

In Touch with FPCR



THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR GIFTS

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Advent and Christmas services traditional, beautiful, and meaningful. As always, the FPCR family stepped up to prepare for and carry out the season. Thank you to:

- **Paul Zachow** for the inspiring Advent and Christmas services;
- **Cathy Manthei** for the communion service on the first Sunday of Advent;
- **Elaine Schmidt** for coordinating readings and special offerings;
- **Rick and Cathy Romanski**, Slinger Food Pantry liaisons;
- **Jackson Kujawa** and **Elaine Schoeni** for special Advent readings;
- **Cheryl Weber** for lighting the Advent wreath;
- **Shira Gui, Michael Kieckhaefer, Leah Pokorny, and Tim Wang** for their beautiful music and **Karen Bertucci** for coordinating the musicians;

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upcoming scheduled services are **January 3, 17, and 24** (Communion Service).
- Make a note of the FPCR Annual Meeting being held after the **January 24** service.
- 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.

JANUARY 3

JANUARY 17

AND

JANUARY 24

Communion Service
followed by
FPCR Annual Meeting

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

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES WERE BEAUTIFUL

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- **Debbie Heppe, Emma Kujawa, and Melissa Kujawa** for transforming the church with beautiful decorations;
- **Scott Schoeni** for procuring and delivering the poinsettias; and
- **Ryan Kujawa** for assuring the parking lot is always clear!

Thank you all for sharing your talents to make December special at FPCR.



Top: The decorated sanctuary.

Bottom From Left: Kate Kujawa and Elaine Schmidt discuss the BEST Christmas gift (Jesus). **Next:** Leah Pokorny played the keyboard on December 20. **Next:** Elaine Schoeni read on December 20. **Next:** The Advent Wreath. **Last:** The Sanctuary's Christmas tree.

"I was hungry and you gave me food... as you did it for one of the least of these my brethren, you did it for me."

Thank you for your support.

Your donation of \$235
will be used to fill the shelves at the Pantry.

May God bless you for your concern for those in need.

Thank you for your most generous continued support

The Slinger Community Food Pantry Committee

During November, **128** non-perishable food items were collected and delivered by **Rick and Cathy Romanski** to the Slinger Food Pantry. In addition, monetary donations totaling **\$235** were submitted.

The Food Pantry's Thank You note is shown at the left.



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 December's services.

Date: **December 6, 2020**,
Text: **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**
Sermon: **Peace and Hope**

The Psalms text and the Isaiah text read today is an invitation to God and a cry for help by the Babylonian people in exile for God to come among them, comfort them, bring steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace.

- We need to put our hope and peace in God and welcome the miracle of the baby Jesus.
- Though this Advent, Christmas, and New Year's season is different for us, God DOES want us to stay safe and be healthy.
- We are in some ways experiencing being in exile/the wilderness during the pandemic.
- We are seeking God as much as the Babylonians.
- Finding peace and hope in the midst of change is not easy. Though we miss family, friends, and even our church community, God and Jesus call us to find peace and hope that this will not be forever and to celebrate Jesus' birthday in safe ways.
- This is a dark season. The birth of Jesus brings light into the world; hope in the midst of darkness.
- God is here for us—ALWAYS.
- The coming of baby Jesus calls us to be agents of God's love, peace, hope and light—especially for those in need.
- Show compassion in this greedy world. We are called to be in a right relationship with one another.
- We need to **walk the talk** as disciples of Jesus—expectantly wait for the infant Jesus to come into our midst anew again.

Date: **December 20, 2020**

Text: **Luke 2:1-20**

Sermon: **Joy**

The December 20 passage tells the Christmas story.

- This passage brings us joy. We are all part of Jesus' birthday party.
- Jesus comes to us—and is here for all people.
- This good news gives us hope, peace, and joy and is a symbol of God's love for all of us.
- Jesus was born in a common, crowded stable. Mary and Joseph were everyday people paying their taxes (a political marker of Rome's dominance). Also noteworthy: the angels told the shepherds where Jesus was to be born—they did NOT announce this to the Emperor and the King.
- Being born to Joseph made Jesus not only Joseph's son but also a son of David.
- Jesus came to break down the barriers of class, wealth, power, and authority.
- Jesus being born as we celebrate is being born anew—a gift to all of us ALWAYS!
- Even with COVID this Christmas story is meant to pull us together.
- He came to bring love to all of us—rejoice and respond with joy and praise to God for this miraculous gift!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

10 - Salem Remillard

20 - Enzo Remillard

24 - Scott Schoeni

27 - Shelley Schoeni



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

15 - Scott and Shelley Schoeni

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.

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

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Last month's issue included updates on a few of our favorite young adults. This month, we move on to two more.

Tyler Schmitz, son of Jerry and Alice Schoeni Schmitz, works for the Minnesota Twins at their Spring Training facility in Ft. Myers, FL, as the Minor League Video Coordinator.

COVID has been really interesting for Tyler since baseball is currently under many COVID restrictions. The business side of baseball is pretty much done online through Zoom, so there is daily screen time. You may remember that the MLB Draft, along with the football draft, was held online this year.

There are still players working out at the Ft. Myers complex. Players, along with all complex personnel, are tested twice a week and must adhere to all of the other COVID protocols (masks, temperature checks, etc.).

Tyler loves his job because he gets to enjoy baseball EVERY DAY, either in person or via video.

In his spare time, he golfs with friends, plays with his dog Stella, and keeps tabs on the Badgers and Packers from afar.

Jason Tutkowski, son of Wayne and Nancy Schmidt

Tutkowski, lives on the southwest side of Oklahoma City, where he moved into his new home about a year ago.

Jason works for the Oklahoma State government at an agency called the Water Resources Board where he helps administer their water rights program. He enjoys working with a variety of clients including farmers, municipalities, and the energy industry to help them legally and beneficially use surface and groundwater.

Jason "teleworks" from home most of the time; however, he finds that going into the office once or twice a week is beneficial. One big advantage of teleworking is that it is location neutral. Jason has been known to visit his Dad, Wayne, while working a full schedule!

When not working, Jason loves playing Frisbee golf; but, watch out for those Oklahoma winds. They certainly whip everything around!



Thank you for your monetary donations totaling **\$603** for the Gingerbread House. You certainly provided a VERY Merry Christmas for our selected family with some left over for another family.

Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in God's world by mistake.

From Alcoholic Anonymous