

December 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,
920-835-3922**

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

*Deadline for the January issue is
December 18, please email articles to
Amy: amy@eapetersonfamily.com*

Important Date and Times to Remember

Based on the recent survey results, worship will be starting at 10:30 a.m. in January of 2022!

(Worship in Marinette will be at 9:00 a.m.)

NOV 28 – The first Sunday in Advent
WORSHIP AT 10:00 a.m.
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER
To elect Elders and Deacons
and approve Pastor's 2022 Terms of call

Dec. 1st, from 5:00-7:00.
family church decorating party

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7:30 p.m.

Sunday December 26th worship starts at 10:30

SEE THE NEXT PAGE
FOR MORE DATE AND FULL DETAILS

There is no Eccumenical Thanksgiving Eve
Worship this year



All impacted by COVID-19

All Military personnel & families including:

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

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: Deets Aland, Bennett Heyrman

General Prayers: Songhee Buck, Margaret Dakins, Currie Sowle Dulata, Pete Gabrielson, David Haag, Vicki Haag, Ted Haakonson, Rick Jose, Rosetta Lehman, Stella McCarthy, Gary Miller, Barb McNutt, Joan Nowak, 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!

Important Date and Times to Remember

The first Sunday in Advent is *November 28th*. We are looking for families to participate in lighting of the Advent Candle each week during Advent. If interested, please call or email the office otherwise we will be calling. We decided to go with our artificial 7ft Christmas tree. Any help setting up is greatly appreciated. Please call Polly if you're able to help set up the tree 920-604-0958. Christmas Decorations will be going up thru the week of *Nov. 29th thru Dec. 4th* any help is appreciated. We are planning a family decorating party on *Wednesday, Dec. 1st, from 5:00-7:00*.

Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:30 this year.

Sunday *December 26th* our worship service at 10:30.

On behalf of Session and Worship Team, we would like to give a shoutfor a “Big Thank You” to Jeff Krueger for his time and talent given to serving as our Financial Secretary. Jeff will be easing out of this position and is training with Stacy, our Office Secretary, thru the end of the year. Thank you Jeff and Stacy!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

“CREDO” is a weeklong conference focused on pastors’ wholeness and wellbeing. I was invited to attend a CREDO conference at Lake Logan Episcopal Center in Canton, North Carolina back in March of 2014. The CREDO Mission is *“To provide opportunities for clergy to examine significant areas of their lives and to discern prayerfully the future direction of their vocation as they respond to God's call in a lifelong process of practice and transformation.”* That week was one of the most transformational experiences of my life, and I am thankful to our denomination for providing me that opportunity to formulate my own CREDO Rule of Life – a personal covenant formulated from the knowledge attained and aspirations uncovered during the CREDO conference experience.

In addition to the many goals and objectives this conference helped me to discern, the culmination of the week was to write “My Grand Dream” which was to become a professor. Honestly, I saw that as nothing more than a dream! I knew the academic struggles I had getting to this point in life, and laughed at the thought of completing a doctorate! Fast-forward 7+ years...

After meeting with my Doctor of Ministry professors in Dubuque last week, I am excited to announce that I am on track to complete my Doctor of Ministry program in 2022!!!

This illustrates one of the smaller yet still amazing “aha” moments for me during that conference. One that is also especially relevant as we embark on the season of Advent, was to learn the two Latin words for “future” and how they differ. One is *“futurum”* which is seeing the future based on past and present circumstances. The other is *“adventus”* which is seeing the future based on what is not yet... “from outside ourselves” through the faithfulness of God. (*Adventus* is where we get the word adventure and the season of Advent, waiting expectantly for the return of Christ.) There is a huge difference between simply knowing “what will be” and the joyful hope for “what is yet to come.”

None of knows what is yet to come, but God knows. With Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and a new year on the immediate horizon, we all need to remind each other of the “adventus” that we find in knowing and experiencing the presence of God in the everyday and ordinary of life. Emmanuel, God with us. Where do we see Christ at work in your life and the lives of those around you? Can you see the future God is already preparing? Do you hear what I hear? I hear God calling us to share the life-giving stories of scripture so that we can better join God in the future already unfolding. Will you join me in unwrapping the greatest gift ever given? The gift of new life!

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: **Contact Office for Details**
3. You will be asked to enter another code *OR* press # again: **ONLY PRESS #**
4. Enter the password: **Contact Office**
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: **Contact Office for Details**
 2. Enter the password: **Contact Office**

Advent Devotionals are available at Church if you would like one.

MISSION

All donations to First Presbyterian Church that are designated for Mission for the remainder of the year will be used to support Toys for Tots in Oconto County.

If you would like to donate some time to help prepare the gifts please contact Stacy in the church office. She is specifically looking for help December 15-21.

The Salvation Army of Oconto County Red Kettle Committee would like your help as we look towards the 2021 Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. Last year we were able to



**DOING THE
MOST GOOD**

raise just over \$13,000 to help those in need in the Oconto County area. Because this is a County wide project and benefits those throughout Oconto County, we need as many bell ringers as possible to make this year's campaign a success. With many of the government assistance programs ending, we believe the need will be greater in 2022. It is our goal to raise over \$15,000 during the Red Kettle Campaign.

Kettles will be set up at Thompsons County Market, Wagner Shell and Tractor Supply. All shifts will be 2 hour shifts from 10 am – 6 pm except Wednesdays at Wagner Shell which will be 6 am - 6 pm.

We have two options for signing up.

1. [Registertoring.org](https://registertoring.org) – this allows you to view the schedules available by day and location to see what best fits your schedule. It takes about 5 minutes to sign up and sends you reminder texts or emails (whichever you opt to receive).
2. Contact us at (920)304-9161 and we will gladly take care of signing you up for a shift.

Ready for a goafd cup of coffee to jump start your day? A NEW supply of Fair Trade Coffee is now available. See the display on the table across from the church office. Proceeds support our Mission Giving.

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 previous 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.

