

In Touch with FPCR

Again in 2025, Your Support Was Awesome!

Thank you for your support of the Gingerbread House Holiday Gift Giving Program again this year. The FPCR tradition of helping make a memorable Christmas for two local families facing financial struggles and stressors during the holidays was wonderfully supported. You gifted **\$857** which was thoughtfully spent by **Cathy Romanski** and **Debbie Hepp** on two families. A check, representing the additional gifts from you, was also sent to assist families without sponsors. Donations for gifts took place at FPCR on Sundays, November 9 and 16.



Reverse Advent Calendar Gifts

Another Christmas tradition at FPCR is the Reverse Advent Calendar. Your daily gifts during Advent netted **559** items for the shelves at the Slinger Food Pantry plus some personally delivered to SFP. **Rick and Cathy Romanski** took the boxes/bags of non-perishables from the Reverse Advent Calendar along with the donations of 144 toothbrushes and 99 bars of soap. The items were delivered to the Pantry on December 22.

Then, on December 31, the final check for 2025 was mailed. This check represented your monetary support of the Pantry during the fourth quarter of the year and was written for **\$1,150**.

Many in the area are so grateful to you for your continued support as they depend on this much-needed resource for their food/hygiene needs.



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Special points of interest

The **FPCR website** contains up-to-date announcements and pictures. Check it if you have questions.

www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com



A growing, giving family, relevant to the community
where all are welcome to come and worship God.

DECEMBER SERVICES

**All are welcome
for the
10 am
Sunday Services as
follows:**

JANUARY 4
EPIPHANY
COMMUNION SERVICE

JANUARY 11

JANUARY 18

JANUARY 25

Stay updated . . .
Check the website
or contact
FirstPresbyofRichfield@
gmail.com

ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

Elders

Debbie Heppe
Cathy Romanski
Cheryl Weber

Clerk of Session

Cathy Romanski

Deacons

Rick Romanski
Jean Schoeni

Clerk of Session

Emeritus

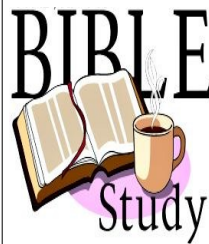
Elaine Schmidt

Christmas Joy Offering

You again supported the Christmas Joy offering which lifts up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. You contributed **\$460** to help Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need. A portion is also used for leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.



BIBLE Bible Study Scheduled for January 14



Lesson 4 from the “Meeting God” study book will be discussed on Wednesday, **January 14**, at 6 pm. The lesson topic is *The Spirit and the Son* which covers John 15:26 through 16:15. We hope all will be able to attend. The email reminder sent to participants prior to the gathering will contain updated Zoom information. Please see **Elaine Schmidt** if you have any questions.

December’s discussion covered *The Father and the Son* from John 13:31 through 14:11 and was crafted to lead us to the Father through the Son. Our opening prayer was for help with our faithfulness. In the lesson verses, Jesus was preparing his disciples to live without him physically. They questioned a lot. The concept of not being able to “follow” Jesus where he was going was difficult and still is today. Of course, they wanted to see Jesus. They were just as curious and doubtful as we are today! The Bible, however, teaches us that knowing Jesus and seeing him is the same as seeing and knowing the Father. This is a difficult concept.

The group concluded that praying often was at least part of the way to strengthen our faith, trust, and learning.

Thank You, Rev. Dottie Halverson

2025’s Advent season came with a few challenges. On November 30, the first Sunday of Advent, the area received several inches of snow and required that the service be canceled. That meant Rev. Dottie had to “knit” together her thoughts and lessons for both November 30 and December 7.

Then, on December 14, c-o-l-d was accompanied by blowing snow. The group at FPCR ventured out as did **Rev. Halverson** who provided a thoughtful, Bible-based service.

FPCR appreciated Rev. Dottie’s flexibility this Advent season and the travels she made to and from her home to be with us.



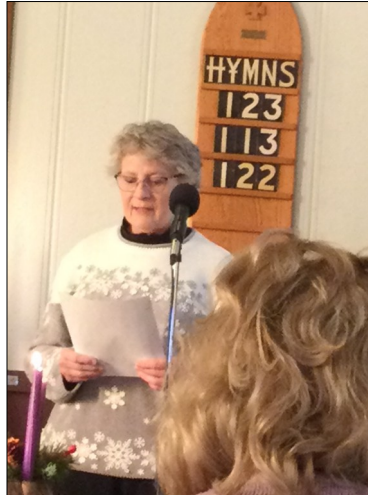
Spaghetti Luncheon - January 4, 2026

Immediately following the service on January 4, the spaghetti luncheon will be served. Relax and enjoy a delicious lunch while visiting with friends/family at the annual spaghetti luncheon hosted by **Debbie Heppe** and **Melissa Kujawa**. **All are welcome.**

A Bible Verse to Begin 2026

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6—The Bible (Revised Standard Version)

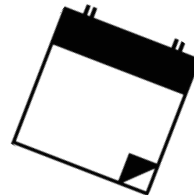
Thank You to FPCR's Advent Readers



Members of the FPCR family volunteer to read passages each Advent season. From top left are this year's readers: **Cheryl Weber, Carol Frank, Elaine Schmidt, Cora Schmidt, and Elaine Schoeni** filled the role. Additionally, **Cheryl Weber** assists each reader by lighting the week's candle.

FPCR's Annual Church Meeting

Over the next couple of weeks the date and time of the church's annual meeting will be announced. Clerk of Session **Cathy Romanski** will work with our moderator, **Rev. David Perkins**, to set the date and organize the meeting. Please watch the website, emails, and listen to the announcements during the service so you will be able to plan to attend.



Congratulations to FPCR's friend **Deanna Wojcieszak** on her engagement to Brian Soland last month. Also congratulations to her son **Owen Wojcieszak** who married Nina on November 22. What an exciting end of 2025 for the Wojcieszak family! The FPCR family wishes both couples God's blessings.

Book of Common Worship Available

Within the Presbyterian Church (USA), *The Book of Common Worship* is a much-used resource for Presbyterian pastors, church musicians, liturgical leaders, and anyone curious about worship in the Reformed tradition. This volume includes everything church leaders need for Sunday worship, the Christian year, the sacraments, and pastoral and occasional services, such as ordinations, weddings, wholeness services, and funerals.

A few months ago, FPCR ordered a current edition of *The Book of Common Worship*. If you are curious about this resource, please talk with Cathy Romanski. FPCR has a copy which is available to all on a "shared" basis.



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

24 - Scott Schoeni

27 - Shelley Schoeni



Happy Anniversary to the following couples who will be celebrating their wedding anniversary in **January**. Anniversary blessings to you!

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.



Thank you to **Zhige Meng** for this bouquet of striking, handmade poinsettias! They brighten our sanctuary each Sunday. We appreciate your talents and generosity, Zhige!

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

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The Decorations Arrive!

Parishioners stayed after the service on December 7 to decorate the church for Christmas. It makes the Advent season special along with many other “traditions” that FPCR has built over the years.



Cathy Romanski and Melissa Kujawa plan their task of trimming the tree.

Elaine Schmidt and Jean Zeller add ornaments to the narthex tree.



Cheryl Weber and Keith Clark add garland above the entry.

Thank you again, Cora!

Cora Schmidt is an accomplished flute player. We all look forward to the times she plays her flute at FPCR. She again treated us to two solo pieces at the December 21 Advent service.

Cora is in the Orchestra at Kettle Moraine High School. She is the daughter of **Daryl and Brenda Schmidt** and the granddaughter of **Ken and Elaine Schmidt**.

Thank you for playing, Cora. We enjoy the “concert” every time!



Window Restoration Update

Rick Romanski reports that the window restoration is “on hold” until the needed storm window arrives at the craftsman’s workshop. Once that piece is procured, the window will be returned and the installation will be completed. The only drawback is that it will all wait until it is 45 degrees outdoors. So . . . probably doubtful for the next few weeks!

A Bit of Humor

A Job You No Longer See

Sluggard-Waker

Churchgoers know that it can be difficult sometimes to keep your eyelids open during a dull sermon. Back in 18th-century England, this problem was remedied by a sluggard-waker, a man whose sole job was to prowl the pews and wake sleepy parishioners — sometimes by hitting them over the head with a brass-tipped stick.

We are grateful this has not been a problem at FPCR in recent decades! There was a time in history, however, when an occasional parishioner may have nodded off!



Thank you **Keith Clark, Cathy Romanski, Elaine Schoeni, and Jean Schoeni** for pictures in this month’s edition.