The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

March 2021

Volume 67, No. 3

Dear Members and Friends,

We last worshiped together in the sanctuary on March 22, 2020. Remember how strange it was in the weeks leading up to that day? We had stopped shaking hands and hugging during the passing of the peace and had put hand sanitizer in the pews, thinking we could keep the germs at bay. News about the spread of coronavirus dominated our screens, but it seemed so far away. Still, there was a sense of foreboding.

In mid-March, we were hearing about a state shutdown. The Session made the decision to close the building and move to virtual worship and meetings. Wade and I made a quick trip to Bloomington on March 21 to celebrate our daughter Samantha's birthday, not knowing when we would see our daughters again. The not knowing, the uncertainty of it all was hardest for me. It still is.

Writer and adventurer, Blair Braverman raced and completed the 2019 Iditarod, the 1,000-mile dogsled race in Alaska. In a recent interview (on Kara Swisher's podcast, "Sway"), she shared what she has come to know about resilience from the challenges of enduring under difficult and unknown circumstances:

"So the similarity between the pandemic and mushing [a team of dogs pulling a sled in the snow] is that you don't know how far you're going, and you don't know how much it will take to get there. Every time I harness up my dogs, and they're barking, and they run out of the yard and onto the trail, they don't know if they're going two miles or if they're going 200 miles. They do not know. They're just going to run, and they'll tire themselves out if I don't slow them down, because they aren't able to see ahead.

"So, in order to get my team to endure something of an incredible distance, I need to force them to rest before they want to. And that's actually the hardest thing. People ask us how we teach sled dogs to run. And the answer is, you literally put a harness on them, and they run. You don't have to teach anything, but you do have to teach them to rest, and that is a challenge. It is a lot easier to prevent fatigue than to recover from it.

Just to bring that back to the pandemic, what I would just say is, people are pushing themselves really hard. And you need to make sure that you're acting as if it could go forever. You need to be resting, taking care of yourself, getting enough sleep, connecting with your friends. All these things are things we feel like we can push to later. But if you get too isolated or scared or any of these things, it's just going to be so hard to undo."

So for those of you who are pushing to accomplish your usual tasks, are sleeping poorly, are easily distracted and anxious, are often unmotivated, and/or are exhausted, take a lesson from the dogs . . . and stop pushing yourself so hard! Rest your bodies, minds, and spirits. We are still in the midst of a pandemic, a stressful and seemingly endless disruption of normal.

Even as we line up for vaccines and persist with the mask-wearing, we also ought to care for ourselves in other ways—because it's Lent, because we're tired, and because we are God's beloved and limited children.

Grace and peace,

Ann

Worship

A Word from Our Organist

It is hard to believe that I have already been playing the organ at First Presbyterian Church for a whole year. In answering questions for Pastor Ann and Becky Briggs in my annual review last Sunday I was reminded once again of some of the many things that have made it such a notable year for me. I would like to share just one of those with all of you.

In the few short weeks before the pandemic altered our routines so drastically, I enjoyed working with Dotty and getting to know the choir members. Accompanying them on the organ or piano warmed my heart. An even greater joy came from helping you, the whole congregation, raise your voices in hymns of praise and prayer. Through the months that we have continued to worship together through the communication technologies available to us, it has been my great privilege to continue making music for the services. Even though I cannot physically hear any of you who sing along with Kelly and me, I still listen to you with my heart and know that the Divine One receives our worship as a congregation.

I miss seeing you! And even through these difficult times I believe that our faith, compassion and dedication are continuing to grow deeper day by day.

-Fred Bahr

Daylight Saving Time

Thankfully, many of our devices (phones, tablets, and computers) will automatically move the time forward as Daylight Saving Time begins on **March 14**. But if you have electric or battery-operated watches and appliances that need to be re-set, remember to do that before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13.

Holy Week Services

Color the palm frond in your Lent bag in time for our Palm Sunday service on **March 28**. We will remember Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem in the midst of a joyous parade and the betrayals and grief that were also a part of that day. Like

Our **Maundy Thursday** service on **April 1** will begin at 6:30 on Zoom. We will commemorate Jesus's last supper with his disciples with communion, so prepare your elements before the service begins. The Zoom link will be sent to you early in the week of March 29.

The worship team will live-stream the **Good Friday** service from the sanctuary on April 2 at 6:30 pm.

Easter Flowers							
Easter Lily: \$15 x	Hyacinths: \$15 x		Tulips: \$15 x				
Flowers will be ordered for the chancel and steps from Danville Floral. Mail your order form with a check payable to the church by March 22.							
Your name:	Phone:						
Flowers in memory of (please prin	nt name/s):	Flowers in honor of (ple	ease print name/s):				
I will pick up my flowers the	week after Easter.	I do not want my flo	owers after Easter.				

Virtual Worship and Fellowship

Opportunities for worship and fellowship in March:

- 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).

Staff News

Happy Anniversary

Sheila Smiley's 13-year work anniversary was February 18. Congratulations!

Members and Friends

March Birthdays

Jeff James	March 1	Joyce DeBoer	March 14
Jason Binette	March 1	Bill Garrison	March 15
Nick dePlace	March 4	Bob Boesdorfer	March 23
Jean Land	March 5	Mary Boggess	March 27
Jacob Sykes	March 9	Glee Cumbow	March 28
Everly Gouty	March 10	Elizabeth Briggs	March 30
Seth McHone	March 12	Niki Royce	March 30
Jay Tarr	March 13	Ruth Pancoast	March 31

Congratulations

Jean Land has been promoted to Nutrition Services Supervisor and Coordinator of the Recognized Diabetes Program at Carle. We celebrate that her professional excellence and leadership skills have been recognized!

Mission Matters

Medical Debt Mission Project

Our church has joined the presbytery-wide effort to cancel \$1.7 million of medical debt burdening our friends and neighbors in the 44 counties that make up the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. We are partnering with RIP Medical Debt (ripmedicaldebt.org/), one of several organizations that pools 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. So far, Paula has received \$452, which actually exceeds the goal of \$216.19 from each of the 79 churches of our region. However, I encourage you to give during the next couple of weeks if you haven't already, so that we can move our presbytery closer to helping more people. Make your checks payable to the church, with "RIP Medical Debt" in the memo line, and send them to Paula.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of

Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

The OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. We will receive the traditional Easter special offering until the end of April. You will find more information on OGHS in your Lent bag, including an offering envelope and a fish coin bank, along with a daily calendar of suggestions for collecting your coins. You can mail your checks to Paula at the office with "OGHS" in the memo line. And if you are saving coins, you can drop off your fish bank at the church.

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. What is not paid by members must come from the General Fund. Please send a check for your \$42 (per member) to Paula at the church address. Write "2021 per capita" in the memo line.

Love INC Invitation

On Sunday, March 21, 2021 Love INC of Vermilion County will host their **Annual Fundraising** event. Due to the COVID restrictions currently in place, this year's event will be the **UN-banquet**.

Instead of gathering at the Bremer Conference Center, you are invited watch the UN-banquet video program from the safety and comfort of your home. You will hear testimonies from partner ministries, supporters, volunteers, and neighbors whose lives are being transformed. John Ligtenberg, Love INC National Board member and longtime Executive Director of Love INC of the Black Hills, will be the keynote speaker (via video).

The fundraising goal for this year's event is \$30,000, which is strictly for current operating costs to provide much-needed services to clients. Since they won't be renting a venue, paying a caterer, or buying decorations, a greater portion of the funds raised will be used to empower families and transform the lives of our neighbors in the name of Christ.

You can be part of the Un-banquet by:

- recording a short video on your phone our computer to share why Love INC is important to our community, why you give, or how serving has impacted you. Let them know if you would like to share and they will help you get it to them by March 11:
- going to the Love INC office to record a video with a professional videographer;
- hosting a watch party of the UN-banquet in your home or church;
- asking your friends to join us to watch the video and donate to Love INC;
- sending your check of support, payable to Love INC to 533 S Bowman Ave, Danville, IL 61832.

Malawi Fundraiser Update

Thanks to your generosity, we have surpassed our \$17,200 goal for the Malawi maize mill project. We have now received \$19,532.80. The funds beyond our initial goal will go toward the initial operating expenses of the mill. Thanks to all who contributed. We look forward to reports and pictures from the Mazunda family on the progress of the mill's construction.

Coffee Sale

There are 7 bags of whole coffee beans and 3 bags of ground coffee from Malawi remaining. The coffee that was grown on the Mazunda property in Malawi. The bags are \$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 next blood drive is scheduled for **July 25**. Mark your calendars. Registration information will be available later in the spring.

Community Agencies and Organizations Seeking Support

If you are looking for worthwhile local fundraisers to support, here are a few suggestions from the Mission Team:

- Donate money or gift cards appropriate for youth to the Juvenile High Risk Alternative Court Program, which helps non-violent court-involved youth to build healthier futures through equine therapy, drug and alcohol counseling, and assistance with school issues. The rewards are given by the Judge based on the youth's progress in the program. Send donations to: Vermilion County Probation, 7 N. Vermilion St., Fifth Floor Courthouse, Danville 61832. Contact Lisa Depratt, Juvenile Supervisor, at 217-554-7933 or 217-260-7125 with questions.
- The goal of Safe Families for Children is to keep kids safe and out of the foster care system and to help families stay together. When parents become homeless, lose their jobs, are hospitalized or go to rehab, and there is no extended family to care for their children, volunteer host families provide temporary care. The organization is looking for host families, volunteers to provide support and encouragement, and monetary donations. For more information, contact Molly Goodwin at 217-304-3074, or visit the national website at www.safefamilies.net.

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); 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 February 16, 2021 for a stated meeting:

- 10 out of 12 elders were present
- Approved the Annual Statistical Report submitted to the denomination
- Discussed article on Courageous Leadership, particularly during a time of great uncertainty and strain on churches
- Cancelled February 21 Coffee Talk with the Session since the annual meeting was Feb. 14
- Offered feedback on annual meeting and annual report and approved keeping the report small (under 20 pages) for future years
- Reviewed financial reports and found everything in order
- Discussed importance of RIP Debt Relief mission project and encouraged members to give \$3.40 per person
- Approved having Linda Anderson and Roger Cornwell serve as congregational representatives to the Personnel Team
- Voted to continue virtual worship and gathering through March and to reassess at the next Session meeting
- Prayed for the congregation, family and friends, and those around the country impacted by the dangerous weather conditions

Memorials

During January and February, we received the following memorial gifts:

In memory of June Seitzinger: Helen Bury, Kathy Delzell

In memory of **Nancy Orlea**: Helen Bury In memory of **Dick Burch**: Kathy Delzell

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 <u>this</u> <u>video</u> (YouTube link) for assistance in setting up an account.
- 2) <u>Click here</u> 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 stated meeting of the PSEI again was held by Zoom call. At least 76 persons were in attendance. The meeting opened with prayer, led by Moderator Rev. Heidi Weatherford.

The first 40 pages or so of the 51-page docket dealt with a consent agenda, mainly to provide information generated by committees and ministry teams.

The Committee on Ministry presented Toby Montgomery, who grew up in First Presbyterian Church, Mattoon, as an Inquirer to Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. He is presently Youth Director at FPC-Mattoon and is taking courses at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. He also helped lead the worship service held at the end of the stated meeting.

Presbytery-wide concerns include the following:

- At present 39/79 congregations need to have moderators appointed and/or trained to conduct Session meetings.
- Eleven PSEI churches did not pay their per capita contributions in 2020.
- PSEI expenses for 2020 were brought down from 2019, and they will need to be brought down further in the next 5 years—barring unforeseen increases in revenue. Both savings and membership are declining.
- To address this possible shortfall, the General Council is recommending that two positions— Stated Clerk (SC) and Presbyter for Congregational Care (PCC)—be combined into one position. (At present the SC and PCC are each appointed for a 65% of a full-time position.)

PSEI will have a called meeting on April 15 to move forward with a job description for this new position. The position will be advertised, and it is hoped the job search can be completed by August or September. It is also possible that an interim person could be selected for this position while PSEI evaluates where God is guiding us into the future.

Jason Schiller made the telling point that just downsizing isn't the answer. It is worth considering that the PSEI should be searching ways to use its financial resources for Mission.

The meeting concluded with a communion service led by Rev. Rachel Matthews. Participants were encouraged to send their offering to Rest in Peace Medical Debt (www.ripmedicaldebt.org), an organization that buys debts and then forgives them with no tax consequences for the donor or recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Torrey, Commissioner

Presbytery Listening Sessions

As the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois prepares for major changes in our staffing structure with the elimination of the two current part-time executive staff positions and the creation of a new, full-time leadership position, members of the PSEI are invited to attend upcoming "listening sessions" to ask questions, provide input on the new position description, and express concerns. Members of General Council will host the sessions on ZOOM on **Saturday, March 13 at 11:00 am**, and on **Sunday, March 21 at 3:00 pm**. The Zoom link and phone numbers are the same for both sessions: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81776333750?pwd=MWwyQlViWGJDSU51aGpyS244UWJGdz09

Meeting ID: 817 7633 3750 Passcode: 292922

One tap mobile +13126266799,,81776333750# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Church Mailbox

For food donations during Advent:

Dear Members of First Presbyterian,

Your donation of food to The Dwelling Place is greatly appreciated. Our mission cannot be met without the support of the community. The children, men, and women we serve are the benefactors of your gift. It is their well-being that your donation will strengthen. On behalf of those we serve, we thank you for your generosity, your kind heart, and your caring spirit for those in need in our county. Thank you!

The Dwelling Place Board of Directors

For Peace & Global Witness Offering funds:

To the members of First Presbyterian Church,

We want to thank you so much for your generous donation of \$115 to Fair Hope Children's Ministry. With your support and kindness we are able to continue helping our children in need in Vermilion County.

God bless.

Paula Meece, Fair Hope Children's Ministry

Prayer List

Current prayer needs (updated March 2)

Glenn Murray (F. Bahr); Coltly Long (L. Milner); Jay Willett (K. Delzell); Shara Shaffer; Anna Shaffer (L. Curtis); Suse Townsley; Nancy Winchester; Dotty de Torres; Jean Quick; Molly Anderson (B. McHone); Tim Prunkard (J. Laker); Larry Lawson (L. Curtis); Jim Gilliland; Helen Bury; Richard Frazier (Skilea Hall's dad); Meghan Verkler; Mark Thompson (P. Tarr); Julia Vehlewald (F. Pancoast's mom); Patsy Stevens and family (E. Cornwell); Mid 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; Mike Schmitt; Gary Whitson (L. Taylor); Marilyn Williams (N. Boesdorfer); Alannah dePlace (N/P dePlace); Norma Burch; Jean Davidson (G. Cumbow's sister); Vera Weaver (L. Milner); David Minesinger (S. Creamer's son); Alexandra and Annette Nunez (S. Smiley); Joyce Schmitt; Bill Thornton (M. Thompson); Konner Biava (L. Taylor); Joanne Chacon; JB Jenkins; Tom Harrigan; Kasen Middendorf; Mary Thompson; Sam Carey (L. Taylor); George Milner; Jennifer Debenham; Nicole Zoyer (S. Smiley); Kendra McClure (B. McHone); Virginia Wiederhirn; Rossi Rennaker (B/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); 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); Brad Larson; James Dixson; Jeanette Smith (F. Smith's mom); Joyce Varcoeur (E. Williams' sister); Sally Masters; Melvin Robinson (J. Laker); 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; 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 Mary Thoma Day; Tom Stone; Sarah Stidam (L. Curtis)

Ongoing needs: Diane Bales; Kay Barrett (R. Pancoast's sister); Phil Briggs (D. Briggs' dad); Iris McHone-Chase (B. McHone's granddaughter); 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: Liz Briggs (twins due in June); 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

MARCH 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 Deacons Z 5:00	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	13
3 rd Sunday in Lent Worship Live 9:45 Communion 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		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
th Sunday in Lent Worship Live 9:45 Worship Team Z 11:30 No Adult Study	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Stephen Ministry Z 1:00 Session Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Office Staff Meeting Z 10:30 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5 th Sunday in Lent Worship Live 9:45 Coffee Talk with Session Z 10:30 Adult Study Z 12:00	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Live 9:45 Adult Study Z 12:00	Holy Week No Devotions	Holy Week No Devotions	Holy Week No Devotions No Midweek Check-in	Holy Week No Devotions Maundy Thursday Service Z 6:30	Holy Week No Devotions Good Friday Service Live 6:30	