



First Presbyterian Church of Richfield
Serving the Community Since 1862

January 2022
Volume 5, Issue 1

In Touch with FPCR

A LOVELY COMMUNION SERVICE PLUS A SURPRISE VISITOR



On Saturday, December 11, FPCR parishioners looked forward to a communion service with our friend, **Pastor Cathy Manthei**, who serves Apostle Presbyterian Church in West Allis, WI. What we didn't know was that she would bring a visitor. After already traveling far, and wanting to make the most of her trip from Bethlehem to Wisconsin, "**Mary on the Mantle**" left the mantle at Apostle,

jumped into the car, and rode with Pastor Cathy to greet the FPCR family and to remind all that the third Sunday of Advent was about Joy!

Mary, with a story of travels far and wide, was a welcome visitor to a wonderful service complete with communion. Also included in the service were beautiful hymns played by Scott Schoeni on the accordion.

The service was followed by a birthday reception in honor of Carol Frank on her 85th birthday. What a lovely day—complete with an inspiring church service, sunshine, and friends!

For those interested, videos of Schoeni's accordion hymns may be viewed on the front page of FPCR's website: www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mark your calendar to attend FPCR services **January 9 and 23**.

The next Bible Study is **January 16** 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

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

JANUARY 9

EPIPHANY

JANUARY 23

**THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**

FEBRUARY 6

**FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**

FEBRUARY 20

**SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY

Slinger Food Pantry

Rick and Cathy Romanski, FPCR's Slinger Food Pantry Liaisons, shared that you contributed 170 items to the Food Pantry collection last month. In addition some of the FPCR family personally dropped off their donations, AND many of you sent monetary gifts. *Thank you for your wonderful support!*

The needs continue. As soon as the Pantry communicates those needs to Rick and Cathy, they will let us know what needs there are at this time.

Also, a belated happy birthday to Food Pantry Organizer, **Peg Lidington.** Her 101st birthday was December 20, the day the Romanskis dropped off FPCR's December donations. Peg continues to work to assure Food Pantry operations go smoothly.

JOY Offering

Your generous gifts earmarked for the 2021 JOY Offering were submitted to the Presbytery. A check for \$380 was mailed at the end of December.

You may remember that this PC-USA special offering is collected for support of church leadership whether past or present as well as leadership development.

Waukesha Parade Victims

A \$250 check from the FPCR family was forwarded to the Waukesha Parade Victims Fund. This resource is available to those who were injured as well as to the families of victims. Applications for the use of the funds are being accepted into February 2022.

Gingerbread House

An \$815 check reflecting your contributions was submitted from FPCR to the Gingerbread House (Youth and Family Project, Inc.) in West Bend to benefit a mother and son who needed a good dose of Christmas cheer and memories! We are grateful to have the opportunity to help this family enjoy Christmas.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following individuals who have health concerns:

Carol Frank



Jim Frank

Jim Frank's Son, Tom

Ron Grunke

**Ron Grunke's Daughter,
Shelley**

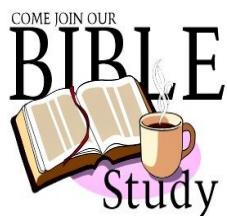
Joyce Koehn

Daryl Schmidt

Allen Schoeni's Friend, Toni

JANUARY 16 - THE NEXT BIBLE STUDY

The next adult Bible Study will be held **Sunday, January 16, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.**



Since this will be an online meeting, a link will be sent to those who participated last month. If you would like to join the group on January 16, but were unable to attend in December, please either email FPCR or contact Elaine Schmidt. A Zoom link for your participation will be sent to your email.



SERMON JOTTINGS

With our present schedule, it is sometimes difficult to follow the continuum of church lessons and sermons. Here are the summary notes from the December services by Pulpit Supply Mr. Paul Zachow, MAPS/Chaplain and the Communion Service by Pastor Cathy Manthei.

Date: **December 5, 2021**

Text: **Luke 3:1-6**

Sermon: **Prepare the Way of the Lord**

The scene today is about John the Baptist preparing for Jesus' coming ministry in the world. John is proclaiming baptism and repentance for the forgiveness of sins of the people in the wilderness of Jordan.

- We have too much tragedy and suffering in our too violent and chaotic world. We need encouragement and good, positive news and hope.
- We need to focus on the coming of Christ in our midst (as John the Baptist did in the reading above).
- We need to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ—aside from the worldly preparations like decorating, shopping, and baking.
- We should prepare by praying, meditating, and sitting in silence with God, helping those in need, reading Scripture, listening to Christmas music, or whatever spiritual practice is meaningful for you.
- We need to “get ready” to receive Jesus in our hearts, minds, and lives.
- Jesus comes as the Prince of Peace. We need more peace and healing in our lives and hearts this Advent.
- We should all be instruments of God’s peace, comfort, light, love, compassion, justice, and hope this Advent.

Pastor Cathy Manthei

Date: **December 11, 2021** (Communion Service)

Text: **Old Testament - Isaiah 12:2-6; New Testament - Luke 3:7-18**

Sermon: **Generosity**

- It is difficult to go to Bethlehem in “faith”.
- John checks names, passports, and identity. He watches, challenges.
- We need **complete** repentance. Feeling bad for what we have or have not done is not enough. It is half-hearted.
- What matters is how you live your life. You cannot just talk your faith, you have to live it.
- God needs church believers not church attenders.
- Repentance involves being generous (with your extras) and being honest.
- John asked listeners to do something great.
- John asks and urges us to be ready for the coming of the Messiah—he says repent of the past and lay it down.
- What does your spiritual passport say?

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

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

10 - Salem Remillard

20 - Enzo Remillard

24 - Scott Schoeni

27 - Shelley Schoeni



HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY

to the following couple who is celebrating their wedding anniversary in **January**. May the Lord bless you and keep you for many more years to come!

15 - Scott and Shelley

Schoeni

**WE ARE SOULER
POWERED BY THE
SON.**



THANK YOU to each and every one of you who make FPCR a special place to worship—a family of God!

THANK YOU for your spiritual guidance, prayers, and support, and for caring about each other in the FPCR family.

THANK YOU for music and song, laughter and smiles, and for hugs of support and love.

THANK YOU for caring about and helping the greater community and for “sharing your coat.”

THANK YOU for cleaning and upkeeping the building and grounds.

THANK YOU for giving us wise leadership as we plan ahead and for supplying those who complete required day-to-day tasks.

The FPCR family “works” because all are involved and lovingly strive to serve the Lord through our little church!

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO EACH OF YOU

Joyce Koehn sends Christmas greetings to everyone at FPCR.

Please see the Christmas card on the bulletin board in the Narthex from **Karen Bertucci**, our volunteer Coordinator of Keyboard Players, and her daughters **Monica** and **Hanna**, former keyboard players at FPCR.

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT READING THE BIBLE?

Ever think you might like to read the Bible? A lofty goal you say? A bit of assistance from a “resource” might be good! There is an electronic resource called the **Daily Audio Bible** which could assist in your goal. Every day the Scriptures (beginning with Genesis 1 on January 1) are read. The reading is followed by a passage with commentary or prayer that specifically applies to what was read.

Listen by downloading the Daily Audio Bible App  DAILY AUDIO BIBLE on your phone, iPad or other device. (Search for it in iTunes, Google Play, Amazon, etc.). You can also listen directly from the website (<https://www.dailyaudiobible.com>). Use their DAB player.

There is a “community” available, but no requirement to participate if you do not wish to do so.

SERMON JOTTINGS

(Continued from page 3)

Date: **December 19, 2021**

Text: **Luke 2:1-20**

Sermon: **Good News of Great Joy**



This scripture reading is the birth story of Jesus. It is important that we view this story through fresh ears and eyes as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

- We are asked to follow Him as King and Savior—not the crazy politics of the day.
- Jesus is born quietly and in humble surroundings—not with pomp and circumstance. He is the King—not the emperor.
- Good News! The lowly shepherds were the first to learn about the birth of Jesus—not the elite of the empire!
- Joseph paid taxes and was in Bethlehem for the census—this emphasizes the political importance of Jesus’ birth.
- Jesus lived among everyday people. God is capable of being among the people—all people, not just the elite.
- Light comes through the darkness of the days and into our lives.
- He brought good news of love, grace, acceptance to all—not just the powerful.
- This is a new day, a new order for the world. Jesus is king!
- We are called to put our trust and love in the Christ child.
- We are all loved and cherished by God ALWAYS.

CAN'T SLEEP AND COUNTING SHEEP, TALK TO THE SHEPHERD!