

August 2021 >>>

*Sunday Services:
8:30 in Oconto
& Live on Zoom*

10:30 in Marinette



Please give securely online at
www.fpcoconto.org

A Monthly Newsletter for FPC, Oconto

The Messenger

Reminder!

**Stacy is in the church office
Mondays and Wednesdays
8:30-12:30 and Fridays as
needed.**

**Pastor Craig is in Oconto on
Mondays and Wednesdays.
He is in Marinette on
Tuesdays and Thursdays.
You can always call either
church office or Pastor's cell
phone as needed, 604-3922**

****As always please contact
the church office or a session
member if you have any
questions or concerns,
835-3922**

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

*Deadline for the August issue is
August 20, please email articles to
Amy: amy@eapetersonfamily.com*

IMPORTANT WORSHIP UPDATE: NO WORSHIP BY THE WATER

This Sunday (August 29th) there will be one worship service in the Oconto sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. for both congregations.

There is no service in Marinette and due to the uncertainty of bad weather, heat, humidity, and mosquitoes, there will be no Worship by the Water at Oconto City Park. You can still bring a picnic lunch if you wish as tables are set up in the Fellowship Hall.

Music for this Sunday will be provided by "Reflect Worship" the husband-and-wife singer/songwriter duo Daniel and Catherine Lovett. With songs full of depth and meaning, their lyrically driven music is Christ centered, personal in tone, with an underlying sense of peace. Themes of hope, forgiveness, redemption, and most of all, worship, permeate their music and message.



All impacted by COVID-19

All Military personnel & families including:

Sterling Heyrman (Navy – Great Lakes Naval Training Center).

Michael Beck finished his military career in June after 9 years of service. He and his family continue to reside in Fort Worth, TX. He is starting a career in service with a medical equipment company. They thank you for the prayers over his service. He left with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Local Congregations in Pastoral transition:, Athelstane, Wausaukee, Forest Larger Parish (Lakewood, Wabeno, Laona), First American Lutheran, Oconto

For the families and friends of those who have passed away: **Cindy Reed, Rev. John Lyford**, Pat DeWitt, Dennie Hibbert, Eileen Hoehne, David Matravers, Honey Schroder, John Stellmacher, Thomas Zantow, and Dr. Charles Awen

General Prayers: Deets Aland, Songhee Buck, Margaret Dakins, Currie Sowle Dulata, Vicki Haag, Ted Haakonson, Bennett Heyrman, Rick Jose, Rosetta Lehman, Stella McCarthy, Gary Miller, Barb McNutt, Amanda Ruleford, Ted Ruleford, Judy Sanford, Ruth Sebero, Diane Staidl, Sue Stodola, Sue Strandt, Dean & Judy Swaer, and Diane Williams

Need to add someone to the prayer list? Is an update needed on the prayer list? Please contact Stacy in the church office with additions or corrections – Thank you!

Classes for Christian Education are being organized for Fall. Please let Stacy know in the office if you are interested or have children that will be attending. – Thank you!

CHECK OUT THE NEW ADDITIONS AROUND THE CHURCH



The new Window Memorial board is mounted just inside the front doors, right above the Memorial Gift Book. Thank you to everyone who helped to support the installation of the new windows.

With the closure of the Legion Golf Course, there were many benches that were given to the families. We are thankful to have John B. LeMay's bench providing a place of rest near the front door of our house of worship. John and Gloria did so much for our family of faith.



Paster's Ponderings...

There seems to be more and more realization of the strain being put on relationships for many reasons. I want to share an encounter a friend of mine had several years ago, about which he wrote in his daily blog. The way in which he and his friend interact, disagree and agree, hate and love, is a reminder of how we all need to interact with those whom God places in our paths. - *Pastor Craig*

Best Friend, Worst Enemy

By David Dendy (Written August 12th, 2013 – My iWitness...)

I ran into a friend of mine yesterday.
I hadn't seen him in a long time.
We have a very unusual relationship.
He's been my best friend.
He's also been my worst enemy...
We stood face to face and acknowledged one another.
Yesterday our relationship was somewhere between friend and tolerable acquaintance.
He looks much younger than I remember even though the gray around his temples would suggest otherwise.
His compassionate eyes still have that sparkle but they also looked tired and lost, longing for something of which I wasn't quite sure...
I inquired, "How ya doing?"
His response of, "You know..." left me wanting to scream, "No! I don't know!"
That awkward moment finally eased into a gentle conversation about life, family and transitions.
He seemed a little out of sorts, a little off balance, as if his "A" game was playing at a "C minus" level.
He is a man of great faith and devotion. Talented and gifted in many ways. The best I could tell was that he had taken some hits lately and simply needed a few "W's" in the win column to get back on his feet again.
I tried to offer some assurances.
His green/hazel eyes stared back at me, penetrating my deepest intentions with a look of, "I've heard all of this before."
His hearty laugh broke the tension and I laughed with him. O how many times we have laughed out loud about so many of life's events and peculiarities.
Our shoulders seemed to relax the more we talked.
Before we knew it a good chunk of time had passed.
The silence which announces the conversation is over for now arrived...
We stared at one another, "best friend, worst enemy" and then he gave me that look... that look which belies the circumstances, issues and feelings of the day and offers with supreme confidence, God willing, he will be back, he will run again, he will even soar as if he were an eagle!
He flashed me that brilliant smile...
His left eye gave me that knowing wink I have come to love for many years...
It was time to say goodbye...
And with that I turned and walked away from the mirror...

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit." (Psalm 51. 10-12)

PLEASE READ

Rev Craig Alwin is inviting you to join a scheduled Zoom Worship Service.

Topic: FPC Oconto Sunday Worship

Time: 08:30 AM

Worship will start at (or about) 8:30AM. This invite is being shared with people outside our local congregation, so don't be alarmed if you don't recognize someone. If you see or hear anything inappropriate, please unmute and let us know so that person can be muted or blocked. (There have been reports of malicious activity like this called "zoom-bombing" which is why we use passwords and don't publish the meeting info on the web or social media.) Anyone who joins the meeting early can unmute themselves and share joys, concerns, or whatever's going on. All are welcome to hang out after worship for "coffee hour" fellowship.

Please, respect the privacy of others by not sharing info without their permission.

A) To join the worship service with your phone audio only:

(This will work with any landline, flip phone, or smart phone)

1. Dial the phone number **1-312-626-6799**
2. Enter the Meeting ID: **856 2368 3669**
3. You will be asked to enter another code *OR* press # again: **ONLY PRESS #**
4. Enter the password: **8353922**
5. You will automatically be muted to prevent feedback and distractions
(whenever a noise is detected, the visual screen switches to that participant)
 - a. You can mute or unmute yourself by pressing ***6** during the meeting
 - b. You can "raise your hand" to let us know you want to talk by pressing ***9**

B) To join the worship service with your computer or smartphone:

1. Download the Zoom App
2. Join the Zoom Meeting by one of the following options:
 - a. Use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85623683669?pwd=bitsbUtMeUJlSWtZSXIHRzY0MVBGdz09>
 - b. Open your Zoom app and manually enter the following
 1. Enter the Meeting ID: **856 2368 3669**
 2. Enter the password: **8353922**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT 8:30 A.M. EACH SUNDAY!

Your Session is maintaining our in person meeting guidelines based on the CDC's most recent recommendations. We will continue to welcome mask usage at any time, but are not requiring masks if you are fully vaccinated. We ask that everyone continue to honor social distancing for family groups as much as is possible. We want to continue to living out the Biblical command to live with respect for all, and expect all inside our building to honor those who prefer mask usage or extra distance in their presence. Hand sanitizer and masks will continue to be available.

Additionally, we will be opening the sanctuary windows and running the air exchanger to bring in fresh filtered air during worship, so please dress as if you were worshipping outside. For those who choose to gather online, will continue the live Zoom connection as it has been (details on the next page.) Our goal is to gather together as the Body of Christ in worship.

Please remember, your Session may, at its discretion, revise or adjust these procedures as they see the need based on public health guidance and the situation of our local context. Remember Church is not where you are, but who we are together. Please join us to share in worship.

Need help with one of the worship options? Have a question? Need to contact a Deacon or member of Session? Call the church office at 920-835-3922.

Need some guidance? How about Taking Faith Home?

Have you received your weekly sheets? They are being sent via email. Have a new email address? Prefer them sent a different way? Please notify the church office at 920-835-3922 of any changes or corrections.

This is a great tool to use individually or as family. It has many options, for prayers, readings or even explaining church traditions.

