

In Touch with FPCR

ENJOY APRIL WITH YOUR FPCR FAMILY

There are a lot of events as well as some items to remember at FPCR this April. Not only do we observe the closing days of Lent; but Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday all take place in April. After that we have a Saturday service to install Elder Cheryl Weber and Deacon Cathy Romanski, Bible Study, and a Session Meeting. Save the dates! Fill your calendar to share as many events as possible with your FPCR family in April.

April 2 – Palm Sunday Service at 10 am

- Palms available at the church for those who would like one.
- One Great Hour of Sharing Special Collection. Please use an envelope on the narthex table or place your donation in your fish bank (to be collected on April 15.)
- Donations for the Slinger Food Pantry.
- Coffee and treats in the narthex after the service.

April 9 – Easter Sunday at 10 am (Communion Service)

- One Great Hour of Sharing Special Collection continues. Please use an envelope on the narthex table or place your donation in your fish bank (to be collected on April 15.)
- Donations for the Slinger Food Pantry.

April 15 – Saturday at Noon (Installation Service by Rev. Cathy Manthei)

- Bring your decorated OGHS Fish Banks if you are participating in the contest!
- Pastor Manthei reports that her husband, Mark, will bring Elvis! What??
- Final day to make a donation to the OGHS Special Collection using the envelopes in the narthex.
- Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the service. All are invited.

April 23 – Sunday at 10 am (Bible Study)

- The Zoom link will be delivered to your email on Thursday, April 20. The group will cover John 14 which is Chapter 3 in your Study Guide.

April 24 – Session Meeting (Monday at 6 pm)

- Zoom meeting. The link and agenda will be delivered to the email of present elders on Thursday, April 20. If you have a topic for discussion, please contact Elaine Schmidt by Tuesday, April 18.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mark your calendars to attend FPCR services on **April 2 (Palm Sunday)**, **April 9 (Easter Sunday)**, and **Saturday, April 15 (Installation/Spring Luncheon)**.

Bible Study will take place on **April 23**.

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.

APRIL 2
PALM SUNDAY
SERMON: WHO IS THIS?

APRIL 9
EASTER SUNDAY
COMMUNION SERVICE
SERMON: LIVE AS EASTER PEOPLE

APRIL 15 (SATURDAY)
NOON SERVICE AND INSTALLATION
SERMON: LOOKING FOR JESUS
SPRING LUNCHEON

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

APRIL BIBLE STUDY

The next meeting date is **Sunday, April 23, at 10 am, via Zoom.** A link to this online meeting will be sent Thursday, April 20.

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



The group continues to study the Book of John and will discuss John 14.

Last month (John 13:18-38), the lesson pointed out the importance of looking beyond the surface appearance to the genuine character of an individual when choosing spiritual heroes.

Judas's impending betrayal, Satan dwelling in Judas, Jesus's commandment to LOVE ONE ANOTHER, and Peter wanting to follow Jesus **now** were discussion items.

Any Food/Personal Hygiene Items

Baked Beans

Cake Mixes, Chunky Soups, Cereal

Participating in the Slinger Food Pantry drive is as SIMPLE AS A-B-C!

The Pantry is very grateful to accept the FPCR donations. At this time, the need is greatest for the items above. Please place donations in the bin found in the Church's narthex.

Cash donations are always welcome and appreciated! Please either send a check payable to FPCR to PO Box 22, Richfield WI 53076. Include SFP in the memo of your check.

OR

Make a cash donation at the church, by placing your donation in the offering plate using the special envelope found on the narthex table. Again, mark SFP in the memo section of your check.

OGHS 2023 AT FPCR

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is a special collection, all of which is forwarded to the Presbyterian Church (USA). This year at FPCR we begin the offering on Sunday, April 5, and end it on Saturday, April 15.

Received during Lent, this collection:

- supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program,
- promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and
- assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



More information is available by clicking the graphic above if you are a digital reader or: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

HELLO FROM JOYCE

Hello from **Joyce Koehn** who called Elaine Schmidt to thank FPCR for the flower arrangement on her birthday. She is doing well, misses her friends at FPCR, and is looking forward to the beginning of baseball! She sends everyone Easter greetings.

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; and Daryl Schmidt.



MARCH SERMON JOTTINGS

By Paul J. Zachow, MAPS, Pulpit Supply

Date: **March 5, 2023**

Text: John 3:1-17

Sermon: ***Born of the Spirit***

The scripture is about Nicodemus, a Jewish teacher of the law and member of the Jewish religious leadership. He encountered Jesus and questioned him about being sent from God. Nicodemus recognizes Jesus as one coming from

God. Jesus refers to being born of the Spirit to enter the kin-dom of God. Nicodemus misunderstands. Jesus is not referring to a physical rebirth but a rebirth by the Spirit of God.

- Being born of the Spirit is not about a future life in heaven, but about our present lives. We are called to live in the never-ending presence of God.
- We all have suffering and challenges. Bring this suffering and these challenges to God in prayer with hope of finding new life, hope, and light in the midst of darkness. Then listen to and for God. Follow the ways of the Spirit of God, the kin-dom of God, and not the ways of the world.
- We are all dependent on God in our faith and in our lives and in the world.
- Where in your life do you need to be born of the Spirit? Where do you need renewal and hope in your life? Pray – Listen – Follow.

Date: **March 19, 2023**

Text: **John 9:1-41**

Sermon: ***Open Our Eyes***

The scripture was about a man who is born blind and has his sight restored through Jesus's healing powers. Jesus encounters the man, sees him not as "other" but as a human being worthy of dignity. He sees him as a beloved child of God who deserves nothing less than respect and healing. The disciples claimed the man was blind because of his/his parents' sins. The Pharisees didn't believe his sight was restored. Lots of questions! Jesus did not accept the connection between sinful actions and illness.

- "Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others." (Jonathan Swift)
- We need to look deep into our own hearts to have our vision become clearer.
- What are you blind to in your life and in your faith life?
- How can we have our eyes (and hearts) opened to see God and Christ in one another and the world around us?
- God loves all of us regardless of our blindness, flaws, and faults. He calls us to open our eyes to Jesus. Put your hope in God this Lenten season.
- The Light of the World is in our midst—open your eyes wide to the light in your lives and in the world.

***The Light of the World is
in our Midst.***

From March 19, 2023, Sermon
Paul J. Zachow, MAPS, Pulpit Supply



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

11 - Jean Schoeni

13 - Elaine Schoeni

23 - Jean Zeller

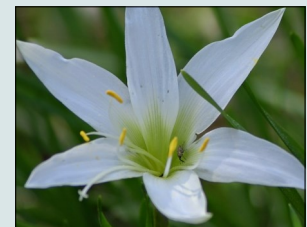
24 - Paul Zachow

28 - Ron Grunke

29 - Allen Schoeni



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to **Mike and Debbie Hepe** on **April 22**. We wish you many more years of God's blessings.



The Lord Has Risen!

***Happy Easter to You
and Your Family!***

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 **Jackson and Melissa Kujawa** for Lenten Readings on March 5 and **Rick and Cathy Romanski** for the readings on March 19.

Thank you **Jean Zeller** for sending beautiful cards. There has been discussion about starting the *Card Garden* once again.

Thank you **Claire Gui** for the solo during the March 5 service.

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

Location:
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Richfield, WI 53076

Mailing Address:
PO Box 22
Richfield, WI 53076

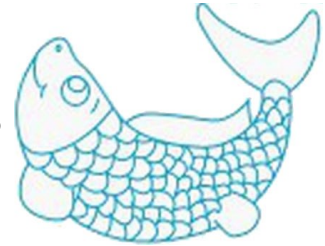
Website:
<https://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com>

Email:
FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com

DID YOU OPT IN?

Did YOU opt into decorating Gracie, this year's OGHS Fish Bank? If so, plan to bring your decorated creation with you to the Saturday, April 15, noon service. There will be oohs and aahs as well as a prize!

This year's OGHS bank arrived in black and white. Gracie, and the rest of us, were not too happy with that! So Pastor Cathy Manthei proposed a contest to color/decorate Gracie. Once decorated, she may be folded and turned into the "fish bank" many of us remember as Sunday School attendees some years ago at FPCR. If you wish, you can put your spare change into the bank's slot between now and April 15. Then bring the bank to FPCR. Otherwise, you may choose to place a check in the OGHS envelopes (narthex table) and then place the envelope in the offering plate on April 2, 9, or 15. That leaves you free to decorate Gracie and bring her with you on April 15 without the worry of heavy change undoing her "new look"!



Shhhh . . . don't tell Gracie, but if you do not wish to decorate her, it is okay! We thought it would be fun for the creative crowd, kids, grandkids, etc.!

2023 DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

The 2023 FPCR Directory will be available for pick-up at the April 15 installation service or anytime thereafter at FPCR.

A copy will be emailed to members unable to pick up their physical copy at FPCR. If you did not receive a Directory and wish to have one, please email the church at: FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com.



Claire Gui sings a solo for FPCR on March 5.



A SURE SIGN OF SPRING

Baseball (and softball) season is here once again. The "big leagues" are packing up and movin' out of their spring training complexes. College and high school baseball teams are practicing and hoping the sun and wind will dry off the diamonds. Youth baseball leagues are picking out uniforms and tee shirts. Tickets are being purchased. Everyone is getting ready for their respective opening days! Whether or not you are a fan, the idea of baseball/softball coming back is a sure sign of spring! Enjoy cheering on your favorite team/s this season!

REST IN PEACE

Some may remember **Gerda Herdeman**, a friend of FPCR. She passed away March 8, 2023, at the age of 94.



Gerda enjoyed attending FPCR for several years during the time Rev. Koehn was FPCR's pastor.

She was quite a lady who lived life with vigor and as a friend to all. Her obituary outlines her interesting activities and contributions.

Please [click here](#) to read her obituary (the link only works on digital copies). If you have a paper copy of this newsletter and would like an active link, please email the church: FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com.