

In Touch with FPCR

REV. DONALD KOEHN OCTOBER 14, 1927 - JANUARY 6, 2021

By Jean Schoeni



Rev. Donald F. Koehn (age 93) was taken to heaven on January 6, 2021. While we rejoice knowing he is with our Lord, his passing has left a hole in the FPCR fabric. All of us will truly miss him. As our minister for 20 years, he saw us through many church and life events, showing only kindness and love for us as a

congregation and as individuals. He was our patient, understanding leader who willingly gave us his time and thoughtful guidance.

Rev. Koehn will be remembered for his wonderful sermons, which always “hit home,” for his enthusiasm for art and music which he freely shared, and for his love of humanity—shown to each and every one of us. He enjoyed and made special many FPCR events—from church luncheons to organizing and providing special music to delivering the Christmas Eve services complete with sound effects. And, no one told better stories! We loved hearing his fish stories and his stories about morning coffees at Piggly Wiggly. We enjoyed the comparisons he drew between ministering when he was first ordained and today. We were in awe of his paintings used to illustrate sermons and his family and friends musical presentations that made us smile and cry at the same time. We will fondly remember Rev. Koehn, his time with us, and the growth he helped each of us achieve.

The FPCR family sends its sympathy to Joyce, Scott and his family, and Cheryl Terman and her family. At the January 17 service both Pulpit Supply, Paul Zachow, and Clerk of Session, Elaine Schmidt, paid tribute to and offered prayers for Rev. Koehn.

See also Page 2 for the poem, *The Good Shepherd*, read by Elaine Schmidt at the January 17 FPCR service.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Services	2
The Good Shepherd	2
Slinger Food Pantry	2
Elders and Deacons	2
Sermon Jottings	3
Happy Birthday	3
Happy Anniversary	3
Update from FPCR Annual Meeting	4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upcoming scheduled services are **February 7 and 21, 2021**
- Ash Wednesday is **February 17**. The first Sunday of Lent will be **February 21** when we will have a service by Mr. Paul Zachow, M.A.P.S.
- 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 a.m. Sunday Services.

FEBRUARY 7

AND

FEBRUARY 21

Mask, social distancing, and hand sanitizing required.

Updated information is posted on the website: www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com

ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

Elders

Debbie Heppe
Melissa Kujawa
Rick Romanski
Kenneth Schmidt
Jeff Zeller

Clerk of Session

Elaine Schmidt

Deacons

Cathy Romanski
Cheryl Weber

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

IN HONOR OF REV. DONALD KOEHN, OUR SHEPHERD

There once was a flock
That was lost and afraid
It wandered around
Without direction for days

But the Lord looked down
With compassion from above
And sent a good shepherd
To lead them with love

The shepherd was kind
Loving and wise
And he cherished his whole flock
No matter the color or the size

Though the shepherd was quiet
Humble and meek
Every ear listened
Whenever he would speak

He showed them the way
To walk in the light
And he prayed every day
For God to give them true sight

He taught them about
The blood of the Lamb
And about the creator
The great I AM

They flourished and they grew
Through the knowledge they gained
About the Savior from above
Who lived without blemish or stain

The flock was so thankful
To the Lord above
For sending a wise leader
Who was so full of love

He led them with
A strong and gentle good hand
And took the whole flock
Safely into God's Promised Land



Immediate Needs Include: Applesauce Cups - Fruit Cocktail Cups - Applesauce - Pineapple - Maple Syrup - Cake Mixes - Brownie Mixes.

Drop Off by February 21, 2021: At the church (services are February 7 and 21), OR drop off using your church key, OR contact Romanskis (262-628-3822).

Rather Make a Cash Donation: Use the envelope in the Narthex and drop it in the collection plate OR mail a check with "Food Pantry" noted in the memo to FPCR, PO Box 22, Richfield, WI 53076 prior to February 21, 2021.

Thank You for Your Continued, Consistent Support!



SERMON JOTTINGS

As we continue through this time of COVID, and possible quarantine, it is sometimes difficult to follow the continuum of church lessons and sermons. Here are some summary notes from January's services.

Date: **January 3, 2021**

Text: **Matthew 2:1-12**

Sermon: ***Follow the Light***

The three Magi were instructed by King Herod to follow the light (the star) to where Jesus was born and let Herod know where they found Jesus. This is a story about hostility (Herod wanted Jesus killed) and the light (God's love coming into the world in the infant Jesus). This contrast between hostility and empire

versus God's love for everyone is an ongoing theme in Jesus' life and ministry.

- We are called in the church, in our own lives, and in the world to be the light and love of the infant Jesus to everyone.
- We are called to "rise above" the present craziness and follow the light.
- We are called to worship Jesus with the whole of our lives—in the church and in our broken country and world.
- God won over the empire. Love superseded hate and hostility. Justice and righteousness won over power and authority.
- God's glory may be manifested where we least expect it—look for the light of God in the most unlikely places and in everyone.
- God loves each and every one of us—always.
- It took faith for the Magi to follow the light, worship Jesus, and bring gifts for him (and not the empire).
- We are called to follow the light of God into the new year of 2021.

Be still and know that I am God and that the Lord of hosts is with us and the God of Jacob is our refuge."

Date: **January 17, 2021**

Text: **1 Samuel 3:1-20**

Sermon: "**Here I Am!**"

The Samuel text is a call story. It is set in the Temple where the Temple Priest, Eli, resides as well as Samuel. Samuel is not a good leader for the Temple or for Israel. One night God called Samuel to be a prophet for the Israelites.

- Samuel was called by God to be ethical and just unlike our country's/world's present situation which is full of dishonest, abusive, and corrupt leadership.
- We are called to peace, justice, and righteousness. We should respond in love to the needs of the hurting world and society.
- How is God calling you? How can we and this church be agents of God's love and justice in our world? How is the church being called to ministry in 2021?
- God's call for us can renew and refresh us with hope for new journeys.
- God calls us to have hope—even in the midst of fear and grief. He is calling us to respond, "Here I am!"

Follow the Light . . . Peace, Love, and Joy!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following individuals with birthdays in **February**. We wish you many more years of God's blessings.

4 - Joyce Koehn

10 - Katie Schmidt

11 - Brenda Schmidt

14 - Shira Gui

20 - Daryl Schmidt

23 - Mike Heppe

23 - Jennifer Schmidt



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

to the following couple who is celebrating their wedding anniversary in **February**. May the Lord bless you and keep you for many more years to come!

12 - Daryl and Brenda Schmidt

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.

The 2021 **Lenten Devotional** from Presbyterians Today is available to read online or to download as a PDF <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/>

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

Location:
2281 Highway 164
Richfield, WI 53076

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 22
Richfield, WI 53076

Website:
<https://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com>

Email:
FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com

**ONE FOR THE BOOKS!
THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**



With snow in the forecast, COVID still on everyone's minds, and questions as to how well the Internet would work at the church over an iPad, our 2020 Annual Meeting took on a new look. Instead of gathering in the sanctuary, we all ZOOMED from home . . . and had a very successful meeting!

Following is a short summary.

- The meeting began with a prayer and a call to order. The minutes from the last year's annual meeting were read and approved.
- With the addition of Kate Kujawa on November 29, 2020, the annual statistical report shows 34 members.
- The Nominating Committee, chaired by Kenneth Schmidt, submitted the following who were unanimously accepted:

- Carol Frank—Elder
- Jim Frank—Elder
- Emma Kujawa—Deacon

Kenneth Schmidt and Jeffrey Zeller were thanked for their service as Elders; as was Cheryl Weber for her service as a Deacon.

- Deacon Cheryl Weber reported there were 17 services during 2020 which were attended by 295 people. Communion was served four times plus the option for virtual Communion on six different occasions during the COVID shutdown.
- The Treasurer's report indicated:
 - Cash balance = \$59,347.02 (includes \$23,640 from a memorial account)
 - Income for 2020 = \$31,283.96
 - Expenses for 2020 = \$31,984.78
 - Net Loss for 2020 = **-700.82**

The Audit Committee (Leslie Schmidt and Elaine Schoeni) reported finding no exceptions in the accounting records for 2020.

There was a short discussion about possibly investing some of the money for future projects. Rick Romanski will research this option.

For privacy and ease, Alice Schmitz will research the feasibility of using an auditor in the future.

There was discussion about the Matthew 25 Initiative (\$2,000 to each church in the Presbytery by an anonymous donor). It was suggested that we try to find a way to "grow" the amount before donating it by the end of 2021.

- Gratitude was given to Rev. Barbara Jordan for her service in 2020 along with prayers for Rev. Donald Koehn.
- There was a motion/acceptance to delay reading of the minutes until next year. The meeting ended with a prayer and was adjourned.

Thank you to Moderator, Pastor Cathy Manthei. Paper handouts will be available at the church for those who wish to have a copy.