

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

February 2021

Volume 67, No. 2

Dear Members and Friends,

It seems fitting that as we embark on our 2021 Lenten journey, we must continue to fast from our normal way of doing things. A year of masks, social distancing, copious amounts of hand sanitizer, and forced change has left us tired and longing for redemption and freedom. During the 40 days leading up to Easter, we will keep trudging through the wilderness, even as we look with hope toward the resurrection.

During such difficult times, it is crucial for us to rely on our toolbox of spiritual practices. Worship, study, prayer, and fasting are easy to do anywhere. But in the season of Lent, it can be helpful to try something new—or to do something familiar in a new way. To that end, the worship, faith development, and mission teams have created Lent bags that will be delivered to you before Ash Wednesday (February 17). In them, you will find a variety of tools to encourage you in your journey. We invite you to explore the various ways you can experience and practice prayer, service, study, and generosity in your daily lives, as you connect with God.

Grace, peace, and gratitude,

Ann

Staff News

Happy Anniversary

During the January Coffee Talk with the Session, we celebrated Fred Bahr's one-year anniversary as our organist. He first played in worship on January 19, 2020. In a letter to the congregation after Fred accepted the Session's job offer, I wrote that "his big talent, deep faith, and gentle spirit were evident" to the group that interviewed him. A year later I can say with confidence that he has more than confirmed that first impression. Not even a pandemic has diminished his enthusiasm, creativity, or generosity. Every Sunday I am grateful that he is at the organ; I know you are too.

Congratulations to Fred on several other counts as well. He has been promoted to Tonal Director (from Service Department Manager) at Buzard Pipe Organ, his dream job! And Fred was recently named an Honorary Fellow of the Guild of Gay Religious Musicians.

Worship

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a somber and holy day, during which we remember our human mortality. The central practice during an Ash Wednesday service is the imposition of ashes. Because pandemic precautions preclude in-person worship, we will worship on Zoom on Wednesday, **February 17**, at 6:30 p.m. You will receive Lent bags in the days prior which will include a small bag of ashes (burned palm leaves from last year's Palm Sunday fronds) and a Q-tip. During the service, you will be directed to apply them to your own forehead and to others within your household. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper that evening, so please prepare bread and juice or wine ahead of time. A Zoom link for the service will be emailed to you.

Lenten Sermon Series

Pastor Ann will preach on Blessings in the Wilderness during Lent. The sermon texts will be Luke 10:25-42 (Feb. 21); Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (Feb. 28); Luke 15:1-32 (March 7); Luke 16:19-31 (March 14); Luke 18:31-19:10 (March 21); and Luke 19:29-44 (March 28, Palm/Passion Sunday).

Virtual Worship and Fellowship

Opportunities for worship and fellowship in February:

- **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.
- **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>.
- **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 Sunday after most Session meetings, we meet on Zoom for fellowship and to hear from the Session about important news and activities.
- **Tech Deacons:** If you need assistance accessing Facebook or Zoom, contact: 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).

Faith Development

Adult Study

In honor of Lent and Black History Month, and because it is important work we are called to do at this time in the church's and our nation's history, we will begin an adult study on **February 7** titled "Anti-Racism as a Spiritual Practice." We will gather on Sundays at noon on Zoom (although we won't meet on Feb. 14). Our text for the class will be *No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice*. The books have been ordered already, but if you would like to join the dozen folks who have committed to the conversation, please contact Pastor Ann.

Use this Zoom link for each of the Sunday classes (it will be in the weekly e-pistles too):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85923737714?pwd=WkRGQzVERlB5TGFSVExPTEYnpWdz09>
Meeting ID: 859 2373 7714 / Passcode: 758926

One tap mobile +13126266799,,85923737714#,,, *758926# US (Chicago)

Members and Friends

February Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Dotty de Torres | Feb 1 | Helen Melzer | Feb 15 |
| Pat de Place | Feb 1 | Logan Peaslee | Feb 17 |
| Paula Riggle | Feb 2 | Ashley Gouty | Feb 19 |
| Lynne Ellis | Feb 2 | Lily Gouty | Feb 22 |
| Wyatt Smiley | Feb 5 | JB Jenkins | Feb 27 |
| Laura Bowler | Feb 8 | Bev Royce | Feb 28 |
| John Mosser | Feb 12 | | |
| Mike Royce | Feb 12 | | |

Congratulations

Carly (Delzell) Musselman has received the Outstanding New Social Worker Award from the University of Illinois. Carly is a School Social Worker at South View Upper Elementary School in Danville's District 118. She attended the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, and then transferred to the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education in 2010. In 2020, Carly received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Mission Matters

Medical Debt Mission Project

Right now, about \$1.7 million of medical debt is owed by people living near or below the poverty level in the 44 counties of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois, of which First Presbyterian is a

member. The debt does not come from bad decisions; it comes from seeking life-saving medical care. With medical debt on their credit reports, our neighbors cannot get jobs, rent homes, qualify for loans, or buy cars. Medical debt locks people into poverty.

Our Presbytery has decided to demonstrate Christ's love to our neighbors in a concrete way. Over the next several months, we hope to raise \$17,000 and partner with RIP Medical Debt (ripmedicaldebt.org/), one of several organizations seeking to forgive debt instead of collecting it. They pool money from donors to buy medical debt, which is then forgiven with no tax consequences for the donors or recipients.

Every \$10,000 donated to RIP Medical Debt can abolish \$1 million worth of debt. That means if we as a Presbytery raise \$17,000, we can wipe out much of southeastern Illinois's \$1.7 million of medical debt. That comes out to be \$216.19 for each of the 79 PC(USA) churches in our region, or about \$3.40 per member.

Our church will collect these funds during February and until March 10. Every congregation is being invited to participate. The offerings during the spring Presbytery meeting worship services have also been designated for the effort. Make your checks payable to the church, with "RIP Medical Debt" in the memo line and send them to Paula. The mission team thanks you and will keep you posted on the Presbytery's progress!

Malawi Fundraiser Update

Thanks to your generosity, we have surpassed our \$17,200 goal for the Malawi maize mill project. As of the end of January, we had received \$19,079. Amazing! For the next few weeks, we will gladly receive your gifts, which will go toward the mill's operating expenses. Make checks payable to the church and write "maize mill" or "Malawi project" in the memo line.

Coffee Sale

If you are a coffee drinker, you can get your daily fix of caffeine and support the Malawi mission project. We still have a few bags of freshly roasted coffee that was grown on the Mazunda property in Malawi. The coffee (whole beans or ground) is \$35 per 12-ounce bag. Proceeds will support the operating expenses of the Dorcas Maize Mill Project. You can either pick up your purchase at Lisa Taylor's home or she will deliver. Make your checks payable to the church.

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. Currently only 8 donors have signed up, but our goal is 15 pints of blood. If you are able, please call Pat Tarr at 217-427-5203 to make an appointment.

All donors must:

- have an appointment to donate (no walk-ins will be accepted);
- wear a mask throughout the donation process;
- bring a picture ID.

The Deacon Board

The 2021 Deacon Board includes: Rita Adams; Jim Anderson; Anne Binette; Joanne Chacon; Myanne Compton; Eva Cornwell; Dotty de Torres; Doni Duckett; George Schildt; Karen Schildt; Jessica Sykes; and Diana Szaras (moderator). We thank them for their service.

The Session

The 2021 Session is: Becky Briggs (chair, Worship); Linda Curtis (Personnel); Pat de Place (Mission); Claudia Ferrell (chair, Faith Development); Bill Garrison (Finance); Stan Hardy (Facilities); Judy Iverson (chair, Facilities); Bobbie McHone (chair, Mission); Ruth Pancoast (Finance); Bev Royce (Treasurer, Finance and Worship); Matt Smiley (chair, Finance); and Rita Torrey (chair, Personnel).

Session Meeting Highlights

The Session met via Zoom on January 19, 2021 for a stated meeting:

- 12 out of 12 elders were present

- Elected Libby Milner as the Clerk of Session for 2021; Bev Royce as the Treasurer, and Rita Torrey as the Presbytery Commissioner
- Discussed Session goals for 2021
- Reviewed plans for the annual meeting (Zoom) on February 14
- Determined that we will offer the use of the gym to the Vermilion County Health Department if they need more space for administering Covid-19 vaccines
- Accepted bid from Xcell for \$4,000 to create overflow traps on the boilers
- Proposed reducing monthly rent for Big Brothers Big Sisters to \$250 since they will only be using two upstairs rooms instead of three
- Approved proposal from Mission Team to sell coffee from Malawi as an additional fundraiser for the Dorcas Maize Mill Project
- Approved communion schedule for 2021
- Approved Zoom worship for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday and livestreamed worship for Good Friday

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting will be 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

First Presbyterian Church will receive approximately \$50,000 from the trust of Grover and June Seitzinger. Grover died on September 27, 2019, and June died on December 5, 2020.

The gift stipulates that we establish the June R. Jackson-Seitzinger and Grover L. Seitzinger, MD, Endowment Fund. Half of the *income* from that endowment fund is designated for organ maintenance and half for Session-approved youth programs. We may not use the principal.

Let us give thanks to God for the lives, witness, and legacy of Grover and June.

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.

Presbytery News

The next Presbytery meeting will be held on Thursday, **February 11**, 6:00-8:30 p.m. on Zoom. In order to accommodate the schedules of commissioners who work during the day, the Presbytery has planned two evening meetings during 2021. Although only clergy members of Presbytery and elected elder commissioners can vote, other members and friends are welcome to attend. You must register on the Presbytery website at <https://www.pseillinois.org/> to receive the Zoom invitation.

Church Mailbox

Dear Pastor and Church Members,

Thank you for all your prayers and cards you have sent to me. Lord bless you all! I really appreciate belonging to a church that is concerned about its members. . . .
Love my Lord and Church, Esther Williams

Prayer List

Current prayer needs (updated February 1)

Molly Anderson (B. McHone); Tim Prunkard (J. Laker); Larry Lawson (L. Curtis); Jim Gilliland; Helen Bury; Richard Frazier (Skilea Hall's dad); Darlene Millsap (P. Priestersbach's mom); Meghan Verkler; Mark Thompson (P. Tarr); Julia Vehlewald (F. Pancoast's mom); Rachel Riggs Rosendahl; Patsy Stevens and family (E. Cornwell); Kate Torrey; George Schildt; Mid Riggle; Lisa Taylor; Caleb Briggs; Becky Briggs; Kolby Riggle; Paula Riggle; 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); 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); Brad Larson; James Dixon; Jeanette Smith (F. Smith's mom); Kelly's sister; Joyce Varcoeur (E. Williams' sister); Sally Masters; Melvin Robinson (J. Laker); Autumn Schildt; Morris Cline (J. Cline's dad); 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 Sarah Stidam (L. Curtis); Gene Bates (R. Torrey); Nancy Orlea; Jim Brougher; Roy Smiley

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; Esther Williams; 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)

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

FEBRUARY 2021

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 |
| | Devotions Live 9:45 Mission Team Z 3:00 Facilities Team Z 5:00 | Devotions Live 9:45 | 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 |
| | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Worship Live 9:45 <i>Communion</i> Adult Study Z 12:00 | Devotions Live 9:45 Personnel Team Z | Devotions Live 9:45 Faith Dvlp Z 2:00 | Devotions Live 9:45 Finance Z 5:00 Midweek Check- in Z 6:30 | Devotions Live 9:45 Presbytery Meeting Z 6:00- 8:30 | | |
| | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Worship Live 9:45 Annual Meeting Z 10:30 Worship Team Z 11:30 | Devotions Live 9:45 | Devotions Live 9:45 Stephen Ministry Z 1:00 Session Z 6:00 | No Devotions Ash Wednesday Service Z 6:30 <i>Communion</i> | Devotions Live 9:45 | | |
| | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 1 st Sunday in Lent Worship Live 9:45 Coffee Talk with Session Z 10:30 | Devotions Live 9:45 | Devotions Live 9:45 | Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check- in Z 6:30 | Devotions Live 9:45 | Synod Meeting 1:00 Z | |
| | 28 | | | | | |
| 2 nd Sunday in Lent Worship Live 9:45 Adult Study Z 12:00 | | | | | | |