



In Touch with FPCR



April 2024

Easter!!! I was quite excited about Easter at FPCR this year. The first year I celebrated Easter leading worship at Apostle, I literally fell flat on my face in front of 200 people!! Thankfully the copious amounts of Easter flowers covered my fall from the congregation, but the choir saw it—OH MY STARS—how to make a great impression by tripping and doing a face plant on Easter morning.

I spent a lot of time planning Easter—you know, the important things—what to serve my family that afternoon?? What to wear to church?? Did I need new shoes or could I get by with what I

have?? OO my stars I thought I had NOTHING to wear so I needed shoes AND new clothing-----on and on my head went.

AND, likewise, I worried about the service at FPCR—was it going to be beautiful? Was my sermon good enough? And then my head took off in all kinds of directions about FPCR. Many years ago, I was anxious about Easter and all that comes with it for me, and a friend sent me a quote. Here it is:

“If everyone has the flu and no one is in church—if the pianist forgets to show up—if you stumble and fall—if the worst thing that you can think of happens, he will still rise from the grave to save us. None of it depends on you—it all is God’s to have.”

So, none of that happened—you weren’t all sick, Shira was at the keyboard, Kate did a beautiful job leading us through 1-2-3 *Jesus is Alive*, and I didn’t stumble and fall. Easter did, however, punctuate that my friend was totally correct all those years ago and ever since: ***None of it depends on us, it all depends on the mercy and love that God offers to all.***

I hope your Easter was happy.

MUCH LOVE,
Cathy

REMEMBER TO LOVE ALWAYS AND ALL WAYS!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mark your calendars to attend FPCR services on **April 7** (Communion/Spring Luncheon), **April 14**, **April 21** and **April 28**.

Bible Study will take place on **April 17**.

The **FPCR website** contains up-to-date announcements. Check it if you have questions about a service or deadline.

www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com

UPCOMING SERVICES

All are welcome for upcoming 10 am Sunday Services.

APRIL 7
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY
COMMUNION

MESSAGE: **WHERE ARE YOU PARKED?**

SPRING LUNCHEON

APRIL 14
MESSAGE: **HE NEVER LETS GO**

APRIL 21
MESSAGE: **POWER**

APRIL 28
MESSAGE: **VINES**

ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

Elders

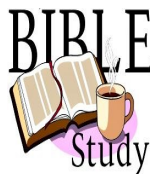
Debbie Heppe
Jackson Kujawa
Melissa Kujawa
Ken Schmidt
Cheryl Weber

Clerk of Session
Elaine Schmidt

Deacons
Cathy Romanski
Rick Romanski

APRIL BIBLE STUDY—FOCUS ON HEAVEN

The next meeting date is **Wednesday, April 17**, at **6:35 pm**, via **Zoom**, at which time we will be introduced to an eight-lesson study about heaven. A Zoom link to this meeting will be sent prior to the scheduled day. To join the group for the first time, please email FPCR or contact Elaine Schmidt. A study book will be provided for you. It is an excellent time to join since this is a new study.



The previous study covered the Book of John. The journey with John began on September 21, 2021, around FPCR's kitchen table and ended on March 20, 2024, via Zoom in each person's own home, office, outdoor deck, or even vacation site. John's purpose in writing his book was to convince us that Jesus of Nazareth **is** God the Son. He showed us through 21 Bible chapters how "Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was the way to real

life, eternal life, and a whole new kind of life!" John began his book by introducing Jesus as "the Word": "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1-2). John ended his book with Jesus's resurrection and by showing us how God wants us to continue his work in the world. Throughout the chapters, events, miracles, and signs to prove Jesus was the Son of God were presented. By the end of the study, John led us to discuss Christ's ability to use us for the glory of God no matter our failures.

Participants agreed it was an educational, interesting study and FPCR thanks **Elaine Schmidt** for all of her preparation to make each session worthwhile and practical! As we move onto the study about heaven, be prepared to discuss the "biblical perspective on heaven—something richer and more exciting than we can imagine." This should be interesting since we possibly all envision heaven in a slightly different way.

183 ITEMS TO SLINGER FOOD PANTRY

On March 6, **Rick and Cathy Romanski** delivered **183 items** including cereals and hygiene items to the Slinger Food Pantry. As always, the Pantry is very grateful to accept the FPCR donations. The present Pantry needs are:



- ◆ **INSTANT HOT CEREAL PACKETS**
- ◆ **BOXES OF SUGARED/ KIDS' CEREALS**
- ◆ **CHUNKY SOUP**

Please place donations in the bin found in the Church's narthex.

Cash donations are always welcome and appreciated! Please either send a check payable to FPCR to PO Box 22, Richfield, WI 53076. Include SFP in the memo of your check.

OR

Make a cash donation at the church, by placing your donation in the offering plate using the special envelope found on the narthex table. Again, mark SFP in the memo section of your check.



Spring Luncheon—April 7, 2024
Please join us for Debbie Heppe's "Famous Ham Sandwiches"!

HAPPY RETIREMENT, SCOTT



In mid-March, **Scott Schoeni** hung up his clipboard, repair orders, and post-it notes and retired from Uptown Chevrolet in Slinger. Scott worked at Uptown ever since completing a two-year automotive program at the Fond du Lac Technical College in 1984. He weathered a change in ownership many years ago and transitioned from working under the hood to a job as a service writer several years ago. While at Uptown, he enjoyed learning and was proud to have earned many trophies and recognitions including the designation of “Mr. Goodwrench”. He is known for being an excellent mechanic—honest, thorough, and fair.

His future will now take a different direction as he wraps up his life in Slinger and moves to Ft. Myers, FL. The change will take place once the house sale, scheduled for early April, is complete. He and wife, Shelley, have steadily been downsizing the Slinger house and preparing the Florida condominium. In case you are wondering, all the accordions are making the move. His teacher has been pushing him along for a few last lessons, wanting to get in all she can before he leaves.

Congratulations and good luck. We will miss your presence each week and thank you for your service to FPCR. Oh, yes . . . and we all WILL miss those accordion solos!

Heard on the docks: "Need a boat? I Noah guy!"

Well, maybe that's not the best example, but it is one example of what you might hear in Christian churches across the globe on **April 7, Holy Humor Sunday**. It is meant to be a day of joy, celebration, laughter, and humor. FPCR, along with many churches of various denominations will celebrate that God had the last laugh on the Devil when He raised Jesus from the dead! (For more information: <https://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com/hhsunday.asp>).

Don't miss FPCR's 10 am Communion Service and Spring Luncheon which follows. Let's worship, laugh, and celebrate with each other on this day of humor!

CONGRATULATIONS, CATALINA!

On Sundays when **Catalina DeSua** is not at the keyboard for an FPCR service, she is often volunteering at the Samaritan Health Center in West Bend by playing the piano for residents.

DeSua was recently rewarded for her “volunteer heart” when she received a nomination for the *Rising Star Award* given by the Volunteer Center of Washington County. Award winners will be recognized at the Volunteer Center's annual “Champions of Change” event on April 18, 2024. This event/fund raiser celebrates outstanding community members who “create positive change in Washington County.”

The nomination statement for Catalina posted on the website says it best: “*Catalina seeks to help others, and she puts her own needs aside. It is nice to see how people react to Catalina's piano playing. The voluntary work that she does helps to lift up the residents' and the staffs' spirits at the Samaritan Health Center, and the smiles are evidence of that.*”

I see a 17-year-old with determination to help others and improve her world. That, in turn, reminds me of life's possibilities and I feel inspired to help others, too.”

FPCR congratulates you, Catalina, on the receipt of this very deserving award.



Catalina DeSua at the Keyboard of the Samaritan Health Center.

Photograph and information from the Volunteer Center's website at <https://volunteernow.net>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following individuals with birthdays in **April**. We wish you many years of God's blessings.

11 - Jean Schoeni

13 - Elaine Schoeni

23 - Jean Zeller

28 - Ron Grunke

29 - Allen Schoeni



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to **Mike and Debbie Hepe** on **April 22**. We wish you many more years of God's blessings.



THANK YOU, EMMA

With the 2024 installation of officers, **Emma Kujawa's** term as a deacon at FPCR ended. Thank you for the time and effort you gave to assure that communion services were set up and other various duties were completed.

HELP THE ENVIRONMENT AND FPCR'S BUDGET . . .

REQUEST AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Please email **FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com** with your preferred email address so we are able to send you an electronic copy of this newsletter rather than a paper copy.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lenten and Easter services. Thank you, Pastor Cathy, for your Sunday services. Thank you, to those who cleaned and decorated the building, led singing, shoveled the walkways, and completed any other task during this special time of year. FPCR appreciates all of you!

Thank you **Elaine Schoeni** for proofreading the newsletters and for co-writing several articles in this month's newsletter.

Thank you to **Presbytery Moderator, Bill Leonard**, for attending FPCR on March 3. We enjoyed meeting and visiting with you, Bill.

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OGHS IS 75 YEARS OLD

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the four special collections taken during the year at FPCR. The final date for collection of OGHS envelope donations as well as the fish banks will be April 7. On that Sunday, there will also be judging of the decorated banks. Do not forget to bring your entry to FPCR by April 7!

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. The Presbytery of Milwaukee describes these agencies as "all working in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope." (See source below.)

This is the 75th anniversary of One Great Hour of Sharing; and the program has, over the years:

- Granted 3.1 million dollars by PDA in the United States and 15 countries.
- Distributed over 55,000 pounds of seeds and seedlings to farmers.
- Certified 291 PC(USA) congregations as Earth Care Congregations.
- Gave a \$5,500 grant to small farmers in South Sudan.
- Had 90 grants that impacted 22 countries by PHP.
- Distributed 228,318 Gift of the Heart Kits and Blankets.
- 875 chickens were distributed in Guatemala and Colombia.
- 105 women became self-employed in Malawi.
- 152 people won their land back in Sri Lanka.
- 872 Presbyterian congregations purchased eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods.

Source: Quote and Statistics from *Fresh Impressions*, March 27, 2024, The Presbytery of Milwaukee.



THANK YOU JIM AND CAROL FRANK

Thank you to **Carol Frank** and **Jim Frank** for their service to FPCR as elders over the past three years. Both Carol and Jim have faithfully worked for the good of the church in listening to the wishes of the congregation and making wise decisions for the present and future needs of FPCR. We thank them both and hope they enjoy attending services, socializing with the FPCR family, and giving continued input. Your time, effort, and wisdom are appreciated, Jim and Carol!

WELCOME NEW ELDERS AND DEACON

Installation of new officers took place on March 3 at FPCR. **Jackson Kujawa** and **Ken Schmidt** were installed as elders and **Rick Romanski** was installed as a deacon.

FPCR congratulates all three members of the FPCR family. We are all excited to look at the future work of the church and know you will be leading the congregation through many upcoming decisions.



Shown at right are elder, Jackson Kujawa; deacon, Rick Romanski; and elder, Ken Schmidt.