

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

July 2020

Volume 66, No. 7

Dear Members and Friends,

You are undoubtedly aware that as of June 26, most of the state of Illinois moved to Phase 4 in the “re-opening” plan. Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed; most restaurants, bars, and stores have opened; and childcare sites and schools are able to restart under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. More churches are resuming in-person worship too, with varying degrees of compliance to safety recommendations.

Here is what we know from public health experts about the risk of infection from the coronavirus:

- Interacting with *more people* raises your risk.
- Being in a group with people who are not social distancing or wearing cloth face masks increases your risk.
- Engaging with *new people* (e.g., those who don’t live with you) raises your risk.
- Some people have the virus and don’t have any symptoms.
- The closer you are to other people who may be infected, the greater your risk of getting sick.
- Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces because it is harder to keep people apart and there is less ventilation.
- Spending *more time* with people who may be infected increases your risk of becoming infected.
- Spending *more time* with people increases *their* risk of becoming infected if there is any chance that you may already be infected.

At our June Session meeting, we discussed—as we have at every session meeting since March—when and how we can worship safely in the sanctuary. With guidance from the Vermilion County Health Department, presbytery/denominational staff, and our insurance company, the worship team established a list of “best practices” that would allow us to gather with the least risk (since no risk is not possible):

- Require everyone to wear a mask
- Keep services under 45 minutes
- No bulletins, hymnals, pew Bibles, or passing the plate for the offering
- No hugs, handshakes, or physical contact
- No congregational singing
- No choir
- No congregational recitation (responsive/unison readings)
- No nursery or Sunday school
- Limit the service to 50 people (includes Ann, Fred, Kelly, Josh, Anne, and liturgist)
- Require people to register to attend
- Practice physical distancing in the sanctuary (6 feet between family groups)
- Discourage folks who are at high risk (over age 65 and anyone with high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised) from attending

- No fellowship time after worship

The Session's consensus was that while these restrictions are necessary, their implementation would diminish our worship experience. The things we miss the most right now—greeting one another with hugs and handshakes, singing hymns and praying the Lord's Prayer, gathering for coffee and cookies after worship—are among the highest-risk activities. We cannot do them right now.

For that reason, the Session determined that most of us can experience a richer, fuller worship at home than we could together and voted to continue with online worship only—at least through July. We will reassess again at the end of the month.

All of us are deeply disappointed that we must wait longer to gather in the sanctuary. We hope and pray that within the next four weeks, folks everywhere will act responsibly and the emergence of cases in Vermilion County and throughout the nation will begin to decline. Join us in praying for clarity, healing, and patience as we discern next steps.

The pandemic has changed things. We cannot “go back to normal,” and that is a loss for us to grieve. This new reality is heartbreaking in so many ways. I pray for the session and for each of you and know that we will move forward in faith and with trust that God is with us, even as we worship from home, mourn the distance that separates us, and long to be together again.

Grace and peace,

Ann

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

This Sunday, **July 5**, we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper during our live-streamed service. Before worship begins at 9:45, prepare the elements for yourself and those with whom you are worshipping. Any kind of bread or cracker will do, and any kind of juice or wine (or water, if that's what you have) is appropriate. Follow along in the communion liturgy following the sermon. You will know what to do! For those of you who do not or cannot watch the service on a device, I will include the full liturgy in the bulletin you receive in the mail so you can take communion too.

This will be a first for us. The worship team and I would value your feedback about celebrating the sacrament this way.

Being Church in July

- **Daily Devotions:** A brief time devotion and prayer will continue **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. If you cannot access the devotions on a device and would like copies, let me know; I send them to a number of people every week.
- **Sunday Worship:** We will have “virtual 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>. If you cannot access the worship service on a device, let me know; I am happy to mail you a copy of the sermon every week.

- **Mid-week Check-ins:** We continue to have a good crowd on Wednesdays 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).

Blood Drive

Together with the Central Illinois Community Blood Center (CICBC), we will host a blood drive in the gym on **Sunday, July 26** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The goal is 16 pints.

The need for blood is greater than ever. Circumstances have created a perfect storm for critical shortages—the pandemic, people working from home, blood drive cancellations, and (most of all) increased blood usage by hospitals.

The CICBC is skilled at hosting blood drives, even during the COVID-19 crisis. Blood donation is safe and has been deemed an essential and critical service that is exempt from most gathering restrictions. The staff will take several extra precautions to ensure that donors (and staff) remain safe and healthy.

All donors must:

- have an appointment to donate (no walk-ins will be accepted);
- wear a mask throughout the donation process, as will staff (masks will be provided for donors who do not have them);
- bring a picture ID;
- drink lots of extra water and eat a meal prior to donating.

To register, click on this link [First Presbyterian Church of Danville](#) or call Lisa Taylor (217) 213-8668.

Virtual Camp Carew

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Presbytery's in-person camp season has been cancelled, but they have created a virtual camp. There is no cost or tedious registration process. Simply access Camp Carew's website here for daily Bible studies, singing, crafts, exercise, and nature study:

http://campcarew.org/virtual/welcome.php?fbclid=IwAR1HRoY11rVWI236dIqfmmnQWt2ojnbymbZWBGgeOuTr_3nxBmrD3SToDPGs

Outside Jobs at Church

Unfortunately, the weeds at church keep growing even though we aren't there to see them! If you have time and patience, the Facilities Team would like you to adopt an area to take care of. There are some other tasks that need to be done too (see below). If you would like to

volunteer, contact either Judy Iverson (217-260-2684) or Nick dePlace (217-497-9410) for instructions and/or materials.

- Paint exterior of new boiler room door (Nick)
- Paint exterior of sanctuary doors (Nick)
- Apply Roundup to retreat site drive (Nick)
- Trim bushes in parking lot and around the church (Judy)
- Weed flower beds (Judy)
- Inspect spruce trees for bagworms (Judy)

Session Highlights

The Session met via Zoom on June 16, 2020:

- 9 out of 12 elders were present on the call
- Discussed guidelines to safely return to worship
- Voted to worship virtually and keep the building closed during July
- Approved Mission Team's recommendation to pursue a church-wide mission project to support the Dorcas Orphan and HIV AIDS Care Group founded by Victoria Mzunda in Malawi
- Approved allowing second floor tenants and AA to return to the building starting July 1, 2020, as long as they are able to comply with session guidelines
- Heard about water damage to floor at west end of the day room in the basement (The Dwelling Place) and insurance claim that has been filed
- Affirmed Pastor Ann's request to take vacation July 10-24

Special Offering Update

Gifts to the Pentecost Offering totaled \$575. Thanks to everyone who gave to support ministries for children, youth, and young adults. The Session designated our local 40% (\$230) to Danville's Feed the Children Backpack program. The remaining 60% has been disbursed to denominational programs.

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. So far, 47 individuals have paid their per capita for 2020, totaling \$2,106. What is not paid by members comes from the budget. You may send a check for your \$42 to Paula at the church address; write "2020 per capita" in the memo line.

Financial Support

The Session encourages you to maintain your financial support of the church. We continue to pay staff and all the usual bills during the shutdown. **Mail your contributions to the church.** The post office is holding our mail, which Paula picks up at least twice a week.

Online Giving

If mailing a check is too much trouble, we now have two safe and 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. Attached are written instructions and Questions and Answers and/or you can 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.

Memorials

In June, memorials were given in honor of:

Rosemary Curtis

George & Libby Milner

Charles Winchester

Dick & Norma Burch

Helen Bury

July Birthdays

Deronda Kimberlin	July 2	Nona Jackson	July 16
Ann Miller	July 3	Doni Duckett	July 18
Jay Cline	July 4	Myanne Compton	July 20
Nancy Grimes	July 5	Keaton Binette	July 25
Matthew Miller	July 13	Jessica James	July 25
Kaelyn Miller	July 13	George Milner	July 26
June Seitzinger	July 14	Judy Iverson	July 28
Butch Creamer	July 16	Elliot France	July 29

July Anniversaries

Jay & Lisa Cline	July 3	Matt & Sarah Smiley	July 25
Jeff & Jessica James	July 19	Tom & Dotty de Torres	July 28
Jim & Joyce DeBoer	July 22		

Presbytery Report

The May stated meeting of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois (PSEI), originally scheduled for May 14 at Camp Carew, was held by Zoom call on June 4, 2020. At least 89 persons were in attendance. Meeting by Zoom shortened the typical meeting time by several hours, complied with social distancing rules during the COVID-19 pandemic, and demonstrated opportunities to present important materials by video.

After opening remarks, the meeting was opened with prayer, and a considerable amount of the agenda was presented for consent only. Three main topics were presented for discussion:

- (A) The Mt. Vernon Administrative Commission (AC) was dismissed with thanks. The Session of Mt. Vernon and the AC started work in November 2017 to explore the future of this congregation. Final actions included selling the building to the Mt. Vernon YMCA, the initiation of a “nesting” arrangement with the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon for use of their worship space, and rental of the Lutheran parsonage as an office for the Presbyterians. Rev. Joannie Naraghi is now serving the congregation as Session Moderator and Covenant Pastor.
- (B) Crisy Ennen was affirmed for ordination on June 21, 2020. She has been called to serve First Presbyterian Church of Gulf Shores, Alabama.
- (C) Regarding Camp Carew, the General Council recommended (omitting here all the legalese):
 - that the PSEI grant and transfer all title, right, and interest in Camp Carew and all assets and property owned by PSEI to Kemmerer Village (KV) on January 1, 2021.
 - that all gifts, restricted gifts, endowments and the like given to Camp Carew be used by KV as specified by the donors.
 - that any obligation of the PSEI to the US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, which owns the land on which Camp Carew is located, is vacated. KV will then make its own arrangements with the FWS service.

- that the Presbytery dissolve the Camp Board December 31, 2020.
- that the position of Camp Director be dissolved December 31, 2020.

For further details go to <https://www.pseillinois.org/presbytery-meeting> and read through the docket for the June 4 meeting.

Three delegates were elected to attend General Assembly, which will now be held by Zoom on June 19, 26-27, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Torrey, Commissioner

General Assembly Report

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II was re-elected as Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He stood unopposed for his second four-year term. He is a third-generation Presbyterian pastor who led churches in Tennessee and North Carolina before becoming director of the PCUSA's Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC. When he was first elected Stated Clerk at the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, the Rev. Dr. Nelson became the first African American to lead our 300+-year-old denomination.

The assembly debated, but did not resolve, lingering concerns regarding the 2019 merger of San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) into the University of Redlands (UR), a university with a stated non-sectarian mission that has no formal relationship with the PC(USA). While UR has pledged to preserve a Presbyterian ethos and education, after six years, there is no requirement of any Presbyterians on the UR board, and after five years the proceeds from any sale of former SFTS assets may be used as determined by the discretion of that board, who are fiduciaries for the University of Redlands and not for the former SFTS.

The assembly confirmed updates to the child/youth/vulnerable adult protection policy for the General Assembly agencies and entities. The original policy, which applies to national church meetings, events and conferences, was adopted at the 222nd General Assembly.

Four prominent African American women who played a role in NASA's race to put humans in space were honored with the church's Crystal Teardrop Award. The four Presbyterians, Mary Jackson (posthumous), Dorothy Johnson Vaughan (posthumous), Dr. Christine Darden, and Katherine Johnson (posthumous), were featured in the 2016 film "Hidden Figures," about the Black women mathematicians who helped win the space race.

Commissioners adopted the proposed unified budgets of about \$80.1 million for 2021 and about \$83.4 million for 2022. Those budgets will cover the work of the Office of the General Assembly, the Administrative Services Group and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Commissioners also gave authority to the three boards overseeing the work of each ministry—the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, the A Corporation Board and the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, respectively—to approve spending more or less than amounts budgeted for specific line items as a result of emerging situations.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of many church buildings for months, the GA is projecting income declines across the PC(USA) of 25% in 2020 and 2021 and increases in uncollectible per capita as some congregations struggle for survival.

Commissioners overwhelmingly approved a per capita rate of \$8.98 per member for 2021 and 2022 (up from \$8.95 currently).

Commissioners to the 224th General Assembly concluded their final online plenary with 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence. The silent vigil, the amount of time a Minneapolis police officer put his knee to the neck of George Floyd, was held not only to honor Floyd, but to “remember and repent” for the sins of “ignoring and marginalizing” siblings and churches of color throughout the denomination.

The 225th General Assembly is scheduled for July 2-9, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio.

Prayer List (Updated June 30, 2020)

Current needs: **George Milner;** Jennifer Debenham; Jacob Sykes; Susie Townsley; Fred Rinkenher (E. Gramm’s brother); Nicole Zoyer (S. Smiley); Jonathan Kanouff (K. Whitehair’s nephew); Kendra McClure (B. McHone); Virginia Wiederhirn; Dee Toole; Jessica Sykes; Rossi Rennaker (B. and J. Martin); Lindsay (L. Taylor); Holly White (Sarah Smiley); Linda Pyles (R. Pancoast’s sister); Jim and Linda Corley (M. Thompson); Ann Milner Ostrom (G./L. Milner’s daughter); Carolyn Walser; Joyce Schmitt; Linda Foster (C. Lovell’s sister); Keegan Cunningham (I. de Torres’s boyfriend); Frank Jones (R. Cornwell’s brother-in-law); Anne Larsen and family (R. Torrey’s friend); Steve & Esther Rhodes (B. Creamer); Shirley Creamer; David Minesinger (S. Creamer’s son); Joanne Chacon; Zoe Luchetti (J. Laker’s great niece); Mike McHone; Leah McDowell; Dave Schroeder; Erin Cox (S. Smiley); Lincoln Downing (S. Smiley); J.B. Jenkins; Linda Ball (M. Thompson); Esther Williams; Karl Steiner (Pastor Ann); Brad Larson; James Dixon; Jeanette Smith (F. Smith’s mom); Kelly’s sister; Joyce Varcoeur (W. Williams’ sister); Sally Masters; Melvin Robinson (J. Laker); Autumn Schildt; Morris Cline (J. Cline’s dad); Julia Vehlewald (F. Pancoast’s mom); Jeff & 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 Ben Oliver; Kevin Goodwin; Sherry Defenbaugh; Charles Winchester.

Ongoing needs: Teresa Andrews; Diane Bales; Kay Barrett (R. Pancoast’s sister); Phil Briggs (D. Briggs’ dad); Norma Burch; Iris McHone-Chase (B. McHone’s granddaughter); Libby Carter (K. Whitehair’s sister); Pastor Trent Cloin (L. Cline’s friend); Carlene Coddington (Mullins’ friend); Roger Cornwell; Jim Cumbow (G. Cumbow’s son); Wayne Dawes (Clines’ friend); Mary Dison; Marj Gilliland; Ray Griffith; Mary Jane Johnson (R. Pancoast’s sister); Irma “Slick” Keith; Deronda Kimberlin; Pat Kuhs; Brian Lemenager; John C. Mason, Jr.; Bob Miller (C. McLinden’s friend); John Mosser; Debbie Mullins; Natalie Mullins; Barb Nelson (S. Townsley’s friend) Suzanne Otterbacher; Kathy Parks; Don Perry; Bob Pyles (R. Pancoast’s brother-in-law); Rick Reebee (S. Townsley’s friend); John Rinkenberger (E. Gramm’s nephew); Jayne Robinson (J. Laker’s sister); Amie Rodgers; Jake Ruder; John Sant; June Seitzinger; Katie Slezak (Curtis family); Denise Smith (B. Royce’s cousin); Lois Stevenson; Virginia Stewart; Jack Thomas; Gary Waller; Carolyn Walser; Nancy Winchester; Marjorie Young

Babies on the Way: Scott and Chelsie Hardy (due in September); Bobby and Sara Cornwell (due in November); Daniel and Kimberly Wells (due in September/D. and N. Burch)

Upcoming Marriages: Kristin Verkler and Nick Kowalczyk, July 18

Candidate for Ministry: James Potts

Theological Students: Mary Hoss; Joseph Compton

JULY 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 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Worship Live 9:45 COMMUNION	Devotions Live 9:45 Mission Team Z 3:00 Facilities Team 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	No Devotions	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship Live 9:45 Pastor Ann Vacation July 10-24						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship Live 9:45 Pastor Ann Vacation July 10-24						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Blood Drive 9:00 Worship Live 9:45 Worship Team Z 11:15	Devotions Live 9:45	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	No Devotions	