

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

October 2020

Volume 66, No. 10

Dear Members and Friends,

As you may recall from the annual meeting in early February, the Session committed during the budget process for this year to significantly reduce costs by the end of 2020. Since personnel expenses are a major component of the budget in this (and nearly every) church, we had to consider current staffing needs, which are different today than they were even a few years ago. We have made some hard decisions.

Effective October 1, the Youth Director and Choral Director positions will be eliminated. We are so grateful for the contributions that Kelly Whitehair and Dotty deTorres have made to the life of this congregation. Since she was hired in September 2012, Kelly has nurtured a generation of First Presbyterian youth, showing them—in word and deed—the love of Christ. She has been a constant presence in their lives, teaching Sunday school, leading youth group, planning fundraisers and fun outings, coordinating the Summer of Service program and Vacation Bible School, and nurturing relationships with and among them.

Dotty has served in her capacity since October 2011, leading choirs, selecting a great variety of music, planning rehearsals, encouraging members and friends to sing, fostering a sense of collegiality among the group that showed up weekly—whether 4 or 14 of them, teaching children to play the chimes, and sharing her own musical gifts on the flute and piano.

There are other changes as well. The Office Manager's hours have been reduced from 40 per week to 30. Once the church building is open again, office hours will be reduced. We will keep you posted on what those are.

Liz Briggs, one of our nursery attendants, has resigned. She's taking classes and working full-time at Arby's. We are grateful for her two years of service. Our other three nursery workers, Amy Iverson, Skilea Hall, and Joannie Hedlund, will be laid off (not paid) until we are worshiping in person and the Session has deemed it safe for us to provide childcare. Beau Kingore, hired as the custodian in 2014, is no longer working at the church. We are conducting a search for a new custodian. Thanks to Sheila for offering to take care of the lawn care duties for the rest of the mowing and watering season.

Because of those losses and changes, things will be different moving forward, particularly when we are back together again in the building. The teams continue to imagine and plan for our youth/faith development and music ministries.

Because we cannot have a formal celebration for these staff members who have given so much to the church, I hope you make the effort to share your thanks with them individually.

Grace and peace,

Ann

Share the Good News with Yard Signs

Tired of the negative messaging in the media . . . and in people's lawns? Tired of partisan politics turned ugly? If you would like to encourage a positive message by sharing good news with your neighbors, you are in luck! The Mission Team (Lisa Taylor, Myanne Compton, Judy Iverson, Diana Szaras, Pat de Place, with Pat Tarr) have designed and ordered yard signs that you can purchase for \$10 (or make a donation in any amount toward the cost). The message is from Micah in the Old Testament:

Do justice
Love kindness
Walk humbly with God

Team members will deliver them to you or arrange to meet you at the church so you can pick one up. Contact Lisa (217-213-8668, taylorle16@gmail.com) or Pat Tarr (217-427-5203, famtarr@nwcable.net) if you would like one or more signs. They can deliver your payment to the church or you can mail it to Paula at church with "yard sign" in the memo line.

Virtual Worship and Fellowship

We will continue to worship online only through October. Toward the end of the month, the elders will contact members to get a sense of your comfort at worshipping in the sanctuary **and** following strict public health guidelines (mandatory masks, social distancing, no singing, no more than 50 people, no fellowship). Then the Session will look at the status of coronavirus infections in Vermilion County (which, sadly, continues to increase) to determine whether or not we can safely, and in good conscience, resume gathering.

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

- **Daily Devotions:** A brief time devotion and prayer Monday through Thursday mornings at **9:45** on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCDANVILLE61832>. They are recorded and available on the church FB page if you miss the livestream. If you would like paper copies, let me 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 on the First Presbyterian Church, Danville, IL YouTube channel immediately following the service. Access it here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjf1HVK8gZCU5BEs4yj08PQ>. If you prefer a paper copy, let me know.
- **Mid-week Check-ins:** We will gather on Zoom on the **first and third Wednesday evenings** at **6:30** for a mid-week check-in. The invitation, password, and link are unique to each meeting, and will be sent a day or two before.
- **Sunday Check-ins:** This month we will start Zooming on the **second and fourth Sundays** at **10:30 am**, immediately following worship, with Coffee Talk now shifting to the fourth Sunday. This new time of gathering will allow folks to join in the conversation who are unable to be there on Wednesdays. While it isn't as satisfying as being in the same room together, it is still a joyful gathering.
- **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).

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. The peace of Christ is part of what our faith offers to us. In God's house, there are people of every background. In God's house, there are people of every race, age and gender. In God's house, people who are different from each other in almost every way live together and seek ways to bring about Christ's peace in every part of our lives.

On **October 4**, World Communion Sunday, we will celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We will celebrate that we are all together at the table, in God's house (even when this season of COVID means we are at separate tables in our own homes). We will celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God with active peacemakers here at home and around the world.

Before worship begins next Sunday, prepare the elements for yourself. Although any kind of bread or cracker will do, and any kind of beverage is appropriate, you are encouraged to use elements that honor of our global connections (rye bread, pita, bagel, tortilla, or rice, for example).

Pastor Ann will set the table in honor of the occasion, and the rest of the liturgy will reflect our connection with Christians around the world who will also be feasting.

Peace & Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. Together we are building God's household of peace where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice.

As a shared offering, your gifts on World Communion Sunday to the Peace & Global Witness Offering support peacemaking in your own community, your own region and places around the world.

Mail to the church by **October 4**. Seventy-five percent will support national and international peacemaking efforts. The remaining 25% will be given to Fair Hope Children's Ministry of Danville, a cooperative effort of several area Methodist churches that provides clothing to children. Please give.

All Saints' Day

On All Saints' Day, which we will commemorate on November 1, we will feature photos of your beloved saints on the screens, whether we are worshipping in the sanctuary or from home. In order to prepare for that, we need your pictures as soon as possible. Please mail them to the church (Attn: Sheila) and include a note with the name(s) of your saints, your relationship to them, and your name. We will return the photos to you.

Advent Devotions

By the first week in October, we will begin seeking volunteers to write reflections for our Advent devotional booklet. The theme of the booklet will be "Waiting, Watching, Praying, and Preparing." Pastor Ann will share the daily texts in an e-pistle and invite folks to sign up by email for one or more to write on.

Congregational Meeting

The fall meeting of the congregational will be held on Sunday, **October 18**, at 10:30 am, immediately following worship, on Zoom, for the purpose of voting on elders, deacons, and members of the 2021 nominating committee. A link for the Zoom meeting will be emailed a few days prior to the meeting. All are welcome to attend; only active members can vote.

Coffee Talk

Following the live-streamed worship service on **October 25**, we will have a Zoom coffee hour and Coffee Talk with the Session. You will receive a link for the Zoom call in the e-pistle with that Sunday's bulletin. Join your church family for conversation and prayer.

Blood Drive

The church will host another blood drive in the gym on **November 8**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Critical shortages continue, so whether you are a regular donor or you've never given blood before,

mark your calendars for the opportunity. We'll provide more information closer to the event regarding COVID-19 safety precautions.

Deacons' Christmas Baskets

This year, instead of purchasing food items and packing Christmas baskets, they will purchase grocery store gift certificates for 100-125 families. The behind-the-scenes work will remain the same. Those who are eligible will receive letters from the church to sign up; they will then get information describing the pick-up process. On the assigned day, small crews of deacons and other helpers will be at church to distribute the gift certificates. For safety's sake, we will forego the coat, toy, and hat/mitten distribution. The deacons encourage your generous giving to the 2020 Christmas ministry. Make checks payable to the church, mail them, and indicate that the funds are intended for the deacons' Christmas event.

Session Highlights

The Session met via Zoom on August 31, 2020 for a called meeting:

- 12 out of 12 elders were present
- Approved proposal from task force on staffing changes/budget reductions to reduce hours for Office Manager from 40 to 30 hours, effective October 1, 2020; to eliminate positions of Youth Director and Choral Director, effective October 1, 2020; to furlough members of nursery staff, effective October 1, 2020; to terminate custodian on September 8, effective immediately, with two weeks' pay
- Declined offer of three houses on Payne Street as gifts to the church
- Approved request by the Danville Farmers' Market to resume use of the gym on the first Saturday of the month, beginning November 7, through April or May 2021, because they are considered an essential service and will use social distancing, masks, and follow Health Department guidelines

The Session met via Zoom on September 22, 2020 for a stated meeting:

- 10 out of 12 elders were present
- Reflected on article titled "Why Congregations Make Decisions That Keep Them Stuck"
- Approved request from The Dwelling Place to file for re-zoning (from residential to commercial) of the lots that the church building and parking lot are on; the additional parcels will remain residential. The church will provide appropriate documentation and pay half of the \$200 filing fee. This action will enable The Dwelling Place to display a sign adjacent to their entrance on the east side of the building and will bring the church into compliance with city zoning guidelines.
- Voted to worship virtually and keep the building closed during October
- Discussed surveying members and friends in late October to determine their comfort level in worshiping in the sanctuary while following approved health guidelines (mandatory masks, social distancing, no singing, limited to 50 people, no fellowship after worship), along with consideration of the status of infections in the county
- Approved final bid by CV Lloyde (\$18,583) for sound system upgrade in the sanctuary. This Old House funds will be used.

Per Capita

Each member of the congregation is asked to pay \$42 for the year's per capita charge. The fees are divided among the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, and support the work of the larger church. So far, 47 individuals have paid their per capita for 2020, totaling \$2,106. What is not paid by members comes from the budget. You may send a check for your \$42 to Paula at the church address; write "2020 per capita" in the memo line.

Financial Support

The Session encourages you to maintain your financial support of the church. We continue to pay staff and all the usual bills during the shutdown. **Mail your contributions to the church.** The post office is holding our mail, which Paula picks up at least twice a week.

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.

October Birthdays

Linda Curtis	Oct 1	Jim DeBoer	Oct 13
Linda Green	Oct 2	Dick Burch	Oct 14
Jim Gilliland	Oct 3	Molly Compton	Oct 17
Bob Martin	Oct 4	Sue Garrison	Oct 18
Joanie Hedlund	Oct 6	Becky Briggs	Oct 19
Tom de Torres	Oct 7	Linda Anderson	Oct 26
Marj Gilliland	Oct 9	Wes Grimes	Oct 27
Fred Bahr	Oct 12	Dave Briggs	Oct 28
Ellen Gramm	Oct 12	Karen Gibson	Oct 29

October Anniversaries

Seth & Julie McHone	Oct 3	Jason & Anne Binette	Oct 23
Ann Schwartz & Wade Meranda	Oct 12	Jay & Elizabeth Tarr	Oct 23
Josh & Myanne Compton	Oct 14	Jim & Marj Gilliland	Oct 30

Thank You Note

What a blessing! I know now what it's like to finally say "I have truly had the Lord come into my life." Yes, I've been coming to our church where I was finally blessed with God's presence in my life. Our church is like one big, happy family full of love, concern, and favors for everything you may need. I love Pastor Ann's sermons; they truly touch my heart. And our services on Facebook with the beautiful music of our organist, Fred Bahr, and our soloist, Kelly Holden, with the most beautiful voice, and our blessed liturgists, who do such a wonderful job.

But there are a couple of things I would like to share with you. When I dial George and Libby Milner's number, he answers the phone and says, "Good morning. Where do you need to go?" My heart and love and blessings go to Rita Torrey, who also takes me places, always picked me up for choir and church. However, this last Monday, September 21, I had to be in Champaign for an EEG for a new test on a new machine for a new doctor to check for seizures and Parkinson's. I'll know the results next week. We had to leave here very early in the morning, and Rita dropped me off, did her errands, and brought me home. She has been a great support. All I can say is "Thank you, Lord," for leading me to a beautiful First Presbyterian Church full of a loving congregation and Pastor Ann, who is loving and caring to everyone. Thank you and God bless you all.

Love, Suse Townsley

Updated Contact Information

Bob and Nancy Boesdorfer have new e-mail addresses:

Nancy: nboes3@gmail.com

Bob: bboes31@gmail.com

Current prayer needs (updated September 26)

Nancy Orlea; Pat Kuhs; Sue Meranda (Pastor Ann's mother-in-law); Meghan Verkler; Carolyn Walser; Joyce Schmitt; Suse Townsley; Bill Thornton (M. Thompson); Konner Biava (L. Taylor); Leah and Gene McDowell; Dick Burch; Gracee Whitehair; Joanne Chacon; Marj Gilliland; Dotty de Torres; JB Jenkins; Tom Harrigan; Kasen Middendorf; Mary Thompson; Dean Tarr; Sam Carey (L. Taylor); Joyce Schmitt; Nancy Winchester; George Milner; Jennifer Debenham; Jacob Sykes; Fred Rinkenberger (E. Gramm's brother); Nicole Zoyer (S. Smiley); Jonathan Kanouff (K. Whitehair's nephew); Kendra McClure (B. McHone); Virginia Wiederhorn; Dee Toole; Jessica Sykes; Rossi Rennaker (B. and J. Martin); Lindsay (L. Taylor); Holly White (S. Smiley); Linda Pyles (R.

Pancoast's sister); Carolyn Walser; Linda Foster (C. Lovell's sister); Frank Jones (R. Cornwell's brother-in-law); Anne Larsen and family (R. Torrey's friend); Steve & Esther Rhodes (B. Creamer); Shirley Creamer; David Minesinger (S. Creamer's son); Zoe Luchetti (J. Laker's great niece); Mike McHone; Leah McDowell; Dave Schroeder; Erin Cox (S. Smiley); Lincoln Downing (S. Smiley); Linda Ball (M. Thompson); Esther Williams; Karl Steiner (Pastor Ann); 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 & 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 family of Wayne Dawes (J/L Cline); Jim Corley; the Amendt family (B. Royce)

Ongoing needs: Diane Bales; Kay Barrett (R. Pancoast's sister); Phil Briggs (D. Briggs' dad); Norma Burch; Iris McHone-Chase (B. McHone's granddaughter); Libby Carter (K. Whitehair's sister); Pastor Trent Cloin (L. Cline's friend); Carlene Coddington (Mullins' friend); Roger Cornwell; Jim Cumbow (G. Cumbow's son); Mary Dison; Ray Griffith; Mary Jane Johnson (R. Pancoast's sister); Jean Keefer; Irma "Slick" Keith; Deronda Kimberlin; Pat Kuhs; Brian Lemenager; John C. Mason, Jr.; Bob Miller (C. McLinden's friend); John Mosser; Debbie Mullins; Natalie Mullins; Barb Nelson (S. Townsley's friend) Suzanne Otterbacher; Kathy Parks; Don Perry; Bob Pyles (R. Pancoast's brother-in-law); Rick Reebee (S. Townsley's friend); John Rinkenberger (E. Gramm's nephew); Jayne Robinson (J. Laker's sister); Amie Rodgers; Jake Ruder; June Seitzinger; Katie Slezak (Curtis family); Denise Smith (B. Royce's cousin); Lois Stevenson; Virginia Stewart; Jack Thomas; Gary Waller; Marjorie Young

Babies on the Way: Scott and Chelsie Hardy (due in September); Bobby and Sara Cornwell (due in November); Kathryn Torrey and Timothy Flood (due in late January); Kayla and Brendan Reed (due in December/Sheila Smiley's niece)

Candidate for Ministry: James Potts

Theological Students: Mary Hoss; Joseph Compton

OCTOBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03
Live = live-streamed on Facebook				Devotions Live 9:45	Men's Group Charlotte's 8:00	
Z = Zoom call						
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Worship Live 9:45 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	Devotions Live 9:45 Facilities Team Z 5:00	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Pastor Ann Synod Meeting Z	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship Live 9:45 Zoom Check-in 10:30 Worship Team Z 11:15	Devotions Live 9:45 Personnel Z 10:00 Mission Team Z 3:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Faith Dev Team Z 2:30 Deacons 5:00 Z	Devotions Live 9:45 Finance 5:00 Z	Devotions Live 9:45		
18	19	20	21	21	23	24
Worship Live 9:45 Congregational Meeting Z 10:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Session Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Evans Riggle Wedding 11:00	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship Live 9:45 Coffee Talk with Session Z 11:00	Pastor Ann Study Leave	Pastor Ann Study Leave	Pastor Ann Study Leave	Pastor Ann Study Leave	Pastor Ann Study Leave	