

# In Touch with FPCR



February 2024

Dear Ones

I love the writing of Ann Weems. When I feel discouraged, I usually turn to her books. Here is one I particularly enjoyed—I hope you will too!!

*When the journey gets too hard,  
when we feel depleted,  
when our compassion turns to complaining,  
when our efforts toward justice and mercy seem  
to get us nowhere,  
It's time to remember the humility part—  
that it is God who has made us and not we ourselves;  
that the saving of the world or even one part  
of it is not on our shoulders.  
It is then we can come unto him and he will  
give us rest.  
With rest, we'll remember what it is we are about.*

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

Cathy

*Remember to love always and all ways!!*



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

The **FPCR website** contains up-to-date announcements. Check it if you have questions about a service or deadline.  
[www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com](http://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com)

## UPCOMING SERVICES

*All are welcome for upcoming 10 am Sunday Services.*

**FEBRUARY 4**  
**COMMUNION SERVICE**  
MESSAGE: **AN ORDINARY DAY**

**FEBRUARY 11**  
MESSAGE: **THE PITFALLS OF PRACTICING PIETY**

**FEBRUARY 18**  
MESSAGE: **WHEN THE ROOF FALLS IN**

**FEBRUARY 25**  
MESSAGE: **BEING TRUE TO YOURSELF**

Updated information is posted on the website:  
[www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com](http://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com)

## ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

### Elders

**Carol Frank**  
**Jim Frank**  
**Debbie Heppe**  
**Melissa Kujawa**  
**Cheryl Weber**

**Clerk of Session**  
**Elaine Schmidt**

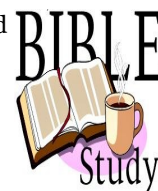
**Deacons**  
**Emma Kujawa**  
**Cathy Romanski**

## BIBLE STUDY MEETS FEBRUARY 7

After the holidays and a break to prepare for the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Bible Study group is ready to continue the Book of John. The next meeting date is **Wednesday, February 7, at 6:35 pm, via Zoom**. A link to this online meeting will be sent prior to the gathering.

The group will be working from the study book and will be discussing Lesson 11 (John 19:17-42: Obedient to Death). If you are in need of a study book, please contact Elaine Schmidt. One will be provided for you. To join the group for the first time, please email FPCR or contact Elaine Schmidt.

The last discussion was held in November. The group found the lesson, which covered John 18:28-19:16, to be interesting. They also felt there was a lot to learn. The lesson began by stating that many people were responsible for Jesus' death. Who were they? Does that mean each of us as well? After all, he died for *our* sins! The lesson taught us that no one was responsible—he willingly submitted to death for our sins. What a price he paid for us!



## SOUP AND SOAP FOR FEBRUARY

In January, your boxes of cereal found immediate space on the bare Pantry shelves. Slinger Food Pantry Liaisons, Rick and Cathy Romanski, packed the donations in the narthex on Monday, January 29, and delivered them to the Pantry. Though the Pantry still has many staples in stock, they were “cleaned out” of kid’s cereal, so they very much appreciated seeing the Romanskis at the door on January 29.

### BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY



Though February 11 marks the 58<sup>th</sup> (LVIII) Super Bowl, that is not true at FPCR. The FPCR family will mark Super Bowl Sunday by holding the **FIRST Soup-er Bowl!** Bring one or more cans of soup for the Pantry between now and February 11. All brands, kinds, and sizes will be gratefully accepted. Soup is another item of great need for the Food Pantry. Therefore, they will be thrilled to see the Romanskis when they deliver your soup the week after the Super Bowl.

### SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY

Another greatly needed category of need for the Pantry is hygiene products. Therefore, from February 12 through 29, FPCR will collect liquid hand soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, etc. You are probably able to think of some other necessary hygiene products. Jean Schoeni has the bar soap covered!



### CASH DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED

To submit a cash gift, please either:

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

OR

2. Send a check payable to FPCR to PO Box 22, Richfield, WI 53076. Include SFP in the memo of your check.

***There is so much good in the worst of us,  
and so much bad in the best of us,  
that it's hard to tell which one of us  
ought to reform the rest of us!***

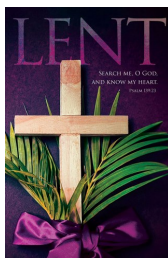
Thank you, Jean Zeller, for this “Golden Gem”.

## THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING IS A WRAP!

FPCR's 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, January 28, 2024, following the service. Attendees moved to the Fellowship Hall for a lunch of sub sandwiches and the meeting.

Pastor Cathy Manthei moderated the meeting:

- A quorum was declared.
- Reports and motions made and accepted included:
  - Last year's meeting minutes
  - Statistical report (32 members at the end of 2023.)
  - Benevolence (\$6,546.00. Of this amount, \$2,437 plus \$110 from Peace/Global Witness Offering was paid to the Slinger Food Pantry.)
  - Nominating Committee (Two elders nominated for the Class of 2027: Jackson Kujawa and Ken Schmidt; one deacon for the Class of 2027, Rick Romanski; seven members to the nominating committee: Melissa Kujawa, Chairwoman; Elaine Schmidt; Allen Schoeni; Elaine Schoeni; Jean Schoeni; and Jean Zeller. Carol Frank and Jim Frank are the two alternates.)
  - Deacon's report (FPCR's average attendance was 22.)
  - Audit report (No exceptions found.)
  - Treasurer's report (Net income for 2023 = \$5,257.23.)
  - Approved budget was distributed.
- The building fix-it list was reviewed. The session plus other interested parties will attempt a walk-through of the building and property this spring. It was postponed last fall.
- Pastor Cathy explained a few intricacies of her "calling" to FPCR (copies of her contract were included in the meeting packet).
- The by-laws change was discussed and tabled for next year's meeting. The discussion is whether to move from five to three elders.
- *Flock Notes* (an online communication tool) should be received by you on Sunday or Monday of each week. It will become the main method of communication for the prayer chain, church happenings, summaries of services, etc. Contact Pastor Cathy if you have questions or are not (but would like to) receive *Flock Notes*.
- The FPCR Directory will be updated over the next several weeks and then distributed.
- Elaine Schmidt accepted her position as Clerk of Session; Alice Schmitz, Treasurer.
- A motion was made to read/review these minutes and approve them at next year's meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.



### 2024 Lenten Dates

- Ash Wednesday - February 14
- Palm Sunday - March 24
- Good Friday - March 29
- Easter Sunday - March 31



**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!

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

If you have a copy of the FPCR Directory, please review your entry between now and the end of February.

Changes may be submitted to Alice Schmitz or emailed to: [FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com](mailto:FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com)



## JANUARY 28, 2024—ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### 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

- **Pastor Cathy and Mark Manthei** for lunch subs on January 28, to those who provided “sides”, to those who set up and cleaned up, and to those who attended the meeting.
- **Pastor Cathy, Elaine Schmidt, Cathy Romanski, and Alice Schmitz** for “closing up” 2023 and reporting statistics as needed.
- **Scott Schoeni** for “retrieving” the FPCR audit materials from the accountant!
- **Debbie Heppe and Melissa Kujawa** for taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations since the weather did not allow for an entire FPCR group effort.

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



**Top Left:** Rick and Cathy Romanski participate. **Top Right:** Pastor Cathy Manthei moderates the meeting. **Middle:** group having lunch. **Bottom Left:** Jim Frank and Ken Schmidt discuss. **Bottom Middle:** Cheryl Weber enjoying the meal. **Bottom Right:** Carol Frank, Debbie Heppe, and Elaine Schoeni in the buffet line.

## DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR STAR WORD?

At the January 7 FPCR service, Pastor Cathy distributed star words. You may remember reading in the bulletin that a star word is a “prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year which has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches over the past decade.” Pastor Cathy created a list of star words (guiding words), wrote them on paper stars and distributed them to the FPCR family.



Individuals were encouraged to place their star word somewhere where they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on God’s influence in connection to that word. Have you reflected on your star word?

If you did not receive a star word on that day, please contact Pastor Cathy. She still has one for you!