

January 2023 >>>

*Join us  
Sundays at 10:30 AM  
for Worship Service*



Please give securely online at  
[www.fpcocoonto.org](http://www.fpcocoonto.org)

A Monthly Newsletter for FPC, Oconto

# The Messenger

*Please take note...*

**As always please contact the church office, Pastor Craig, a Deacon or Elder if you have any questions or concerns. The office phone number is 920-835-3922.**

**coming soon >>>  
In The Next Issue**

*Deadline for February issue is  
Jan. 23, please email articles or updates  
to Amy: [amy@eapetersonfamily.com](mailto:amy@eapetersonfamily.com)*

*Thanks!*

## Youth Update...

December was a very busy month for our youth! Thank you to our youth for all their help decorating the Sanctuary for the Christmas season as well as their participation and hard work putting together the Youth Christmas program on Dec. 18th.

They also hosted a movie night and raised money for this years Adopt-a-Family. They had a wonderful time shopping and wrapping so they could bless a family in need. So much JOY this month!

There will be NO Sunday School in January. We will be planning a fun event for the youth during January instead. More to come on this, so stay tuned! Sunday School will resume on Sunday, February 5th.

## Confirmation Class

We will be starting the next Confirmation class in 2023. There will be an informational meeting soon for parents and students. Details will be sent to all current 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade families.



All Military personnel & their families including: Sterling Heyrman stationed in San Diego on the USS Montgomery

Local Congregations in Pastoral transition: Athelstane, Wausaukee, First American Lutheran, Oconto

The families and friends of those who have passed away:

General Prayers: Donghee Buck, Bill Boesen, Carol Boesen, Margaret Dakins, Currie Sowle Dulata, Polly Exferd, Betty Geiger, Ken Geiger, Ted Haakonson, Rick Jose, Rosetta Lehman, Gary Miller, Joan Nowak, Amanda Ruleford, Ted Ruleford, Judy Sanford, Pug Saucier, Ruth Saber, Jo Schulz, Cindy Shallow, Gene Stamsta and Sue Strandt.

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!



### Bread by the Bay

Bread by the Bay is on-going ministry supported by many area churches. Below is an update from them. Please continue to donate items to the shopping cart at church to help keep the patron shelves stocked. Thank you!

On December 20, 2022 the pantry served the following.

Households: 61

Adults: 113

Children: 33

A sincere thanks to all the dedicated volunteers at the pantry, not just when we are open, but also for what you do in between pantries. We served an additional 67 new households this year.

With that being said and the generosity of this community the pantry is doing well.

CHRISTMAS IS THE SEASON TO FOCUS ON THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL.  
(The Daily Walk Bible, NIV)

Blessings,  
Gary

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR: Who Am I? Who Are We?

As we transition through the end of another year into the beginning of 2023, I encourage us all to pause and reflect on our lives – our lives as unique persons; our lives connected with others; our lives as a community; our lives as a family of faith; our lives as part of the Church universal. What impact does our identity as part of the Church universal have on the perception of our personal identity? Much more than most of us realize. Too many people, including those who profess having a Christian faith, view their personal identity through a lens that has little or nothing to do with who they are as a child of God. As we begin a new year, I encourage us all to pause and reflect on our identity as God's children, followers of Jesus Christ, and members of the Body of Christ, the Church universal. If we make time to start each day being reminded by scripture of who we are in God's eyes, we will soon see ourselves thinking and acting differently, and soon others will see a difference in us, and hopefully, the Holy Spirit will lead them to see their lives and purposes in a new light.

Here are some scriptures to get you started on a 50-Day Identity Challenge. Each day, read the scripture verse (and possibly the surrounding context), write down a quality of our Biblical identity described, how you might better live out that quality, and how you might use that quality in service to your family of faith and the Body of Christ. As you go through this list, look back to see what qualities you are retaining, and what qualities are harder to live out. This will be most effective if you find a few other people to do this with, encouraging one another as you grow.

1. John 1:12
2. 1 Corinthians 12:27
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18
4. Ephesians 2:19
5. Isaiah 43:4
6. Romans 6:6
7. Romans 8:1
8. Philippians 3:20-21
9. Ephesians 1:4
10. Galatians 3:13
11. John 15:15
12. 1 Corinthians 6:17
13. Ephesians 1:13
14. 1 Peter 2:9
15. John 8:36
16. Galatians 2:20
17. Ephesians 5:8
18. Titus 3:7
19. Romans 8:17
20. Matthew 5:14-16
21. Ephesians 2:4-5
22. Psalm 139:13-15
23. Ezekiel 36:26
24. 1 John 3:1-2
25. Colossians 1:27
26. Colossians 2:7
27. Colossians 3:9-10
28. Ephesians 1:3
29. Ephesians 1:5
30. Ephesians 2:10
31. Ephesians 2:6
32. Ephesians 2:7
33. Galatians 3:27
34. Genesis 1:27
35. 1 Corinthians 1:2
36. 1 Corinthians 15:57
37. 1 Corinthians 2:16
38. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
39. Hebrew 4:16
40. Isaiah 61:10
41. Jeremiah 1:5
42. Matthew 5:8
43. Psalm 118:26
44. Psalm 139:1
45. Romans 12:3
46. Romans 12:3
47. Romans 15:7
48. Romans 6:14
49. Revelation 12:11
50. Philippians 4:13

## PLEASE READ

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

**Topic: FPC Oconto Sunday Worship**

**Time: 10:30 AMish**

Worship will start at (or about) 10:30 AM. 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.**

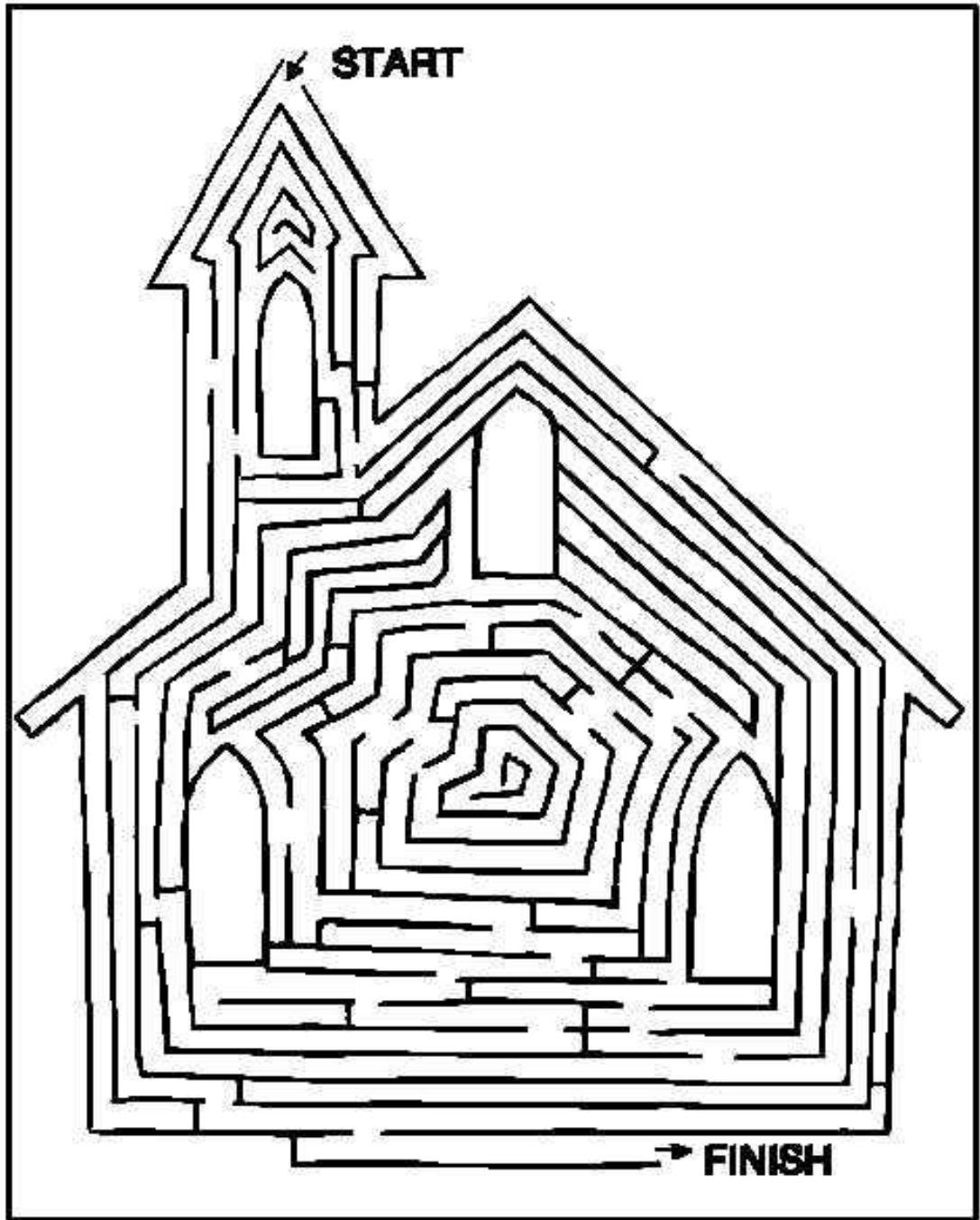
### **A) To join the worship service with your phone audio only:**

*(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: **XXXXXXXXXXXX**
3. You will be asked to enter another code *OR* press # again: **ONLY PRESS #**
4. Enter the password: **xxxxxxx**
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=bitsbUtMeUJISWtZSXIHRzY0MVBGdz09>
  - b. Open your Zoom app and manually enter the following
    1. Enter the Meeting ID: **XXXXXXXXXXXX**
    2. Enter the password: **xxxxxxx**



Can you complete the maze??