

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

May 2020

Volume 66, No. 5

Dear Members and Friends,

Here we go again . . . another month of living in this alternate pandemic universe. Not one of us has been untouched by it, which I find oddly comforting. Mutual experiences tend to bring people together, even as we react to and feel them differently. There was a sense of that at a national level back in March, but with some states now opting to “re-open,” we may have moved on from our moment of shared sacrifice.

If you need the affirmation, know that you are doing this hard thing with dignity, grace, and courage. We are all learning as we go, the church included! But I am grateful for your efforts to embrace the changes, stay connected by whatever means you can, and support and encourage one another and me. We don’t know what life and church and normal will look like on the other side, but we will figure that out when we get there.

Yesterday afternoon (Thursday, April 30, 2020), Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-32 updating his previous “stay at home” order. The full text of the updated order can be found online at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-32.aspx>

The basic requirements remain the same:

- With exceptions as outlined [in the executive order], all individuals currently living within the State of Illinois are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence except as allowed in this Executive Order;
- No in-person gatherings of more than 10 people;
- When traveling outside the home for essential activities or when in a public indoor space (like a store), individuals must wear a face covering if they are medically able to tolerate one;
- Maintain physical distancing of at least six feet between people;
- Regularly wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer;
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your arm;
- Regularly disinfect high contact surfaces; and
- People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including elderly people [previously identified as those over age 65] and those who are sick, are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.

There was an addition to the section on leaving the home for essential activities which includes being permitted “to engage in the free exercise of religion.” This section does not remove the basic requirements and recommendations of the Executive Order. Here is the specific text pertaining to that:

5. Leaving the home for essential activities is permitted. For purposes of this Executive Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following

Essential Activities, and must follow the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in this Order, including wearing face coverings when in public or at work:

vi. **To engage in the free exercise of religion.** To engage in the free exercise of religion, provided that such exercise must comply with Social Distancing Requirements and the limit on gatherings of more than ten people in keeping with CDC guidelines for the protection of public health. Religious organizations and houses of worship are encouraged to use online or drive-in services to protect the health and safety of their congregants.

This change is in addition to the existing exception for “Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities” while they are engaging in those activities.

The Session will meet again on May 12. As has been our practice, we will continue to be guided by the Centers for Disease Control guidelines and other science-based best practices in determining how we can safely be church and love our neighbors. We will keep you informed.

Grace and peace,

Ann

Being Church in May

- **Daily Devotions:** I will continue to offer a brief (5-6 minute) time of devotion and prayer **every weekday** 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. It is recorded and available on the church FB page if you miss the livestream.
- **Sunday Worship:** We will gather remotely for worship again this month. We’re using the church’s Facebook page to stream the services. Whether or not you have a Facebook page, you can still watch the video. Go to this link at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCDANVILLE61832>. A recording is 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>.
- **Mid-week Check-ins:** We have a good turnout every Wednesday for the mid-week check-in at 6:30 p.m. I send an invitation and password early in the week, and if you want to attend, click on the link provided and provide the password if it’s requested. FYI: the invitation, password, and link are unique to each meeting, so you can’t use the ones from previous gatherings.
- **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).

Session Highlights

The Session met via Zoom on April 7, 2020:

- 10 out of 12 elders were present on the call;
- Voted to not observe Holy Communion on Easter Sunday and to wait until such time as it is safe to re-convene in the sanctuary;
- Heard that the roof on the education wing has been replaced;
- Concrete work outside gym door is scheduled for May;
- Empowered Treasurer Bob Boesdorfer to apply for the Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program loan;
- Heard that the youth mission trip to St. Louis has been cancelled by the host organization.

The Session met via Zoom on April 21, 2020:

- 12 out of 12 elders were present on the call;
- Reviewed financial reports and heard updates on numerous major repairs (primarily to the boiler);
- Heard that our per capita payment has been paid for the year (instead of in quarterly payments);
- Began discussion on how we can safely re-open the church (at least for worship) once the stay-at-home order is lifted and determined we will wait for more information and clarification of the expected extension of the governor's executive order.

Financial Support

We continue to pay staff and all the usual bills during the shutdown. The Session encourages you maintain your financial support of the church. **Mail your contributions to the church.** The post office is holding our mail, which is picked up by staff every few days.

Quarterly Giving Statements

Paula is mailing the first quarter giving statements today. If you have questions about yours, call her at (217) 493-8621.

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. Write "2020 per capita" in the memo line of your check and send it to Paula at the church address.

Small Business Administration/Payroll Protection Program Loan

At the April 7, 2020 meeting, the Session voted to apply for a Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program loan. Congress established this loan as an incentive for employers to retain (and pay) their staffs as the economy is disrupted due to the coronavirus pandemic. We learned this week that we have been approved for a loan of \$50,780 at an interest rate of 1%. The repayment period for the loan is two years, and payments are deferred for 6 months. If the funds are used for salaries and utilities, the loan will be forgiven. We have not yet received the money but anticipate it will be deposited in our account within the next couple of weeks.

Memorials

In recent months, memorials have been given in honor of:

Rosemary Curtis

Jim and Linda Anderson
Bob and Nancy Boesdorfer

Judy and Steve Laker
Janet and Bob Martin

Dick and Norma Burch
Jeanne Burke
Helen Bury
Cheryl and William Bequette
Bob and Margaret Crabb
Dale and Susan Surratt
Stan and Mary Hardy
Jerry, Marlene, and Dana Edwards

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Grygiel
Rachel Circle
Richard and Mary Jane Johnson
Mike and Bev Royce
Diana Szaras
Mary Thompson
Wayne and Vickie Styck

Wilma Thomas

Carol Ann Bornhorst
Dick and Norma Burch
Helen Bury
Bob and Margaret Crabb
Linda Curtis and Dan Pentony
Jan Goodwin

Kim and Charles Hall
Dorothy Pearson
Bob and Sandra Rudolph
Twyla Thomas
Von and Brenda Lambert

Margaret Murphy

Arby's Lunch Bunch
Dick and Norma Burch
Helen Bury
Stan and Mary Hardy

Martha Jane Christy and Thomas Dilts
Janet and Bob Martin
Janet Prast-Meeker
Jean Quick

Steve Faulkner

Jim and Linda Anderson
Bob and Nancy Boesdorfer
Helen Bury
Linda Curtis and Dan Pentony
Stan and Mary Hardy

Jon and Kendra Cole
Judy and Steve Laker
Janet and Bob Martin
Mike and Bev Royce

Congratulations, Graduate

Carly Delzell is graduating from the University of Illinois with a Master of Social Work degree this month. She has accepted a Social Worker position with Danville District 118 starting in the fall. Like all 2020 grads, she will miss out on her (in-person) commencement ceremony. Let's show her our love and congratulations with cards, notes, and good wishes. Send snail mail to Carly at 706 Florida, Danville 61832, or email her: carlynicole85@gmail.com.



Update from Overtoun Mazunda

Bob Boesdorfer shared this letter he received recently from Overtoun Mazunda:

Greetings from Ekwendeni,

Ever since the state President of Malawi declared a state of disaster for the Malawi nation as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, schools and colleges were suspended, teachers sent away to work from their homes but the freedom of movement was not interrupted. Big gatherings were prohibited even church services of over 100 people which is very common here were also discouraged. Life for ordinary people was affected negatively. Civic education on the same in the villages was not taking root as quickly as one would wish. A week ago the President announced a lock down to start in four days. This announcement was met with big resistance from the ordinary people. A court injunction was taken by one of the rights groups which the High Court judge says that it will be determined next week Wednesday. I don't know what the end result will be.

However, despite the difficulties we are facing as a country, I am glad to report that health wise am doing well. I hope we shall be able to return to school once this Covid-19 has disappeared. We continue to pray for its quick disappearance. Walinase and his family are taking good care of me and I am thankful to God for him.

How are you? We watch on the news that you have also been hit hard by the same pandemic. Our prayers are equally with you.

Do remember me to all our friends around Danville.

With all our love,

Overtoun

May Presbytery Meeting Update

Given the current conditions and the recommendations regarding gatherings of groups, the Presbytery's General Council postponed the May Presbytery meeting to June 4. Instead of being held at Camp Carew, however, we will meet by Zoom.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Offers Building Resilience Webinars



These one-hour programs for both faith leaders and general audiences are designed to increase participants' understanding of their own signs of stress and to teach in-the-moment tools to engage the relaxation response in body and mind. These webinars are designed for faith leaders and anyone responding to the COVID-19 situation and will engage participants in responding to questions and prompts to help create a personalized self-care and resilience-building plan. Those attending will build on their experience while practicing new tools that have been shown to be effective in sustaining our capacity to serve in the midst of challenging circumstances. These webinars have been pre-recorded and are available to view at your convenience. Visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/esc-webinar/> for more information.

Online Art Class

If you have an inner artist who's urging to break free, join Wendy MacNaughton's 10:00 a.m. PST drawing class. Her primary audience is children, so I strongly urge you home-schooling parents to check it out. However, if you are an adult with a deep-seated lack of confidence about your artistic abilities, Wendy is encouraging and fun. She is live on Instagram and posts later on YouTube. Each class is 30 minutes long and FREE. For more on Wendy's work, generally, go here.

May Birthdays

Meagan Schildt	May 2	Caleb Briggs	May 24
Kolby Riggle	May 11	Robert Crabb	May 24
Andrew Torrey	May 14	Rita Adams	May 26
Caitlin Whitehair	May 16	Virginia Stewart	May 31
Janice Kain	May 21		

May Anniversaries

Bob and Janet Jenkins	May 2
Mike and Joyce Schmitt	May 7

Grace and peace,

Ann

MAY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			29	30	01	02
Live = live-streamed on Facebook	Z = Zoom call		Devotions Live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Worship Live 9:45 Youth Group Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Mission Z 3:00 Facilities Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45 Worship Team Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship Live 9:45 Youth Group Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Faith Development Z 2:30 Session Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship Live 9:45 Youth Group Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Finance Z 5:00	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship Live 9:45 Youth Group Z 6:00	Memorial Day	Devotions Live 9:45 Session Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Staff meeting Z 10:00 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	
31						
Pentecost Worship Live 9:45 Youth Group Z 6:00						