

# In Touch with FPCR

## THE FPCR FAMILY NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE!



Jean Schoeni and Allen Schoeni prepare items for delivery to the Slinger Food Pantry.

In November **Cathy and Rick Romanski**, FPCR's Slinger Food Pantry Liaisons, brought forward the idea of the church family doing a "Reverse Advent" food collection for the Pantry. The idea came from an article in the Presbytery of Milwaukee's publication, *Fresh Impressions*, which printed Reverse Advent ideas for shelters, medical clinics, refugees, animal shelters AND food pantries. The concept was to place a different non-perishable food item in a box on each day during Advent. With a little tweaking to match the FPCR calendar, the idea came to fruition and was communicated to you at the end of November—just in time for Advent.

Fast forward to December 18, the day of FPCR's Christmas service AND the final collection date for Cathy and Rick to deliver to the Pantry prior to Christmas. Anticipating a few more donations than normal, the Romanskis were thrilled when fourteen boxes/bags of foodstuffs appeared in the narthex at FPCR for delivery. Along with the fourteen boxes/bags, there were other items as well. **Jean Schoeni's** December homemade soap donation of 50+ Christmas-scented soaps as well as miscellaneous hygiene products were also included. In all, you donated **638 items**. The Pantry was thrilled! The FPCR family once again surpassed expectations!

In addition to the phenomenal donations of non-perishable items, a check for **\$375** was sent from the church to cover your generous donations for the month of December.

The Food Pantry serves Washington County residents. Needs continue to surpass the inventory held at the Pantry. Anything shared is appreciated.



A partial delivery is loaded for the Slinger Food Pantry in the Romanski's truck.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Mark your calendars to attend FPCR on **January 8** (Communion Service) and **January 22**.

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.**

**JANUARY 8  
COMMUNION SERVICE  
SERMON: FOLLOW THE  
STAR**

**JANUARY 22  
CHRISTMAS SERVICE  
SERMON: THE MIND OF  
CHRIST**

Updated information is  
posted on the website:  
[www.FirstPresbyofRichfield.com](http://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**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE

As you may remember, FPCR supported two families through the Washington County Youth and Family Project's Gingerbread House (see last month's newsletter to review the information).

Your generous giving (**\$875**) allowed those two families to make wonderful

Christmas memories. The Gingerbread House Director recently called Elaine Schmidt to thank FPCR for the generous donations made by you annually.

This year, special thanks goes to the family of Maxine Henk who earmarked the Gingerbread Christmas offering as a memorial fund during 2022. Those gifts were part of your donations.

### JOY OFFERING

FPCR has supported the Joy Offering for many years. In fact, the Milwaukee Presbytery's Newsletter, *Fresh Impressions*, gave a "shout out" to eight churches who supported the Joy Offering for at least 20 years. FPCR was one of those eight.

This year, **\$385** was mailed to the Presbyterian Mission Agency on your behalf.

Amounts collected are split equally between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

As we begin a brand new year remember that

*Jesus Christ  
is the same  
yesterday  
and today  
and forever.*

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

## REST IN PEACE, PEG LIDINGTON

Our Slinger Food Pantry friend, Peg Lidington, passed away on Friday, December 23, 2022, at the age of 102.

A physical education teacher in the Slinger schools, she later served as an administrator at Cedar Communities. The FPCR family, however, knows Peg best through the Slinger Food Pantry

which she helped organize and at which she served even past her 101st birthday. Those of us who knew Peg will remember her working at the Food Pantry with a smile for everyone. She was quite a lady!

Her visitation and service were held on December 29, 2022, at the Slinger Community Church.

## 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; Joyce Koehn; Cathy and Mark**

**Manthei; Daryl Schmidt; Leslie Schmidt; and Michael Turner.**

Please pray for the **Lidington family** who lost two members in December—**Peg Lidington**, on December 23, and her oldest son, **Joseph Lidington**, on December 24.



## DECEMBER SERMON JOTTINGS

Date: **December 4, 2022**

Text: **Romans 15:4-13**

Sermon: ***The God of Hope***

*This sermon centered on Romans 15:4-13. It is the second Sunday of Advent, celebration of the Lord's Supper, and we have a message of hope.*

- Hope calls us to the birth of the Christ Child among us this Advent and Christmas season.
- Accepting one another is hope.
- Hope calls for trust—trust in God and trust in one another.
- We are called to have hope and to have peace that Christ will come again to us and with us.
- We are called to be preparing in our hearts, minds, and spirits for the birth of the Christ Child.
- We should prepare ourselves in hope, in peace, and in the love which only can come from God.
- We are called to be steadfast and faithful trusting in God's love and hope and peace for us—no matter what our circumstances may be.

Date: **December 18, 2022**

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

Sermon: ***Christ is Born! Alleluia!***

*This scripture, the story of the birth of Jesus in Luke, is so very familiar. Of note: the shepherds, not the elite Roman Emperor Augustus, were the first to know about the baby! The news came to the lowly first. This started the dynamic of God's power vs. the emperor's power that flowed through the entire life and ministry of Christ.*

- God showed willingness to appear to anyone who would listen. (*Feasting on the Word*, Yr. A, Vol. 1, Pg. 120, Aaron Kline).
- God sent Jesus unexpectedly, at night, to those going about their daily occupations. (Kline, p. 120).
- God does not require festivals, frantic preparation, or the need for boundless energy to do something—he wishes us peace.
- Christ brings a peace that no earthly king will ever achieve. (*Feasting on the Word*, Yr. A, Vol. 1, Pg. 119, Daniel Harris).

***Christ is Born! Alleluia!***

### A GOLDEN GEM

SO NEVER GIVE UP IN DESPAIR AND THINK THAT YOU ARE THROUGH,  
FOR THERE'S ALWAYS A TOMORROW AND A CHANCE TO START ANEW.

By: Helen Steiner Rice  
Submitted by: Jean Zeller



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

**10 - Salem Remillard**

**20 - Enzo Remillard**

**24 - Scott Schoeni**

**27 - Shelley Schoeni**



**Happy anniversary** to **Scott and Shelley Schoeni** who are celebrating their wedding anniversary on **January 15**. May the Lord bless you and keep you for many more years to come!

### JOHN 13 IN 2023



The Bible Study group will **not** meet in January. Stay tuned for the date of the February 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 all who made the 2022 Christmas season at FPCR meaningful and beautiful.

Thank you to **Elaine Schoeni** and **Paul Zachow** for a lovely Advent Communion service.

Thank you **Elaine Schmidt, Cheryl Weber, Melissa Kujawa,** and **Jackson Kujawa** for Advent readings.

Thank you **Shira** and **Claire Gui** for beautiful music.

Thank you to **Melissa Kujawa, Debbie Heppe,** and all who made the Christmas luncheon possible. The cookie exchange was fun and delicious!

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

### Email:

[FirstPresbyofRichfield@gmail  
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## DO NOT FALL PREY TO SCAMMERS

*The following is from the Social Security Administration and is intended to help keep your personal information and accounts (Social Security and other) safe. Do not fall prey to the scammers out there! The bottom line is: **DO NOT GIVE PERSONAL OR PRIVATE INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE and BE CAREFUL WITH EMAIL AND TEXTS!***

Scammers frequently target the older and more vulnerable members of our communities. They pretend to be from Social Security or another government agency in order to steal your money or personal information.

Caller ID, texts, or documents sent by email (from Social Security) may look official, but they often are not. Presently, fraudsters are calling to verify information about the 2023 cost-of-living adjustment for people who get benefits. Remember, this adjustment is automatic; and nothing needs to be verified. Social Security won't ask you to provide information or money to get your benefit increase. Social Security may email or text you about programs and services, but they never ask for personal information via email or text.

Recognizing the signs of a scam can help you avoid falling victim to one. These scams primarily use the telephone to contact you, but scammers may also use email, text messages, social media, or U.S. mail. Scammers pretend to be from an agency or organization you know to gain your trust. Scammers say there is a problem with your Social Security number or account. Scammers pressure you to act immediately. Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way. Scammers frequently change their methods with new tactics and messages.

Know what to look for and be alert. Scammers don't take days off and neither should you. If you receive a questionable Social Security call, text, or email, hang up or don't respond. Then, report it at [oig.ssa.gov/report](https://oig.ssa.gov/report).

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON FUN



**Top Left:** Linda Liu, Claire Gui, Shira Gui, Melissa Kujawa and Kate Kujawa. **Top Right:** Carol Frank and Jean Zeller. **Bottom Left:** Scott Schoeni, Elaine Schoeni, Jean Schoeni, and Keith Clark. **Bottom Right:** Yummy Christmas cookies.