

# In Touch with FPCR

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*On February 19, Pastor Cathy Manthei, our Moderator, held an abbreviated service, served communion, and moderated the Annual Congregational Meeting. Following is a short summary of that meeting:*

After a prayer and call to order, last year's minutes were read and approved.

With the loss of our friend, Jeffrey Zeller, the statistical report = 33 members.

The benevolence report = \$9,227.73 distributed during 2021.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Elder Melissa Kujawa, reported there was one office to be filled—that of Elder. Melissa Kujawa was nominated and agreed to serve a second term in the Class of 2025.

Next year's Nominating Committee will consist of Rick Romanski, Debbie Heppe, Cathy Romanski, Cheryl Weber, Allen Schoeni, Jean Schoeni, and Scott Schoeni.

Melissa Kujawa (reporting for Deacon Emma Kujawa) stated there were 25 services during 2021 which were attended by 403 people. Communion was served 4 times.

The Treasurer's report indicated: Cash balance = \$66,229.82; Income = \$31,560.65; Expenses = \$24,677.85; Net Income = \$6,882.80.

The Auditor, KR Accounting in Slinger, reported two exceptions in the accounting records for 2021 which were corrected.

Old Business: Memorial for Jeff Zeller—lighting the cross in the sanctuary; Church Directory—will not be printed this year unless anyone has updates they want reflected; Water Softener—the decision was made to close one bathroom rather than purchase a water softener/iron filter at this time.

New Business: Clean Up/Care of the Building—Post-It Notes are available until March 15 on which to make suggestions for items needed to improve the building operation/appearance. You may email the church or contact Elaine Schmidt as well. The Session will review the suggestions after March 15.

Hymn Books—A decision to use or dispose of the "blue" hymn books was not made at this time.

Thanks was given to Elaine Schmidt, Clerk of Session, for her loving and dedicated service to FPCR and to Alice Schmitz, Treasurer.

There was a motion/acceptance to delay reading of the minutes until next year. The meeting ended with a prayer and moment of silence for Jeff Zeller.

***Thank you Moderator Pastor Cathy Manthei!***



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

#### **Ash Wednesday is March 2!**

Mark your calendar to attend FPCR services **March 13 and 27**.

The next Bible Study is **March 20** at 10 a.m. (via Zoom).

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 a.m. Sunday Services.*

### MARCH 13

SECOND SUNDAY  
IN LENT  
SERMON:  
DO NOT BE AFRAID

### MARCH 27

FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT  
SERMON:  
RECONCILIATION AND  
GRACE

### APRIL 10

PALM SUNDAY  
SERMON:  
THE STONES SHOUT OUT

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

## SPRING FORWARD MARCH 13

The beginning of Daylight Savings Time arrives at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, March 13**. Therefore, be sure to move your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening. If you do not, you will miss the FPCR service on that day!



## YAY! YOU DID IT, KATE AND MELISSA!

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, with a temperature of 9° F, **Melissa** and **Kate Kujawa** were at the Hartford Fire Department for the sole purpose of running through a spray of water supplied by a fire hose. Believe it or not, shorts and tee shirts comprised the “uniform” for a majority of the participants. (Spectators, however, wore winter coats, hats, and gloves.) Hot chocolate, and hot dogs were at the ready when participants completed their “run.” The event was a fundraiser for Special Olympics.



## IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Did you know that Fred Rogers was a Presbyterian pastor as well as a pioneer in the world of children's educational television? The PC(USA) has chosen his birthday, March 20, to honor his legacy of peace and reconciliation.

## PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for the following individuals who have health concerns:

Carol Frank

Jim Frank

Jim Frank's Son, Tom

Carol Frank's Son, Tom

Ron Grunke

Ron Grunke's Daughter,  
Shelley

Joyce Koehn

Daryl Schmidt

Allen Schoeni's Friend, Toni

Please pray for those who have recently lost a loved one:



Jean Schoeni, Keith Clark, and the entire Clark family who lost Anita, Keith's mother, on February 26 at the age of 99.



## SERMON JOTTINGS

Following are summary notes from February's sermons by Pulpit Supply Mr. Paul Zachow, MAPS/Chaplain.

Date: **February 6, 2022**  
Text: **Luke 4:14-21**  
Sermon: **Good News**

*The scripture setting is Jesus's home temple in Nazareth in preparation for his public ministry in Galilee. The congregation is surprised and supportive, yet, rejects his reading of the scroll of Isaiah. This scroll is his "mission statement" for his public ministry: Verses 18 and 19 tell us, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let*

*the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Jesus adds, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (NRSV). Prior to this, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and went to the Wilderness to pray and contemplate (and where he was tempted). Through all of this, Jesus brought the good news of God to all people.*

- Jesus taught us to love and accept all people.
- In Jesus's time, the poor were the social outcasts. Poor equaled marginal: those excluded from social and religious intercourse because of gender, age, economic destitution, physical malady, or religious impurity. (Paraphrased from *The New Interpreter's Study Bible*, page 1860).
- Who are the poor today? We are called to have compassion for the poor. We are called to serve all people and to provide welcome, compassion, and hospitality for them.
- We should consider how FPCR can be even more welcoming to all. What are we doing to spread the good news? What are we doing as a church for God?
- We are called to welcome, accept, and love all people as beloved children of God. God loves and accepts all of us.
- May all of us be agents of God's good news and healing for all people this day and always.

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Date: **February 19, 2022 (Pastor Cathy Manthei)**  
Text: **Luke 6:27-38**  
Sermon: **Forgiveness and Loving Your Enemies**

- It is challenging to hear, "Love your enemies."
- This text is VERY honest. We would like to look the other way. Who could really live that way?
- We are called to forgive our enemies. Challenging! God and Jesus expect us to live this idea of loving our enemies. Remember: What you give or don't give is what you get or don't get.
- When should the forgiveness take place? Jesus doesn't say.
- If we forgive too quickly, we do not have time to be angry. It prohibits us from acknowledging our feelings. If we forgive too quickly, we harbor resentment and anger.

(Continued on page 4)



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

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

**25 - Jayden Schmidt**  
**26 - Melissa Kujawa**  
**31 - Jackson Kujawa**  
**31 - Leslie Schmidt**

Thank You

**Elaine Schoeni** for your careful proofreading of this newsletter.

## BIBLE STUDY

The next adult Bible Study will be held **Sunday, March 20, at 10 a.m. via Zoom**. Using the study materials, the group will discuss John 6.

Since this is an online meeting, a link to participate will be sent on Thursday, March 17. If you would like to join for the first time, please either email FPCR or contact Elaine Schmidt.

**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.

**Frankly, there isn't anyone you couldn't learn to love once you've heard their story.**

**- Fred Rogers**

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**SERMON JOTTINGS (CONTINUED)**

*(Continued from page 3)*

- Anger is a gift which helps us locate our wounds and defend ourselves. It also energizes us to correct what needs correction.
- To move beyond hate, alienation, and separation is to learn to love—in God's time and with His help.
- Loving our enemies puts extra demands on us. The cycle of reciprocity—eye for an eye, etc.—has to stop. We need to go beyond and **love**. This is not natural, reasonable, or rational. It is "other-worldly."
- We are always called to greater mercy and compassion.
- We eventually realize that our enemy is also worthy of God's love and is the focus of God's love!

Date: **February 27, 2022**

Text: **Luke 6:27-38**

Sermon: **Love Your Enemies**

*Today's scripture is called the Sermon on the Plain. Jesus is speaking to his twelve disciples and to multitudes of people from various regions. He is the great equalizer—viewing people as equal. Jesus was establishing God's "kin-dom" of equality, equity, compassion, and mercy for all. The idea of equality was not widely held at the time . . . and definitely not by the Roman Empire. This is the same today. We are called to be merciful with one another and with all people—no matter the differences; however, our world is quite the opposite where hate, racism, ageism, and many other prejudices abound that hurt and oppress people. We often forget the Golden Rule.*

- We are called to enact the kin-dom of God here and now—that means every one of us as we are all "Children of God."
- It is about recognizing that God is merciful and forgives and loves us—all people, no matter what, even our enemies.
- This is being the church. It is hope. It is mercy. It is love and compassion—for one another and all people in and outside the church.
- Luke wants us to realize that faith is a way of life, a way that is contrary to our own inclinations. (*Feasting on the Word*, Year C, Vol. 1, Pg. 384 Charles Bugg.)
- We are to love our enemies without expecting anything in return.
- Forgive and you will be forgiven.
- We need to figure out how we are transforming our lives with love, hope, mercy, equality, equity, peace, compassion, and justice—for ourselves and one another in the church and in the world.



Remember the **Slinger Food Pantry** as you do your grocery shopping over the next couple of weeks. They are presently in need of **Hamburger Helper** (or similar), **cereal**, **cake mixes**, and **pie filling**. Other pantry staples as well as cash donations are gratefully accepted.

