

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

April 2020

Volume 66, No. 4

Dear Members and Friends,

As you can see, the format of The Chimes is different, just like everything else these days. This shorter version with a simpler layout using software I have at home saves several of us from having to go to the church to create, print, fold, and mail it. Most of you will get this as an electronic version attached to the e-pistle; we'll only mail hard copies to folks who are not online.

As a new month begins, I am struck by how much has changed since mid-March. It seems like we've been sheltering in place for longer than 11 days. The learning curve for all of us has been steep. I hope you've been able to acknowledge how stressful it can be to experience such a seismic shift in our way of living, even if you are—like I am—safe and healthy at home with plenty of food to eat, books to read, and loved ones close by, physically or electronically. And I hope you're finding ways to extend ample doses of grace to yourself and others when you are frustrated, short-tempered, frightened, weary, or grieving.

The word “essential” has become part of our daily lexicon. “Essential” employees are limited to those whose work keeps us safe, healthy, and fed—nurses, doctors, and other health care workers; police, fire fighters, and EMTs; grocery store staff; postal/Fed Ex/UPS delivery people; fast food restaurant employees; and a few others. For those of us in lockdown, only “essential” travel is allowed—to doctor appointments, the gas station, and the grocery store.

Yet for many of us, being able to express our faith through worship and gathering with our church community is essential too. Here's how we're making that possible for you during April:

Daily Devotions: Starting April 1, I will offer a brief (5-6 minute) devotional **every weekday** at 9:45 a.m. on Facebook. You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch the video. Go to this link <https://www.facebook.com/FPCDANVILLE61832> at 9:45 for a reading, tiny reflection, and prayer. It will be recorded and available on the church FB page if you miss the livestream.

Sunday Worship: We will continue to gather remotely for worship through April, including for Holy Week and Easter. We're using the church's Facebook page to stream the services (with profound apologies for the effort this past Sunday). If you have a Facebook page or if you do not, you can still watch the video. Go to this link (same as the one above) at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCDANVILLE61832> and worship along with us.

For at least the next couple of Sundays, a small crew and I will “do” the service from the sanctuary in the hope of avoiding the sometimes unstable internet connection at my house and other technical challenges. If you sleep through the service, a recording will be posted on the First Presbyterian Church, Danville, IL YouTube channel immediately following the service. Here is the link for that: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjf1HVK8gZCU5BEs4yj08PQ>.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship: Because these are generally quiet and intimate services, our Maundy Thursday worship on **Thursday, April 9, at 6:00 p.m.** and Good Friday worship on **Friday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m.** will be Zoom calls. I will send an invitation and instructions for those next week, and if you want to attend either or both, you will click on the links provided.

Mid-week Check-ins: We had a good turnout at last Wednesday's mid-week check-in and will plan to do that each Wednesday evening at 6:30. I will send an invitation early each week, and if you want to attend, click on the link provided.

Tech Deacons: If you are struggling with accessing Facebook or Zoom, be patient and contact one of the following people for assistance: 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).

Financial Support First Presbyterian: We expect the coming months will be a challenge for many financially. We expect that may be true for the church too. If you can continue your financial support, that will help us pay the staff, and support the ministries that support people. For now, you can mail your contributions to the church. (The post office is holding our mail, which is picked up by staff every few days). As always, we are spending wisely, but we still have some fixed expenses, just like each of us does at home.

Self Care in the Age of COVID-19: According to today's news, the first case of the virus has been diagnosed in Vermilion County. So, if you haven't been following CDC guidelines about washing hands and social distancing, I implore you to take that advice seriously. Remember that people who are not symptomatic may still have the virus and are able to spread the disease when they don't know they have it. The best way to prevent or slow down the spread of infection is to stay away from other people.

Other suggestions for your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health:

- Partner with another person—friend, neighbor, family member, church friend—with whom you covenant to be in regular contact by phone, email, or text for the next months. Pray with and for each other. Talk. Listen.
- Send notes/cards to people who may feel especially isolated due to the restrictions—folks who live alone, whose families are not close by, or who have underlying health issues that put them at high risk.
- Send cards, emails and texts to those in the congregation who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. (The April lists are on page 3 of this document.)
- Wash your hands as a spiritual discipline. Say the Lord's Prayer as you wash them for at least 20 seconds.
- If you are able, go on prayer walks around your neighborhoods, praying especially for those who may be vulnerable or ill.
- Remember those who may face food insecurity due to school or work closures, financial strain, or other factors. Deliver groceries if that is possible for you. Donate to Meals on Wheels or other non-profits that are feeding people.
- Practice kindness and patience when you are in public spaces. Offer encouraging words to health care, retail, restaurant, and delivery workers who interact with the public regularly.

- Form a prayer circle with a group from FPC and agree to be praying at a specific time each day in your own homes for common concerns.
- Send cards of love and reassurance to children and youth in our congregation.
- Post Scripture passages, encouraging quotes or messages on your Facebook feed. Pay attention to responses.
- Use some possible extra time you might have to clean out a closet or room and donate items (after the pandemic) that others could use.
- Spend time outside in God's creation, six feet apart from other people.
- Take pictures and share on social media the ways you are connecting with others.
- Should any of you in the congregation contract the coronavirus, please let Pastor Ann know so that I can help to provide special support for you. My cell phone is 217-781-3622. If you have any pastoral care concerns, please text or call me directly rather than leaving a message at church.

April Birthdays

Jeanne Burke	April 1	Nancy Orlea	April 11
Mark Mullins	April 1	Virginia Wiederhirm	April 12
Skilea Hall	April 1	Collin Lomax	April 12
Tom Wagner	April 2	Justine Whitehair	April 15
Emma France	April 2	Marlene Edwards	April 16
Irma "Slick" Keith	April 5	Lee Miller	April 17
Kelly Whitehair	April 6	Nancy Boesdorfer	April 20
Norma Burch	April 6	Jan Goodwin	April 24
Don Perry	April 11	Matt Smiley	April 25
Jennifer Debenham	April 11		

April Anniversaries

Mike and Bobbie McHone April 28

Joys

Lisa Taylor had her 32nd and final radiation treatment today! Let's continue to pray for her recovery and renewal!

Thank You

Thanks for your thoughts and prayers as I have been dealing with neck pain.—Paula Priestersbach

Grace and peace,

Ann

APRIL 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
Live = live-streamed on Facebook	Z = Zoom call		Devotions live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 FPC Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
<i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> Worship live 9:45 Youth Group Z 6:00	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45 Session Z 7:00	Devotions live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 FPC Check-in Z 6:30	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> Devotions live 9:45 Worship live 6:00 <i>Communion</i>	<i>Good Friday</i> Devotions live 9:45 Worship live 7:00	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Easter</i> Worship live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 FPC Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship live 9:45 Youth Group Z 6:00	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45 Session 7:00	Devotions live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 FPC Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45	
26	27	28	29	30	01	
Worship live 9:45 Youth Group Z 6:00	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 FPC Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions live 9:45	Devotions live 9:45	