



First Presbyterian Church of Richfield
 A growing, giving family, relevant to the community
 where all are welcome to come and worship God.

April 2025
 Volume 8, Issue 4



In Touch with FPCR



April 2025

Dear Ones,

We are just in the midst of Lent and anticipating Easter eagerly. We have quite a bit of music planned for Easter Sunday which makes me very happy. Music speaks to me much louder than any sermon I have ever heard or written.

Lent and Easter, you see, is all about all of us as the risen Body of Christ and not, strictly speaking, about one truly human being, Jesus Christ – Passion (Palm) Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are for the most part solely about Christ; almost a reenacting of Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection. We all should participate in these as we remember what God in Christ has done for us.

But the Lent we are now concluding, Easter that we will celebrate shortly together, and the Sundays of Easter to Pentecost are all about us, our life and our future. That’s the purpose of this article because that’s the purpose of these days. So come, beloved of God in Christ, celebrate the risen Christ and remember also to celebrate us! Because God for us is precisely what these days are all about and the chief reason for bringing our “alleluias” back!

Much Love

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

All are welcome for 10 am Sunday Services with Pastor Cathy Manthei.

APRIL 6

Communion Service
Message: **Who Do You Resemble?**

APRIL 13

Palm Sunday
Message: **Then and Now Spring Luncheon**

APRIL 20

Easter Sunday
Message: TBD

APRIL 27

Message: TBD

Additional and updated information is posted on the website:

www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com

ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

Elders

Debbie Heppe
Cathy Romanski
Cheryl Weber

Clerk of Session

Cathy Romanski

Deacons

Rick Romanski
Jean Schoeni

THE ROMANSKI SHOPPING RACE A SUCCESS

Last month, **Rick** and **Cathy Romanski** accompanied by three of their grandchildren and one of their daughters, gathered at Pick 'n Save. The purpose: to participate in the Romanski Shopping Race to benefit the Slinger Food Pantry! Armed with a list of needed as well as commonly-used items, the three teams of two set out to complete their lists. Who would finish first? Should it be a national or store brand? Tomato or chicken noodle soup? In what aisle are crackers found? What kind of peanut butter? There were SO many decisions to be made . . . and the clock was ticking!

After the shopping ended, daughter Rachel and grandson Jacob won the race as the “speediest” shoppers. Additional “titles” were bestowed such as largest quantity for the price, largest savings in the cart, and most efficient packers.

The Slinger Food Pantry, however, was the biggest winner. The group scored 75 items. There are Pantry clients who will be able to enjoy individual rice bowls, juice boxes, crackers filled with cheese, Honey Nut Cheerios, and desserts of yummy brownies!

The grandkids as well as the adults enjoyed the competition, togetherness, and stories after all items were checked out and bagged. After the shopping trip, the group relaxed and laughed about their venture at a Chinese restaurant (of course, Grandpa’s treat as well as a new experience for some of the group).

On Wednesday, March 12, grandson Michael and Grandpa Rick proudly delivered their donations to the Slinger Food Pantry.

You may enjoy talking with Rick and Cathy. They already have more ideas and definitely some stories. It is even quite possible Rick is plotting some practice runs before the next Romanski Shopping Race!



A March 31 check for **\$320** was sent to the Slinger Food Pantry.
Thank you, FPCR family!!



SLINGER FOOD PANTRY'S GREATEST NEEDS

Cereal

Personal Hygiene Items

(liquid soap—bar soap is covered by Jean)

Juices and Drinks

(Examples are Tea, Coffee, Fruit Juices)

Desserts



APRIL 7 PICNIC WITH THE PASTOR

Join Cathy and others from your FPCR family!

Monday, April 7, Noon

Bring your lunch.

There will be a devotional and fellowship.



GRACIE'S B-A-A-CK: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING

Your donation will help end hunger, repair communities after disasters, and promote the self-development of people around the world.

If you have not done so, pick up your “Gracie Bank” this Sunday. If you wish to decorate it prior to adding your coins, please do so and return it to FPCR on Palm Sunday, April 13. Impartial judges will then determine the “best-dressed” Gracie. You may also submit

your OGHS donation on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Contents of the banks will be added to any OGHS envelopes and checks in the offering plates. Checks should be made payable to FPCR with OGHS noted in the memo section or use the special envelope available next to the bulletins in the narthex. If you choose to mail your donation, please do so by April 15, 2025.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RICHFIELD

IS A GROWING, GIVING FAMILY,
RELEVANT TO THE COMMUNITY,
WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME
AND WORSHIP GOD.

Visioning Project Roll-Out

While the group will never stop brainstorming for ways to bring our church closer to its Vision of the future, Visioning Teams have now moved into the roll-out phase for their 2025 work. Roll-out starts with turning ideas into Action Plans. Plan development includes defining significant steps in the project(s), setting deadlines, estimating human and financial resources needed, and most importantly, specifying how the project ties back into our Mission Statements. By conducting projects to support our Mission Statements, we will move closer to our Vision for the church. The Action Plans will help us focus on the tasks at hand.

On May 4, Action Plan Roll-Out Day, the Congregation will learn about the exciting Visioning activities targeted for completion in 2025. A short presentation will be followed by an open discussion of the projects where you will be able to share constructive thoughts and comments. We hope you will join us in fine tuning this year's Visioning journey.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VISIONING TEAM MEMBERS.

We have taken another step on the Visioning Path to the Future!

Increasing and Retaining Membership: Carol Frank, Cathy Romanski, Elaine Schmidt, Elaine Schoeni

Community Outreach: Melissa Kujawa

Building and Grounds: Mark Manthei, Rick Romanski, Allen Schoeni, Jean Zeller

Finance: Alice Schmitz, Jean Schoeni

Want to get involved? Anyone is welcome to join any Visioning Team. Melissa could use help with Community Outreach! Plus, extra people will likely be necessary to conduct individual projects. Don't hesitate to share your talents and enthusiasm.

NEXT STUDY TOPIC: LOOKING FOR THE CITY

What will heaven be like? Based on Revelation 21 and 22, that is the topic of the eighth and final lesson in the "Heaven" study guide. The study is planned for **May 14 at 6 pm**.

In March, the group discussed Lesson 7, Working for Your Father. The message of the lesson was to continue to be faithful to the work assigned us and to aim to please the Lord in small ways. Christians need to work at being a good servant using the "gifts" each has been given.

"Meeting God" is the topic of the next study selected by the group. It includes 12 lessons. If you wish to join the group, please contact Elaine Schmidt. The beginning of the next study would be an excellent time! Also, please let Elaine Schmidt know if you have an opinion about whether or not to meet during the summer.

CALENDAR ADDED TO WEBSITE



A calendar has been added to the FPCR website. If you have items you would like on the calendar, please email the church. The calendar should be viewable on any device which supports the internet. Feedback (to the FPCR email or Alice Schmitz) is appreciated.

The calendar may be found at:
www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com/calendar or by navigating to:
www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com and clicking **Calendar**.



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

11 - Jean Schoeni

13 - Elaine Schoeni

23 - Jean Zeller

28 - Ron Grunke

29 - Allen Schoeni



The beautiful lilies above were handcrafted by Melody's mom, **Zhige Meng**. FPCR thanks you!



Happy Anniversary to **Mike and Debbie Hepe** who will be celebrating their wedding anniversary on **April 22**. May the Lord bless you and keep you for many years to come!

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.



Noisy Bucket Collection

Thank you for your generosity! You have helped many whose homes and properties were destroyed. The collection to benefit disaster relief totaled **\$247.22** (\$89.22 in the buckets).

That amount was sent to PC (USA)/Presbyterian Missions for Presbyterian Disaster Relief.

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

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FirstPresbyofRichfield.com](https://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com)

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FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com

MICHAEL SCHMIDT RELOCATES



Michael Schmidt has moved from Richfield to Scottsdale, Arizona. He is adjusting to life at his independent living apartment and the amenities provided by the facility at McDowell Village.

His ground-floor apartment opens to a garden area. In February, he and Maya (his niece) picked fruit from the trees in the garden. He and sister Karen plan to pot vegetables. Michael also had the opportunity to attend some of Maya's Arizona State University club tennis matches—seeing her

play "live" was a first for him!

Karen reports that Michael is working on feeling better and getting stronger daily. The transition from the Midwest is challenging; however, the friendly residents and staff are helping Mike.

Though he faces additional medical testing, he is happy feeling better and being close to family. Karen and her husband are in the process of relocating from North Dakota and Maya attends school in nearby Tempe.



Michael's address is: 8300 East McDowell Road, Apt. 1036, Scottsdale, AZ 85257.



Congratulations, Cathy Romanski



On March 9, Pastor Cathy installed **Cathy Romanski** as an Elder. She also serves as Clerk of Session.



Spring Luncheon—April 13, 2025

All are welcome so please plan to join us for Debbie Heppe's "Famous Ham Sandwiches"!

Meet in the Fellowship Hall (lower level of the church) immediately following the service.

Able to Lend a Hand?



Rick Romanski and Mark Manthei could use your help on the cemetery. Clean-Up work with Rex Melius, Cemeterian, will continue this spring. We have some tasks to complete before that! Please see Rick and/or Mark.



The Lord Is Risen, Indeed!