

building faith forward

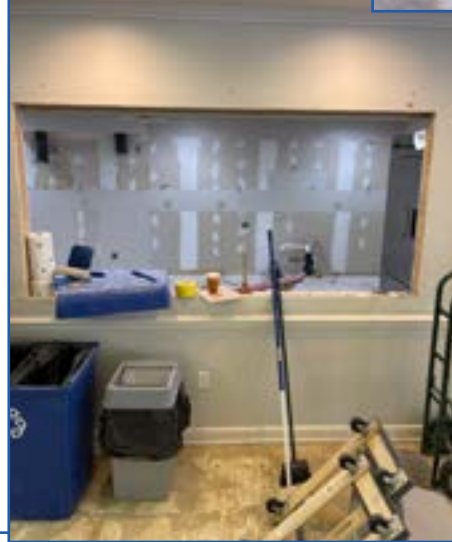
Construction Update!

Work continued through the holidays on our building projects. If you didn't see the online church service on December 27, check it out—Pr. Bill did a walk-through of what things looked like inside! Here's what's been going on:

Select demolition has continued, including interior partition walls and electrical. That should be finished this week.

Work continues with We Energies to disconnect gas service and connect new electrical service. This will prepare for the heavier demolition, when the exterior will begin to change. This phase will take approximately three weeks. Afterwards, the team will dig for a new foundation.

The next milestone is to have the new electrical service installed and the gas service removed.



Clockwise from top left: Fellowship Hall ceiling, Fellowship Hall, a view into the kitchen from Fellowship Hall

Cookies for Luther Manor

January is the month FPLC is scheduled to provide cookies for the 200 plus Luther Manor Health Care Center residents. The cookie drive is a way to reach out and make the day brighter for the residents during challenging times. This year due to Covid-19 Luther Manor is requesting store-bought packaged cookies rather than homemade. Softer purchased cookies without nuts or seeds comply with the dietary needs of many of the residents. Please deliver them directly to the church office by Thursday, January 21.

If you need someone to pick them up, please call Janet Quail, 414-967-7942.

Thank you for supporting Luther Manor through the recent Friends of Luther Manor dues/donations and Love Lights fund raiser. Your contributions support beneficial programs and services for the Luther Manor residents. The entire Luther Manor community thanks you for your generosity.





Serenity Inns Dinner Fellowship

Since Serenity Inns opened its doors in 2004, the goal has been to provide a safe home for men in Milwaukee to recover from their addiction to drugs or alcohol. FPLC volunteers provide 3 dinners a month for the residents.

Volunteers eat with the men (or you may drop off dinner due to Covid-19). The Inn follows Covid-19 protocols if you

choose to stay to eat.

At this point, only one or two families per week are staying to eat with the residents, but we look forward to getting back to “normal” when more volunteers can stay to dine in. Dinner fellowship is a cornerstone of the Serenity Inns recovery program because it is when the residents can re-gain their socialization skills as they share their stories (anti-drug/alcohol messages) with the guests. Please consider including your middle and high school students in this opportunity. (A number of our confirmation families have participated in Dinner Fellowship over the years.)

To sign up and learn more about the Covid-19 protocols click [Make a Meal](#). Dates are filling up, but meal dates from February to June are available—meals on Fridays are especially needed!

Have questions? Lorraine Buehler, FPLC member & long-time Serenity Inns volunteer can help! Email Lorraine at lcbuehler@cs.com.



For the second year in a row, Serenity Inns has been named the best Alcohol & Drug Rehab Center in the Shepherd Express' Best of Milwaukee Awards.

Congratulations to all for all the hard work and dedication you show every day!

Please see the next page for a lovely letter we received from a guest at Serenity Inns.

Eye Glasses Needed!

Fox Point members have graciously brought in used eyeglasses and cases to be given to Prevent Blindness-WI in the past. PB-WI gives them to local organizations that conduct free vision screenings to those in the Milwaukee community who cannot afford more traditional screenings, exams and glasses.

Until January 31, there is a white bin just inside the front door of the church office. Deposit any used glasses or eyeglass cases (in good condition, please) there.

This is a huge public service to those who desperately need glasses to improve their lives. Thank you so much for taking the time to care! If you have questions, please call Minna Smith at 414-852-1525.



Collecting Your Christmas Cards!

Bring your Christmas cards to the FPLC office for the Salvation Army's “Big Wrap” Prison Toy Program. Here's how it works:

Every year, the organization purchases gifts for children of men and women who are in Wisconsin's prisons. The inmates choose the toys from a catalog and write notes to their kids which are attached to your cards. For some children, this is the only communication they receive from their incarcerated mothers and fathers all year. Last year, more than 4,000 children received presents and cards.

A Simple Gift Carries Great Meaning

As you may know, FPLC members purchase gifts for the men at Serenity Inns for Christmas. It seems simple. Purchase the item, wrap it and drop it off at the church. You hope the person is happy with it and it's useful. Sometimes that simple gift means so much more to a man going through recovery, often without family ties or friends outside of Serenity Inns. Willie J. wrote this thank you for his gift and asked that we share it with you.

The meaning of Christmas has always been something that I struggled to define.

This year, the meaning of Christmas became clear to me by the kindness of people I don't even know, but now appreciate and consider friends of mine.

First I'd like to say thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart. For this recovering guy it could not have been more special.

What all of you have done is take the bitterness of the holidays away. Carrying this feeling the way I did, for as long as I did, made me believe it was permanent. As a matter of fact it may have even been a part of why I never felt I belonged or why I chose to use drugs in the first place.

This Christmas when I woke up, I saw packages full of love, personal care, sheer goodness and angel-like thought. From the beginning I have felt that Serenity Inns is different. You have all confirmed that feeling.

It is said that it is never the physical gift that counts but the thought that counts. Well your thoughts are written all over my heart. And I would like you to know that you've made a friend, and I don't take saying that lightly.

My hope is that every holiday from here on will mirror this one. The only difference I'd like to make or offer, is that I would like to be the one spreading Christmas cheer and doing things for others.

It felt really special getting gifts and encouragement but now I'd like to be on the other side of the table and be a joy and peace giver like all of you.

Again I'd like to say thank you for being who all of you are, and please be proud that this house and I, for one, won't be the same.

Your friend,

Willie J.



The SI residents.

One of their Christmas gifts was a Bucks sweatshirt for each of them.



See our webpage for all information regarding virtual worship, outreach, and children & youth programs. Click →



5 for Faith

“5 for Faith” is our fun, fast, family-oriented replacement for in-person Sunday School. Each week we offer five 5-minute activities to help grow your family’s faith. Do one 5-minute activity or try them all!

You can find both “Fox Knocks” and “5 for Faith” on our website and Facebook page: Fox Point Lutheran Church. You can also watch previous episodes of “Super D Challenges Vito the Virus” and “Vito Goes to Sunday School.” Click the Fox Point Kids graphic (left) to go to the website page!

Have questions? Julie Schlifske, our Children’s Ministry Director, can help you; julie@foxpointchurch.org.



On our “Kids and Youth” page you can find our new “Little Foxes” videos! The target age for these videos is pre-kindergarten. New videos are released each week and include a song, story, craft, and activity for children to follow along. While we cannot currently hold Sunday School, we hope these continue to teach your preschoolers about God while having fun. Join Stephanie, Grace, and Mia each week for lots of fun featuring our friend, Freddy the Fox!

Confirmation

Service Opportunities

Did you know you can come up with your own service project in addition to/instead of the ones offered through FPLC? Well, you can! Have an idea? Run it by Pr. Bruce! 414-

352-8990 or Pastorbruce@foxpointchurch.org.

If you are looking for information on opportunities through church, click [HERE](#). Check occasionally as we try to put new opportunities here as they arise!

Confirmation Workshops

As with last fall, we will be meeting in two groups, a Tuesday group and a Wednesday group, in order to make things more manageable with Zoom workshops. Each student will continue on the same night, and with the same small group, in which they finished up 2020.

- No workshops in January
- Workshop # 1: February 2 / 3
- Workshop # 2: February 9 / 10
- Workshop # 3: February 23 / 24
- Workshop # 4: March 2 / 3
- Workshop # 5: March 9 / 10
- Workshop # 6: April 13 / 14
- Workshop # 7: April 20 / 21
- Workshop # 8: April 27 / 28

The first two weeks in May are set aside for final preparations for our 8th grade students as they finish up Confirmation. We have Wednesday, May 12 reserved for Confirmation Ceremony rehearsal and Sunday, May 16 reserved for the Confirmation Ceremony itself, in case those things become possible as in-person events. Alternate arrangements will be made if in-person gatherings are still unwise.

Pr. Bruce sent this information (and more!) out through an email. If you didn't receive that or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to him at 414-352-8990 or pastorbruce@foxpointchurch.org.



See our webpage for all information regarding virtual worship, outreach, and children & youth programs. Click →



High School Youth Group

We've got some fun and timely topics coming up this month! Click the RSVP link to respond to our in-person movie night and also for more information about the night. Stay tuned for a calendar coming through email regarding events after January. Feel free to contact Stephanie with any questions at stephanie@foxpointchurch.org.

January 17, 7 pm

New plan! We have booked a PRIVATE VIEWING of Wonder Woman at the Marcus North Shore Cinema. This will be shown at 7:30 pm on January 17. We only have 20 seats available (due to Covid-19 regulations) so please see the attached link to reserve your spot!

Procedure notes: we have the theater for 30 min prior to the show time so please feel free to arrive from 7:00-7:30 (and don't forget your mask)!

RSVP: [Movie Night RSVP](#)

January 24, 7 pm

Zoom discussion about accepting others

Zoom Link: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/82011382985>

January 31, 7 pm

Zoom discussion about anxiety

Zoom Link: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/82011382985>

Chili-M.A.C.K. Attack

Drive-by Food Drive

Sunday, January 31; 10 am - Noon

MacCanon Brown . All Peoples Church . Cross Lutheran Church . Kuji/The Table

Every year about this time we do a special food drive. This year the need for nutritious and filling food is greater than ever. So we asked our partners—"What are the 3 things you need all the time in large quantities?" And they told us—Great, right??

Yes, great, but we had a dilemma. We get so much at this drive every year and we have no place to store it! Never fear, we came up with an idea that works during both Covid-19 and construction! A drive-by food drive!

How does this work?

Check the food lists below for each group (in addition to their top 3, we've added chili and mac n cheese—popular and filling foods!); shop for the items; simply drive by our drop-off point in the FPLC parking lot between 10 am and noon on January 31. We'll have people to take the food. Then we'll sort everything by organization and deliver it within the next two days to all four!

MacCanon Brown

- Canned Chicken
- Canned Yams
- Honey Nut Cheerios
- Canned Chili
- Mac n Cheese

All Peoples Church

- Spaghetti Sauce (16-24 oz. cans/ plastic jars)
- Size 3 & 4 Diapers
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Chili
- Mac n Cheese

Cross Lutheran Church

- Canned tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Children's Cereal
- Boxed Milk (Horizon, Organic Valley, Almond Breeze . . .)
- Canned Chili
- Mac n Cheese

Kuji/The Table

- Items TBD
- Canned Chili
- Mac n Cheese



See our webpage for all information regarding virtual worship, outreach, and children & youth programs. Click →



New Year = New Small Group Studies

All adults are invited to participate in a Monday morning, twice-a-month Bible Study on Zoom (until we can meet in person). The group Zooms from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Another opportunity is available for all women. This study group meets on Wednesday evenings, also presently Zooming, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Most of the resources we'll be using have been around quite a while and are timeless. Below is some information on the resources and the schedule through May:

Before Lent, both groups will be focusing on the same book, *The Case For Christmas*. As an unbelieving investigative journalist, Lee Strobel set out to consult experts on the Bible, archeology, and Messianic prophecy to search out the true identity of the child born in a manger. You may feel there will be nothing in a book like this for you, since you accept the Christ Child by faith and don't need proof. In this book, Strobel invites you to consider why Christmas matters in the first place and wherein lies the truth about this traditional holiday. After discussing this book, you may find yourself looking forward to the next Christmas even more. The book can be purchased at Amazon for \$1.50 – \$11.65 and at Christianbook.com for \$11.66 new. (It has recently been available on Clearance for \$0.89 at Christianbook.com)

Meeting Dates for *The Case for Christmas*:

Monday Morning

January 11

January 25

February 8

Wednesday Evening Women

January 13

January 27

February 10

During Lent the two groups will be using different books for their Lenten focus, devotion and meditation.

The Monday group will center on the question Jesus asked James and John, *Can You Drink The Cup?* In this book, author Henri Nouwen uses the cup as a metaphor to articulate basics of the spiritual life. Nouwen draws stories from his own life and ministry to tell the story of the cup as the story of our life too. *Can You Drink the Cup* is available at Amazon \$1.50 used to \$11.65 new and at Christianbook.com new for \$11.66.

The dates are: February 22, March 8 & 22

The Wednesday Women have chosen an inspiring devotional, *Reliving the Passion*, by Walter Wangerin, Jr. This is a daily devotional book in which the reader participates dramatically in Holy Week. We crucify and are crucified, are condemned and redeemed. This powerful mixing of devotion, imagination, and intellect makes Lent come alive as perhaps never before. The women decided they will use this book as their daily devotion, and the study will be offered every week, with each person attending as available. Every Wednesday in Lent, the Zoomers will look back on the devotions of the previous week and share what these devotions have meant to them, any questions they might have and how they can live out what they've learned. *Reliving the Passion* is available at Amazon in paperback from \$3 – \$11.25.

The dates are: February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

After Easter: Do you like to plan ahead? Both groups will be discussing the same book after Easter. The book by W. Phillip Keller, a real shepherd, takes a closer look at the 23rd Psalm. *A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23* is also available at Christianbook.com. Watch for dates in the spring.

If you have any questions or would like to meet with either group, please call or text the facilitator, Ruth Schmidt, at 262-424-3344, or you may call the church office.



PRAYER LIST

All in The Family

We will see you again on Sunday, January 17 for a virtual Sunday Service!

If you or your family need anything we can help you with, call the office at 414-352-8990 or email church@foxpointchurch.org!

Carlynn Alt
Cameron
Chad
John Chamberlain
Jane D.
Pr. Dan
Dana
Deb
Sheila Dlugi
Doreen
Ellen
Cammy Endres
John Endres
Erin
Jessie Etheridge

Lu Farwig
Rick Frank
Gene
Jerry Gildner
Joan Gildner
Bill Haker
Lori Heinrich
Steve Heronemus
Elnamea Heyman
Jack
Jan
Jelica
Jim
Joan
Don Jones

Judy Jorgensen
Julia
Heather Kohls
Nadene Kramer
Pat Lawless
Ken Lein
Leslie
Mary
Julie McGivern
Andy Meser
Michael
Robert Palmer
Perry
Grace Root
Geoff Rose

Peter Stauber
Stephen
Teri
Tim
Brenda Trier
Zuza
Military
Alex
Cooper
David
Grant
Ian
Matthew
Ryan
Taylor

Prayer Requests

Now you can make a prayer request through our website. Click [Prayer Requests](#) to submit a form or submit a request through email—church@foxpointchurch.org.

Devotional Books Are Here!

The wait is over! Our January – March devotional books were late in arriving due to shipping delays, but they are now in the church office if you would like to stop by and pick one up!

Monday Food Drives

When: Every Monday

Time: 10 am – 2 pm

Location: The cart is outside the church office!

PLEASE, no glass jars! We need nutritional, non-perishable foods. We're collecting hand crank can openers for All Peoples to give out with their food donations!

See page 4 for our Drive-by Food Drive January 31!

Volunteers Are Back at The Gathering!

The Gathering is committed to serving their guests, even during Covid-19. After working with the health department during the pandemic, they've changed their methods, but the goals are the same...to help feed the hungry in body, mind, and spirit. They've adjusted their methods of sanitizing, preparing & distributing food to ensure safety. THEY NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are healthy and willing, they'd love to have your help packaging bag lunches. Guests don't come into the building, and volunteer numbers are limited and spaced in a large hall.

This is a great opportunity for our Confirmation students to give to their community.

For a list of dates and to register, please click here:



All Peoples Church More Mini-Work Days

All Peoples has many tasks with which members, friends and partners can lend a hand. Sign up for these tasks using the Google form (link below).



[All Peoples' Google Sign Up](#)

FPLC Office Hours
Monday–Thursday from 9 am–2 pm

See our webpage for all information regarding virtual worship, outreach, and children & youth programs. Click →





This devotion, written by FPLC member Mary Buscher, was originally sent by email on January 5.

Hello and Happy New Year!

This 1909 antique postcard is one that we inherited from my husband's family. So many hands have touched this card, Mrs. Kraatz the sender, the postman, Eda and Charles my husband's grandparents and

now us. I wondered what might have touched people's lives back then and headlines in a NY newspaper archive held some clues: treaties were signed, courts made rulings, and it was noted that it would be Roosevelt's last New Year's Day in the White House. On the last page was a religion column that read: Begin the New Year Right; it's the Only Way to Begin. Today we celebrate the feast of Epiphany, God's love among us in the form of a little child revered by the arrival of The Magi. New beginnings always inspire me... a freshly sharpened pencil, a new library book and of course, God's gift of each new day and the blessings that accompany it!

Each week I publish our devotions with email lists in hand, each sent out with a blessing and one email to show me the way, titled "This isn't the end of the story." From that one subject line as a guide, the rest follows. It makes me think about the ideas of hope, perseverance and fresh starts. It's one of those things that just fell into place...or did it? I believe God's divine hand wrought the order and direction for each new week. Here are some wonderful ancient words and inspiration for every New Year:

"For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything He does." – Psalm 33:4

"So whoever is in Christ is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come." – 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the wilderness I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers." – Isaiah 43:18-19

Let's pray together-

Father, please help us to dismiss the worries of this moment, we know you are here. Father, please help us to feel our feet on solid ground, we know you are walking with us. Father, please bestow courage in our hearts, we know you placed it there for times like these. Father, please heal and help us to gather up strength, we know you offer us your own. Father, we thank you for our breath, our lives and our blessings as we move forward in this new year with your love leading us. Amen.

Blessings for a wonderful New Year! – Mary