

In Touch with FPCR

ADVENT—A SEASON OF WAITING AND PREPARATION



As we enter Advent, we are aware that it is a time of preparation and waiting leading up to the celebration of the birth of our Lord. We prepare our homes and our church building. We also prepare our hearts. Many families have traditions that are followed during the season of Advent. These traditions may include wreaths, candles, calendars, or daily Bible reflections or readings. Some families focus on kindness, generosity, and awareness. As a group, the FPCR family enjoys helping others with food, offerings and gifts. FPCR enjoys making Christmas special for others through donations of food and monetary gifts.

Here is a list of church services, and opportunities/activities available to you and your family through FPCR during the Advent season:

December 1

Collection for Slinger Food Pantry begins if you plan to participate in the **Reverse Advent Food** Collection. See Page 2 for more information.

December 4

Sunday service including **Communion**, 10 a.m.

Special collection for the **Gingerbread House** to assist in allowing a Washington County family to have a special holiday. See Page 4 for more information.

Special collection for the **Joy Offering** to support retired pastors and provide ethnic education. See Page 2 for more information.

December 18 - Sunday Christmas service, 10 a.m.

Completion of the special collection for the **Joy Offering**.

Bring your **boxes/bags for the Slinger Food Pantry** as well as any monetary donations you wish to make to the church.

A spaghetti **luncheon** will be served after the service.

Bring a dozen **cookies/bars**. They will be our luncheon dessert. The remaining cookies/bars will be divided among those present (our version of a cookie exchange).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Services	2
Reverse Advent Experience	2
Joy Offering	2
Prayer Requests	2
Sermon Jottings	3
Birthdays	3
Communion Service and Bible Study Information	3
Gingerbread House	4
Christmas Luncheon	4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mark your calendars to attend FPCR on **December 4** (Communion service) and **December 18** (Christmas service).

The **FPCR website** contains up-to-date announcements. Check it if you have questions about a service or deadline.

www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com

*ADVENT INCREASES OUR HOPE,
A HOPE WHICH DOES NOT DISAPPOINT.*

UPCOMING SERVICES

All are welcome for upcoming 10 a.m. Sunday Services.

**DECEMBER 4
COMMUNION SERVICE
SERMON: THE GOD OF HOPE**

**DECEMBER 18
CHRISTMAS SERVICE
SERMON: CHRIST IS BORN!
ALLELUIA!**

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**

A REVERSE ADVENT EXPERIENCE

Advent Calendar
For Slinger Food Pantry
Add an Item to a Box or Bag Each Day, Bring to FPCR on Sunday, December 18.

December 1 - Box of Cereal	December 16 - Box of Crackers
December 2 - Peanut Butter	December 17 - Can Sweet Potatoes and Can Corn
December 3 - Spelling Book and Board of Primitives	December 18 - Canned Beans
December 4 - Can Mixed Vegetables	December 19 - Canned Beans, Tuna, Veggies, and Can Corn
December 5 - Mayonnaise and Cheese	December 20 - Canned Macaroni and Cheese Soup
December 6 - Can Fruit and Applesauce	December 21 - Package Bag of Rice
December 7 - Can Tomatoes and Can Green Beans	December 22 - Package Rice Gravy
December 8 - Can Tuna	December 23 - Package of Pasta and Jar of Spaghetti Sauce
December 9 - Dessert Mix	

Many households are used to **counting down** during Advent to answer the question, "How many more days until Christmas?" FPCR is offering an Advent experience which requires **counting up** and **adding** nonperishable food items daily during Advent for donation to the Slinger Food Pantry.

How might you participate?

1. Check the church website, the flyer distributed by Rick and Cathy Romanski, or contact Romanskis at 262-628-3822 for the list. The list looks like the graphic above.
2. Grab a bag or box beginning December 1 and add the grocery item(s) listed daily through December 17. Say a short prayer for the recipient as you put the item in the bag/box! By the end of the list, you will have collected the sides for a holiday meal (and more) to be donated to a Slinger Food Pantry client.
3. On **December 18**, bring your bag or box to FPCR. The Romanskis will deliver it to the Food Pantry prior to Christmas.



If you are looking for an alternative to bagging or boxing the listed items, monetary donations are always welcome. Pick up an envelope in the Narthex or mail a check with FPCR on the memo line to PO Box 22, Richfield, WI 53076.

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL COLLECTION



The Christmas Joy Offering is the final special offering of the year and has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

More information is available at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy>. At FPCR the Christmas Joy Offering takes place on December 4 and December 18. Special envelopes may be found on the narthex table, or you may send your check (Joy Offering on the memo line) to FPCR, PO Box 22, Richfield, WI 53076, by December 10.



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
Rick and Cathy Romanski's granddaughter, Brynn
Daryl Schmidt
Leslie Schmidt
Jean Zeller's granddaughter, Ashley**



SERMON JOTTINGS

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

Date: **November 6, 2022**

Text: **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17**

Sermon: ***Standing Firm***

2 Thessalonians is believed to be written to the church in Thessalonica by a disciple of the Apostle

Paul. The believers, first generation Christians, have been waiting for the second coming of Christ. They are counseled to stand firm in their faith in Christ as they have been taught.

- We are called to:
 - * live as if Christ has returned.
 - * stand firm in our faith in the face of evil.
 - * stand firm knowing that Christ is always with us—even in the midst of doubt, challenge, and loss.
 - * find gratitude in the blessings we have in our lives, and not focus only on the challenges.
 - * be sons and daughters of Christ.
- Living as if the day of the Lord has already come can provide comfort and peace.
- We all need encouragement to find comfort in God in our midst and in our lives.

Date: **November 20, 2022**

Text: **Psalm 100**

Sermon: ***Giving Thanks***

Psalm 100 is a familiar one to most of us. It is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving.

- Though we should always be thankful, this is certainly the season to focus on praise and thanksgiving.
- We all have challenges. We need to remember we are not alone and that God is with us always. What a blessing and a reason for giving thanks and praise.
- We are called to give thanks for those who plant, nurture, tend, plow, and harvest the fields and crops. We are thankful for the harvest in our midst. These are huge blessings and call for giving thanks to God and to one another.
- What are your blessings? For what are you thankful and grateful?

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

**See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

The Holy Bible: Zechariah 9:9 (NRSVUE)



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

- 10 - Diann Schmidt
- 11 - Carol Frank
- 15 - Karen Schmidt Kubsad
- 18 - June Neumann
- 22 - Rick Romanski
- 25 - Brandon Tutkowski

ADVENT COMMUNION SERVICE

Please join your FPCR family at the upcoming Advent communion service. The service will be held on **Sunday, December 4**, at 10 a.m. All are welcome!



JOHN 13 IN 2023



The Bible Study group will **not** meet in December. Stay tuned for the date of the next Bible Study beginning with John 13 in 2023.

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

Thank you to **Pastor Cathy Manthei**, our Moderator, and the members of the **Session** and **Deacons** for participating in what turned out to be a lengthy meeting at the end of October. As a group, you set a plan for FPCR through the end of the year!

Thank you **Shira** and **Claire Gui** for beautiful music at the November 6 service.

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

Location:
2281 Highway 164
Richfield, WI 53076

Mailing Address:
PO Box 22
Richfield, WI 53076

Website:
<https://www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com>

Email:
FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail.com

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

“Every child in Washington County will have the opportunity to experience the lasting, cherished memories of Christmas.”



This is the mission of the Gingerbread Holiday House Christmas Program. Supporting the Gingerbread House has become a tradition of FPCR during the Advent season, and this year there are two families that will be supported. Donations given on December 4 as well as through the Maxine Henk Memorial Fund will purchase gift cards for items on the families' Christmas lists.

Family One: Mother, Jenna; 8-year-old son, Beckett; and 4-year-old daughter, River.

- Jenna would appreciate gift cards and a soft blanket.
- Beckett is into games. Pokemon cards or army guys would thrill him.
- River enjoys Barbies and baby dolls and would appreciate anything that goes with them. She would love to pick out a book and movie at Wal-Mart.

Family Two: Mother, Crystal; 11-year-old son, Jose; and 8-year-old daughter, Analiah.

- Crystal would be grateful for gift cards, household items, and hygiene products.
- Jose includes Nikes, yellow Crocs, and sweat pants/hoodie outfits on his wish list.
- Analiah is all about 18-inch dolls, clothes, and doll furniture.

The Gingerbread House Holiday Gift Giving Program is part of the Youth and Family Project, a non-profit located in West Bend, WI. FPCR is happy to help these families make some joyful Christmas memories.

JOIN US FOR FPCR'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

FPCR's Christmas celebration will take place on Sunday, December 18. We would love to worship and joyfully celebrate the birth of our Lord with you. Please plan to attend.

The service is at at 10 a.m. with a sermon by Mr. Paul Zachow, M.A.P.S., titled **Christ is Born! Alleluia!**

After the service, all are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a spaghetti



luncheon. If you wish to participate in the "cookie exchange", please bring a dozen (or so) cookies. The cookies will serve as the luncheon's dessert and will be divided among the participants to be enjoyed after the day's festivities.

ADVENT

BE AWARE ... KEEP ALERT ... PAY ATTENTION