

The Chimes

January 2020

Volume 66, Number 1

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you experienced moments of joy and Christ's peace in the midst of the busy Advent and Christmas seasons, and that you feel hopeful as you ring in a new year of possibilities and challenges you cannot yet imagine.

By the time Christmas is over and I've preached a lot of words, I'm usually ready for a self-imposed quiet time to reflect, because in the midst of all the preparations for worship, church, and home, I don't spend as much time pondering as I'd like to.

In that spirit, in case you too are still considering the "now what" of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, I offer you an excerpt from a poem titled "Peace on Earth" from the late Ann Weems, a Presbyterian writer, poet, and elder. She reminds us that we still have much to do after the Christmas Eve candles are extinguished and the nativities go back in their boxes:

*Are there still those
Who listen for the brush of angel wings
And look for stars above some godforsaken little stable?
Are there still those
Who long to hear an angel's song
And touch a star?*

*To kneel beside some other shepherd
In the hope of catching
a glimpse of eternity in a baby's smile?
Are there still those who sing
"Peace on earth, goodwill to all"?
If there are—then, O Lord,
Keep ablaze their flickering candle
In the darkness of this world!*

At its most fundamental,
that's our mission for 2020—
as a church and as human beings:
to keep shining the light of Christ.
May it be so.

Grace and peace, Ann



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Notable January Dates

Jan 1	Church closed
Jan 6	5:00 pm Mission Team
.....	6:00 pm Facilities Team
Jan 7	6:00 pm Deacons
Jan 8	5:00 pm Finance Team
Jan 12	10:45 am Dwelling Place Open House
.....	11:00 am Worship Team
Jan 13	4:30 pm Personnel Team
.....	5:30 pm Congregational Care Team
Jan 21	3:30 pm Stephen Ministry
.....	6:30 pm Session
Jan 22	9:30 am Office Staff
Jan 26	11:00 am Confirmation mtg-yth/parents
Jan 31	Team reports due

Un-Hanging of the Greens

The worship team invites your assistance in un-decorating the church on **January 5** immediately following the service. The good news is that trees, ornaments, and wreaths seem to come down faster than they go up. Please help!

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Elders and deacons in the class of 2022 will be ordained and/or installed during worship service on **January 12**. The incoming class of elders includes *Claudia Ferrell, Judy Iverson, Ruth Pancoast*, and *Bev Royce*. The incoming class of deacons includes *Jim Anderson, Anne Binette, Nancy Boesdorfer*, and returning for a second term, *Myanne Compton*.

With Deep Gratitude

Also during the **January 12** worship service, we will take a few moments to express our thanks to Jan Voorhees, who has served faithfully as our “substitute” pianist/organist for the past year. Not only is she a gifted musician, Jan is gracious, wise, and kind, quick to laugh, easy to work with, always accommodating and flexible. We are grateful for her ministry with us.



The Dwelling Place Open House

Our new downstairs neighbors are having an open house for members and friends of FPC after worship on **January 12**. We are invited to see how they've transformed the basement space, ask questions about their ministry, and have refreshments!

Church Phone Tree Reminder

During these winter months, cancellations of church activities, including worship, may occur, and we will do our best to keep you informed in as many ways as possible. Generally, however, the primary notification will come via the phone tree. If the church office does not have a current phone number for you, please notify Sheila immediately. You may also want to identify the number in your home or cell phone so you recognize it: 800-679-0847.

New Organist

Fred Bahr will take his seat at the organ on **January 19**. Please extend a warm welcome to him.

About Our Choral Specialists

Since September, we have been blessed with two new members of the choir. If you've not had the chance to get acquainted with them, introduce yourself. Here's a bit about them:

Kelly Holden is the Office Manager for Central Illinois Natural Health Clinic, and she teaches private voice lessons at B&J Music. Kelly performs throughout the area, doing choir and/or solo concert work, musicals and other shows. She also sings for weddings and funerals, as well as other special events.

She has a BS in Psych from Oklahoma Christian University, and an MSED from Eastern Illinois University. She studied vocal music performance-classical at the St. Louis Conservatory of Music for several years.

Kelly was born and raised in Danville, so all of her family is here. You may see her mother in attendance if she should solo. She is Kelly's biggest fan!

Craig Smith very recently held the position of tenor section leader/soloist for the choir at St. Peter's UCC in Champaign. Some years before that he was also affiliated with Community UCC on the University of Illinois campus.

He also changed day jobs in the past few months after 11 years in medical records at Carle and is now an Office Support Associate at Illinois Human Resources, UIUC. He performs in community theater (and sometimes dinner theater as well) throughout the area and can be seen in Danville Light Opera's upcoming production of *Bright Star* with a musical score by Steve Martin (yes, THAT Steve Martin!) and Edie Brickell. He is also on the receptionist team for Salt and Light Ministries in Champaign.

He is an avid traveler with plans next year to see the Passion Play that is mounted in the Bavarian Alps every ten years, is a rabid fan of opera and classical music, dearly loves his two smart and attitude-laden papillon dogs Placido and Paige, and enjoys taking group fitness classes. He currently resides in Fithian.



FPC Youth Ministry Calendar

Jan 5	All youth (5th-12th), 6:00 pm
Jan 12	Sunday school, 10:00 am
.....	Shining Stars (K-12), 11:00 am
.....	All youth (5th-12th), 6:00 pm
Jan 19	Sunday school, 10:00 am
.....	MLK Banquet, 3:30 pm
Jan 20	MLK Parade, 9:45 am
Jan 26	Sunday school, 10:00 am
.....	Confirmation meeting, 11:00 am
.....	No youth group

January Youth Activities

Shining Stars will meet **January 12**, 11:00-12:00 noon in the gym to make bird feeders with Mary Hardy. All children and youth are welcome to come.

Both youth groups will attend the MLK dinner together on Sunday, **January 19**. Meet Kelly in the lobby of the Days Hotel, 77 N. Gilbert St., at 3:30 pm. Dinner begins at 4:00. Parents need to pick up their youth in the hotel lobby when dinner is over (youth will call parents as the dinner ends).

On Monday, **January 20**, youth participating in the MLK parade will gather at the corner of Main and Logan Streets (at the airplane) at 9:45 am. If it's too cold or snowy, we'll ride in the van. The parade ends at St. James United Methodist Church, where the youth are invited to stay for the community worship service that begins at 11:30.

Kelly and Pastor Ann will attend the annual conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators in Little Rock, Arkansas, **January 28-31**.

Confirmation Class Meeting

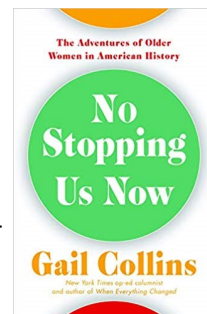
Youth in grades 6-9 who are interested in participating in confirmation class—and their parents—are invited to an informational meeting on Sunday, **January 26**, at 11:15 in the board room (after Coffee Talk with the Session). We will determine the class schedule, so please have dates when you are not available to meet.

Wednesday Book Group

If you like to read and enjoy good conversation, join the Wednesday afternoon book group. Starting on **January 8** at 2:00 pm in the board room, we will begin discussing *No Stopping Us Now: The Adventures of Older Women in American History* by Gail Collins.

In her lively social history of American women and aging, acclaimed *New York Times* columnist Gail Collins illustrates the ways in which age is an arbitrary concept that has swung back and forth over the centuries. Reflecting on how American attitudes towards age have been a moving target, Collins gives women reason to expect the best of their golden years.

If you'd like a copy of the book (approximately \$20), please contact the office ASAP.



Sunday Noon Adult Class

We don't shy away from tough topics in the Sunday noon class. On **January 12**, we will begin reading and discussing *War* by Gwynne Dyer. It's been called "one of the most compelling analyses of the history and psychology of armed conflict . . . Essential reading on the way to resolving perennial questions [such as "Can shared values, widely disseminated, help us move beyond mass warfare? Does the endless threat of terrorism help preserve the military status quo? Are traditional military and administrative hierarchies still relevant? Why do humans fight wars? Is it even possible to tame the impulse? How can we unlearn war?"]"



As followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, how are we to live in the tension of being called to the work of peacemaking, while at the same time thinking about and responding to our own nation's engagement in armed conflicts?

All are welcome to join the conversation. Since we meet at lunch time, feel free to bring your lunch!

The books cost approximately \$18. If you would like a copy, contact the church office ASAP.

Habitat for Humanity Work Day

On Saturday, **January 25, 2020**, First Presbyterian Church will work on a Habitat house at 711 W. Columbia St. in Danville, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be tasks for people of all skill levels:

Interior Work:

- cut and install furring strips in kitchen area for drywall nailers (basic carpentry skills needed; requires step ladder use);
- remove old ceiling lights (basic skills; step stool use);
- prime ceilings in front bedrooms (basic skills; some ladder work);
- install floor leveler, add concrete to areas that have been removed for plumbing repairs (knee pads);
- install pieces of drywall in small areas (basic skills; utility knife & tape measure, cordless screw gun use);
- lightly sand bedroom walls, apply primer as needed (basic skills; some step stool use);
- install framing as needed on closet door frames (basic carpentry skills; saw, tape measure, level);
- remove tack strip, miscellaneous nails, and other items to prep for drywall;
- clean and organize



Exterior work (depends on weather and mostly requires significant carpentry skills):

- siding removal & repairs;
- demo at NE corner of home; repair framing and sheathing;
- demo and reframe garage window; install windows; repair siding;
- shed demolition (basic skills, basic tools, Sawzall and ladder);
- rebuild shed—an all-day job requiring fine carpentry skills

There is sign-up sheet in the office for those who would like to work.

Blood Drive

For those of you who regularly give blood, please note that we will host a blood drive at the church on Sunday, **February 9, 2020**. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.

Christmas Joy Offering Update

Thanks for your generous response to the Christmas Joy Offering which provides critical financial support to current and retired Presbyterian pastors, ministers, and educators during times of need, and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping students of color. Members and friends gave \$731!

International Mission Opportunity

A few spots remain on a mission trip to Nicaragua, **March 21-28, 2020**. The trip is sponsored by our Presbytery and coordinated through JustHope, a nonprofit creating sustainable partnerships to fight poverty in rural Nicaragua. Participants will develop relationships with the people of La Flor as they work and share life together for a week. The cost is \$825 per person, plus airfare. For more information, contact Mary Simon (msimon9914@gmail.com) or see JustHope.org.



From the Desk of the Deacons

Thank you for all the support, financially and in partnership and participation, in making 2019 a very successful year for the deacons. A special thanks to Jay Cline for another remarkable Christmas basket program. Jay would be the first to say that the success was due to all the support that he received. The Christmas basket program provided staples, fresh fruit, meat, eggs, and milk, as well as a toy or two, mittens, hats, and scarves for 129 families.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our departing deacons: Bill Garrison, Jay Cline, and Jean Land. We would also like to welcome our new deacons: Jim Anderson, Anne Binette, Nancy Boesdorfer, and a returning deacon, Myanne Compton.

The deacons will start the 2020 year exploring alternatives to the food pantry. There are currently five proposals under review.

Without the support of the church members, the deacons would be hard-pressed to carry out their mission. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

—George Schildt

Session Highlights

Session met on December 17, 2019. Following are highlights of their meeting:

- 10 out of 12 elders present
- Set date for annual meeting of the congregation as **February 9, 2020**
- Discussed team assignments for 2020
- Received the Internal (financial) Review Checklist, with thanks to Jim Anderson, Bob Boesdorfer, and Paula Spriestersbach for completing the annual review
- Approved the 2020 budget

The next stated Session meeting will be **January 21, 2020**.

Coffee Talk with the Session

The next Coffee Talk is scheduled for Sunday, **January 26, 2020** in the lounge.



Celebrating a Successful Pledge Campaign

By the end of December, we received 43 pledges for 2020 totaling **\$149,755**. Total pledges for 2019 were \$139,529.

Two out of 43 are new pledges; the remaining 41 pledging units (individuals/couples/families) have pledged previously. Among those 41, pledges increased by \$15,781! Praise the Lord! Several pledge cards are still expected.

This information is valuable to the Session as they seek to budget resources for the most effective use of member gifts, all to the glory of God.

If you have questions concerning the pledge campaign or other financial matters, please contact me or any member of the Finance Ministry Team. Thank you.

—Bob Boesdorfer, Church Treasurer

Memorials

During December, we received memorials in remembrance of Rosie Newton from: Mr. and Mrs. Ron Bolser, Joanne Chacon, Ruth Circle, and Pat Tarr.

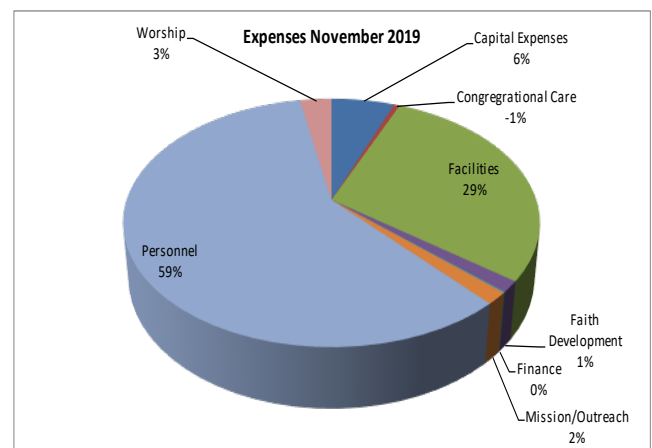
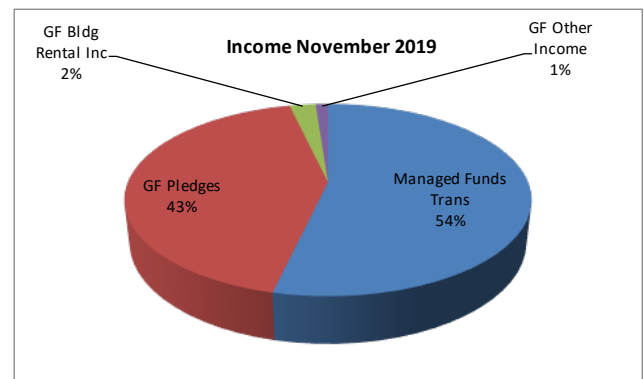
Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, **February 9**, in the sanctuary immediately following the 9:45 worship service. At that time, we will celebrate our 2019 ministry and look forward to what God is calling us to do in 2020. Annual reports will be available on February 2.

Annual Reports

All committee chairs and individuals responsible for reporting on your group's work during 2019 are requested to have your completed reports to Sheila by **January 31**.

November 2019 Income and Expenses



January Birthdays

Carol McLinden.....	Jan. 2
Frank Smith	Jan. 2
Stan Hardy	Jan. 4
Beau Kingore	Jan. 6
Briana Hedlund.....	Jan. 6
Stephen Laker	Jan. 6
Helen Bury.....	Jan. 7
Jessica Sykes	Jan. 7
Devlin Gouty.....	Jan. 11
Esther Williams.....	Jan. 13
David Kizer	Jan. 13
Bobbie McHone.....	Jan. 14
Jim Anderson	Jan. 15
Jean Quick	Jan. 16
Judy Laker.....	Jan. 17
Lisa Cline.....	Jan. 20
Allan Harvey	Jan. 22
Joanne Chacon	Jan. 23
Gary Waller	Jan. 23
Gracee Whitehair	Jan. 26
Carolyn Walser.....	Jan. 29
Sloan Wagner	Jan. 30

January Anniversaries

Linda Curtis & Dan Pentony.....	Jan. 1
Cindy Harris & Patrick Mwichigi	Jan. 9
Rick & Peggy Gibson.....	Jan. 14
Darren & Kelly Whitehair	Jan. 15

Member News

We recently said farewell to Jim and Marge Gilliland, who have moved to Florida to be closer to their daughter. Effective January 2, their new address is: 4006 E. 12th Court, Panama City, FL 32404.



Congratulations to Pam Whitaker. She is the proud grandma to Willow Elizabeth Whitaker, who was born November 21.

Prayer List

This Week's Prayer Needs: Michael Davis, Jr. (*J. Sykes' cousin*); My-
anne Compton; Emma France; Herman Cunningham (*friend of*
Milner's); Suzanne Otterbacher; Linda Ball (*M. Thompson*); Sher-
yl Nelson (*Pastor Ann*); Lisa Taylor; Esther Williams;
Libby Carter (*K. Whitehair's sister*); Karl Steiner
(*Pastor Ann*); Joanne Chacon; Jim Cumbow (*G. Cum-
bow's son*); Brad Larson; James Dixson; Bob and Nan
Coppel (*E. Cornwell's parents*); Jeanette Smith (*F.
Smith's mom*); Kelly's sister; Joyce Varcoeur (*E. Wil-
liams' sister*); John Sant; Sally Masters; Melvin Robinson (*J.
Laker*); John & Jim Stewart (*V. Stewart's sons*); Jack Wiburn (*H.
Bury's son-in-law*); Autumn Schildt; Karen Mullins; Barbara
Stover; Bob Crabb; Ana Amorin (*J. Chacon's daughter*); Morris
Cline (*J. Cline's dad*); Julia Vehlewald (*F. Pancoast's mom*); Jeff &
Cindy Benefield (*B. Royce*); Phronsie Hart (*P. Tarr's sister-in-
law*); Larry Mullins (*L. Cline*); Linda Knoblett (*E. Cornwell*);
Amanda Weaver; Phil Briggs (*D. Briggs' dad*); Tamalyn Cervin
(*H. Bury*); Laurie Keys (*L. Cline*); Bob Mendenhall (*B. Cream-
er*); Michelle Skelton (*B. Creamer's daughter*); John Grygiel (*L.
Curtis' friend*); John McBride (*S. Faulkner's friend*); Wayne Styck
(*K. Delzell's brother-in-law*); Edward Conrad (*Jean Land's father*);
Dave Conner (*V. Stewart's friend*); Leonardo Luchetti (*J. Laker's
great-nephew*); Ramona Barnes (*M. Hardy's friend*); Janet Gale
(*J. Gilliland*); Pat Stevens (*Cornwells*).



Those who mourn: The family and friends of Bill Clinger
(*Pastors Wade and Ann*); Carol Ingram (*G. Milner's cousin*); Jim
Lyons; Heather Dennis; Larry Nixon.

Ongoing: Teresa Andrews; Diane Bales; Kay Barrett (*R. Pan-
coast's sister*); Norma Burch; John Burton (*Cornwells' friend*); Iris
McHone-Chase (*B. McHone's granddaughter*); Pastor Trent Cloin
(*L. Cline's friend*); Carlene Coddington (*Mullins' friend*); Roger
Cornwell; Gary Crisp (*Cornwells' friend*); Wayne Dawes (*L. & J.
Cline's friend*); Mary Dison; Marj Gilliland; Pam Green (*L.
Green's sister-in-law*); Ray Griffith; Mary Jane Johnson (*R. Pan-
coast's sister*); Deronda Kimberlin; Pat Kuhs; Brian Lemenager;
Robbie Lewis; John C. Mason, Jr.; Bob Miller (*C. McLinden's
friend*); Debbie Mullins; Natalie Mullins; Barb Nelson (*S. Towns-
ley's friend*); Kathy Parks; Bob Pyles (*R. Pancoast's brother-in-law*);
Rick Reebee (*S. Townsley's friend*); John Rinkenberger (*E.
Gramm's nephew*); Mel Robinson (*J. Laker's brother*); Jayne Rob-
inson (*J. Laker's sister*); Amie Rodgers; Jake Ruder; Katie
Slezak (*Curtis family*); Denise Smith (*B. Royce cousin*); Lois Ste-
venson; Jack & Wilma Thomas; Meghan Verkler; Carolyn Wal-
ser; Nancy & Charles Winchester; Marjorie Young; Military
Personnel.

FPC Candidate for the Ministry: James Potts, M.Div.

Theological Students: Mary Hoss (*Regent University*); Joseph
Compton (*Moody Bible Institute*).



The Mouse House
All books and greeting cards
are now .25 each!

Report on Presbytery Stated Meeting

November 21, 2019 in Effingham, Illinois

Some of the topics considered at a presbytery meeting probably seem like “housekeeping”—for example, the consideration of revisions to the presbytery manual on parental leave (approved), or changes to the guidelines for pastors to use study leave (approved). On the other hand this meeting featured elections, including the (a) moderator and vice-moderator; (b) members of the General Council; (c) members of the Committee on Representation (COR); (d) members of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), (e) the Synod Commissioner (Pastor Ann Schwartz to serve till 2022), and (f) Commissioners to the 224th General Assembly (St. Louis MO; June 20–27, 2022).

The CPM reported that seven persons are currently under care, including James Potts from First Presbyterian-Danville. The CPM moved that the Preparation for Ministry Book of Order G-2.0607(b) requirement be waived for James. [This requirement states that a candidate for service as a minister of the Word and Sacrament must demonstrate to the presbytery under whose care he is that he has completed an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university.] James does not have a bachelor’s degree—but he successfully completed his Master of Divinity degree from McCormick Seminary and has since served two congregations in a professional, but not an ordained, capacity. The affirmative vote to this motion by the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois now allows James to seek ordination. (And, he has initiated work toward a bachelor’s degree in psychology.)

Financial matters were presented—both expenditures and receipts by Presbytery through September 30, 2019, and a proposed budget for 2020. Progress was reported on the sale of the buildings of three churches that have closed (Argenta, Mt. Vernon, Mt. Carmel). References to declining membership and financial resources throughout the Presbytery were voiced.

During the Worship service, Karen Russell, pastor of First Presbyterian of Palestine Church, preached a rousing sermon on “serving with imagination,” based on Luke 5:36–39, the parable about the problems generated by placing new wine in old wineskins.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Torrey, Commissioner

In the Church Mailbox

Please let everyone know how much I appreciated them joining in the fun card shower for Rick’s birthday. He received more than 50 cards and had a wonderful time opening all of them! We are truly blessed here with new friends and a good church, and yet continue to hold all of you in our hearts and prayers.

Blessings,
Marj Welchans



Mental Health Education

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, provides a free, six-session online education program for parents, caregivers, and other family who provide care for youth aged 22 and younger who are experiencing mental health symptoms. To register for NAMI Basics OnDemand, sign up at basics.nami.org.

Three Cheese Hot Artichoke Dip

- 1 (8 oz) block cream cheese, softened
- 1 c mayonnaise
- 1 (14 oz) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 2 green onions, sliced thin
- 1/2 c grated Parmesan
- 1 c shredded mozzarella
- Dash hot sauce
- Dash Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In large mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese with hand held electric mixer until smooth. Beat in mayonnaise until smooth. Add remaining ingredients and stir until combined. Transfer dip to a pie plate or shallow dish. Bake 30-40 minutes until the top is golden brown and the dip is bubbling. Serve hot with crackers, tortilla chips, bread, or veggies.

(Served for refreshments on December 15.)

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