

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

January 2021

Volume 67, No. 1

Dear Members and Friends,

Truth be told, I am not sorry to bid goodbye to 2020. Almost everything about it was weird . . . and not in a good way. As our luck would have it, the old year's problems and challenges remain with us—pandemic, presidential politics, and polarization, to name a few. Clearly, 2021 is not going to give us a break.

I tend to begin each new year with a sense of curiosity about what will unfold in the next twelve months. After last year, I also possess a healthy dose of foreboding. I typically begin each year with a great deal of hope—that good will prevail, justice will be realized, and we will make meaningful progress as a civilization. To be honest, I am on the fence about some of this. I always begin each year trusting that God will be with us no matter what the year brings, and I am sticking with that.

God will be with us as we continue to make our way through the pandemic. God will be with our beloved family, church family, friends, neighbors, and strangers who are ill. God will be with our Session as we faithfully carry out our responsibilities, including discernment about how best to be/do church in the time of Covid. God will be with us, wherever and however we worship, until we can gather safely in the sanctuary again.

My singular resolution for the new year is to be attentive to God with us, to look and listen for God's presence, leading, inspiration, and grace; the concerns God puts on our hearts; the opportunities God puts in our laps. I hope you will join me in that pursuit this year, in looking and listening for God with us.

Indulge me in one final reflection on 2020. Thanks to each of you who did your part to stay connected with one another—with calls, prayers, and cards. Thanks to each of you who persisted during the early technological frustrations and continued showing up for live-streamed worship. Thanks to each of you who showed up (and still does) at the mid-week Zoom check-ins, not necessarily because you needed it but because others needed you there. Thanks to each of you who mailed in pledges every week or month, confident that ministry was still occurring even though we were not physically in the building.

Thanks to the Session members—Bob Boesdorfer, Becky Briggs, Lisa Cline, Roger Cornwell, Pat dePlace, Claudia Ferrell, Judy Iverson, Ruth Pancoast, Bev Royce, Pat Tarr, Rita Torrey, Matt Smiley—who could not have served during a more demanding year. Despite the stress and the consequential nature of their decisions, they deliberated in a spirit of honesty and graciousness. Thanks to Libby Milner for her service as the Clerk of Session, which included far more computer time than she might have liked! Thanks to Bob Boesdorfer for his tenure as Treasurer, and his clear and patient interpretation of church finances. Thanks to the Deacons—Jim Anderson, Linda Anderson, Anne Binette, Nancy Boesdorfer, Joanne Chacon, Myanne Compton, Doni Duckett, Nancy Grimes, Nancy Hardy, Kolby Riggle, George Schildt, and Diana Szaras—for caring for the congregation by staying in contact, providing transportation to doctor appointments, running errands, and adapting to new circumstances to provide gift cards rather than Christmas baskets to those in need.

Thanks to the worship team—Fred Bahr, Anne Binette, Josh Compton, Kelly Holden, tech subs Becky Briggs, Matt Smiley, and Diana Szaras; and liturgists Becky Briggs, Helen Bury, Bev Royce, and Bob Iverson. With you, worship feels glorious, even in a mostly empty sanctuary. Without you, I'd still be live-streaming Sunday mornings from my kitchen! Thanks to Nick de Place for his labor on numerous projects in the church building and at the retreat site and coordination efforts with contractors. Thanks to Helen Bury for sending cards to so many members and friends. Thanks to the

staff, for whom 2020 was already going to be a stressful year as the Session confronted the need for personnel reductions. To Fred, Anne, Connie, Skilea, Joanie, Amy, Sheila, and Paula, thanks for your service, patience, flexibility, and faithfulness. To Dotty, Beau, and Kelly, we are grateful for all you gave of yourselves to the church during your time on staff.

Grace, peace, and gratitude,

Ann



Worship

Ordination and Installation

The elders and deacons elected by the congregation in the fall will be ordained and/or installed on Sunday, **January 10**. As soon as the worship service in the sanctuary concludes, we will reconvene at 10:30 on Zoom to proceed with the vows and the virtual laying on of hands. Please be there to support and encourage those whom God has called to serve. The Zoom link will be emailed to you by Friday, January 8.

Poinsettias

The following individuals purchased the beautiful red plants that adorned the sanctuary for Christmas week:

Linda Curtis	In memory of Ernie and Rosemary Curtis
Dotty de Torres	In memory of Larry Voorhees
Judy and Bob Iverson	In memory of John and Margaret Mehlic, John and Mercedes Iverson
Judy and Steve Laker	In memory of Thelma Laker
Rita Perry Lampros	In Memory of Don Perry
Bev Royce	In memory of Rosie Newton
Mary Thompson	In memory of Victor and Bobby Thompson

Virtual Worship and Fellowship through February

We will continue to worship and meet online through February, at which time the Session will assess the public health recommendations and the spread of Covid-19 in our area.

Until then, we continue to offer a variety of opportunities for worship and fellowship:

- **Daily Devotions:** A brief time devotion and prayer most weekdays (Monday through Thursday) at **9:45 a.m.** on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCDANVILLE61832>. They can be accessed on the church FB page if you miss the livestream. If you would like paper copies, let Pastor Ann know.
- **Sunday Worship:** We continue to stream the services on the church Facebook page at 9:45. Use this link to connect: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCDANVILLE61832>.
- A recording is posted simultaneously on the First Presbyterian Church, Danville, IL YouTube channel. Access it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjf1HVK8gZCU5Bes4yj08PQ>. If you prefer a paper copy, let me know.

- **Mid-week Check-ins:** We gather on Zoom most Wednesday evenings at **6:30** for a mid-week check-in. The invitation, password, and link are unique to each meeting, and are sent a day or two before.
- **Coffee Talk with the Session:** On the fourth or fifth Sunday of the month (to be determined on a monthly basis), we meet on Zoom for fellowship and to hear from the Session about important news and activities. There will be no Coffee Talk in December.
- **Tech Deacons:** If you need assistance accessing Facebook or Zoom, contact one of the following who can talk you through the basics of getting connected: Anne Binette (217-799-5004), Jason Binette (217-597-3021), Becky Briggs (217-474-9730), Josh Compton (217-516-2897), Matt Smiley (217-799-1039), or Sheila Smiley (217-799-0018).

Members and Friends

January Birthdays

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

January Anniversaries

Linda Curtis & Dan Pentony	Jan 1
Darren & Kelly Whitehair	Jan 15

Congratulations

Sicily Cora Flood, daughter of Kathryn Torrey and Timothy Flood and granddaughter of Rita Torrey, was born on January 1. We rejoice with the family at the great blessing they have received and hope that Rita doesn't have to wait too long to meet her grandchild.

Mission Matters

Calendars Delivered

Thanks to all who donated their extra 2021 calendars. Fifty-five were delivered to the prison last week. May God's healing and care be with each inmate who received one.

Malawi Fundraiser Update

Our Mission Team and Session approved a fundraising goal of \$17,200 toward the Malawi maize mill project. As of the last week in December, we had received \$14,709! If you would like to purchase "shares" in the mill for \$17.20 each, you still have time. Make checks payable to the church, and write "maize mill" or "Malawi project" in the memo line.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

The celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday has been scaled back for 2021 due to the pandemic. There will be no banquet or parade. A small group of planners, pastors, and musicians, including Mary Thompson, Pastor Ann, Fred Bahr, and Kelly Holden, will lead worship at St. James United Methodist Church on Monday, **January 18**, at 11:30 a.m., during which the MLK scholarship recipient will be announced. Due to restrictions on gathering, the sanctuary will be closed to others but the service will be live-streamed for community members on St. James' Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SaintJamesDanville>) and posted on the church's website (<http://www.stjames-umc.com/>).

Outreach to Area Health Care Professionals

You may have noticed that local nursing homes and hospitals have been added to the prayer list. This month the Mission team will be sending letters to all departments at OSF Danville, Carle Hoopeson, and the VA thanking them for their selfless service during the pandemic and letting them know our church is praying for them. Please pray!

Blood Drive

The church will host a blood drive in the gym on **Sunday, February 7**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. You must have an appointment to donate. Please register with Pat Tarr at 217-427-5203.

The need for blood is greater than ever. Circumstances have created a perfect storm for critical shortages—the pandemic, people working from home, blood drive cancellations, and (most of all) increased blood usage by hospitals. Blood donation is safe and has been deemed an essential and critical service that is exempt from most gathering restrictions.

All donors must:

- have an appointment to donate (no walk-ins will be accepted);
- wear a mask throughout the donation process, as will staff (masks will be provided for donors who do not have them;
- bring a picture ID.

The Deacon Board

Deacons' Christmas Gift Certificates

Thanks to all of you who supported the work of the deacons with your pledges and offerings during 2020. And thanks to the deacons for adapting to changed circumstances and planning a faithful and successful distribution of County Market gift certificates.

We received a thank you email from one of the recipients who wrote:

“Hi, I received a gift card and household good from your church . . . Thank you! Sincerely thank you, it was a generous amount and I just left thinking how generous that was of your church to help like that. . . . It will go to good use. I am single with 2 kids . . . Thank you so much. To God be the Glory.”

Emergency Deacon Assistance

A few weeks ago, we were made aware of a family in need. The Brown family in Rossville lost their home and garage to a fire in early December. Family members who were home escaped safely, thanks to the heroic efforts of a passer-by who saw the fire. The family lost everything, including several pets and all their Christmas gifts. The Deacons extended the love of Christ to them with a \$200 gift card to County Market and \$300 gift card to Wal-Mart.

The Session

Session Highlights

The Session met via Zoom on December 15, 2020 for a stated meeting:

- 11 out of 12 elders were present
- Welcomed the elders- and deacons-elect and found them ready to serve
- Set date for the ordination/installation of new officers for January 10 (via Zoom)
- Determined that we will continue with virtual worship/meetings/fellowship at least through February 2021
- Set February 14, 2021 as the date for the Annual Meeting, which will be conducted via Zoom
- Approved a budget for 2021
- Thanked the “retiring” elders for their generous sharing of gifts and time and for their service to the church: Bob Boesdorfer, Lisa Cline, Roger Cornwell, and Pat Tarr

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **February 14, 2021**, at 10:30 a.m. A link for the Zoom gathering will be sent to members and friends a few days before that. This year, we will forego the lengthy written annual report and instead hear brief highlights from Session members, review

the church's finances and hear about the 2021 budget that the Session approved at the December meeting, and vote on the pastor's terms of call (required by the Book of Order).

Memorials

Gifts have been received from the following individuals in memory of

Dick Burch:

Jim & Linda Anderson
Bob & Nancy Boesdorfer
Jeanne Burke
Helen Bury
Robert & Margaret Crabb
Linda Curtis & Dan Pentony
Bill & Sue Garrison
Michael & Karen Gibson
Emily Hamilton
Judy & Stephen Laker
Jacob Lane
Pam Lane & Family
Donald W. & Anna Ray Martin
Kenneth & Mary Nash
Irvin & Diana Summers
Doug Winchester & Family
Nancy Winchester
Kittie Winterhalter

Rosemary Curtis

Ronald & Shara Shaffer

Jean Keefer

Helen Bury
Christopher & Deborah Hosch
William Frerking
Linda Clarno
Lynn Holliger
Lori Gaisford
Patsy Landsdown
Mark & Martha Lindvahl
Ronald Lindvahl
Steven & Cheryl Clapp

Donald Perry

John & Susan Shane

Online Giving

We have two secure options for giving to the church online. You can indicate when you give if you want your offering to go to the general fund, the deacons' fund, or memorials.

- 1) Use the GivePlus Mobile App which you can access from your smart phone. Review [this video](#) (YouTube link) for assistance in setting up an account.
- 2) [Click here](#) to use online giving on your home computer. As with the Mobile App, you will set up an account with your email address and a password.

Church Mailbox

Thanks for Advent bag:

Dear Church,

We were overwhelmed with the Advent packages that we found at our front door! Someone put a lot of time and effort into it all, and we would like to thank everyone.

Carol and Lynn McLinden

Presbytery News

If you are an ordained ruling elder and are looking for a new way to use your gifts of leadership, you might consider applying for the "Commissioned Moderator Program." In the fall of 2019, our Presbytery received a "Rise Up" grant from the Synod of Lincoln Trails for the purpose of training Ruling Elders to serve as Session moderators in local congregations that don't currently have regular pastoral leadership. This is a great need in our Presbytery, and your contribution can help meet that need.

To find out what responsibilities a commissioned moderator will have, access this brochure:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0397dd5fec&attid=0.2&permmsgid=msg-f:1685631594584094516&th=17649101215c3734&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_kihtrjcc1.

If accepted into the program, you will receive all the training and resources that you need as well as ongoing encouragement and support.

If you are interested in sharing your leadership skills and serving the church in this way, fill out the attached application and return it to the Moderator Development Team by **January 15:**

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=0397dd5fec&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1685631594584094516&th=17649101215c3734&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_kihtrjbl0

If you know someone who might be interested, please give them this information and encourage them to consider this opportunity. You can email applications to mdt@psei.net

PC(USA) News

The first female congressional chaplain since Congress was founded in 1789 is a Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament. Last week, retired Navy Rear Adm. Margaret Grun Kibben was appointed as chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives. In that role, she will lead House members in a daily opening prayer as well as other ceremonies. The chaplain also provides pastoral counseling to House members, coordinates the scheduling of guest chaplains, and arranges memorial services for House members and staff.

Rev. Kibben served in the military for more than 30 years. During that time, she was deployed five times, including once to Afghanistan as senior chaplain. She received her DMin (doctorate of ministry) and MDiv (master of divinity) from Princeton Theological Seminary. She also studied national security and strategic studies at the Naval War College. Over the course of her career, Kibben received the Distinguished Service Medal, two Legion of Merit awards, the Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service medals, and three Navy Commendation medals.

Prayer List

Current prayer needs (updated January 4)

Mid Riggle; Lisa Taylor; Caleb Briggs; Becky Briggs; Kolby Riggle; Paula Riggle; Kate Torrey; Richard Frazier (Skilea Hall's dad); Steve Bowler; Janet Martin; Vickie Klein; Jay Cline; Lisa Cline; Carryl Fox; Jan Goodwin; Garicke Rubin (L. Curtis); Chris (Cornwell's friend); Bob Martin; Iris de Torres; Mike Schmitt; Gary Whitson (L. Taylor); Marilyn Williams (N. Boesdorfer); Alannah dePlace (N/P dePlace); Norma Burch; Jean Davidson (G. Cumbow's sister); Fred Pancoast; Keith Sublett (R. Torrey); Vera Weaver (L. Milner); Jean Quick; David Minesinger (S. Creamer's son); Alexandra and Annette Nunez (S. Smiley); Meghan Verkler; Joyce Schmitt; Suse Townsley; Bill Thornton (M. Thompson); Konner Biava (L. Taylor); Joanne Chacon; JB Jenkins; Tom Harrigan; Kasen Middendorf; Mary Thompson; Sam Carey (L. Taylor); Nancy Winchester; George Milner; Jennifer Debenham; Nicole Zoyer (S. Smiley); Jonathan Kanouff (K. Whitehair's nephew); Kendra McClure (B. McHone); Virginia Wiederhirn; Rossi Rennaker (B. and J. Martin); Lindsay (L. Taylor); Holly White (S. Smiley); Linda Pyles (R. Pancoast's sister); Linda Foster (C. Lovell's sister); Frank Jones (R. Cornwell's brother-in-law); Anne Larsen and family (R. Torrey's friend); Steve and Esther Rhodes (B. Creamer); Shirley Creamer; Zoe Luchetti (J. Laker's great niece); Mike McHone; Leah McDowell; Erin Cox (S. Smiley); Lincoln Downing (S. Smiley); Linda Ball (M. Thompson); Esther Williams; Brad Larson; James Dixon; Jeanette Smith (F. Smith's mom); Kelly's sister; Joyce Varcoeur (W. Williams' sister); Sally Masters; Melvin Robinson (J. Laker); Autumn Schildt; Morris Cline (J. Cline's dad); Julia Vehlewald (F. Pancoast's mom); Jeff and Cindy Benefield; Phronsie Hart (P. Tarr's sister-in-law); Larry Mullins (L. Cline); Linda Knoblett (E. Cornwell); Amanda Weaver; Tamalyn Cervin (H. Bury); Laurie Keys (L. Cline); John Grygiel (L. Curtis' friend); Wayne Styck (K. Delzell's brother-in-law); Edward Conrad (J. Land's dad); Leonardo Luchetti (J. Laker's great-nephew); Ramona Barnes (M. Hardy's friend); Pat Stevens (Cornwells)

Those who mourn: the families of Nancy Orlea; Jim Brougher; Roy Smiley; Leah McDowell; Dennis Conner; June Seitzinger; Don Perry; Larry Voorhees; Jean Keefer

Ongoing needs: Diane Bales; Kay Barrett (R. Pancoast's sister); Phil Briggs (D. Briggs' dad); Iris McHone-Chase (B. McHone's granddaughter); Libby Carter (K. Whitehair's sister); Carlene Coddington (Mullins' friend); Roger Cornwell; Jim Cumbow (G. Cumbow's son); Mary Dison; Marj Gilliland; Ray Griffith; Mary Jane Johnson (R. Pancoast's sister); Irma "Slick" Keith; Deronda Kimberlin; Pat Kuhs; Brian Lemenager; Bob Miller (C. McLinden's friend); John Mosser; Debbie Mullins; Natalie Mullins; Barb Nelson (S. Townsley's friend) Suzanne Otterbacher; Kathy Parks; Rick Reebee (S. Townsley's friend); John Rinkenberger (E. Gramm's nephew); Jayne Robinson (J. Laker's sister); Amie Rodgers; Jake Ruder; Katie Slezak (Curtis family); Denise Smith (B. Royce's cousin); Lois Stevenson; Virginia Stewart; Gary Waller; Carolyn Walser; Marjorie Young

Babies on the Way: Zoe and Jake Kaylor (due in May/Pat and Nick dePlace granddaughter); Jessica (Bowler) Watson and Robert Watson (due in March)

New Babies: Sicily Cora Flood, daughter of Kathryn Torrey and Timothy Flood and granddaughter of Rita Torrey (born January 1); Sawyer Pierce Reed, son of Kayla and Brendan Reed and great nephew of Sheila Smiley (born January 2)

Candidate for Ministry: James Potts

Theological Students: Mary Hoss; Joseph Compton

Health Care Workers: the staffs of OSF Danville, the VA, Carle Hoopeston, and all area nursing homes

JANUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
	Live = live-streamed on Facebook Z = Zoom call					Men's Group Charlotte's 8:00
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Worship Live 9:45 Communion	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45		Farmers' Market 9:00
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship Live 9:45 Ordination/Installation Z 10:30 Worship Team Z 11:30	Devotions Live 9:45 Mission Team Z 3:00 Facilities Team Z 5:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Faith Dvlp Z 2:00 Deacons Z 5:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Finance Z 5:00 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	No Devotions		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 MLK Celebration Worship Live 11:30	Devotions Live 9:45 Stephen Ministers Z 1:00 Session Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship Live 9:45 Coffee Talk with Session Z 10:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	No Devotions		
31						
Worship Live 9:45						