

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, Illinois

September 2020

Volume 66, No. 9

Dear Members and Friends,

We begin September without a calendar filled with fall events, which is odd. As several of you have noted, cancellations are our new normal. And so we adapt to our changed circumstances, which may end up being one of the “gifts” of the pandemic. Although we may resist and complain, we’re better at change than we give ourselves credit for.

Instead of in-person Sunday school classes for children and youth, we’re devising a schedule of mailings and follow-up phone calls. Instead of fellowship time after worship, we’re doing Coffee Talk via Zoom. Instead of team meetings at church, we’re gathering around our devices to talk and plan and pray and discern. Instead of birthday celebrations in the lounge, we drove to Carryl Fox’s house and wished her well from our cars. And while most of us feel a little Zoom-ed out and weary of our living rooms and home offices, we are still able to be church and do church, be community and do community.

You may not know that there’s a group of women from First Presbyterian, along with some other friends, who have a long-standing tradition of meeting at Arby’s every Saturday for lunch. They missed a few months, but when the weather warmed up, they began taking their lunches and lawn chairs to Lincoln Park on Saturdays to spend socially distanced time together. It was my pleasure to be with them this past weekend and bask in their laughter and story-telling and the overwhelming sense of normalcy that comes with being with friends!

May we all look for and find those opportunities in this completely not normal time.

Grace and peace,

Ann

Visitation and Memorial Service

Barbara Stover died at Hawthorne on April 2. This Friday, **September 4**, her family will gather in the sanctuary to greet friends and church family and celebrate Barbara’s life. The visitation will be at 9:30 a.m. Masks and socially distancing will be required. The funeral home will limit the number of people in the sanctuary. The memorial service for family members will be at 10:30. She will be buried at National Cemetery, which strictly limits attendance, so that will be for family only as well. The worship service will be recorded and available on the church YouTube channel afterwards; you will need a password to access the recording, which you can get by calling the church office.

Celebrating the Lord’s Supper

On Sunday, **September 6**, 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. 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!

Virtual Worship and Fellowship

- **Daily Devotions:** A brief time devotion and prayer continue Monday through Thursday mornings at **9:45** on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCDANVILLE61832>, which are

recorded and available on the church FB page if you miss the livestream. If you would like paper copies, let me know.

- **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 on the First Presbyterian Church, Danville, IL YouTube channel immediately following the service. Access it here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjf1HVK8gZCU5BEs4yj08PQ>. If you prefer a paper copy, let me know.
- **Mid-week Check-ins:** We will continue to gather on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at **6:30** for a mid-week check-in. The invitation, password, and link are unique to each meeting, and will be sent a day or two before.
- **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).

Coffee Talk

Following the live-streamed worship service on **September 20**, we will have a Zoom coffee hour and Coffee Talk with the Session. You will receive a link for the Zoom call in the e-pistle with that Sunday's bulletin. Hope you can join us!

Church Picnic Cancelled

The church picnic, which had been scheduled for September 13 at Kennekuk, has been cancelled.

Blood Drive

The church will host another blood drive in the gym on **November 8**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Critical shortages continue, so whether you are a regular donor or you've never given blood before, mark your calendars for the opportunity. We'll provide more information closer to the event regarding COVID-19 safety precautions.

Deacons' Christmas Baskets

The deacons have also adapted to our current situation. This year, instead of purchasing food items and packing Christmas baskets, they will purchase grocery store gift certificates for 100-125 families. The behind-the-scenes work will remain the same. Those who are eligible will receive letters from the church to sign up; they will then get information describing the pick-up process. On the assigned day, small crews of deacons and other helpers will be at church to distribute the gift certificates. For safety's sake, we will forego the coat, toy, and hat/mitten distribution. The deacons encourage your generous giving to the 2020 Christmas ministry. Make checks payable to the church, mail them, and indicate that the funds are intended for the deacons' Christmas event.

Nominating Committee

The church Nominating Committee will begin its work this month. Please pray for Becky Briggs (chair), Nancy Boesdorfer, Helen Bury, Eva Cornwell, Bob Iverson, Judy Iverson, Bobbie McHone, and Karen Schildt as they discern who God is calling to lead the church next year. If you feel called to serve as an elder or deacon, or if you would like to nominate another member to be considered, contact one of the committee members with the names.

According to our Book of Order: *"Elders should be persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit."* *"Deacons should be persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, loving-kindness, sincere compassion, and sound judgment."*

The following individuals are currently serving on the Session: Bob Boesdorfer, Becky Briggs, Lisa Cline, Roger Cornwell, Pat de Place, Claudia Ferrell, Judy Iverson, Ruth Pancoast, Bev Royce, Matt Smiley, Pat Tarr, and Rita Torrey. The Deacons are: Jim Anderson, Linda Anderson, Anne Binette,

Nancy Boesdorfer, Joanne Chacon, Myanne Compton, Doni Duckett, Nancy Grimes, Mary Hardy, Kolby Riggle, George Schildt, and Diana Szaras.

Session Highlights

The Session met via Zoom on August 18, 2020:

- 12 out of 12 elders were present
- Voted to worship virtually and keep the building closed during September
- Reflected on article titled “The Future of Congregations Is in Partnerships” and discussed the agencies/organizations with whom we currently partner
- Elected Becky Briggs (moderator) and Judy Iverson to serve as the Session representatives on the 2020 Nominating Committee
- Set date for congregational meeting to elect elders and deacons on October 18, 2020. If we are not worshipping in the sanctuary, we will meet via Zoom.
- Determined that we will not produce a “traditional” annual report for 2020 and discussed alternatives.
- Heard from Clerk of Session that the Presbytery is not requiring an annual review of financials for 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Voted to pay for upgrades to the sanctuary sound system from This Old House Fund
- Approved recommendation from Mission Team to give 25% of the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which will be received from September 13 to October 11, to Fair Hope Children’s Ministry in Danville

Mission

Peace & Global Witness Offering

In too many places around the world, peace is merely a hope. Conflicts between nations, peoples, and ideas put peace at risk everywhere. Too many people live in situations that are both unsettled and unjust.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is actively engaged in peacemaking and reconciliation in more than 50 countries. Through partner churches and organizations, our denomination’s reach is extended to 100 countries. Your gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering help address these deep-seated problems by supporting efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation and peace around the world. Through missions, work projects, and education, we witness to the peace of Christ for our sisters and brothers as they face some of the greatest challenges of our time.

We will receive the offering (which you can mail to the church) between September 13 and October 4. Seventy-five percent will support national and international peacemaking efforts. The remaining 25% will be given to Fair Hope Children’s Ministry of Danville, a cooperative effort of several area Methodist churches that provides clothing to children. Please give.

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

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 August, memorials were given in honor of:

John Sant Memorial
Dick & Norma Burch
George & Libby Milner

September Birthdays

Pete Krainock	Sept 2	Steve Bowler	Sept 19
James Potts	Sept 7	Iris de Torres	Sept 23
Kelly Holden	Sept 9	Diana Szaras	Sept 23
Kyla Bowler	Sept 10	Mid Riggle	Sept 25
Jessica Bowler	Sept 10	Joyce Schmitt	Sept 29
Ann Schwartz	Sept 11	Jamarion Harris	Sept 30

September Anniversaries

John & Sheila Smiley	Sept 1	Scott & Jessica Sykes	Sept 13
Dave & Becky Briggs	Sept 8	Wes & Nancy Grimes	Sept 25

Congratulations

Liz Briggs has been promoted to a manager at Arby's. The dining room of the restaurant is still closed, but if order some curly fries at the drive-through, you may see her there!

Updated Contact Information

JB Jenkins: 217-806-2282 / email: johnspock1964@gmail.com

Jim Gilliland: blairbears@comcast.net

Bob and Nancy Boesdorfer will be moving to Mahomet next week. Their new address is 303 Orchard St., Mahomet, IL 61853.

Bob and Margaret Crabb will be moving to the Indianapolis area this week to be closer to family. Their new address will be 1032 Hamilton Way, Westfield, IN 46074.

Presbytery Meeting Report: August 20, 2020

For the second time, the stated meeting of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois (PSEI) was held by Zoom call. At least 64 persons were in attendance. Meeting by Zoom shortened the typical meeting time by several hours and complied with social distancing rules during the COVID-19 pandemic. The improvement in pacing, linkages, audiovisual materials, and presentation in general since the first Presbytery Zoom meeting in June 2020 was very impressive!

The meeting opened with worship, led by Rev. Joannie Naraghi, chaplain at a hospital in Centralia, Illinois, who preached on 2 Peter 1. Communion was then celebrated virtually, with the reminder to remember "who we are" and "whose we are."

As a "snapshot" of PSEI, the statistical report showed the following:

1972 2019

Active members	27,916	5,388
Total baptisms	429	50
Total ministers	115	94
Total churches	123	79

Pastor Ann Schwartz has been named Moderator of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the PSEI.

Tom Logan presented a stirring video on the work of the Marion Medical Mission (MMM), which builds wells in Malawi and Zambia. In this time of coronavirus, MMM will not send missionaries this year, but they have forwarded money to their counterparts for their construction. Each well, for a cost of \$450, can provide clean water for a village. The goal for 2020 is the construction of 3,140 wells, which will serve about 375,000 people (see www.mmmwater.org).

In a video presentation Kemmerer Village announced staff retirements, new appointments, and program highlights. Kemmerer has had to decrease residential services for children because they cannot find qualified staff. On the other hand, they have increased the number in foster care to 175, or four times as many as 5 years ago.

Near the ending of the meeting, Zoom broke up those in attendance into small groups to consider two questions: “What breaks God’s heart in your community? What is one thing that you are doing or dream of doing about that?” We were tasked to bring back to the entire group one point from each of these two questions. The group I was in was much more animated about discussing the first point than the second.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Torrey, Commissioner

Current prayer needs (updated September 1)

Konner Biava (L. Taylor); Leah and Gene McDowell; Dick Burch; Gracee Whitehair; Joanne Chacon; Marj Gilliland; Dotty de Torres; JB Jenkins; Tom Harrigan; Kasen Middendorf; Meghan Verkler; Mary Thompson; Dean Tarr; Sam Carey (L. Taylor); Joyce Schmitt; Nancy Winchester; George Milner; Jennifer Debenham; Jacob Sykes; Suse Townsley; Fred Rinkenberger (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 (S. Smiley); Linda Pyles (R. Pancoast’s sister); Jim and Linda Corley (M. Thompson); Carolyn Walser; Linda Foster (C. Lovell’s sister); 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); Zoe Luchetti (J. Laker’s great niece); Mike McHone; Leah McDowell; Dave Schroeder; Erin Cox (S. Smiley); Lincoln Downing (S. Smiley); 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 Amendt family (B. Royce); the Stover family; the Tanner family

Ongoing needs: 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; Ray Griffith; Mary Jane Johnson (R. Pancoast’s sister); Jean Keefer; 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; June Seitzinger; Katie Slezak (Curtis family); Denise Smith (B. Royce's cousin); Lois Stevenson; Virginia Stewart; Jack Thomas; Gary Waller; Carolyn Walser; 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); Kathryn Torrey and Timothy Flood (due in late January); Kayla and Brendan Reed (due in December/Sheila Smiley's niece)

Candidate for Ministry: James Potts

Theological Students: Mary Hoss; Joseph Compton

SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	31	01	02	03	04	05
Live = live-streamed on Facebook Z = Zoom call	Devotions Live 9:45 Called Session Meeting 6:00 Z	Devotions Live 9:45 Deacons 5:00 Z	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45	9:30 Visitation 10:30 Memorial Service (family only)	Men's Group Charlotte's 8:00
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Worship Live 9:45 COMMUNION	No Devotions	Devotions Live 9:45 Faith Dev Team Z 2:30	Devotions Live 9:45 Finance 5:00 Z Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship Live 9:45 Worship Team Z 11:15	Devotions Live 9:45 Personnel Z 10:00 Mission Team Z 3:00 Facilities Team Z 5:00 Nom Comm Z 7:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Stephen Ministry 3:00 Session Z 6:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30	Devotions Live 9:45		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship Live 9:45 Coffee Talk with Session Z 11:00	Devotions Live 9:45 Finance Team meeting with Midwest Z 3:00	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45		
27	28	29	30			
Worship Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45	Devotions Live 9:45 Midweek Check-in Z 6:30			