



# THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter  
December 2020

First Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Dudley Elvery, Transitional Pastor  
Vol. 55 No. 10  
Web Site: [www.fpchw.org](http://www.fpchw.org)

P. O. Box 1519  
Homewood, Illinois  
708-798-0490  
E-mail: [fpchw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpchw@sbcglobal.net)



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting** to hear the report of the Nominating Committee. *The meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. after our virtual worship on **December 13** using Zoom.* Instructions about how to use Zoom follow. All are encouraged to familiarize ourselves with the process so no one is left to a last minute scramble and misses the meeting. (The Host will be available only on the day of the meeting.)

### ATTENDING A VIRTUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Please choose one** of the following ways to attend the virtual Congregational Meeting via Zoom on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.:

1) Click on the Congregational Meeting link at the end of the virtual worship service for that morning and wait for the Host to let you in;

**OR**

2) Open the Zoom App on your computer or smart-phone and click on **Join Meeting**.

Enter the following **Meeting ID:** 889 9367 4186  
**Passcode:** 949583

Then wait for the Host to let you in:

**OR**

3) Use your phone to call 312-626-6799.

When asked, enter the following **Meeting ID:**

889 9367 4186 followed by the #

When asked for your personal ID, simply enter # again.

Then wait for the Host to let you in. The Host will ask you for your name so it can be put on the screen below a little telephone icon. That way, the other people at the meeting will know it is you!

**Please check the procedure out before the day of the meeting,** and if you are unsure of what to do or if you have a question about how to do this, please contact Kathie Darman, at 708-207-2813, who can talk you through the process before Sunday morning on Dec. 13.

## COMMUNION SCHEDULE

December 24 7:00 p.m. virtual worship  
Christmas Eve

January 3 10:30 a.m. virtual worship Epiphany



**Christmas Memory:** *We always had a large dinner, often with a goose. Mom would cook the cranberry sauce from fresh cranberries and place the bowl on the enclosed back porch to cool. Countless times we forgot to bring in the bowl for dinner.*

## SESSION REPORT

Whenever two churches undertake a mission together, there are bound to be twists and turns that seem to be obstacles or burdens or problems. On the other side, there are reasons for happiness, acceptance, solutions, and good faith. Such is the case as our yoking team works with their counterparts at Calvary United Protestant Church, Park Forest. Recently, a side issue came up that served as a brief distraction, but our Session reaffirmed our intention to stay moving forward with Calvary without the confusion of the distraction.

As will be discussed in this issue of *The Carillon*, we have been neglecting the customary special offerings as they come and go during the year. Session voted to receive special offerings for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Christmas Joy, and to designate their distribution after they are received.

The 2021 Communion Schedule was approved for the first Sunday of each month. Special extra celebrations of Communion will be approved when we get closer to those dates.

Session called a **Special Meeting of the Congregation** for Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the report of the Nominating Committee and the election of Church Officers. See the lead article at the front of this issue of *The Carillon* for the instructions on how you can participate.

Each congregation keeps 25% of the Peace & Global Witness Special Offering to dedicate to local mission use. Session voted to send our 25% share to Jones Center in Chicago Heights to support their hunger and family needs programs.

Session was informed by Presbytery that the 2021 Per Capita Apportionment will remain unchanged from 2020 at \$36.00 per Active Member on our roll as of December 31, 2019. We had reported 111 Active Members.

The State of Illinois has a new law that requires ALL employees of entities with one or more employee to complete a course in sexual harassment training by no later than December 31, 2020. Elder Kathie Darman will be working with our four employees plus the pastor

to complete the training in December and become “in compliance.”

Christmas decorations and flowers for the sanctuary will not be purchased this year because public worship gatherings are expected to be absent. As an alternative, Session asks that you send the \$10/plant you would normally provide payable to the church as a donation in your name to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. We will keep track of these gifts in celebration/gratitude/memory of others and publish them in the January issue of *The Carillon*. Just mark “PDF” on the memo line of your check and send it to the church P.O. Box 1519. Please use a separate check for this donation.

A letter of resignation from the Session was received from Ruling Elder Joyce Anders, effective immediately, from the Class of 2022. The letter was received with regret and thanks for her service.

Notification was received of the death of Tim Noetzel, brother of Ruling Elder Laurie Ulrich, on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



**Christmas Memory:** *From Thanksgiving to Christmas we would gather around the radio to listen to the 15 minute shows of the adventures of the Cinnamon Bear searching for the Christmas star for the tree. We would color the coloring books supplied by Wiebolts.*

## Jan Rolls

I have had “Suburban Picnics” that are when we (my sister Beth and me in one car and Dar and Nancy in the other car) go to a drive-up place to get our meals and then talk through the open car windows, often parked in a forest preserve. It’s so much fun to get out and visit for a little while, and since we usually park in the shade of trees, we often can watch the wildlife. The frisky little squirrels are so much fun, and one day there was a huge flock of robins who were probably preparing for their trip south. In another place, there were quite a number of cardinals who were bouncing on the lower tree branches and onto the ground. And lately it has been so nice to see the beautiful trees. We were under some maple trees that had all red leaves and were just breathtaking. We always had such a nice time.

Unfortunately, my hair has grown so long that I sometimes think that when the lawncare guys are here, I’ll hustle out, dive down on the grass, and have them cut my hair with the lawn mower. I’m sure even that would be a welcome improvement.

**Christmas Memory:** *There was always a bowl of whole unshelled walnuts and a bowl of hard candy—ribbon and raspberry rounds. My older brother used to throw walnuts close past my head to crack them on the wall behing me instead of using a nutcracker.*

 **FROM THE PASTOR**



As I think about the upcoming Christmas season, images I use to suggest ways we humans go through life keep popping up. I think we are either a tow truck, a bulldozer, or a

plow or some mixture of these. Tow trucks drag things behind themselves. As the amount of stuff being dragged along grows and grows, it will exceed the truck's capacity, so it stalls or breaks down. Likewise, a bulldozer pushes things ahead saying, "I'll deal with that later." Once the amount of stuff pushed off gets large enough, the bulldozer too will stall or have a breakdown. The plow cuts through the soil, turns it over, and keeps moving. Obviously, being a plow is ideal. Certainly, we all are tow trucks, bulldozers, and plows. If we don't want to bog down, or worse yet break down, then learning to be a plow seems the way to go.

This all seems to apply to the process of figuring out how to celebrate Christmas. We can try to drag the memories of how we used to do it along. That load combined with the weight of our grieving what's gone may immobilize us at best. We can say, "I'm going to wait and see." While pushing off holiday celebration decisions shouldn't bog us down, it certainly will wake us up to an empty Christmas morning. We can find comfort in the Christmas story.

Joseph and Mary were in a strange place, Bethlehem, not their home, Nazareth. Their child was born in an unlikely place because of the welcome of a stranger who made room when none was to be found. They fled their makeshift home to go to a yet stranger place, Egypt. Even though we shelter in place in our houses or apartments, we do not feel fully at home. The threat, not from a crazy Herod but from an unseen and difficult to battle virus, may well drive us into more unknown territory. Mary, with her trusting heart, and Joseph, with his caring commitment to her, found ways to stay together and stay safe. God was with them each step of the way. We too, trusting and caring, will find God along every step of our journey.

*Dudley Elvery*



**Christmas Memory:** *We always had a large real tree hung with long strands of silver tinsel. The dog would come along with his bushy tail wagging and send the tinsel in all directions—ornaments, too.*

 **THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

Our Longest Night Service this year will be Monday, December 21, at 7 p.m. on the web site [fpchw.org](http://fpchw.org). This virtual service of Healing and Wholeness will include an "individual prayer" option on Zoom accessed from the web site after the service. Click on the picture of the prayer table. We each, to greater or lesser extent, have our dark nights. Being reminded that the light of Christ can, does, and will come into our lives offers hope and help. Come join us to let Christ's light chase away shadows in your life.

Pastor Dudley



 **CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE**

Thursday, December 24, our virtual Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service will be held at 7 p.m. on the web site. As the service is "virtual," it can be accessed any time on Christmas Eve to suit family needs. We hope that you will join us.

**Christmas Memory:** *Our stockings always contained one orange and one banana—difficult to obtain in Illinois in December in the 1940's.*

 **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**



**The Women's Association will be disbanded as of December 31, 2020.**

The board of the Association had decided in January of 2020 that this would be the last year of the Women's Association. The women of the church are now serving the church in so many different ways that it is impossible for the Association to continue in its present form. Checks will be written for Jones Center and Respond Now, and the balance as of December 31 will be sent to the general fund of the church. The Circles are in limbo at this time, and it is doubtful that Lydia Circle will continue on in any form. We thank everyone for their support through the years and for the opportunities to serve. The Women's Association has been a blessing to the church throughout its history, but it is time to close this chapter and to look forward to the future. Charlene Hansen  
PS – Contact Jones Center to see what they need.

**Christmas Memory: *There were always Pfeffernusse cookies that soon became hard as rocks and fruitcake!***

## CHICAGO HEIGHTS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

If Illinois rules permit, Chicago Heights First Presby Men's Fellowship and our men will gather for lunch on Friday, **December 11**, at 12:30 p.m. at Paulie's Pub, 2736 Chicago Road, South Chicago Heights. All are welcome.

## TRUSTEE REPORT



The Trustees are still not holding monthly meetings, but work around the buildings goes on. The elevator was inspected, thereby satisfying state requirements. The boiler was inspected for our insurance carrier and for the State Fire Marshal. In-

door insecticide treatments have been done with ongoing pest deterrents in the boiler room and kitchen. Fall and Halloween decorations were placed by Marge Errant at the Narthex entrance and on the front porch. Halloween décor came down, with the fall decorations remaining until after Thanksgiving. Hostas have been cut down around the buildings, and since we did not have an All Church Fall Clean-up Day, our weekly lawn maintenance contractor removed weeds from parking spaces and cleaned up weeds and perennials along the east and north parking lot fence line. Johnnie Dorsey tested positive for Covid 19 and self-quarantined. The church office and entry were cleaned and disinfected. Johnnie has returned to work after testing negative and is feeling well.

Jim Foster

**Christmas Memory: *Our house had a wall of windows (six, I think) that did not look outside. They looked on an unnamed long and narrow room that we used for storage. They were made up of small panes, so they became a perfect place for taping up Christmas cards. That made the living room quite festive.***

## STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM



The 2021 Per Capita Apportionment is not increasing from 2020, remaining at **\$36.00** per communicant member of the church. The 2021 Church Budget continues in development for presentation to Session in January 2021. A yoked pastor may be included.

The 2021 Church Budget will still require pledge support from all our members. It is our task as a Ministry Team to ask for your prayerful and generous support through your pledges and Per Capita contributions. You will receive a letter and pledge envelope early in 2021, and we know you all understand the need to do this at this time of year. We will ask for a response from every member, and we thank you in advance for keeping the church high in priority in your life. S&F Ministry Team

### ***Last Reminder!***

**There is a Wednesday, December 30, 2020, deadline for each of the following categories for 2020 charitable giving to the church to be included in your 2020 federal and state tax returns:**

- 1. If you are an annual pledge member and have not yet paid your 2020 pledge.**
- 2. If you are behind and are completing your 2020 pledge.**
- 3. If you have a Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA that you must take for 2020 and can donate it tax-free to the church.**
- 4. If you have shares of highly appreciated stock you wish to donate to the church in 2020 free of capital gains taxes and income taxes.**
- 5. If you wish to make a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of someone in 2020.**
- 6. If you wish to remember the church with an extra donation above your pledge to help with our shortfall.**
- 7. If you have not made a pledge in 2020 and wish to contribute to the church from your income in 2020.**
- 8. If you wish to make a donation to the Mission and Ministry Endowment Fund in 2020.**

**All charitable contributions to the church are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.**

The boxes of 2021 offering envelopes are now at the church waiting for their labels. We expect the same box numbers to be used in 2021 as in 2020. Distribution in December will be different this year because the building is not open. Your box may be hand delivered or mailed, depending on where you live.

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team is looking for one more member to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Elder Donna Moore. Please contact Sylvia Tufts (chair), Jim Foster, Ron Shropshire, or Ed Wahl. We usually meet on the second Monday of each month.

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending October 31, 2020, is in the following chart:

	Through October	2020 Budget
<b>General Fund Income</b>		
Identified Giving	\$98,465	\$130,000
Loose Offering	211	1,500
Initial Offering	413	500
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	8,266	5,000
Community Dinners Donations	770	3,000
Other Income	16,039	3,000
Dividends & Capital Gains	1,552	14,000
Sale of Investment Shares	0	37,400
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	9,000
Transfer from Designated Fund	<u>1,250</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>126,966</b>	<b>203,400</b>
<b>General Fund Expenses</b>		
Missional Ventures	\$1,194	6,500
Faith Formation	303	1,800
Facilities	34,304	51,500
Staff	62,678	82,000
Transition	33,790	54,300
Administrative Support	3,357	7,300
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	0
Transfer to Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>135,626</b>	<b>203,400</b>
<b>Designated Fund Income</b>	<b>\$10,102</b>	
<b>Designated Fund Expenses</b>	<b>12,076</b>	
<b>Total Active Members—October 31, 2020</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>107</b></span>		
Average Sunday Attendance—July 2020		0
Average Sunday Attendance—August 2020		0
Average Sunday Attendance—September 2020		0
Average Sunday Attendance—October 2020		0
<b>Summary through October 2020 (10/12 of Budget):</b>		
Income Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(\$42,534)
Expenses Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(33,874)
<b>2020 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date</b>		<b>(8,660)</b>

We need an average income of **\$4,000** each week to fund our mission and operate our church. This is inclusive of pledges and identified giving as well as other income sources. So, how are we doing?

- Weekly average for January (4) \$3,526
- Weekly average for February (4) \$3,646
- Weekly average for March (5) \$2,161
- Weekly average for April (4) \$2,880
- Weekly average for May (5) \$3,265
- Weekly average for June (4) \$5,820
- Weekly average for July (4) \$1,856
- Weekly average for August (5) \$1,549
- Weekly average for September (4) \$3,465
- Weekly average for October (4) \$1,776
- **Weekly average for 2020 (43) \$2,953**

**Christmas Memory: Christmas was a time for our family of four to cram ourselves and many wrapped boxes into our small car. It was a tradition (obligatory) that we visit at their house the great-uncle and great-aunt that we otherwise saw only on Easter.**

**Karen Maurer – Connections**

A lifelong Presbyterian, I’m finding as the pandemic shrinks our connected world that I’ve become more local, so I’d like to share some recent experiences that have affirmed our church’s connectedness. The first was Ed Wahl’s enclosure with the stewardship letter of an offering envelope for “Peace and Global Witness” that we usually receive on World Communion Sunday. The leaflet, also enclosed, will tell you more. Please remember to use the church’s PO Box 1519, Homewood, IL, 60430 address when mailing anything to the church (not our street address). Peace and Global Witness is one of **four** national annual special offerings. The one you may know best is Palm Sunday’s One Great Hour of Sharing that has, in addition to Presbyterian congregations nationally, participation from other denominations as well. Those monies go to hunger related programs and to our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The third special offering is received at Pentecost—often referred to as the “birthday of the Christian church.” Fittingly, these offerings go to support the faith development of youth, children through college age.



The fourth annual special offering is called **Christmas Joy**, and it benefits church workers in need: retired, current, and future. There is a box now in our FPC office with

Christmas Joy envelopes and leaflets that may appear in your snail mailbox the next time there is an all-church mailing. Our church receives other local offerings (such as Thanksgiving), but these are the four that are called the church-wide Special Offerings of the PC(USA) that support our mission.

**Christmas Memory: Until I was four years old, Santa brought the decorated Christmas tree! At that age, I was allowed to help Santa trim the tree. Of course, tragedy struck when I slipped off the arm of the couch and broke a whole box of blue and silver ornaments.**

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES**



Sunday virtual worship services can be found on the church web site **fpchw.org**. Join at 10:30 a.m. to be “together” for a service. The last ten Sunday services are stored there, too.

## A CHRISTMAS ODE OF THANKSGIVING

The starlight shines on snowy ground,  
Illuminates both tree and field.  
Brilliance glows without a sound  
As darkness must its shadows yield.

The glow surrounds a humble shed  
Where cattle feed and hay abound.  
Deep in a manger as a bed  
An infant fast asleep is found.

Shepherds rush to see the sight  
Announced to them on high  
By angels to proclaim the light  
Of all our lives is nigh.

He came to us that long past night  
To bring us peace and life,  
The Word made flesh in glorious might  
To banish war and strife.

He comes to us this Christmas day  
And asks us once again,  
May he enter in and stay  
As Master, Lord, and Friend.

Thank you, Lord, for that bright night  
When heaven came to earth,  
When we received eternal life,  
New life of matchless worth.

And in this time of Christmas praise  
Of a miracle in time,  
My heart and gratitude will raise  
My voice in praise sublime.

Kirk Nickersen

**Christmas Memory:** *Our nativity scene of five inch tall characters with a stable and animals, too, was carefully staged at the bottom of the Christmas tree.*



### FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

#### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

Tuesday Bible Study is still meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. There is a link on the web site (preferred) or contact Kathie Darman at [kathiedarman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathiedarman@sbcglobal.net) for the Zoom invitation to join in. All are welcome.

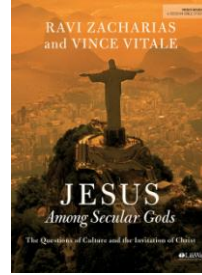
#### TUESDAY EVENING ADVENT STUDY ON ZOOM WITH DUDLEY



In preparation for the Sundays in Advent, **Names for the Messiah** by Walter Bruggeman will be discussed with Pastor Dudley starting at 7 p.m. on Zoom. There is a link

on the web site (preferred) or contact Kathie Darman as above. The study will meet December 1, 8, and 15.

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM CLASS WITH TIM



We've dipped into science and history with our first few classes on apologetics. Now we're going to take a chance to look at philosophy. How do the philosophical teachings of Jesus size up to other competing philosophies that have grown to popularity in recent decades—hedonism, pluralism, scientism, and others? How should Christians respond to these ideas? Do they conflict with the teachings of Christianity? Our new course is *Jesus Among Secular Gods* by Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale. There is a subtitle of *The Questions of Culture and the Invitation of Christ*. Class is held weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on Zoom. For a copy of the Zoom link to join the class, please contact [tlvannasdale@gmail.com](mailto:tlvannasdale@gmail.com) or use the link on the web site (preferred).

Class Schedule: may be subject to change

Dec. 2 Pluralism (Part 2)

Dec. 9 Pluralism (Part 2)

Dec. 16 Humanism and Relativism (Part 1)

Dec. 23 NO CLASS

Dec. 30 Humanism and Relativism (Part 1)

All worldviews attempt to answer some of the deepest questions in life. *What's the meaning of life? What is my purpose? What will happen to me when I die?* In this class, we will explore the most successful and popular secular responses to these challenging questions and compare them with the answers provided in Christianity. Knowing what these competing philosophical concepts involve and what challenges they pose to the teachings of Jesus can be super helpful in evaluating and strengthening our own beliefs as well as helping us to address questions when the opportunity arises to give reasons for the hope within us (1 Peter 3:15). Tim VanNasdale

**Christmas Memory:** *We would gather with our mother at the piano and sing through the Christmas carol song book. She would try to get us to sing "Once in a Royal David's City," but we just didn't get the tune. We did, however, learn to sing "There's a Song in the Air" at her encouragement.*

#### Karen Maurer – A Purely Pandemic Story

It all started with the intention of providing our children and their families each with an Advent calendar to help them use this time to prepare for Christmas as Jesus' birthday. Starting with the PC(USA) web site, I discovered that all Advent calendars this year were online.

Believing that our young children are on screen overload with their weekday schools, I next tried the Cokesbury (Methodist) web site where there were several paper calendars with daily windows to open and Bible verses to read. I admit to being inept at ordering online, so I looked for a customer service number, called it, and was told the number was not working. Next I went to the P page of my paper address book where there is an overflowing section of listings for PC(USA), including Marla, a customer service representative with the “church store” with a phone number. I called it—AND MARLA ANSWERED. I’ve talked with her many times about Sunday School curriculum, finding her knowledgeable and helpful. “Marla, can I order through you several Shining Light Advent calendars with envelopes? There is no longer a ‘Marla’ at Cokesbury.” “No, every thing we have this year is for online use. How do you know about it?” “From Cokesbury.” Marla brought it up on her screen and learned that it was sold out. But kindness and good will won out, and Marla called Cokesbury, reaching Nicole who agreed to place an order for her Presbyterian colleague for three Shining Light Advent calendars. It seemed easiest to bill to my credit card, but ship to Homewood—and then the address did not match the credit card. At least it would ship to a PO Box since the church was not open. So in the next week Pastor Dudley will pick up that slim package from the Homewood post office and make in-person deliveries. Thank you, Marla, at the PC(USA) church store! Thank you, Nicole, at Cokesbury. It’s not what we usually mean by “connectionalism,” but it was alive and well last Thursday.

**Christmas Memory: *The day after Christmas, my mother would rush to Marshall Field’s to buy fancy ornaments at half price.***

 **PRAYER CARDS**

The following members, friends, and staff of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood will receive a card telling them that the church is praying for them. Please pray for those listed. Kathie Darman

**Week of December 6**

Ed & Janet Wahl  
 Deb Way & Nolan  
 Jay & Nick Webster  
 Leighton Whitaker  
 Carolyn Wiley

**Week of December 13**

Susan Zorns  
 Karen Allison  
 Joan Alvers  
 Joyce Anders  
 Donna Anderson



**Week of December 20**

Earl Anker & Jan Bunker  
 Dave & Shirley Armistead  
 Marilyn Austin  
 RoseMary Baird  
 Karen Barge-Fillippo

**Week of December 27**

Nancy Beaudoin  
 Bruce & Shirley Boersma  
 Elizabeth Boersma  
 Barbara Bielawski  
 Doug Bonthron & Sally Wolford

**Christmas Memory: *The strings of lights for the Christmas tree had bulbs that burned out frequently—and the whole string would go dark. Each bulb had to be unscrewed until you found the burned out one.***

**The Joy of Advent**

*The season is changing  
 The cold air is felt  
 Scurrying feet hastened  
 The season of Advent is here.*

*Decorations are laid out  
 Stores and homes alike  
 Bringing the season’s spirit  
 And prepare for it once more.*

*What this season brings  
 Amidst the turmoil around  
 Sharing great thoughts  
 Of love that rules our lives.*

*Joy, joy, what a wonderful joy  
 That comes once more to us  
 Remembering that very night  
 That birth in Bethlehem brought.*

*The season of joy comes alive  
 Amidst the changing time  
 Brought by this pandemic  
 That numbs our spirit down.*

*Oh, Lord, in these Advent days  
 Lead us with your light  
 Implode our spirit high  
 With hope, peace, and love.*

Lee Hilario

**Christmas Memory: *There was always snow on the ground in Illinois.***

 **HOSPITALIZED**

In the hospital during the past month were Jay Webster’s mother and Matt Glatz (Laurie Ulrich’s extended family).



 **NURSING HOME / REHAB**

Mae Evert, Lemont Center Rehab; Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park.

 **GIFTS AND MEMORIALS**

The following have been recorded in the Memorial Book in the Narthex: Jonna James and Tim Noetzel.

[Correction: On All Saints Sunday, we prayed for Martin Leimnetzer, but it is Marlin. Bad handwriting by the Editor led to the mistake.]

**Christmas Memory: We played Christmas LP records and records and records...**

**Karen Maurer – More Connections**

Presbytery of Chicago meets in Assembly, now four times a year, most recently in November at the Glen Ellyn church—but really on Zoom. Three months ago, Glen Ellyn would have seemed to me a mystery suburb somewhere northwest of Chicago, but now I have a couple of medical tests scheduled there; it’s two suburbs over from Carol Stream where I live. We didn’t gather there because of the virus—Hmmm... There were about 150 people in attendance, two of whom were Pastor Dudley and me: a teaching elder and a ruling elder as our constitution requires. The three hour Assembly began with worship that included honoring the outgoing moderator with two gifts: a box of fancy golf balls and an even fancier copy of *Roberts’ Rules of Order*. The incoming moderator-elect will be David Thornton, pastor of Sixth Grace Church in the city. We approved a budget for 2021 and heard a financial report for the current year. We celebrated the life and work of the now closed Cicero church and sale of that church property to Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. We approved with joy the installation of a young Associate Pastor for Evangelism at Fourth Presbyterian—Joe Morrow, whom I met when we served on a committee to reorganize the work of the Presbytery. Most personally meaningful was a service of necrology, which celebrated the life, work, and passing of both teaching (ministers) and ruling elders during the year 2019 in the Presbytery of Chicago—and included our *Donna Moore* and *Darlene Giesbrecht*.

FPC Homewood is entitled to two ruling elder commissioners who do not need to be currently on Session. My term ends in December. Please let Ed Wahl know of your interest in being a commissioner in 2021, which for the present you can do in the comfort of your home.

**Christmas Memory: My brother always received a box of chocolate covered cherries and I received hand-sewn or crocheted clothes for my dolls—or for me.**

 **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Instead of purchasing poinsettias for the sanctuary, Session is asking you to send \$10 (or more) to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance this year. The donation will be made in *your* name and can be “dedicated” and will be listed in the January issue of *The Carillon*, so please enclose this form with your check. As always, please use a **separate check** from your weekly offering; make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church of Homewood with PDA written on the memo line; mail the form and the check to the church P.O. Box 1519.

Giver’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you want it listed in the newsletter)

\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Gratitude to \_\_\_\_\_

Print This Page

 **JANUARY CARILLON**



The deadline for articles placed in the January *Carillon* is **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>** ahead of the busy Christmas week. Please turn in all materials in writing and email the Editor at [ewahl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ewahl@sbcglobal.net). Keep sharing. The Editor thanks all of the December reporters for their assistance. *J C =W=*

**Christmas Memory: And then there is the Christmas that the adults decided to give the children white wine with their dinner...**

[The memories are from Ed & Janet Wahl.]

**Birthday Greetings to our church family:**

December	December
1 Shirley Smiddy	21 Jay Ruklic
6 Nicholas Hamilton	22 Pat Steiner
14 Emily Hanley	24 Lee Hilario
19 First Presbyterian Church	27 Jean B. Conover
Jessica Lopez-Jursa	30 Janice Rolls

**May God grant birthday blessings this coming year!**



*Let **CHRISTMAS**  
come into our world  
and bring us warmth and cheer.  
Bring us **FAITH** in place of doubt  
and strength in place of fear.  
Bring us **HOPE** and bring us **LOVE**  
to guide our hearts forever.  
Let **CHRISTMAS** come  
into our world  
and bring us all together.*

*Merry Christmas to All!*

*First Presbyterian Church of Homewood Staff:*

*Rev. Dudley Elvery  
Debra Campbell  
Linda Daanen  
Johnnie Dorsey  
Tim Van Nasdale*



# DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 Dec 21	<b>1</b> 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom  7:00 Advent Bible Study on Zoom w/ Dudley	<b>2</b>  7:00 Wednesday Bible Study w/ Tim on Zoom	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website  Heavenly Perks on Website	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom  7:00 Advent Bible Study on Zoom w/ Dudley	<b>9</b>  7:00 Wednesday Bible Study w/ Tim on Zoom	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 12:30 Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship (week early)	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website 11:30 <b>Congregational Meet</b>  Heavenly Perks on Website	<b>14</b>  Stewardship Team on Zoom	<b>15</b> 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom  7:00 Advent Bible Study on Zoom w/ Dudley	<b>16</b>  7:00 Wednesday Bible Study w/ Tim on Zoom	<b>17</b>  <b>CARILLON DEADLINE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website  Heavenly Perks on Website	<b>21</b>  7:00 <b>Longest Night Healing Service on Zoom</b> 7:45 Session on Zoom	<b>22</b> 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom	<b>23</b>  NO WEDNESDAY BIBLE	<b>24</b>  7:00 <b>Christmas Eve Service</b> on Website <b>Communion</b>	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website  Heavenly Perks on Website	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom	<b>30</b>  7:00 Wednesday Bible Study w/ Tim on Zoom	<b>31</b>  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>		