*Monica & Jan*



**LIGHT FOR THE DARKNESS**

A Ministry of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy

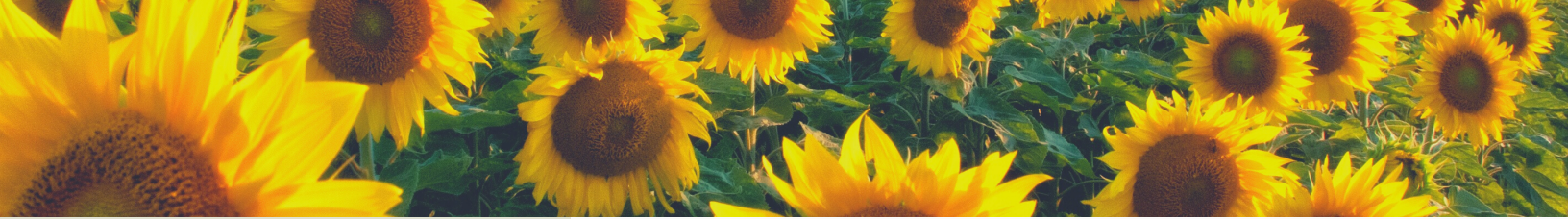
1001 Craig Road, Suite 170 St. Louis, MO 63146

Light for the Darkness, both a new worshipping community and the mental health ministry of Giddings-Lovejoy, provides educational opportunities to reduce the stigma of mental health variances and increase mental health resources knowledge. We also facilitate spiritual, worshipful, community groups for those struggling with where God is in the midst of their darkness; in these groups, members truly feel heard, valued, and connected. If you would like Light for the Darkness to speak briefly at your church, sharing some facts about Mental Health to increase awareness, decrease stigma and share resources available, we want to help shine a light in the darkness. Perhaps you are willing to include a Newsletter snippet about mental health and resources available, or about Light for the Darkness and the work we do? Please email us.

If you are depressed or anxious and need somewhere to start, someone to listen, or would like to try our Monday night (7-8pm) community group via Zoom, call, text, or just show up. Light for the Darkness does not provide diagnoses or treatment, but we are genuinely familiar with the darkness, will listen, will find some helpful resources for you, if necessary, and can hopefully point you toward the glimpses of light that God provides us in the midst of the darkness.

PLEASE CONTACT [thirzasayers@gmail.com](mailto:thirzasayers@gmail.com) FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.





# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6 – Linda Fritchey

15 – Becky Henderson

16 – John Bryant, Darrell Shackelford & Linda Shugert

20 – Wendy Dean & Savannah Schlobohm

26 – Wayne Tallent

27 – Judith Walters

28 – Thelmarene Hooper & Hans Knape

(If someone's birthday is missing or incorrect, please let the office know.)



## BUILDING USE REMINDERS

When planning an event of any kind at the church, it's important to remember to do the following:

- Check space availability with the church office. The date, location and time needs to be recorded on both the office calendar and church wall calendar.
- When blocking off time, remember to request the space for not only the event itself but for set up and clean up. (There have been some recent conflicts because only the event time was identified.)

Be respectful of our church building by doing the following:

- Clean up after your event. Remove excessive trash.
- If your event involves food, please take your leftovers. Do not leave food behind.
- Please return the space to the setting and condition you found it in. We do not have a staff person that takes care of this.
- Limit activity to the room you reserved and by supervising your children.



Thank you,  
Karen Schriefer  
Clerk of Session



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Church of Ferguson**

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(314) 522-8542

[fergpres@gmail.com](mailto:fergpres@gmail.com)

[faithinferguson.org](http://faithinferguson.org)



[faithinfergusonmo.online.church](http://faithinfergusonmo.online.church)



# CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Mike Trautman**

Minister

**Rebecca Combs**

Music Director

**Marcia Key**

Office Administrator

**Lee Weltmer**

Treasurer

**Jodie Schlobohm and Karen Schriefer**

Financial Recorders

**LaHaji Thomas**

Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Susan Owens**

Nursery Supervisor

**Rachel Foster**

Web Developer