

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

November 2020

Volume 66, No. 11

Dear Members and Friends,

I started at First Presbyterian Church the week after the 2016 election. At the time, that seemed like the most ugly, contentious, and stressful campaign season in my memory. My goodness, what a naïve assessment that was.

Four years later, 2020 has featured an ugly, contentious, and stressful campaign season *and* the impeachment of the U.S. President; COVID-19; economic instability worldwide as the result of the pandemic; historic wildfires and flooding; a reckoning on racial injustice in this nation stemming from the killing of George Floyd; and a host of other traumas and tragedies. Thus far, 2020 has moved to the top of the list of the most nerve-wracking election seasons (and years in general).

As Christians, we are called to be good citizens and to reflect in our larger social engagement the biblical values we profess to believe. In other words, our faith should inform our politics. And while we do not all agree on every issue (as evidenced by our lively adult education conversations), I trust we all affirm the need to elect leaders and support policies that prioritize the common good, help the needy and most vulnerable among us, protect the Earth that God created, and recognize the humanity, dignity, and value of every person. Above all, Scripture reminds us that we are called to place our trust and hope in the Lord, and not in earthly rulers, political parties, or nations.

The prayer below was written by the Rev. Melodie Long of Waterford, Connecticut and speaks powerfully to this moment:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget us forever?
As this election season comes to a clashing close,
its angry noise has pounded our souls.
We are wounded from the violence—physically, emotionally, spiritually.
And it has been an arduous struggle,
one that appears to have no end even as the voting concludes.
For we know that, no matter the outcome of this election,
there is much ahead as we seek healing for a shattered world,
hope in the midst of despair,
justice that has been horribly derailed,
and peace for our rattled hearts.
The enormity of it all threatens to swallow us whole, Holy One.
Yet you reach out to us with a gentle reminder of who you are.
You pull us out of paralyzing fear,
out of an endless wheel of anger,
out of ourselves breathing hope and life into our war-torn souls.
Even in this time of uncertainty as history dangles at a precipice,
you speak that you are still God and we are still your beloved.
So we pause, we breathe, and we pray.
For our world that is like a whirling dervish of anger and hatred,
we seek a deep peace.
We seek a peace that goes beyond the lack of violence
but one that is borne out of mutual love and respect for all.

For this country,
this exhausted and fragile country,
this wondrous and beautiful country,
show us how we each can become healers, repairers, peacemakers.
For it is only together that we can be the change that is so desperately needed.
Even as we pray for the larger structures of society,
we remember the people, the ones you so lovingly and hopefully created.
As we take our voices and feet to the polls,
make us mindful of the ones who are being discarded,
the ones who hunger physically and spiritually,
the ones for whom poverty has become a cage,
the ones who have been forgotten and dismissed as less-than,
the ones who have been ravaged by a relentless pandemic.
And as we vote, remind us who we are to be.
Let us vote for leaders of wisdom and grace,
who remember the least of these,
who inspire us to be the best of ourselves as you created us to be. Amen.

I hope you will vote if you haven't already, and I hope you will join me in praying for the healing of our painfully divided nation.

Grace and peace,
Ann

Worship

All Saints' Day Communion Service

On Sunday, **November 1**, we will share the Lord's Supper during worship. Those who bless and receive the sacrament at home, please prepare bread of any sort (yes, donuts count) and a cup of juice or wine. Because it is All Saints' Day you may want to set your Communion on a special cloth that reminds you of a saint in your life, use photographs to honor beloved ones or those people you admire, and place small precious objects beside the elements on your table. During the Communion prayer, I will include a reading of the names of your saints that you have provided.

It's Time to "Fall Behind"

Daylight Saving Time ends in the early morning hours of **November 1**. As cynical observers have noted, 2020 may be the first year ever when we are not thankful for an extra hour! That said, remember to set your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday so you are on time for the All Saints' Day service.

Virtual Worship and Fellowship ONLY through November and December

We will continue to worship online through 2020. Because of the high rate of infection in Vermilion County, the Session has determined that this is the most safe and responsible course of action for members, staff, and the community. Church leadership will evaluate local conditions in late December before making a decision about January. To that end, the elders will delay our planned survey of members about your comfort in worshipping in the sanctuary with strict public health guidelines (mandatory masks, social distancing, no singing, no more than 50 people, no fellowship).

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

- **Daily Devotions:** A brief time devotion and prayer most weekday (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 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 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 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. **(This is a change from October, when we alternated between Wednesdays and Sundays, which many folks found confusing.)**
- **Coffee Talk with the Session:** On the fourth or fifth Sunday of the month (to be determined on a monthly basis), we will meet on Zoom for fellowship and to hear from the Session about important news and activities. This month we will Zoom on **November 29 at 10:30 a.m.**, immediately following worship.
- **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).

Audio/Sound Booth Subs

We are grateful to Anne Binette and Josh Compton for their faithful work each Sunday in bringing the worship service to you. They would like to train a couple of individuals who can fill in for them on occasion. Contact them directly for information about what the training and Sunday morning responsibilities entail: Anne Binette (217-799-5004) or Josh Compton (217-516-2897).

The Season of Advent

The Worship and Faith Development teams are preparing Advent bags for every household in the church. The bags will contain the Advent devotionals that members and friends have written, along with other items to provide spiritual sustenance during the season.

Although we will not be worshipping there, the Worship team will put up Christmas trees in the sanctuary so that as you join us for the livestreamed service, you will see that space as you typically do during the month of December.

During worship on **November 29**, the first Sunday of Advent, we will have a modified Hanging of the Greens service so that you can watch as the final decorations are added to the trees and other significant symbols are placed.

Outdoor Christmas Tree Lighting

On the second Sunday of Advent, **December 6**, at 4:00 p.m., we will (as long as it is deemed safe by public health guidelines) have a brief outdoor tree lighting in the parking lot near the sanctuary entrance. The worship team will purchase large-scale outdoor ornaments, which members and friends will be invited to hang on the tree. Also at that service, we will present Bibles to our 5th graders, Olivia Edington, Baron Gouty, Logan Peaslee, and Kaylee Sykes.

Members and Friends

Congratulations

We celebrate the recent weddings of First Presbyterian members. Ashley Peaslee and Baron Gouty were married on October 10. Paula Evans and Kolby Riggle were married on October 24. May God bless their marriages.

Remembering Those Who Have Died

Jack Thomas died on October 12 at Hawthorne. His wife, Wilma, preceded him in death on February 21. Because of COVID, Jack's memorial service will be held in 2021 when family can gather safely. Please pray for their daughter, Vickie Thomas and her family. If you would like to send her a card, her address is: 11207 Avenida De Los Lobos, San Diego, CA 92127.

Election of New Elders and Deacons

During the first ever virtual congregational meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve on the Session, Deacon board, and Nominating Committee:

Ruling Elders, Class of 2023: Linda Curtis, Bill Garrison, Stan Hardy, Bobbie McHone

Deacons, Class of 2022: Rita Adams (completing Nancy Boesdorfer's term)

Deacons, Class of 2023: Eva Cornwell, Dotty de Torres, Karen Schildt, Jessica Sykes

Nominating Committee, Class of 2021: Linda Anderson, Roger Cornwell, Kathy Delzell, Pat Tarr, Lisa Taylor

Thanks to the 2020 Nominating Committee for their discernment: Nancy Boesdorfer, Becky Briggs (chair), Helen Bury, Eva Cornwell, Bob Iverson, Judy Iverson, Bobbie McHone, and Karen Schildt.

Updated Contact Information

Kolby Riggle has a new email address: skippy1148@gmail.com

November Birthdays

Michael Compton	Nov 4	Libby Milner	Nov 17
Mike Gibson	Nov 6	Sharon Black	Nov 19
William Black	Nov 11	Roger Cornwell	Nov 19
Claudia Ferrell	Nov 12	Baron Gouty, Jr.	Nov 20
Meghan Verkler	Nov 16	Pat Kuhs	Nov 21
Nancy Winchester	Nov 16	Margaret Crabb	Nov 27
Anne Binette	Nov 17	Sally Masters	Nov 30

November Anniversaries

Butch and Shirley Creamer	Nov 5
Fred and Ruth Pancoast	Nov 6
Jim and Linda Anderson	Nov 29

Mission Matters

Peace & Global Witness Offering Update

Thanks to everyone who has given to the Peace & Global Witness Offering—\$330 so far. We will receive gifts through October 31. Seventy-five percent supports our denomination's 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.

Blood Drive

The church will host a 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 calendar for the opportunity.

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;
- drink lots of extra water and eat a meal prior to donating.

To register, click on this link [First Presbyterian Church of Danville](#) or call Lisa Taylor (217) 213-8668.

Malawi Fundraiser

Later this month, you will receive an invitation from the Mission team to purchase shares toward the construction of a maize mill by the Dorcas Orphan and HIV AIDS Care group, a ministry of the Mazunda family in Malawi. As many of you are aware, First Presbyterian Church has had a 40-year relationship with the family. Our goal is to raise \$17,200 toward this new project. The good news is that even before the official fundraising has begun, we have received gifts totaling nearly half of that goal!

Join us on **November 29**, following our live-streamed worship service, for our Zoom coffee hour and Coffee Talk with the Session. Members of the Mazunda family will be present on the call to tell us about the maize mill.

Share the Good News with Yard Signs

If we get orders for more yard signs, the Mission team will order another batch. They are available for the low price of \$10 each, if we can order at least 26. The signs feature the words from the prophet Micah: Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God. The message is appropriate any time of year—not just during this combative election season.

Team members will deliver them to you or arrange to meet you at the church so you can pick them 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.

2021 Wall Calendars

This is the time of year when we are all receiving next year's calendars from the places we do business and the organizations to which we donate. If you already have a collection that exceeds your needs, save them for another week or so. We think we have identified a site that can use them. The Mission team will provide more information next week.

Community Ministries

Several area agencies and organizations are appealing for support. If you are looking for ways to invest in the people of Vermilion County, you might consider these:

The Hope Center's annual Evening of Hope fundraiser will be held on Sunday, **November 8, 2020, 6:00-7:00 p.m.** You can join in-person at The Assembly, 428 N. Walnut St., Danville, or on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/hopecenterdanville. You will hear testimonies from those involved at the Hope Center and updates about how they are serving the community, especially during COVID-19. For more information, contact Nathan Lenstra, 217-474-1293.

Fair Hope Children's Ministry, a cooperative effort of seven United Methodist Churches in Vermilion County, is seeking assistance from individuals who can provide money, time, clothing, and supplies. They provide gently used clothing for newborns through youth aged 18 (hats, coats, gloves, shoes, new underwear, socks, and pajamas), layettes for newborns (handmade quilts or blankets, personal care items, and clothing), school supplies, portable cribs to provide a safe sleeping environment for infants, and car seats. Call 217-497-1571 for more information.

The *Project Success After School Program* offers homework assistance, free tutoring, mentoring, snack, hands-on learning projects (computers, cooking, art, science experiments, physical fitness activities), and field trips. Participation is free for students throughout the county and is held primarily at schools. Currently, the North Ridge program will be held at Laura Lee Fellowship House, where ten students can be served in person. The rest of the programming is done virtually on Zoom. If you would like to partner with the organization, you should contact the site coordinator, Lauren McCool, at 217-446-3200 or nrmscoordinator@vcprojectsuccess.org. And tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the program.

The Deacon Board

Deacons' Christmas Gift Certificates

The Deacons request your financial support. In light of the continuing pandemic, the Deacons will adapt the Christmas basket ministry to make it safer for recipients and church members. Instead of purchasing food items and packing Christmas baskets, they will purchase grocery store gift certificates for 100-125 families. There will be no coat, toy, and hat/mitten distribution this year. The costs to provide these gifts will be the same as always, so please give. Make checks payable to the church and indicate that the funds are intended for the Deacons' fund.

The Session

Session Highlights

The Session met via Zoom on October 20, 2020 for a stated meeting:

- 10 out of 12 elders were present
- Determined that we will continue with virtual worship only through the end of 2020
- Approved use of sanctuary on Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. for a safe, socially-distanced wedding service for Kolby Riggle and Paula Evans
- Heard that our Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan has been forgiven
- Approved purchase of new (external) gym doors from Custom Steel for \$3,191.95
- Approved the baptism of Wyatt Smiley for November 8, 2020
- Voted to hire Sheila Smiley to perform custodial duties for up to 10 hours per week at a rate of \$14 per hour on a temporary basis until the building is fully open and staff are back at work

Stewardship for 2021

Recently you should have received a pledge card for 2021 and a letter inviting you to prayerfully consider your giving for next year. Every contribution serves to sustain the health and future of this ministry. Please consider what you can commit to give so that together we can continue to be witnesses to God's light and hope and salvation.

Mail your completed pledge card to the church by **November 20** or call Paula with your pledge. We will dedicate pledges during our worship service on **November 22**. Your commitment and gifts are essential to our being able to serve God in this place.

We now have a secure mailbox at the church, which Paula empties each weekday. Mail is not delivered there on the weekends, so you can be confident that your pledge cards and checks you mail do not sit unattended for days.

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

Dear Church Family,

It was just a little over a year ago I asked for prayers in the face of a cancer diagnosis. The response of love, compassion, and concern I received that Sunday was just the beginning of the support this congregation extended to me. From that day onward, I was surrounded by my "cloud of witnesses" that took me through testings, scans, doctors' appointments, surgery, and radiation therapy. I received cards and calls checking on me and to let me know you were still thinking of me, and when my radiation side effects prohibited me from driving, there were volunteers to take me to Urbana during the beginning of the pandemic!

I went through my surgery and treatment assured in the knowledge that God was with me. There was a feeling of total peace within me because of your prayers. I thank you for all of your support, and I am so thankful that I belong to the family of First Presbyterian Church.

Peace and Grace,
Lisa Taylor

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful plant you sent me in the hospital. Love, Jean Quick

Dear Members and Friends,

I want to thank all of you for the Chimes, also the many nice notes I've received from First Pres. Members. I appreciate the Chimes so much. It helps me keep up with what is happening at church or wherever you meet.

I do miss church but have made good friends here, especially my roommate. I had my 98th birthday last April. Again, thanks so much for notes, etc. I've received.

Very sincerely,
Slick Keith

Prayer List

Current prayer needs (updated **October 28**)

Jean Davidson (G. Cumbow's sister); Dick and Norma Burch; Fred Pancoast; Keith Sublett (R. Torrey); Vera Weaver (L. Milner); Una Hartfield (C. Ferrell); Courtney Doran (C. Ferrell); Laura Meranda (Pastor Ann's daughter); Pat and Trudy Carpenter (D. de Torres); Jean Quick; David Minesinger (S. Creamer's son); Alexandra and Annette Nunez (S. Smiley); 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; Gracee Whitehair; Joanne Chacon; Marj Gilliland; 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 Wiederhirn; Dee Toole; Jessica Sykes; 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; 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 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 **Christina Milner (G. Milner's sister-in-law); Dr. John Mason;** Dr. William Schuh; Jack Thomas; Bob Pyles (R. Pancoast's brother-in-law); Gene Underwood (D. Briggs); Uncle Ed (M. Hardy)

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); 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; 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; Gary Waller; Marjorie Young

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

Candidate for Ministry: James Potts

Theological Students: Mary Hoss; Joseph Compton

NOVEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Worship Live 9:45 Communion All Saints' Day *Daylight Saving Time Ends	Devotions Live 9:45 Facilities Team Z 5:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Deacons 5:00 Z	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45		Men's Group Charlotte's 8:00 Farmers' Market 9:00
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Blood Drive 9:00 Worship Live 9:45 Baptism 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 3:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Finance 5:00 Z Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Stephen Ministry 3:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Session Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Presbytery Meeting Z		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship Live 9:45 Pledge Dedication	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	Thanksgiving		
29	30					
Advent 1 Hanging of the Greens Worship Live 9:45 Coffee Talk with Session Z 10:30	Devotions Live 9:45				Live = live-streamed on Facebook Z = Zoom call	