



In Touch with FPCR

TO YOU FROM PASTOR CATHY . . .



January 2024!!

Beloved,

I am really digging into the story of the Israelites leaving Egypt with Moses. They wanted to go. They were being poorly treated and so off they went.

BUT THEN (not much of a plot twist as it is human nature!) **They didn't like the "new" and wanted to go back.**

You all have experienced a lot of change in 2023. I applaud you for the way that you have weathered everything that has been thrown your way. I am going to do things differently than others. Some of it you will like, some of it you won't. Again, human nature!

I am asking our congregation to each get me a list of their **10 favorite hymns**. Not something you've heard on the radio but actual hymns you enjoy in either of the hymnals. I don't know what songs you know and what songs you don't. We need bulletins written far in advance so that our musicians have time to practice. I will try to incorporate some new and some more familiar hymns when I can.

I know that 2024 is going to be a great year for us at FPCR!! I have so much hope and excitement. Happy New Year.

Keep praying—be grateful—see you in church!!
Cathy

*Remember to love always and
all ways.*

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mark your calendars to attend FPCR's services weekly during January: **January 7, 14, 21, and 28.**

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 10 am Sunday Services with Pastor Cathy Manthei.

JANUARY 7

Communion Service

Message:

That Troubling Star

JANUARY 14

Message:

As It Was

JANUARY 21

Message: **TBA**

JANUARY 28

Message: **TBA**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the service.

Additional and updated information is posted on the website: www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com

ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

Elders

Carol Frank

Jim Frank

Debbie Heppe

Melissa Kujawa

Cheryl Weber

Clerk of Session

Elaine Schmidt

Deacons

Emma Kujawa

Cathy Romanski

THE SLINGER FOOD PANTRY IS GRATEFUL FOR YOU!



Boxes and bags of non-perishables are stacked in the narthex for delivery to the Slinger Food Pantry.

a close relationship with the Pantry volunteers who update them about supplies in stock versus out of stock and what is needed by Pantry clients. This is reported back to the family and friends of FPCR who in turn tailor their donations to the Pantry's needs.

DECEMBER'S DONATIONS

December is always a busy month at the Slinger Food Pantry. Food donations increase when businesses and schools run holiday drives. Good thing since it seems there are more people in need of these donations than ever before.

This year, to help address this increased need, FPCR's family and friends enjoyed packing boxes using the "Reverse Advent" Food Pantry guidelines—one needed item a day placed in a box during Advent resulted in a wonderful box of staples for Food Pantry clients by Christmas.

FPCR's 2023 Reverse Advent drive netted **375** non-perishable items plus a few bags of candy and other treats tucked in! Additionally, a final 2023 check covering recent cash donations to the Pantry totaled **\$770**. The Pantry and its clients are very appreciative of your thoughtful giving and are continually amazed by the level of donations. **Thank you to each and every one who has donated or helped the Pantry in some way during 2023.**

JANUARY'S DONATIONS

Moving into January, the Pantry has some staples left on its shelves. However, they are asking that you remember your childhood days and donate boxes of kid's cereal! To do this effectively, ask yourself, "What cereal did I grab from the kitchen cupboard when I woke up in my "footie" pajamas on Saturday morning and settled into the cartoons?" Was it Fruit Loops? Capt'n Crunch? Honey Nut Cheerios? Maybe it was Trix, Kix, or Lucky Charms? That "favorite" cereal you had as a kid is what the Pantry is in need of this month. So, the next time you are in the cereal aisle, please grab a couple boxes for the Pantry's "kid" clients. Let's see how many boxes of cereal we can load into Rick Romanski's truck by the end of January! (At least all that cereal will be lighter to carry down the church stairs, Rick.)

The Slinger Food Pantry bases its ability to gift food items on donations from people and organizations in the surrounding communities. The Pantry is especially grateful for partnerships like the one that has developed with FPCR. FPCR on the other hand, chooses to help feed people that are underserved as part of its "mission".

FPCR is able to strongly support the Pantry thanks to our liaisons **Rick and Cathy Romanski**. The Romanskis have



Rick Romanski delivers the December food donations on a cold Monday morning.



Thank you for your donations to the **JOY offering** held in December. The church is able to send **\$440** to PC(USA) for this fund.

YOU'RE INVITED—JANUARY 14

10 am worship followed by taking down the greens, sub sandwiches, and a session meeting.



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ENJOYED BY ALL



**Sunday,
December 17,
2023**

Top Left: A surprise for **Pastor Cathy Manthei**.

Top Right: That surprise was a fleece throw welcoming Pastor Cathy and commemorating her October 8 commissioning.

Bottom Left: A delicious spaghetti luncheon was enjoyed by the FPCR family including **Allen Schoeni** and **Leslie Schmidt**.

Bottom Right: Cookies for dessert AND to be exchanged. Delicious!



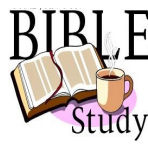
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following individuals with a birthday in **January**. We wish you many years of God's blessings.

- 10 - Salem Remillard**
- 20 - Enzo Remillard**
- 24 - Scott Schoeni**
- 27 - Shelley Schoeni**



Happy anniversary to **Scott and Shelley Schoeni** who are celebrating their wedding anniversary on **January 15**. May the Lord bless you and keep you for many years to come!

NEXT BIBLE STUDY



The Bible Study covering the Book of John led by **Elaine Schmidt** will **not** be held during the month of January. The next session (via Zoom) will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 6:30 pm. The discussion will center on John 19:17-42, Lesson 11, in the workbook.


CONGRATULATIONS, SHIRA

Congratulations to **Shira Gui**, keyboard player at FPCR. Shira was recently notified that she was accepted to Columbia College in New York City.

Shira has been "on leave" to concentrate on her college applications and wrapping up her tennis season. We are excited that she will be back with us on January 7.

Additionally, we are all excited about your acceptance and wish you success and happiness in your college career. On the other hand, we do not want you to leave us. Would you consider commuting?

Buy your Forever Stamps Now! On January 21, first-class postage will go up from 66 cents to 68 cents.




PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following individuals who have health concerns:

- Carol and Jim Frank; Carol Frank's son, Jim; Ron Grunke; Ron Grunke's daughter, Shelley; Debbie and Mike Heppes daughter, Erin; Melissa Kujawa's father, Bill; Jean Zeller's granddaughter, Ashley; Slinger High School Student/Athlete, Jack Gerlach; and Daryl Schmidt.**

Pastor Cathy urges you to make additional prayer requests on a more timely, weekly basis using the prayer requests cards found at FPCR.

Please take a look at the last church directory. Is there anything you would like updated? No more landline phone? New email address? New address?



Please report changes to **Alice Schmitz** in person or via email: FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com no later than **January 31**.

You will receive an updated directory in February.

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

- **Kate Kujawa, Jayden Schmidt, Elaine Schmidt, and Cheryl Weber** for lighting the Advent candles during services in December.
- **Everyone** who planned, organized, or contributed to the Christmas Luncheon on December 17. What a delicious spaghetti dinner!
- **June Neumann** for always picking up FPCR's mail from the PO box in a timely manner.
- **Rick Romanski** for continued troubleshooting and work to correct issues with the water at the church.
- **Elaine Schmidt** for overseeing maintenance and service on both of the furnaces.

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

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2281 Highway 164
Richfield, WI 53076

Mailing Address:
PO Box 22
Richfield, WI 53076

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

Email:
FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DATE SET

On **Sunday, January 28, 2024**, immediately following the service, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held.

At this meeting, minutes from last year are reviewed. There is a financial report, a deacon's report, nominations, and voting for officers to fill the next term. Old and new business will be discussed. This year, changes to the by-laws will be addressed. (See next column).

All members of the FPCR congregation are encouraged to be at the meeting to discuss and vote on business important to FPCR.

If there is anything you would like included on the agenda for this meeting, please contact **Elaine Schmidt**, Clerk of Session, in person or via email at FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com.

The inclement weather date for this meeting—which we often seem to need—is Sunday, February 4, 2024.

FLUTE SOLO PLAYED BY CORA SCHMIDT FOR ADVENT

At the December 10 service, **Cora Schmidt** played a special flute solo, "Mary Did you Know?" It was a beautiful addition to the day's service.

Cora is the daughter of **Daryl and Brenda Schmidt** and granddaughter of **Ken and Elaine Schmidt**. FPCR thanks you, Cora, for sharing your talent; we hope to see you again.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE GIFTS CHEER FAMILIES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY



Once again, the FPCR family contributed generously to the Christmas tradition of supporting the Gingerbread House Holiday Gift Giving Program, an initiative of the Youth and Family Project, a non-profit located in West Bend, WI.

You generously gave **\$1,211** to the program this Christmas. Gifts were purchased for FPCR's assigned family by volunteers of the program. Be assured that Kayla, son Liam, and toddler Fallon had a happier Christmas as a result of your generosity.

The Project received many more requests from families than they had sponsors in 2023. Therefore, know that you helped additional families in need of some Christmas cheer with your donations above and beyond what was purchased for Kayla, Liam and Fallon.