

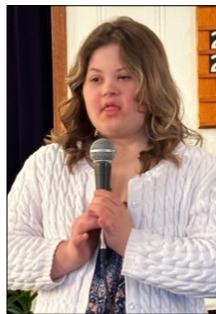
In Touch with FPCR

APRIL WAS SPECIAL



Palm Sunday, the end of Lent, Easter Sunday, the installation of new officers, a fish bank decorating contest, the One Great

Hour of Sharing special collection, a Saturday service by Pastor Cathy Manthei which included Mark Manthei, accompanied by Elvis, a visit from Ann Gibbs (Presbytery of Milwaukee), our annual spring luncheon, a Bible study, and a session meeting. Phew! What a month it was!



We began April, wondering if we would have enough space on our calendars! Now that the month is over, we have fond memories of the events and time we were able to spend with our FPCR family and visiting friends. Our calendars are lighter, but we

added many memories. Thank you to everyone who made these memories possible.

Additional pictures may be found on the church website (www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com) under the Pictures pull-down tab or by clicking <https://www.firstpresbyofrichfield.com/picture-galleries>



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mark your calendars to attend FPCR services on **May 14 (Mother's Day)** and **May 28 (Pentecost and Communion)**.

Next month's Bible Study will take place on **May 7**.

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.

MAY 14
MOTHER'S DAY
SERMON: CHOOSING LIFE

MAY 28
PENTECOST
COMMUNION SERVICE
SERMON: SPIRIT AND LIVING WATER

*Additional and updated information is posted on the website:
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

MAY BIBLE STUDY

The next meeting date is **Sunday, May 7, at 10 am, via Zoom**. A link to this online meeting will be sent Thursday, May 4.

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



The group continues to study the Book of John and will discuss John 15:1-11 on May 7.

In April, John 14 helped us review and understand comfort for a troubled heart. The world cannot offer peace. Our only comfort is to know Jesus' peace. We need Him every day, and it is good knowing He is with us at all times and through all things.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled."
John 14:1.

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6.

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 send a check payable to FPCR to PO Box 22, Richfield, WI 53076. Include SFP in the memo section 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.

THANK YOU, RICK

Thank you, **Rick Romanski**, for your leadership, guidance, decision-making, and time over the past six years (two terms) as an Elder at FPCR. You served with responsibility and love. Each of us appreciates you and your work for this church and its family.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, FPCR

On April 17, Treasurer Alice Schmitz mailed FPCR's One Great Hour of Sharing contribution to the Presbytery (USA) for the Presbyterian Mission Agency's work throughout the world. The check amount was \$563.60 and included the fish bank donations. Thank you FPCR family for your continuous generosity.

Pentecost Offering donations may be brought to church or mailed to the PO Box between now and May 28. FPCR's 40% share will be donated to the Albrecht Free Clinic.

More information about this offering is available at:
<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost>



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; Melissa Kujawa's father, Bill; Elaine Schoeni's neighbor, Louie; Tony Schmidt; Jean Zeller's granddaughter, Ashley; Diann Schmidt; Hartford High School Student Athlete, Michael Turner; and Daryl Schmidt.

Our sympathy to Rick and Cathy Romanski on the loss of one of their neighbors.



APRIL SERMON JOTTINGS

Date: April 2, 2023 - Palm Sunday
Text: Matthew 21:1-11
Sermon: Who is This?
By: Paul J. Zachow, MAPS, Pulpit Supply

Palm Sunday . . . the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The crowds put down their garments and waved palm branches to welcome him. He arrived on a donkey and is a humble servant of God. This procession was the opposite of any held for the Roman Emperor. This sets the stage for Good Friday. Jesus is revered on Palm Sunday, but the

same crowd is against him during his trial and cheers for his crucifixion on Good Friday. Jesus challenged both the Empire's and the Temple's center of power. The Gospel asserts that IT is GOD's word—not Rome's.

- God's reign and presence are manifested in Jesus, not the Emperor.
- God's blessings extend to ALL people, not just the elite.
- Jesus, not Rome, reveals God's will. We should follow the ways of Jesus and God's reign, not that of the world we live in.
- All people are beloved children of God. Jesus did not reject anyone. We should not reject anyone either.
- Give thanks to God for his love for all of us.

Date: April 9, 2023 - Easter Sunday
Text: John 20:1-18
Sermon: Live as Easter People
By: Paul J. Zachow, MAPS, Pulpit Supply

Today is Easter Sunday. It is a day of hope . . . a day we are called to live as an Easter people. Today marks the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, a day of hope and celebration. Jesus's spirit was raised and new life and renewal came about. Let us rejoice!

- With the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, we have all become "children of God." We are ALL beloved children of God.
- Being beloved children of God is a call for us to live as Easter people, in hope and peace; in love from God; in new life and renewal of life. This is a gift from God!

Date: April 15, 2023 (Saturday Service)
Text: John 20:19-31
Sermon: Looking for Jesus
By: Pastor Cathy Manthei

This is "Holy Humor Sunday". For centuries in all Christian faith traditions, the week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

- Many draw parallels between Elvis and Jesus. Most people never SAW Elvis, but Elvis fans believe that he lives. Without proof. Why can't we live with this kind of faith?
- We all know the Bible story about "Doubting Thomas". We all have lived this story. We doubted and asked God for a sign. (In our world, we are not used to believing until we are absolutely sure something is true!) If only we would have the faith of the Elvis fans-- a belief guided by the faith in our hearts.



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

16 - Jason Tutkowski

18 - Jim Frank

19 - Debbie Heppe

MARKS OF GOD'S DOMAIN

- ♦ **Gentleness**
- ♦ **Humility**
- ♦ **"Peace"ableness**
- ♦ **Mercy**
- ♦ **Self-giving acts of generosity and compassion.**

Paul J. Zachow, MAPS
Pulpit Supply
April 2 FPCR Message

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

- **Elaine Schmidt** for again selecting the perfect Lenten/Easter season readings.
- **Elaine Schoeni** for reading on Palm Sunday and **Carol Frank** for reading on Easter Sunday.
- **Kate Kujawa** for leading the congregation in singing *1-2-3 Jesus is Alive*. What a nice beginning to FPCR's Easter Service.
- **Claire Gui** for the solo during the April 9 service and to **Elaine Schoeni** for Communion.
- **To all who brought dishes** to pass for the Spring Luncheon and to **Debbie** and **Mike Heppe** and **Melissa Kujawa** for organizing and readying FPCR for the event.
- **Pastor Cathy Manthei** for conducting the installation service AND for the inspiration for FPCR's first OGHS Decorating Contest.
- **Rick Romanski, Allen Schoeni, Scott Schoeni,** and **Jerry Schmitz** for changing several light bulbs.

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

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<https://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com>

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FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com

DEBBIE HEPPE, OGHS FISH BANK WINNER!!

On April 15, the decorated OGHS Fish Banks returned to FPCR and were on display. Everyone who "entered" the contest did a phenomenal job showing off their craft skills with the shiny paper and multiple fish scales they were given. What creativity!



One entry, however, stood out to Judges **Mark Manthei** and **Ann Gibbs**. The "upcycled" Gracie the Fish, created by **Debbie Heppe** won the contest.

Thank you to our judges and to everyone who decorated, coached, or donated coins for our OGHS fun!



2023 FPCR DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

The 2023 FPCR Directory was distributed at FPCR on April 15. For those of you who are regular church service attendees, your copy is in the narthex if you were not able to pick it up on April 15.

For FPCR members and friends who live in other places, copies were either mailed or emailed. If you did **not** receive a Directory and wish to have one, please email the church at: FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com.

LOOKING FOR JESUS

(Continued from page 3)

- Not only do Elvis fans believe he lives, they are constantly looking for him. If we put our energy toward looking for Jesus, maybe we would find him, too! If we would believe he lives, we would act like he lives. We would look for him and find him.
- Elvis fans also look for others who believe. We Christians could learn from this. Christian Community is what gives us strength, support, and focus at times when we need it most. Finding families of faith is what keeps our faith alive. If we believe he lives, we look for others who believe as well.
- If you believe he lives, you will act like he lives. We should all want to move toward others to show compassion and love, move toward bringing the kingdom to life.
- We can't let our doubts and fears shape our belief. We can't let our faith be driven by anything other than a voice in our heart. Remember, blessed are those who have not seen and yet come to believe.
- If we believe he lives, our lives change and other people's lives change. We will search for him and find him. We will proclaim his message. We will honor his spirit.