

December 2023

*Join us
Sundays at 10:30 AM
for Worship Service
& special
Christmas Eve Service
December 24 at 7:00 PM*



*Please give securely online at
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.
Email: office@fpcocoonto.org**

Sunday bulletin sponsorship is back!! Please see the sign-up sheet at church or call the office.

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

*Deadline for our January issue is
December 26. Please email any
information you have to share to
office@fpcocoonto.org.*

Advent Services

Season of Advent is here. Join us for worship as we celebrate the Advent Season and the birth of our Savior.

Join us on Christmas Eve for our evening service on December 24th at 7:00pm.

The season of Advent is the first liturgical season of the church calendar. The word Advent comes from the Latin word for arrival. Advent includes the four Sundays leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth. During Advent, we reenact the centuries of anticipation of the birth of Jesus as written about by prophets like Isaiah in the Old Testament. Advent is also a time of quietness and austerity, meant to keep Christians from glossing over the brokenness of the world and to encourage them to anticipate the Second Coming. To safeguard our hearts and minds against the business and anxiety of the secular season, we pause each day to read our Advent Devotions, "A Little Child Shall Lead Them" and begin each Sunday worship with the lighting of Advent Candles. This Advent Season, may we all encounter the presence of God in a new way.

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin





All Military personnel & their families including: Sterling Heyrman stationed in San Diego on the USS Montgomery. James Alwin stationed in Albuquerque, NM at Kirtland Air Force Base

Local Congregations in Pastoral transition: Presbyterian Churches in Abbotsford, Fond du Lac, Weyauwega, and Winneconne

The families and friends of those who have passed away: Currie Sowle Dolata

General Prayers: Bill Boesen, Margaret Dakins, Betty Geiger, Myrtle Haag, Ted Haakonson, Cherylee Hamilton, Rosetta Lehman, Nick Loeffler, Barb McNutt, Margie Murphy, Joan Nowak, Ron Palmer, Amanda Ruleford, Ted Ruleford, Judy Sanford, Pug Saucier, Ruth Saber, Jo Schulz, Cindy Shallow, April Steen, Sue Strandt, Stephanie Wittock and Pastor Mary Zupansic.

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.

The Pantry served the following November 7, 2023

Households: 87

Adults: 166

Children: 84

The Pantry served the following November 21, 2023

Households: 90

Adults: 173

Children: 79

Your continued support is needed and appreciated – Thank you!

Mission Possible Kids!!!

Our Mission Possible Kids group is off to a great start! We are meeting twice monthly, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 5:30-7p in conjunction with the Oconto United Methodist Church. The 1st Sunday of the month will be at OUMC and the 3rd Sunday will be at FPC. In November, we met for some fun and fellowship as well as decorated cards to send to our active military overseas and made cookies to share with those we were thankful for. We also received our next mission! In December we will be assembling stockings to give to anyone in need. The "stockings" will consist of a pair of socks filled with travel hygiene products. Looking ahead, the youth are also collecting hats/mittens for January's mission.

The Mission Possible Kids need your help! We are collecting the following items for our December/January Missions:

Need by 12/17/23:

Travel size hygiene items (such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant)

Men's and Women's Socks

Need by 1/21/24:

Hats and Gloves for all ages

With God ALL things are possible!! We appreciate your support!

Next Meeting December 3rd at Oconto United Methodist Church



Deacon Update By Bert Hollander

Well, the holiday season is upon us. The Deacons hope that all are able to take time for family and friends and to enjoy all that the season brings. We are preparing to help those in need and or are in need of your help. For Thanksgiving baskets, we helped 3 families. One family is larger and in somewhat desperate need. They have lost income due to cancer and are struggling.

So, any help that we can get to help others will be greatly appreciated. We are in need of nonperishable food items, gift cards, diapers size 5 and up, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and almost anything, even cash. We will also be putting up the hat and mitten tree up in the narthex for donations of those types. Thanks to all for your support and if you know of someone in need, please call the office or notify a deacon.



Adopt-A-Family Fundraiser We need your help!

The youth will be selling **soup to-go** as well as **baked goods** on **December 10th** in the Narthex after service in support of their current mission which is Rainbow House Adopt-A-Family. This year we are supporting a mom and 3 children, which is a larger family than the youth supported in years past. Therefore, we ask for your support so the youth can provide a happy holiday for a local family in need.

If you are unable to attend service that day & would still like to make a purchase please contact the church office and we'll make arrangements for a drop-off for you.

Thank you for continuing to support the youth in their mission!



Ring for the Red Kettle!

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign: The Salvation Army is looking for people to ring for their Red Kettle Campaign. The Oconto location is Thompson's County Market. If you would like to sign up, please go to registertoring.com, enter the county you want to ring in, and select the city and location. A confirmation email will be sent to you along with a reminder email 48 hours before your shift. If you would prefer, call (920)304-9161 for assistance with registering.



Dear Gently or New Shoes Fund Raiser participant:

A great big THANK YOU to all the churches, restaurants, and stores, etc. that participated in our fund drive to help Veterans. There were nearly 35 sites that we had and have collected the 2500 pairs of shoes that we needed to get the \$ 1,000.00 to help Veterans overseas and at Oscar B. Johnson Veterans Hospital and home in Iron Mountain.

I recently learned that there are approximately 500 veterans living at Iron Mountain veteran's home. This \$ 1,000.00 will be used to send them socks, underwear, and toiletries. We also send them Christmas cards that they can send to their families and the postage to mail out the cards.

This fund raiser also helped many small businesses in 3rd world countries to provide shoes, sandals, winter boots and slippers to people who need shoes to wear.

Thank you for helping us obtain our goal of 2500 pairs of shoes. This great undertaking took us from August 13th thru November 1st to gather that many shoes. This is a great success for our Veterans!

Sincerely,

Gillett American Legion Auxiliary Unit 300

Below is an update on Church financials from Session. If you would this like emailed to you or printed for easier reading, please contact Stacy in the church office.

Month to Month Budget Comparison

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Income												
Income	\$ 11,397.85	\$ 9,913.22	\$ 8,504.42	\$ 12,316.82	\$ 14,855.22	\$ 9,881.42	\$ 9,230.14	\$ 8,774.98	\$ 10,011.38	\$ 11,624.37	\$ -	\$ -
Designated	\$ 278.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 161.00	\$ 51.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00	\$ -	\$ -
Mission	\$ 78.60	\$ 345.55	\$ 264.76	\$ 670.55	\$ 60.23	\$ 1,480.55	\$ 235.55	\$ 75.55	\$ 141.65	\$ (50.00)	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Outreach	\$ 344.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 472.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76.00	\$ -	\$ -
Pass Thru	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 31.00	\$ -	\$ -
Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Memorial	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 12,098.45	\$ 10,357.77	\$ 10,402.41	\$ 13,038.37	\$ 14,923.45	\$ 11,367.97	\$ 9,493.69	\$ 8,895.53	\$ 10,166.03	\$ 11,689.37	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses												
Expenses												
Pastor	\$ 7,085.64	\$ 7,206.75	\$ 7,333.30	\$ 7,271.39	\$ 6,917.26	\$ 8,005.72	\$ 7,144.46	\$ 7,183.06	\$ 7,341.79	\$ 7,517.63	\$ -	\$ -
Personnel	\$ 2,235.89	\$ 1,318.18	\$ 1,927.12	\$ 2,082.06	\$ 1,459.91	\$ 1,868.32	\$ 1,710.21	\$ 1,665.09	\$ 1,660.15	\$ 2,293.52	\$ -	\$ -
Worship	\$ -	\$ 92.29	\$ 174.20	\$ -	\$ 202.40	\$ 56.65	\$ -	\$ 211.13	\$ -	\$ 192.80	\$ -	\$ -
Christian Ed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 202.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220.30	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ -
P&G	\$ 3,288.02	\$ 1,878.05	\$ 1,812.09	\$ 2,030.01	\$ 1,888.15	\$ 1,350.51	\$ 1,533.80	\$ 11,939.35	\$ 1,550.71	\$ 1,432.68	\$ -	\$ -
Stewardship	\$ 118.37	\$ 86.79	\$ 85.02	\$ 5,245.65	\$ 81.94	\$ 85.29	\$ 90.68	\$ 80.19	\$ 83.16	\$ 77.89	\$ -	\$ -
Deacons	\$ 75.31	\$ 6.37	\$ 7.79	\$ 28.50	\$ 5.38	\$ 8.73	\$ -	\$ 40.17	\$ 7.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Session	\$ 502.41	\$ 524.16	\$ 457.41	\$ 377.41	\$ 628.37	\$ 480.08	\$ 532.08	\$ 620.74	\$ 480.08	\$ 520.08	\$ -	\$ -
Mission	\$ 1,772.74	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 685.00	\$ -	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 90.73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Pass Thru	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,195.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Memorial	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 15,078.38	\$ 11,112.59	\$ 11,998.93	\$ 17,035.02	\$ 11,868.41	\$ 22,050.30	\$ 12,551.23	\$ 21,830.46	\$ 11,343.88	\$ 13,234.60	\$ -	\$ -
Difference:	\$ (2,979.93)	\$ (754.82)	\$ (1,596.52)	\$ (3,996.65)	\$ 3,055.04	\$ (10,682.33)	\$ (3,057.54)	\$ (12,934.93)	\$ (1,177.85)	\$ (1,545.23)	\$ -	\$ -

\$ (35,670.76)

Account Balances

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
General Checking	\$ 26,961.34	\$ -	\$ 95,176.76	\$ 79,322.23	\$ 86,497.75	\$ 84,173.50	\$ 73,155.08	\$ 64,427.42	\$ 64,122.22	\$ 62,503.29	\$ -	\$ -
General Savings	\$ 22,119.76	\$ -	\$ 22,127.94	\$ 22,127.94	\$ 22,136.30	\$ 22,136.30	\$ 22,136.30	\$ 22,134.66	\$ 22,134.66	\$ 22,134.66	\$ -	\$ -
Community Services	\$ 559.05	\$ -	\$ 559.05	\$ 559.05	\$ 559.05	\$ 559.05	\$ 559.05	\$ 559.05	\$ 559.05	\$ 559.05	\$ -	\$ -
Presby. Women's	\$ 18,685.60	\$ -	\$ 18,565.60	\$ 18,565.60	\$ 18,565.60	\$ 18,565.60	\$ 18,565.60	\$ 18,565.60	\$ 18,565.60	\$ 18,565.60	\$ -	\$ -
Memorial	\$ 198,283.98	\$ -	\$ 135,137.18	\$ 136,137.18	\$ 72,137.18	\$ 72,137.18	\$ 72,137.18	\$ 72,137.18	\$ 65,978.18	\$ 65,978.18	\$ -	\$ -
Total Cash Funds	\$ 266,609.73	\$ -	\$ 271,566.53	\$ 256,712.00	\$ 199,895.88	\$ 197,571.63	\$ 186,553.21	\$ 177,823.91	\$ 171,359.71	\$ 169,740.78	\$ -	\$ -
Thrivent Income Fund	\$ 8,303.28	\$ -	\$ 8,601.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,584.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,327.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Thrivent Allocation Fund	\$ 18,194.68	\$ -	\$ 18,882.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,244.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,676.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Thrivent Bond Fund	\$ 9,088.74	\$ -	\$ 9,239.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,287.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,370.58	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Thrivent Income Plus Fund	\$ 18,274.98	\$ -	\$ 18,871.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,119.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,620.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Thrivent Shepard 30/70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,328.31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,295.98	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Thrivent Shepard 50/50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,742.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,645.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Investment Funds	\$ 53,861.68	\$ -	\$ 55,594.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121,307.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 117,936.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 320,471.41	\$ -	\$ 327,161.16	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 318,878.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 289,295.88	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Recipe Corner...

Submit a family recipe to be featured in newsletter. If you have one you would like to share, please get it to Stacy in the office by December 26th, so it can be added to the newsletter.

Christmas Beef Tenderloin

For the Beef Tenderloin

2 lbs. beef tenderloin trimmed and tied
1 Tbsp olive oil
2 tsp kosher salt
1 tsp freshly ground black pepper

For the Roasted Red Potatoes

1 lbs. baby red potatoes halved
1 Tbsp olive oil
1 tsp garlic powder
½ tsp dried thyme
½ tsp kosher salt

For the Roasted Mushrooms

1 lbs. cremini mushrooms
2 tsp olive oil
½ tsp kosher salt

For the Sauce

1 Tbsp unsalted butter (¼ stick)
1 clove garlic minced
1 Tbsp all-purpose flour
½ C. heavy cream
4 oz. blue cheese crumbled

For the Beef Tenderloin

Preheat your oven to 400°F. Pat the beef tenderloin dry with a paper towel and rub the outside with olive oil. Sprinkle over the salt and pepper, making sure to coat it evenly on all sides. 2 lbs. beef tenderloin, 1 Tbsp olive oil, 2 tsp kosher salt, 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper. Place the beef on the sheet pan and add the potatoes.

For the Roasted Red Potatoes

Combine the potatoes, olive oil, garlic powder, thyme, and salt in a large bowl. 1 lbs. baby red potatoes, 1 Tbsp olive oil, 1 tsp garlic powder, ½ tsp dried thyme, ½ tsp kosher salt. Toss to combine and add to the sheet pan with the beef. Make sure all of the potatoes are cut-side down. Roast for 15 minutes.

For the Roasted Mushrooms

Once the beef and potatoes have roasted, add the mushrooms to the pan and roast for an additional 10 minutes. 1 lbs. cremini mushrooms, 2 tsp olive oil, ½ tsp kosher salt. When the beef registers 115°F on an instant-read thermometer, remove it from the oven and cover it with foil until it reaches 125°F. Return the vegetables to the oven while the beef rests, about 10 more minutes. Remove the twine from the beef and slice it into ½-inch rounds. Serve with the potatoes, mushrooms, and sauce. Enjoy warm.

Sunday School Memories 1985

Mother's Day recipes from the Sunday School children. Taking a stroll down memory lane. Eighth one up is:

Asparagus

Get it from bushes. Clean it with water and 2 cups of soap. Cut it up all of it. Cook in pot with butter for 10 minutes. Eat it. It tastes Good.

Our Best Recipes Ladies Auxiliary 1929

Taking another stroll down memory lane, here is one recipe taken from 1929 Presbyterian Ladies Auxiliary.

Fruit Cake

1 lbs. sugar	1 lbs. butter(creamed well)	1 lbs. walnuts
11 egg yolks(beatn well) not broken)	1/2 C. molasses	1/2 lbs. almonds(blanchd,
2 Tbsp. cinnamon	1 Tbsp. allspice	1/4 lbs. orange peel
1 Tbsp. cloves	1 tsp. soda(in hot water)	1/4 lbs. lemon peel
1 lbs. flour(reserve half for fruit)	2 lbs. raisins(seeded)	Candied ginger
2 lbs. seedless raisins thin)	1/2 lbs. citron(shaved thin)	Few dried apricots(cut
Few whole Brazil nuts		

Mix the dry ingredients with the soda in hot water. Beat well.

Flour with the remainder of flour all the fruit and nuts. Add to first mixture' add cup of strawberry jam or cherries, canned, or candied. Now add the 11 whites well beaten. Use bread tins, oiled and with paper in bottom. Makes about six or seven good loaves. Put in large steamer or roaster, piled one over the other cross-wise. Steam three or four hours and bake in slow oven one hour.

Ellen B. McDonald (This is Bert's mother's rule)