

The Chimes

February 2020

Volume 66, Number 2

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

One out of three people under the age of 30 self-identifies as “None” when asked about their religious preferences. The Rev. Lillian Daniel is a UCC pastor and writer who has looked closely at the “Nones.” She says they fall into at least four types: the No Longers, No Ways, Never Haves, and Not Yets.

She says the No Longers have drifted from church. Sometimes they come back for weddings or funerals, but not until they feel a lack in their lives.

The No Ways have made a conscious choice to leave, often after being hurt, judged, or condemned by a religious community.

The Never Haves didn’t grow up in the church so have no experience of religious community.

The Not Yets are open and curious and occasionally wander into a church. They may or may not return depending on what they experience when they come. They may or may not understand why we do what we do in worship. They probably do not care so much about doctrine or polity. They likely do care if others introduce themselves, offer to show them around, invite them to coffee hour, smile warmly, speak to their children, or ask if they have any questions about the church, the worship, or our programs.

Those of us who have been in the church a long time often assume that visitors come with church experience. It’s probably not a helpful assumption.

How would you assess our church’s response to people who visit in worship? Or to get really personal, when is the last time you introduced yourself to a visitor, offered to show them around, invited them to coffee hour, or spoke to their children?

We only have one chance to make a good first impression on the Nones—or to anyone else who comes.

How can we do better?

Grace and peace, Ann

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February Meetings

Feb 3	5:00 pm Mission Team
.....	6:00 pm Facilities Team
Feb 4	6:00 pm Deacons
Feb 9	10:45 am Annual Meeting
Feb 10	4:30 pm Personnel Team
.....	6:00 pm Congregational Care Team
Feb 11	2:30 pm Faith Development Team
Feb 12	5:00 pm Finance Team
Feb 16	11:00 am Worship Team
Feb 18	3:30 pm Stephen Ministry
.....	6:30 pm Session
Feb 19	9:30 am Office Staff
Feb 23	11:00 am Coffee Talk with Session

Ash Wednesday Services

While not every church recognizes it as such, Ash Wednesday is an ancient holy day in the Christian church. It marks the beginning of the season of Lent, which has traditionally been a time of contrition, spiritual practice, and renewal.



On Ash Wednesday, we have our foreheads marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes, burned from last year's palms, remind us of our mortality and call us to humility and repentance as we acknowledge our own brokenness and the pain that our individual and collective sin brings into the world.

While it is a somber and serious day, Ash Wednesday is hopeful, in that it reminds us we can start again. No matter how far we have strayed from God, no matter how long we have been away, we can turn around and focus again on God.

This year Ash Wednesday is **February 26**. There will be worship services in the lounge at **noon** and **6:00 PM**. Everyone is invited to a simple supper of soup and bread in the gym at **5:15**.

Communion in 2020

During 2020, we will continue to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month—with the exception of April, when we will gather at the Lord's Table on Easter, which is the second Sunday of the month. An asterisk (*) by the date indicates that Communion will be served by intinction: February 2, February 26* (Ash Wednesday, 12:00 noon, 6:00 PM), March 1, April 9* (Maundy Thursday, April 12 (Easter), May 3, June 7, July 5*, August 2, September 6, October 4* (World Communion Sunday), November 1, December 6, and December 24* (Christmas Eve).

Church Phone Tree Reminder

If Sunday worship services or other activities are cancelled due to bad weather and poor road conditions, the primary notification will come via the phone tree. This number will appear on your phone: 800-679-0847. Make sure the church office has your current number so you get the message.

The Importance of Church Choirs

According to a recent study of national congregations, only 37% of mainline churches and 35% of evangelical churches continue to use choirs regularly in worship.

In an article titled "The Critical Importance of Church Choirs," author Vince Wilcox makes a case for why church choirs still matter.

- 1) Choirs are biblical. The music of worship is referenced often in the Old Testament. The Psalms are hymns, and as a collection, were the song book of the New Testament church.
- 2) Choirs encourage excellence in worship. The choir director and accompanist intentionally select music appropriate to the scriptures and the occasion of the service. Choirs learn the parts and seek to transcend the notes on the page, allowing the song to speak to and through them to the congregation. Faithfully performed music inspires the congregation to praise God.
- 3) Choirs celebrate the human voice and push choir members to grow in their singing and worshiping.
- 4) Choirs can inspire and lead worship, making congregational singing more inviting. A faithful choir points others to God.
- 5) Choirs can be redemptive communities. A healthy choir affirms all its members, not just the "best" singers. The gift of the song is the beauty of the voices together, rather than the individual ones.
- 6) Choirs make people work together. To succeed, choir members yield to one another, listen to each other, and follow the leader's direction—all an antidote to self-centeredness.
- 7) Choirs can encourage musical diversity. Unlike the contemporary music solely used in some churches—most of which was written in the last two decades, most traditional church choirs sing a broader range of musical styles—from Bach to John Bell, from French hymns to early American folksongs, from Hebrew psalms to African American spirituals.



So let's rejoice that we have a gifted choir. Read the summary again . . . maybe you'll be inspired to join!

FPC Youth Ministry Calendar

Feb 2	No Sunday school or youth group
Feb 8	Souper Bowl prep, 10:00 AM
Feb 9	More Souper Bowl prep, 9:00 AM
.....	Sunday school, 10:00 AM
.....	Shining Stars (K-12), 11:00 AM
.....	All youth (5th-12th), 6:00 PM
Feb 16.....	Sunday school, 10:00 AM
.....	God Squad, 6:00 PM
Feb 23.....	Sunday school, 10:00 AM
.....	Cross Guardians, 6:00 PM
Feb 26.....	Soup Supper, 5:15 PM
.....	Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 PM

Shining Stars

Shining Stars will make valentines on **February 9**, 11:00-12:00 noon in the Sunday school room, with Mary Hardy. All children and youth are welcome to come.

Souper Bowl of Caring

More than 30 years ago, Souper Bowl of Caring was started by a church youth group. Their idea was that youth anywhere in the U.S. could raise funds and then give 100% of that money to local agencies/organizations that work to defeat hunger in their communities.

Over **\$150 million** has been collected since Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990.

The youth invite you to celebrate Souper Bowl of Caring 2020 at First Presbyterian. Because Kelly will be out of town on the actual Super Bowl Sunday, our youth group will host their event on **February 9** instead. Everyone is invited to enjoy homemade soups in the lounge following the annual meeting.

Any monies given as a free-will offering will be reported to the national office as our Souper Bowl of Caring. The youth have asked that the funds be given to Dayspring Women's and Children's Center in Danville. Thank you for your continued support of this effort.

Circle Meeting

Lydia Circle will meet at the church on **February 27** at 2:00 PM. Suse Townsley will be the hostess, and Virginia Stewart will give the devotions. Mary Thompson will lead Lesson 2 in the guide, *God's Promise: I Am with You*.

Wednesday Book Group

The Wednesday afternoon book group is thoroughly enjoying *No Stopping Us Now: The Adventures of Older Women in American History* by Gail Collins. Others are welcome to join the conversation. We meet at 2:00 PM.

Contemporary Christian Studies (CCS)

The video study on Islam continues Sunday mornings at 11:00 in the board room. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday Noon Adult Class

The Sunday noon class will finally 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?").

The book itself isn't widely available, but if you would like to join the conversation, we'll try to get more copies. Since we meet at noon, you are welcome to bring your lunch!

Lenten Study

Lent is, among other things, a journey on the way of the cross, a journey of learning how to live Christ's teaching about "taking up the cross" (Mark 8:34-35) for ourselves. To that end, Pastor Ann will lead a six-week study on Wednesdays during Lent titled "Walking the Way of the Cross with Paul." We will look at how the Apostle Paul sought to do that and consider Paul's statements about the cross and its implications for our own lives.



Starting on **March 4**, we will meet at 5:00 PM in the lounge for our discussion and then move to the gym for a light meal at 5:45. A sign-up sheet for meal contributions will be available soon.

Blanket Sunday

This year, we have the opportunity to blanket the world with love! During the month of February, we are partnering with Church World Service, which provides blankets to folks who are homeless; to those who have lost their bedding and belongings in hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and floods; and to emergency shelters where people go who have fled destroyed homes and abusive relationships.

For \$10, you can purchase a blanket, which will be a blessing to the one who receives it. You don't even have to go shopping. Just put \$10 in the CWS offering envelopes in the pews or in the offering plate (make sure you designate it for "Blanket Sunday"). We'll let you know at the end of the month how many blankets we were able to provide.



Blood Drive

Blood supplies in east central Illinois are typically low in January and February, and this year is no exception. First Presbyterian will host a blood drive on **Sunday, February 9** from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Our goal is 16 pints of blood. Pat dePlace is coordinating the event. See her if you would like to register to donate blood.

Christmas Eve Offering Update

Thanks for your generous response to the Christmas Eve Offering. Members and friends gave \$384, which has been sent to Danville's Feed the Children Backpack program.

Mobile Mouse House

New to First Presbyterian Church . . . The Mobile Mouse House! With memorial monies given in remembrance of Rosie Newton, the mission team has purchased an attractive cart that Joyce Schmitt has filled with books, cards, and other items. The cart will be moved to the lounge on Sunday mornings so that members and friends can shop during coffee hour.



Christmas Greetings from the Mazundas

Bob Boesdorfer received this letter recently from Overtoun Mazunda in Malawi, long-time mission partner and friend of First Presbyterian Church:

Once again God has smiled on us this festive season. His love has come down as we celebrate the birth of His son Jesus this day. People of this world are supposed to be United in love. God so loved us that He sent his son that we might not only have eternal life, but learn to love one another and live together in harmony.



As for the Mazunda family, Christmas finds us celebrating together. The children first came together at the tombstone unveiling of their late Mom, Victoria, on December 7, 2019 at the village. James and John traveled from Bay City USA and Rome Italy to join me and their brothers for this event. It was a wonderful reunion.

This reunion gave us a rare opportunity to discuss the future of Dorcas HIV/AIDS Program Victoria was running. She had passion for the less privileged members of our communities and dedicated her time and resources in a way only a few people would equal. Her efforts were complimented over the years by First Presbyterian Church Danville, a long time friend of Overtoun and Victoria coordinated by Bob Boesdorfer, and First Presbyterian Church Bay City where our long time friend Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink was pastor. They donated clothes for the needy, school supplies for children that benefitted through the selected Primary schools. Alan Jordan and Catriona Holmes gave financial donations over the years that have assisted some orphans getting education that has enabled them to contribute meaningfully to the communities and their families. Alan's financial assistance also assisted with some administrative chores and children feeding. Scots Kirk in Paris, France donated a bore hole that was sunk at the Centre that serves the surrounding community well. The Christian family in Paris helped Victoria in various ways. To all of you, the Mazunda family says "thank you" and we look forward to a strengthened relationship as the future unfolds.

While we confess that we can't match the agility and zeal Victoria demonstrated in this work, we resolved at the family meeting and agreed that we shall never allow the beautiful work Victoria was involved in to die. Peter will oversee that work on the ground is going on well, and that reports on progress are submitted to family members and all who take part in this noble cause both in USA and France. In this regard you will be hearing more from Peter and James.

I hope this Christmas finds you in good health as you plan to celebrate the day with your loved ones and neighbours.

With love from the Mazundas

Session Highlights

Session met on January 21, 2020. Following are highlights of their meeting:

- 10 out of 12 elders present
- Elected Bob Boesdorfer as Treasurer, Libby Milner as Clerk of Session, and Rita Torrey as Presbytery Commissioner for 2020
- Approved the 2020 Communion schedule
- Established that the Building an Inclusive Church task force will include Becky Briggs, Tom deTorres, Bob Iverson, Ruth Pancoast, Karen Schildt, Rita Torrey, and Pastor Ann
- Determined that Pat Tarr, Claudia Ferrell, and Pastor Ann will comprise the Mission Statement task force
- Heard updates on the status of the roof repair, fire alarm system installation, and The Dwelling Place
- Discussed plans for upcoming elder retreat

The next stated Session meeting will be **February 18, 2020, at 6:30 PM.**

Coffee Talk with the Session

The next Coffee Talk is scheduled for Sunday, **February 23, 2020** in the lounge at 11:00 AM.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on **February 9** in the sanctuary, immediately following the 9:45 worship service. We will take time to review the Annual Report; copies will be available in the lounge and sanctuary on February 2, and in the office during the week.

In a spirit of gratitude, we will remember 2019—the ministry we did together, the worship we shared, the 190th anniversary we celebrated, and the losses we mourned. Treasurer Bob Boesdorfer will present the 2020 budget, which has been approved by the Session.

All are encouraged to attend. Our Book of Order allows only active members to speak and vote at congregational meetings.

Per Capita

Per capita is one of the ways that all of the congregations in the PC(USA) are connected. Together we mutually share the costs of operating the larger church (traveling/gathering, training pastors and ruling elders, serving in the life of the wider church, and discerning in groups small and large where God is leading us).



The 2020 per capita fee for each member (excluding children who have not been confirmed) is **\$42**, the same as last year. The funds are divided among the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois (\$29.24); the Synod of Lincoln Trails (\$3.81); and the General Assembly (\$8.95).

Funds not paid by individual members must come from the church budget, meaning that less ministry can be done. Please prayerfully consider paying your per capita this year.

Memorial Gifts

The following memorial gifts were received in January:

In memory of Rosie Newton:

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Royce
Dwight and Lynne Ellis



Remembering the Saints

Jaclyn M. Krapf died on December 25, 2019, at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. A memorial service was held at Sunset in Danville on January 3. A private burial service was held for family.

February Birthdays

Dotty deTorres.....	Feb. 1
Pat de Place	Feb. 1
Lynne Ellis.....	Feb. 2
Paula Evans.....	Feb. 2
John Sant.....	Feb. 8
Laura Bowler.....	Feb. 8
John Mosser.....	Feb. 12
Michael Royce.....	Feb. 12
Helen Melzer	Feb. 15
Meg Welchans	Feb. 16
Logan Peaslee.....	Feb. 17
Ashley Peaslee.....	Feb. 19
Jack Thomas.....	Feb. 19
Lily Gouty	Feb. 22
John Jenkins, Jr.....	Feb. 27
Rosemary Curtis.....	Feb. 28
Bev Royce.....	Feb. 28

Congratulations, Mary T!

On January 20, Danville Mayor Rickey Williams presented a Leadership and Community Service Award to Mary Thompson at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., community worship service.

In his remarks about Mary, (and on the plaque he presented her, Mayor Williams recognized her “exceptional leadership and commitment to the MLK Celebration Committee and her devoted service to Danville.”



We couldn't agree more. Congratulations, Mary!

Prayer List

This Week's Prayer Needs: Rosemary Curtis; Margaret Murphy; Mike McHone; Zoe Luchetti (*J. Laker's great niece*); Jim Corley; Kolter Steeples (*G. Cumbow*); Bob Newton; Michelle Newton; Zeppelin Michael Deeken (*R. Pancoast*); Leah McDowell; Dave Schroeder; Erin Cox (*S. Smiley*); Lincoln Downing (*S. Smiley*); J.B. Jenkins; Larry & Becky Cottle (*friends of E. Gramm*); Michael Davis, Jr. (*J. Sykes' cousin*); Emma France; Suzanne Otterbacher; Linda Ball (*M. Thompson*); Lisa Taylor; Esther Williams; Libby Carter (*K. Whitehair's sister*); Karl Steiner (*Pastor Ann*); Joanne Chacon; Jim Cumbow (*G. Cumbow's son*); Brad Larson; James Dixon; Bob and Nan Coppel (*E. Cornwell's parents*); Jeanette Smith (*F. Smith's mom*); Kelly's sister; Joyce Varcoeur (*E. Williams' 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. Creamer*); 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 Carol Ingram (*G. Milner's cousin*); Jackie Krapf; James Mills (*D. Whitehair's cousin*).

Ongoing: Teresa Andrews; Diane Bales; Kay Barrett (*R. Pancoast'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. Pancoast's sister*); Deronda Kimberlin; Pat Kuhs; Brian Lemenager; Robbie Lewis; Jim Lyons; John C. Mason, Jr.; Bob Miller (*C. McLinden's friend*); Debbie Mullins; Natalie Mullins; Barb Nelson (*S. Townsley'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 Robinson (*J. Laker's sister*); Amie Rodgers; Jake Ruder; Katie Slezak (*Curtis family*); Denise Smith (*B. Royce cousin*); Lois Stevenson; Jack & Wilma Thomas; Meghan Verkler; Carolyn Walser; 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*).

Church Mailbox

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your generous donation of \$384 for the Food for the Children Backpack Program. We are so grateful for your gift of love for hungry students in our community. May God's grace be with you.

Sincerely,
Rose Gates, Coordinator

To the congregation,
Thank you so very much for your prayers for my sister-in-law Pam Green. Her 3-year-battle finally ended with mercy, and she is no longer in pain and struggling to breathe. My brother and I appreciate your condolences and find comfort in your caring.
Peace,
Linda Green and John Green



To the congregation,
Thank you all for the generous monetary gift at Christmas, as well as the cards, candy, gifts, and good wishes. I am grateful for the care you extend to your pastor and staff. God bless you all!
In Christ,
Ann

To the congregation,
The church staff would like to thank you for your very generous contribution to our Christmas bonus for 2019. You are a very loving and supporting congregation and we appreciate you all.
Paula

Dear First Presbyterian Church,
On behalf of the Danville-Illiana VA HCS patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of bingo prizes. The veterans thank you. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that we can continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving veterans. Thank you for your continued support.
Sincerely,
Diana Carranza, FACHE, Associate Director

To the congregation,
Many thanks to all for the get well card. It really lifted my spirits!
Carol McLinden

Love INC

**Love In the Name of Christ
Serving Vermilion County**

Love INC is hosting its Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, **February 27, 2020** at 6:30 PM at the Bremer Conference Center at DACC. The featured speaker is Dr. Virgil Gulker, founder of Love In the Name of Christ. He started Love INC in Holland, Michigan in 1977. Vergil was committed to helping people who lacked resources and felt that churches were called to help change lives through the Love of Christ in tangible and transformational ways.



Pat Tarr and Mary Hardy will be hosting tables at the banquet. Please talk to one of them to make a reservation or call 442-7311.

The following is an update about the Love INC Transformational Ministry:

More than 50 people have completed classes such as Faith and Finances, Boundaries, and Affirming Potential. A recent participant realized that her significant other was more focused on his addiction than he was on her. She set rules forbidding drugs in the house. He has since moved out.

Another family learned about financial hardships when they used payday loans. They are now working to eliminate these loans so they can free up money to cover bills and to start an emergency fund.

A graduate from our Faith and Finance Class has become a monthly donor.

Please come to the banquet and help us continue to change lives in the name of Christ.



The Dwelling Place
Of Vermilion County

1st Annual
Celebrate Vermilion
Dinner in the Dark
Gala Event

SAVE THE DATE!

Bremer Center
2000 E. Main Street, Danville
Saturday, April 4, 2020 • 6:00 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
100 N. FRANKLIN ST.
DANVILLE, IL 61832-5795

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