

# In Touch with FPCR

## THE MATTHEW 25 INITIATIVE AN EXAMPLE FROM APOSTLE PRESBYTERIAN

### Matthew 25:34-40

*34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

At both its 2016 and 2018 General Assemblies, the PCUSA put out a call for action to member churches to become part of the Matthew 25 initiative. The Matthew 25 initiative compassionately serves people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor.

Fast forward to 2020. The Presbytery of Milwaukee received an anonymous donation whereby they were able to make an allocation to each member church to grow the Matthew 25 Initiative. At the end of last year, FPCR, along with all Presbytery of Milwaukee congregations, received a \$2,000 check to be used to further the Matthew 25 Initiative. How FPCR will participate will be a topic of discussion for the session this year. If you have ideas, please communicate them to one of the elders.

For now, however, you may enjoy reading how **Apostle Presbyterian Church** in West Allis and our friend, **Pastor Cathy Manthei**, are making a difference and growing the Matthew 25 Initiative. The following paragraphs are from an article written by Rachel Yates, Presbytery Executive, in her weekly newsletter, *Fresh Impressions*, on February 17, 2021:

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upcoming scheduled services are **each week during March**.— March 7, 14, 21, and 28.
- Mark your calendar to attend FPCR on Easter Sunday, April 4.
- March 14, 2 AM—Daylight savings time begins! Spring forward!
- 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 7**

**MARCH 14**

COMMUNION SERVICE  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

**MARCH 21**

**MARCH 28**

PALM SUNDAY  
COMMUNION SERVICE

**APRIL 4**

EASTER SUNDAY

**Mask, social distancing, and hand sanitizing requested.**

## ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

### Elders

Debbie Heppe  
Melissa Kujawa  
Rick Romanski  
Kenneth Schmidt  
Jeff Zeller

### Clerk of Session

Elaine Schmidt

### Deacons

Cathy Romanski  
Cheryl Weber

## APOSTLE PRESBYTERIAN PARTNERED WITH COMMUNITY AGENCIES

*(continued from page 1)*

“Hey, I’ve got some Cracker Jacks. You want some?” Cathy Manthei asked this question on a frigid February afternoon last week as she greeted people who had come to Apostle Presbyterian Church, West Allis. Those present were offered more than Cracker Jacks. Hot minestrone soup was ladled into to-go cups by Apostle volunteers. The West Allis Fire Department was on hand with its Mobile Integrated Health Unit, including paramedics and mental health professionals who are adept at helping those getting by on the street and those fighting addiction. They provided medical testing as well as counseling. The Street Angels, an outreach and advocacy organization for people experiencing homelessness, has also partnered in this



community endeavor, bringing food and clothing for those who drop by. Another organization has promised to supplement the meal that can be offered.

Each Wednesday from 2-4 pm, Apostle and these vital community organizations join together to welcome visitors, extend hospitality, and offer assistance. It took more than a month of planning before it came together, but now it’s growing. A second stop has been created nearer to the Presbytery Office and nearby towns are asking about replicating it in their area.

Cathy describes the program as fluid rather than fixed in stone. You plan, but then you tweak as the real needs of the community become known. As with any good outreach program, it’s driven by what others need and can offer in return, not simply by how we think a problem should be fixed. While Apostle, like other congregations, has had regular worship and programming interrupted by the pandemic, it didn’t turn its focus only inward. Instead, it saw the deepening need just outside its closed doors. It chose to act.

Read the full text of the above article at:

<https://www.pbymilwaukee.org/enewsletter-fresh-impressions.html>

## The Road to the Cross

2021 Annual Lenten Food Collection  
for the Slinger Food Pantry

**Help us build our road to the cross  
down the center aisle of the church.**



**Collecting on Sundays  
March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4**

If you prefer to make a cash donation, please use an envelope found on the Narthex table and place it in the collection plate.

**OR**

Send a check payable to FPCR with “Food Pantry” noted in the memo to FPCR, PO Box 22, Richfield, WI 53076



## SERMON JOTTINGS

*As we continue through this time of COVID, and possible quarantine, it is sometimes difficult to follow the continuum of church lessons and sermons. Here are the summary notes from the February 21 service. (A service was not held on February 7.)*

Date: **February 21, 2021**

Text: **Mark 1:9-15**

The Gospel of Mark was probably the first of the gospels written and probably circulated anonymously among Christian groups at the time.

Sermon: ***The Good News***

*After Jesus's baptism, he is brought into the reign of God here on earth. He goes into the wilderness for 40 days where he is tempted by Satan. He resists and follows God and God's love and faith for him and for the world. Jesus is declared by God to be his son, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (NRSV, Mark 1:11) This is life changing for Jesus. He then begins his earthly ministry: spreading word of the reign and love of God for everyone.*

- Jesus's ministry consists of :
  - healing the overwhelming number of sick, lame, and blind,
  - arguing with religious leaders who oppose his work, fear his popularity, and plot to kill him, and
  - teaching disciples who initially leave everything to follow him and in the end betray him to his enemies, flee when trouble comes, and deny they ever knew him.
- Regardless of the difficulty of Jesus's work and his death, God ended the evil world and created a new existence for "the elect".
- We are claimed by God as HIS children—all of us. God's love for us is life changing.
- Jesus was called to "disrupt" the corrupt and oppressive ways of society and bring the love of God for everyone. This extravagant love provided healing—just as it can for us today.
- Experience God's love transforming us this Lenten season by pondering how God's and Jesus's love for us renews and transforms our lives, the church, and the world.
- Take time in quiet prayer and conversation with God this Lent to experience God's love transforming us and our lives.

**Reflect . . . Pray . . . Converse with God.  
May all find hope, renewal, and God's love  
and transformation this Lenten season.**



SUNDAY, MARCH 14

**SPRING AHEAD . . .**

Turn your clock **FORWARD** (example: 7 am becomes 8 am).

You wouldn't want to miss FPCR's church service!!!



**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**

**2021 LENTEN  
DEVOTIONAL** from Presbyterians Today is available to read online or to download as a PDF  
[https://  
www.presbyterianmission.  
org/ministries/today/  
lent2021/](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/)

**COMING SOON!**

**One Great Hour of  
Sharing** special collection.

Stay tuned for more information during FPCR's services AND on the Website.

**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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**LYDIA WOJCIESZAK SHARES ANOTHER TALENT**



Many remember singing as Lydia Wojcieszak played the keyboard here at FPCR. Her music was beautiful, and we appreciated her service to FPCR from 2017 through 2019. Too soon we watched Lydia head off to college, and we continue to miss her music.

In addition to being a musician, however, Lydia has another wonderful talent. She is presently at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee studying art. We think you will agree that she is definitely a talented artist.

To the left of this article, please view a few of her recently commissioned paintings. Most are painted from photographs. Below, however, you will see one of her completed paintings (background) with the “model” in the foreground for comparison.

Lydia, you are a multi-talented young lady. We wish you continued success and hope to see more of your artwork in the future.

