

April 2026

In Touch with FPCR

First Presbyterian Church of Richfield

A growing, giving family, relevant to the community where all are welcome to come and worship God.



Volume 9, Issue 4

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Bible Study, Palm Sunday, Thank You to Debbie Heppe
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Hannah Bertucci Update, Cora and Jayden Schmidt Thank You
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PLUS MORE!

UPCOMING SERVICES

April 5 - 10 am
EASTER SUNDAY
Communion

April 12 - 10 am
Spring Luncheon Follows Service

April 19 - 10 am

April 26 - 10 am

Celebrate Easter at FPCR

As Lent comes to a close, the FPCR family used the Sunday, March 29, service to reflect on Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week. Bible Scripture recounted events from His betrayal and the Last Supper to His crucifixion, death, and burial. To make the events more realistic, **Rev. Halverson, Elaine Schoeni, Debbie Heppe, and Cheryl Weber** read Matthew 26:14 through 27:66 as the congregation pictured the events in their minds.



Join us on Sunday, April 5, at 10 am to celebrate the Resurrection!

Visioning Committee Update

The Visioning Committee met on Sunday, March 22, following the service. A summary of the meeting is provided below.

Action Plan Template and Process

The committee approved the Action Plan Template discussed at the previous meeting. The template will be available for download on the FPCR website. Completed action plans should be submitted to Alice Schmitz for posting in the Vision section of the church website. Members are encouraged to review the updated form before beginning their work.

“Change for Change”

Thanks to Elaine Schmidt, the “Change for Change” milk can has arrived and will soon be placed in the narthex. Donations of coins and currency will support church

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Present Requests:



- Cereal
- Juice
- Coffee
- Peanut Butter**
- Jelly

Breakfast Bars

Hamburger Helper (or similar)

Updated List of Slinger Food Pantry Needs Coming Soon!

Rick and Cathy Romanski will be delivering your recent non-perishable donations to the Slinger Food Pantry this week or next. Until an updated list of needs is generated by the Food Pantry, any of the items listed at the left OR any items you wish to donate are, of course, welcome.

Monetary donations from the last quarter will be mailed next week. Those donations, collected from January through March totaled \$970.



The Slinger Food Pantry THANKS YOU for your generosity.

Accepted at Any Time . . .

Your hymn suggestions!

Melody and Eric are always happy to play selections suggested by you for Sunday services!

Contact Alice Schmitz with your favorites.



Receive Your Directory?

2026 Directories were distributed either at FPCR or through email. If you did not receive yours OR if you wish you to have a digital copy, please email the church or contact Alice Schmitz.

Spring Luncheon

Irresistably Delicious Ham Sandwiches will be served at the Spring Luncheon . . .
Sunday, April 12,
following the 10 am service.
All are welcome.

ELDERS AND BOARD OF DEACONS

Elders

Cathy Romanski
Allen Schoeni
Cheryl Weber

Clerk of Session

Cathy Romanski

Deacons

Rick Romanski
Jean Schoeni

Clerk of Session Emeritus

Elaine Schmidt

Note: Term of Office for the Elders and Deacons begins after the Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers.

Elders Installed at March 22 Service



Installation of officers took place at the Sunday, March 22, service. Rev. Dottie Halverson installed **Allen Schoeni** to serve for the next three years (class of 2028) and **Cheryl Weber** for a one-year term (Class of 2026). The FPCR family welcomes both and appreciates their time and effort as they guide the congregation in worship and work throughout the next years.

Both Allen and Cheryl have served as Elders previously. They begin their terms as of March 22. Thank you to **Debbie Heppe** who leaves the session after serving two 3-year terms.



March 20 was Mr. Rogers Day

Though you likely missed his actual birthday, please take a moment to remember **Fred Rogers** and "his neighborhood". Mr. Rogers taught the world kindness. His work centered around peace, reconciliation, and children's education. He is worth remembering. . . . and, "please won't you be my neighbor?"

Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of Word and sacrament for PC(USA).



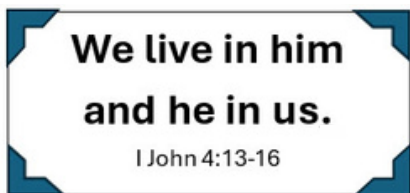
All are Welcome on April 14

“God Is Love”—what does this phrase truly mean, and what are its implications? FPCR’s March 11 Bible Study focused on the concept of love as presented in I John 4:7–5:5.

The discussion noted that our understanding of love evolves throughout different stages of life, a reality that was also present in biblical times. Participants reflected on the depth of God’s love, emphasizing that God loves us more fully than we are capable of loving Him or others. While this truth is profound and challenging to comprehend, scripture teaches that we receive God’s love by loving one another and obeying His commandments. Our beliefs and actions both reflect and deepen our understanding of God’s love.

The group also talked about the importance of discernment and vigilance against false teachings. There is much misleading information “out there” today. Believers are encouraged to carefully evaluate what they hear by continually reading, studying, and seeking to understand Scripture.

The next lesson? *Holy, Holy, Holy*, centers around Isaiah 6. The lesson is structured to help deepen the impact of God’s holiness on our everyday lives. All are welcome to join the group on April 14 at 6 pm for this Zoom discussion. Simply contact **Elaine Schmidt** if you are interested in participating.



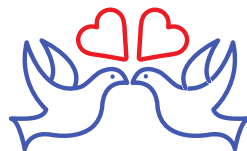
Happy Birthday to the following individuals with birthdays in **April**.

We wish you many years of God’s blessings.

- 4 - Rev. Dottie Halverson
- 11 - Jean Schoeni
- 13 - Elaine Schoeni
- 23 - Jean Zeller
- 28 - Ron Grunke
- 29 - Allen Schoeni



Happy Anniversary to Debbie and Mike Heppe on April 22.



So Faith, Hope, Love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is Love.

*I Corinthians 13:13
Bible Revised Standard Version*



John 12:13 . . .

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”

On Palm Sunday, **Kate Kujawa** and **Elaine Schmidt** proceeded to the front of the church with palms. This action started an inspiring service for the FPCR family.

Thank you, Debbie Heppe, for Serving FPCR



Debbie Heppe served the FPCR family for six years as an Elder. During her tenure, she contributed thoughtfully to important decisions regarding pulpit supply, pastoral leadership, church renovations, the overall vision of FPCR, and more. We are grateful for her dedicated service.

In addition to her role as an Elder, Debbie generously supports FPCR in many practical ways. A few examples include coordinating group meals, maintaining the facility, assisting with seasonal needs, and welcoming members and visitors to Sunday services. She consistently offers her time and talents with reliability, grace, and a smile!

Thank you for your service as an Elder . . . and for all of the love you have shared and continue to share with the FPCR family.

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*Help the environment and
FPCR's budget.*



Congratulations Hannah Bertucci

Many at FPCR remember accomplished keyboard player, **Hannah Bertucci** (shown left between sister Monica and mother Karen). Hannah, a student at Northwestern University, "matched" with the University of Pennsylvania as her location to complete a medical residency in internal medicine. Congratulations to the Bertucci family!

Thank you Jayden and Cora Schmidt

The FPCR family always appreciates **Jayden's** clear readings and **Cora's** lovely flute solos. These accomplished young women helped make FPCR's Palm Sunday service a special event. Thank you for sharing your talents! Shown right are Jayden, mother Brenda Schmidt, and Cora.



Visioning Committee

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projects rather than external charitable contributions. Additional details will be shared as plans develop.

Potential Projects

The committee agreed that the initial use of "Change for Change" funds should focus on enhancing the church's front-facing presence. Potential improvements include the sign, pamphlet display box, banner replacement, and other elements to improve visibility and accessibility from the highway.

Rodent and Spider Control

Allen Schoeni is coordinating the pest control action plan. Spider control will be handled internally to reduce costs and logistical challenges, beginning once temperatures rise. Necessary equipment and supplies are available through Allen Schoeni and Keith Clark. The committee also approved adding more outdoor mouse deterrents and indoor traps. Ongoing updates will be provided.

Grant Writing Project

Jean Schoeni is working with Lin McCracken, one of our Presbytery liaisons, to explore potential grant assistance and available resources.

Pamphlet Project

Elaine Schoeni shared a sample pamphlet and proposed updates to the current tri-fold design. Alice Schmitz will reformat the existing pamphlet and provide a rough draft for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Visioning Committee meeting will be held via Zoom at 6 pm on Tuesday, April 7. A meeting link will be sent by Alice Schmitz in advance.