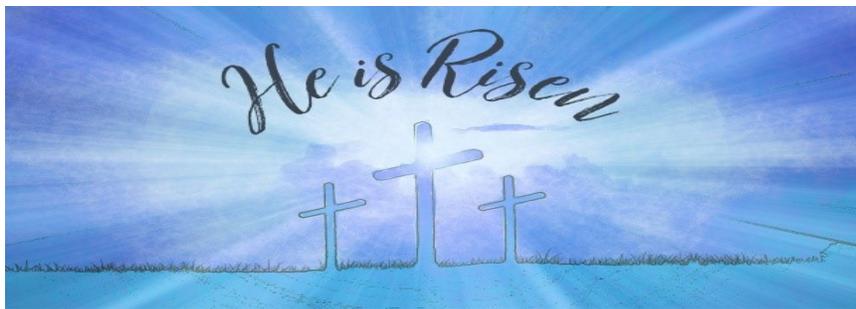




In Touch with FPCR



5The angel said to the women, do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6He is not here; he has risen, just as he said . . .

Matthew 28:5-6 (NIV)



May you and your family be blessed as you celebrate the true meaning of Easter, from the reflection of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Sunday and the promise of eternal life.

HAPPY EASTER!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- April's scheduled services are **April 4** and **April 18**.
- April 4 (Easter Sunday) is the final day to participate in the **Road to the Cross Slinger Food Pantry collection**. Of course, you are always welcome to help the Food Pantry at any time through donations (drop off in the Narthex) or monetary gifts (mail or drop in the collection plate). Updates are available on the FPCR website: <https://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com/>
- The special collection for **One Great Hour of Sharing** ends April 4. More information about OGHS is on the FPCR website or at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

UPCOMING SERVICES

All are welcome for upcoming 10 a.m. Sunday Services.

**APRIL 4
EASTER SUNDAY**

APRIL 18

MAY 9

MAY 23

JUNE 6

Mask, social distancing, and hand sanitizing requested.

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

ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

Elders

Carol Frank

Jim Frank

Debbie Heppe

Melissa Kujawa

Rick Romanski

Clerk of Session

Elaine Schmidt

Deacons

Emma Kujawa

Cathy Romanski

FPCR PRAYER REQUESTS

FPCR loves to pray for its family and friends both individually and as a group. During this time of COVID, however, communication of prayer needs has been more difficult. Therefore, if you would like us to pray for you, a loved one, or a friend, either contact us by email (FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com) or notify Elaine Schmidt (phone: 262-224-3929).

Please add as much information as you feel comfortable sharing.

We will communicate your request via email or phone to the congregation.

If you receive a request to pray from FPCR and

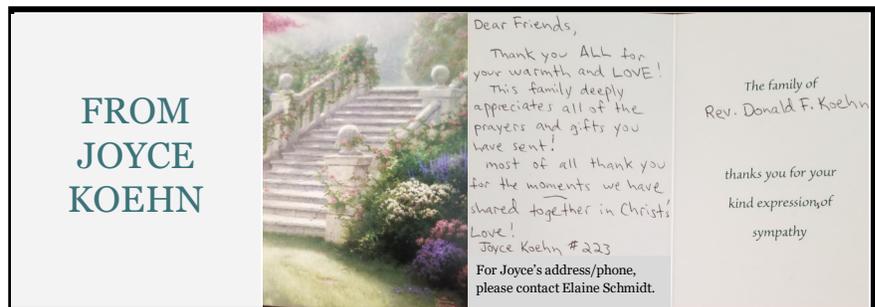


do not wish to participate in this "prayer chain," please either send an email to FPCR or contact Elaine Schmidt. You will be removed from the list.

INSTALLATION SERVICE PICTURES

Check out pictures from the March 14 service on the FPCR website. From the website (www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com) click the menu button titled *Pictures*.

<https://www.firstpresbyofrichfield.com/picture-galleries>



MISSION PLEDGE THANK YOU

FPCR received the following from **Rachel Yates**, Presbytery Executive, Presbytery of Milwaukee:

"With deep gratitude, I write to acknowledge your generous mission pledge—and payment!—of \$450. We recognize the sacrifice that your gift represents in this time. Your willingness to contribute to our shared ministries in

Southeastern Wisconsin and beyond is a sign of your hope, faith, and commitment to our collective future. What a blessing!

... On behalf of the Presbytery of Milwaukee, I give thanks to God for your partnership in these [Matthew 25] efforts and look forward to how we can faithfully grow God's church in this new year."



SERMON JOTTINGS

To assist with following the continuum of church lessons and sermons, here are summary notes from March's services.

Date: **March 7, 2021 (Mr. Paul Zachow, M.A.P.S)**

Text: **I Corinthians 1:18-31**

Sermon: ***God's Foolishness and Wisdom***

In the reading, Paul addresses the Gentile Corinthian Church because there are differences, scandals, and confusion. Church members are following the way of the culture rather than the cross.

- The apostle Paul tries to show proper life according to the gospel and tries to help the Corinthians live a more wholesome life.
- He rejects the world's standards. The boasting, pride, scandals, and factionalism are "foolishness".
- Christ is identified with wisdom, righteousness, and living appropriate to God.
- We are to follow the wisdom of love (found in Christ) and the Road to the Cross. The wisdom of God means to turn away from the wisdom of the world.

Date: **March 14, 2021 (Pastor Cathy Manthei)**

Text: **John 3:14-21**

Sermon: ***Nicodemus and Jesus Converse***

The Pharisee Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the privacy of night. They converse. Jesus explains that no one will see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. This confuses Nicodemus. Jesus explains that he speaks of heavenly (spiritual) things.

- Jesus is trying to help Nicodemus expand his belief about living into eternity. A loving God of extravagant grace makes this a difficult concept to conceive of much less believe.
- Lent = Repentance and Renewed Commitment. It is a moment of decision. Are we who we say we are? Are we living the way we want to? No single answer.
- God's word isn't an overall blanket for all. It is personal for each of us depending on need.
- We are already condemned; and we have a narrow mindset, are selfish, and aimless. We shun the word but blame God. We should be honest—Lord, I believe . . . Please help my unbelief.
- Salvation is not based on what we do or give, how we act, or how passionately we believe. Salvation is always God's doing. It is the freeing moment where we rest assured that one day we will be received "home" in love.

Date: **March 21, 2021 (Mr. Paul Zachow, M.A.P.S)**

Text: **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

Sermon: ***A New Covenant***

Summarized by: **Elaine Schoeni**

- A covenant is a bond between two parties where each does something for the other.
- A new covenant is coming. It will not be like the covenant before which the Israelites broke in the desert. There was conflict among them. They were not faithful. They were cruel and violent. They broke away from the covenant.
- Jeremiah looks forward to a new covenant. There is hope for all. It will be a covenant of love and hope from God to us. God journeys along with us—through the pandemic and the craziness of our country.

(Continued on page 4)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

11—Jean Schoeni

13—Elaine Schoeni

23—Jean Zeller

28—Ron Grunke

29—Allen Schoeni



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

22—Mike & Debbie Hepp

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.



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FirstPresbyofRichfield.com](https://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com)

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[FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.
com](mailto:FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com)

SERMON JOTTINGS

(Continued from page 3)

- Christ is love, repentance, compassion, forgiveness—for ourselves, our country, and the world. He will not abandon us.
- Love God with your heart, mind, and strength and love your neighbor in this way. We should love ourselves, family, and neighbors.
- The new covenant of hope and love is needed by all of us. The new covenant will restore broken marriages and heal wounded families.
- God forgave the Israelites. Destruction of Israel is due to human failure. He will bring about a new promise, despite Israel's faithlessness and sinfulness. He does this for us, too.
- We need to have open hearts to receive this gift.
- Where do you see a covenant of love forming in your heart?

Date: **March 28, 2021 (Pastor Cathy Manthei)**

Text: **John 12:1-9**

Sermon: ***When the Cheering Stopped***

The people of Jerusalem cheered when Jesus arrived. They were looking for a king, conqueror, someone to set them free. The Roman soldiers knew it was Passover—a time that could create trouble, skirmishes, and violence. They were ready. But, there were no troops and no revolts. Instead, Jesus drove the money changers out of the temples and talked about giving and being a servant. Jesus did everything the people did NOT want.

- Often we have wants and desires that blur the real needs which God supplies to us. Our eyes are on ourselves. The cheering stops.
- We expect God to change the circumstances rather than change the person in the circumstances. The cheering stops.
- We go through the motions of service, and we praise Him for what we want him to do instead of for who he is in our midst. The cheering stops.
- We want the church to do everything; yet, we do not want to do what it takes to keep the church open—our time. The cheering stops.
- Jerusalem wanted peace through conflict; Jesus wants peace in conflict.
- Like Jerusalem, we want peace and blessings but in our own way.
- Jerusalem refused to follow. They did it their way, and it happened exactly as Jesus said it would.
- We cannot approach God on our own; we have to go through Jesus.
- We cannot do it in our own time; we must do it in the time God has given us.
- Maybe the cheering needs to start again; feeding the hungry, working to help save the planet, or helping a frazzled single mom. We should want to be in a place where cheering is acceptable!
- Maybe our desires are self-centered instead of God centered. Maybe we haven't accepted his terms.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Thank you to elders **Ken Schmidt** and **Jeff Zeller** for their service the past several years. Your decisions and guidance certainly showed your love for God and FPCR. Each and everyone of us appreciates you and the work you took on.

Thank you, **Cheryl Weber**, for your service as a Deacon. You exemplified loving your fellow parishioners on a weekly basis. Thank you for your assistance, organizing, and the little extras you provided FPCR.