



In Touch with FPCR

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Once a year, the FPCR church members gather to discuss the business of the church at the Annual Congregational Meeting. This year, that meeting will take place on **Saturday, February 11**, at **2:30 pm**. The meeting is chaired by our Moderator, **Rev. Cathy Manthei**, who works with FPCR's Clerk of Session, **Elaine Schmidt**, to organize and carry out the church's business.

This year, FPCR will elect two elders as well as one deacon. There will be reports on FPCR's mission support including the Slinger Food Pantry. Attendees will hear the statistics of the congregation and the health of the finances. A discussion regarding possible by-law changes will take place. As in all meetings, new business and old business will be conducted. If you would like something added to the agenda, please contact Elaine Schmidt, Clerk of Session, no later than February 5.

This meeting is a state requirement as well as a requirement outlined in the church's by-laws. It is also a good time for the FPCR family to "take stock" of the work of FPCR. Please plan to attend.

In the event of inclement weather, a Zoom link will be sent.

WELCOME CATALINA!



Excitement was in the air at FPCR on January 22. The church family welcomed **Catalina Desua**, a Slinger High School junior, to the keyboard. Catalina joins **Shira Gui** at the keyboard. Having a co-keyboard player will allow both young ladies an occasional Sunday to study, spend time with family, or maybe even sleep in!

Catalina is a music student who enjoys sharing her talent with others. We are so happy to have her with us and are excited to include her in our FPCR family!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mark your calendars to attend FPCR services on **February 5** and **February 19** (Communion 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 am Sunday Services.

FEBRUARY 5

SERMON: THE MIND OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 19

COMMUNION SERVICE

SERMON: DO NOT BE AFRAID

MARCH 5

SERMON: BORN OF THE SPIRIT

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

BIBLE STUDY IS B-A-A-CK

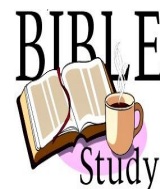
After a break for Christmas and preparation for the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Bible Study group is ready to begin John 13.

The next meeting date is **Sunday, February 12, at 10 am, via Zoom.** A link to this online meeting will be sent on Thursday, February 9.

The group will be working from the new study guide, *John 13-21, Part 2: The Way to True Life*. If you are in need of a study guide book, please contact Elaine Schmidt. One will be provided for you. Participants from 2022 have already received the new study guide.

To join the group for the first time, please email FPCR or contact Elaine Schmidt.

In the group's last lesson John 12 was discussed. The purpose of the lesson was to focus on the value of seeking God's will and God's glory. The extravagance of Mary washing Jesus' feet with expensive oil, the reaction of Judas to her gesture, and Jesus' commitment to do the Father's will provided material for personal reflection as well as group discussion.



INCLEMENT WEATHER AND FPCR SERVICES

We live in Wisconsin. We know there may be some snow and/or ice during the winter. That brings up the topic of cancelling church services. Cancelling a service is a carefully made decision. Roads are checked, the safety of the church yard, parking lot, and sidewalk are taken into account, and the weather forecast is reviewed.

Please know that **Paul Zachow**, Pulpit Supply, has agreed to "Zoom" the service in the event of bad weather. Therefore, the next time you receive a church cancellation call, check your email. You should have a Zoom link along with a bulletin waiting for you. We will be able to worship together even when the "weather outside is frightful"!

FPCR'S MISSION SUPPORT

As we begin a new year at FPCR, we will honor our pledge of \$450 for mission work within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

At the end of 2022, the Session discussed and approved FPCR's pledge. That pledge amount is then paid at the beginning of 2023. Our pledge is divided to support worldwide, regional, and local

mission personnel and projects. Therefore, \$90 was submitted to the Presbyterian Mission Agency; \$67.50 to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and \$292.50 to the Presbytery of Milwaukee.

This is a budgeted cost in each year's approved budget. It is fully paid from the general fund and is *not* a special offering.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following individuals who have health concerns:

Ron Grunke's daughter, Shelley; Joyce Koehn; Daryl Schmidt; and Michael Turner.

Carol and Jim Frank; Carol Frank's son, Jim; Ron Grunke;



JANUARY SERMON JOTTINGS

The following are summaries of sermons by **Paul J. Zachow, MAPS, Pulpit Supply.**

Date: **January 8, 2023**

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

Sermon: ***Follow the Star***

Epiphany is the twelfth day after Christmas. The wisemen were sent by King Herod to visit the baby Jesus. They arrived but never returned to Herod. He wanted to kill Jesus, but God thwarted his plan.

- Jesus is God’s agent for good in this world.
- The star leads us to Jesus—our light in the midst of darkness, no matter the challenges.
- God, a gracious God, is always in the midst of us. He loves us all and makes room for all.
- Paying homage to Christ was the Magi’s first gift. How can we pay homage to Christ? One way is to be the hands and feet of Christ—offering love to all.
- May you bring the light of the star, and hope, and peace, and love.



Date: **January 22, 2023**

Text: **Psalm 27:2, 4-9**

Sermon: ***God’s Light***

The book of Psalms is a book of instruction. Today’s reading, Psalm 27, is a song of confidence in God. No matter what we face, we are not alone—God is with us. The psalm talks about suffering and difficulty as well as praise and thanksgiving. The book of Psalms deals with the reality of our lives.

- God brings light into our darkness. Like the wisemen, we are called to follow the light and love of God into the world, no matter what.
- This light gives us hope, comfort, peace, and strength.
- Life is not always easy. Jesus suffered on the cross--persecution for loving all people and for bringing gracious, inclusive love to God’s people. We are called to do the same.
- God’s light can illuminate our way in the midst of suffering and challenge.
- Place your trust in God, even when you are not sure where you are going.
- We bring light into the world through money and food donated to the Slinger Food Pantry and the support of the Presbyterian Mission causes. These examples bring light, love, and the hope of Christ into the world. The light of God is also spread by support of each other in a loving community of faith.

**God is our refuge and our strength (Psalm 46).
He is always there for us!**

In this new year, as God provides what we need, may we live out our faith by returning to the basics: **“Love the Lord your God,”** and **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”** (Matthew 22:37-39)

Excerpt from *Bible in a Year*. Submitted by Jean Zeller.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following individuals with birthdays in February. We wish you many years of God’s blessings.

4 - Joyce Koehn

11 - Brenda Schmidt

14 - Shira Gui

20 - Daryl Schmidt

23 - Mike Heppe



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to **Daryl and Brenda Schmidt** who are celebrating their wedding anniversary on **February 12**. May the Lord bless you and keep you for many more years to come!

Congratulations!

If **Cheryl Weber** seems a bit more relaxed and happier, could it be because she decided to retire? She is planning to work a couple days a week for the time being. Sounds like a wonderful plan, Cheryl. Congratulations!

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

Thank you to **Elaine Schoeni** and **Paul Zachow** for a meaningful Epiphany Communion service.

Thank you **Shira Gui** and **Catalina Desua** for beautiful music last month.

Thank you **Ken Schmidt** for taking care of the sidewalk more than once in the past couple of months!

Thank you **Allen Schoeni** and **Scott Schoeni** for ushering during the offering so that we could bring this service ritual back after a long absence due to COVID regulations.

Thank you to the **Nominating Committee** for its work on January 22.

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

Location:

2281 Highway 164
Richfield, WI 53076

Mailing Address:

PO Box 22
Richfield, WI 53076

Website:

<https://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com>

Email:

FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com

APPLE WALNUT BUNDT CAKE

A couple of months ago, Carol Frank brought an Apple Walnut Bundt Cake to FPCR to share after the service. It was delicious and several asked for the recipe which she graciously shared. Enjoy!

For the caramelized apples:

1/3 cup granulated sugar
1 tbsp water
3 tart apples

For the cake:

2 sticks butter, room temperature, plus more for the pan
3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for the pan
2-1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
3/4 tsp cinnamon
3/4 tsp nutmeg
3/4 tsp ginger
coarse salt
1-3/4 cups packed light brown sugar
3 large eggs
1/2 cup whole milk
3/4 cup chopped, toasted walnuts

For the glaze:

1-1/2 cups powdered sugar
3 tbsp apple cider

- 1. Make caramelized apples:** Cook sugar & water in medium saucepan over medium high heat without stirring until sugar caramelizes, about 4 minutes. Reduce heat to low & stir in apples. Cook, covered, until softened, about 6 minutes. Slightly mash apples with a fork until broken down but still chunky. Continue to cook, uncovered, stirring until liquid evaporates, about 5 minutes. Let cool completely.
- 2. Prepare the oven and pan:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 10" bundt pan. Dust with flour, tapping out excess.
- 3. Mix the cake:** Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, spices, 1 tsp salt in medium bowl. Beat butter & brown sugar with a mixer on high speed until pale & fluffy, about 4 minutes. Add eggs, 1 at a time. Reduce speed to low, add flour mixture in 3 additions, alternating with milk beginning, and ending with flour. Mix in caramelized apples and walnuts.
- 4. Bake the cake:** Transfer batter to pan. Bake until cake is deep golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 50 minutes. Let cake cook on rack for 10 minutes. Turn out cake onto rack & cook completely.
- 5. Make the glaze:** Once cake is cool, whisk together powdered sugar and cider. Drizzle over top, letting it drip down the sides of cake. Cake can be stored at room temperature up to 3 days.

FOOD PANTRY APPRECIATES FPCR CONTRIBUTIONS

As you walk into the FPCR narthex, it is heart-warming to see the non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products filling the left corner of the space! The Slinger Food Pantry continues to be low on its supplies and the number of clients continues to be high. Your continuous, thoughtful contributions are appreciated month after month!



To support the Pantry with a monetary donation, place it in the collection plate using a "Food Pantry" specific envelope. Checks may be mailed to FPCR, PO Box 22, Richfield, WI 53076. Please indicate "SFP" on your check's memo line.