

In Touch with FPCR



‘TIL WE MEET AGAIN, JEFF

By Jean Schoeni

The FPCR family has lost a dear friend. **Jeff Zeller**, age 79, passed into the Lord’s hands on May 20, 2021. But what better place to be than in the presence of God and, as Elaine Schmidt pointed out, with a respected pastor and friend, Rev. Koehn? We rejoice that Jeff is at peace with God, whom he loved with all his heart.

Words cannot express how much FPCR will miss Jeff. We came to expect him and his loving wife Jean in the narthex before Sunday services, greeting everyone with a cheerful “hello”. And he was always the consummate assistant; smiling as he offered to help without being asked. Jeff moved tables, set out hymnals, passed out bulletins, read passages during the service, and assisted with preparation of the communion elements. Jeff was present for all of us as he went about these tasks.

Leading by example, Jeff took on church responsibilities shortly after he and Jean joined FPCR on March 1, 2009. He became an ordained Elder who served three terms (2011-2014, 2014-2017, 2018-2021). While he joked about getting a “rest” from elected duties, the congregation only somewhat jokingly replied it would be a short one! As an active member on the 150th anniversary celebration planning committee (2012), Jeff, along with Rev. Koehn and Mike Hepepe organized a time capsule which is to be opened on May 27, 2062—the church’s 200th anniversary!

Outside of church, Jeff enjoyed watching the squirrels and birds in his yard, hunting, fishing, and photography. He was employed by AT&T/Lucent for 35 years and was a member of the Army National Guard.

Each of us at FPCR send our prayers and sympathy to **Jean**, his wife of 56 years, and to his two daughters and their families: Mark, **Jennifer**, Samantha, and Ashley Johnson; and Mark, **Jessica**, and Joseph Peeters.

A visitation (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and memorial service (immediately following visitation) will be held on Friday, June 4, 2021, at the Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral Home, W250 N6505 Highway 164, Sussex, WI 53089. Memorials may be directed to the [American Diabetes Association](#), [First Presbyterian Church of Richfield](#), or [HAWS](#).

Upon leaving church on May 23, 2021, Cheryl Weber sadly stated, “I sure will miss his big, old laugh!” So will all who knew him.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Mark your calendar to attend FPCR on **June 6 and 20**.
- 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 a.m. Sunday Services.

JUNE 6

JUNE 20
FATHER'S DAY

JULY 11

JULY 25

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

UPDATE ON MATTHEW 25 INITIATIVE



The end of April was devastating for the **Pearson family** of Slinger. Four children suffered the loss of their dad, Craig Pearson. This happened in the wake of the death of their mom a little more than a year ago.

The greater community of Slinger did not miss a beat. Friends, neighbors, residents, schools, businesses, and community organizations jumped into action. The community stepped up and is continuing to provide prayers, thoughts, condolences, emotional, and physical support. The end goal is to help these four children by assuring their well-being!

Even though none of us at FPCR knew the Pearsons personally, our hearts went out to these four children. Our session met and determined that the best way for our church family to help these youngsters would be to make a cash donation. You may remember that at the end of 2020, FPCR, along with all Presbytery of Milwaukee congregations, received a \$2,000 check from an anonymous donor to be used to further the Matthew 25 Initiative. The only thing the donor and Presbytery asked was that the money be used for healthcare, housing, criminal justice, employment, and/or hunger. Our check, and more importantly, the prayers of the good people of FPCR, are on their way!

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for the following individuals who have health concerns or are awaiting test results:

Carol Frank

Jim Frank

Ron Grunke

Ron Grunke's Daughter

Rick Romanski's Aunt Helen

Daryl Schmidt



Please pray for those who have recently lost loved ones.

Jean Zeller and Family

The Pearson Children

THANK YOU, MIKE AND RICK!

Have you been to either of the washrooms in the basement recently? If not, it is worth checking out! Thanks to **Mike Heppe** and **Rick Romanski**, new toilets have been installed! What a gift to our church building!

Thank you both for your research, planning, skills, and time.



CARD GARDEN IS BACK

Cards for all occasions are ready and waiting for you to send. Check them out in the narthex! You are welcome to take one or more, address it/them, and mail to a friend or loved one.



SERMON JOTTINGS

With our present schedule, it is sometimes difficult to follow the continuum of church lessons and sermons. Here are the summary notes from the May services.

Date: **May 9, 2021 (Mother's Day)**

Text: **1 John 4:7-21**

Sermon: ***Love One Another***

The author of 1 John asserts that, "God is love." According to most scholars, 1 John was written about a decade after the Gospel of John. One of its major themes is God's love—not romantic love, but agape love. The scripture addresses a congregation with conflicts and splits who did not love one another and treated each other

unjustly. Those that left the group had reservations about believing Christ had come in the flesh and had a different view of genuine love. This group also claimed to be free of sin. The author declares their views incorrect.

- Agape love (love for fellow human beings, the community, and the world) is missing today.
- We are called to love and accept others at church, work, in our families, in our communities, and in the world. This is being "church".
- It is not easy to love someone we may not agree with or who seems unloveable.
- We need to "right" broken relationships.
- God loves us and accepts us unconditionally—as we are—imperfections and all.
- God's love is embodied in every one of us.
- God's love and grace are always there for us no matter what.
- We cannot love God and hate others at the same time.
- God's love equips us to do His work in the world.

*THANK YOU, GOD, FOR ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE
WORLD WHO HAVE SHOWN US LOVE.*

Date: **May 23, 2021 (Pentecost Sunday—the Birth of the Church)**

Text: **Romans 8:22-37**

Sermon: ***Hope in the Spirit***

In his passage in Romans, the Apostle Paul is calling the early church in Rome to have hope even in the midst of suffering. Paul was asking the Roman church to have hope in God through the Holy Spirit. It calls us to adoption as God's beloved children.

- We are called to live in hope through and with the Holy Spirit.
- In the midst of life's challenges, we may not always remember to pray or know what to say to God. Despite this, the Holy Spirit knows what is in our hearts and minds and intercedes to God on our behalf.
- "The Holy Spirit is the presence of God among us" (Eberhard Busch). The Spirit of God lifts us up and gives us a fresh start every day.
- God in the Holy Spirit knows our hearts, our hurts, our hopes, and knows what we already need and what God's will is for us.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS IN ALL OF US



For the glory of God and as a gift to the FPCR family, Paul Zachow began the May 23 service with an a cappella solo, *Spirit of the Living God*. It is posted on the church website if you missed it: www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com. Thank you, Mr. Zachow!



HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

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

1 - Ryan Kujawa

5 - Annette Schmidt

6 - Wayne Tutkowski

7 - Pastor Cathy Manthei

17 - Emma Kujawa

23—Michael Schmidt



HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY

to the following couples who are celebrating their wedding anniversary in **June**. May the Lord bless you and keep you for many years to come.

20 - Tony & Kathleen Schmidt

30 - Jerry & Alice Schmitz

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.

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, CATHY



June 12 will mark the end of **Cathy Romanski's** teaching career AND the beginning of her retirement. At this moment, however, she is wondering what to do with 31 years of second grade books and teaching supplies! She also taught first grade and kindergarten during her tenure.

Cathy taught in the Hamilton School District for 31 years. Her career with them is actually a part of the Romanski family history. Both Cathy and her husband, Rick, graduated from Hamilton High School. After college graduation from Mount Mary University, Cathy taught in the Hamilton district for what turned out to be 31 years. Rick taught briefly at Hamilton High School, though not during the time Cathy was employed by the District. Now, their daughter, Katy, teaches at one of the district's schools.

In addition to her undergraduate degree, Cathy has a Master's in Literacy from Carroll University, where she also taught a graduate class in the summer.

Cathy reports she is most excited about being free to spend time with her family. In gathering advice about retirement, one of her retired friends told her that retirement will be most appreciated when the first winter storm hits. She won't have to go to school. Instead, she will be in her kitchen, pouring a cup of coffee, looking out at the snow, and not worrying about getting in the car and driving anywhere!

We wish you a long and happy retirement, Cathy, and expect to hear reports about a lot of great family time!

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES

FPCR would like to extend congratulations and good wishes to the following students who graduated in 2021:

Monica Bertucci—University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, Microbiology

Lexi Fait—University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, Elementary Education

Leah Pokorny—Germantown High School

Justin Remillard—Moraine Park Technical College, Maintenance Millwright Apprenticeship Certificate

Tim Wang—Arrowhead High School (Hartland)

God be with each of you in your future pursuits.

