

December 2024

Join us
Sundays at 10:30 AM
for Worship Service



FPC Oconto monthly newsletter

Office hours: 8am-12 Monday-Friday
Phone: 920-835-3922
Email: office@fpcocoonto.org
www.fpcocoonto.org

Current Session members

Michelle McDowell

Christian Ed

Jim McDowell

Property & Grounds

Tammie McCarthy

Elder at large

Lynn Hollander

Elder at large

Wil Andersen

Elder at large

Polly Exferd

Clerk of Session

Nikki Giese

Session Recorder



*Please give securely online
at www.fpcocoonto.org*

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

Highlight of the Month

THE SALVATION ARMY KICKS OFF THE RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN 2024

As most people begin the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, The Salvation Army is gearing up to raise money to help those in need right here in Oconto County. The funds raised in Oconto County during the Red Kettle Campaign become the budget The Salvation Army service unit has to provide direct support to those in need throughout the next 12 months. Last year \$10,000 was raised and need outweighed our funds. This year we are hoping to raise \$15,000. Therefore, we are looking for individuals, groups and organizations to get involved by donating a couple of hours of their time this holiday season to ring bells at Thompson's County Market. To register, simply go to registertoring.com, enter the county you want to ring in, and then 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. The Salvation Army strives to help those in need in their communities resolve a crisis or emergency with practical aid, personal support, and sincere compassion. Remember, the money raised in Oconto County stays in Oconto County to help individuals and families right in your neighborhood. Register to ring today.

Happy Holidays!!

Jeane Sager
Field Representative
The Salvation Army
Jeane.sager@usc.salvationarmy.org
(920)304-9161



Messages from the Communications & Hospitality Committee



Session:

Membership letters were mailed out this past week to all active members including all confirmed youth with important information regarding your roll as an active member, volunteering, financial giving, address, phone numbers best to reach you at and your current email address as we update all our records before the end of the year. We are asking to have this information returned back to us in the stamped return envelope by December 7 so Session can review them at their next scheduled meeting on December 8.

Mission Committee:

Reminder: all designated mission giving for the 4th quarter will go to support the "Adopt a Family" for our youth Christmas project.

Be sure to make your envelope with "Adopt a Family" if that is your wish, otherwise your mission giving will go to general mission.

Also, all loose coin collected during the offering supports Sunday School/Youth Activities.

Toys for Tots:

Toys for Tots has started again. If you would like to donate a gift to Toys for Tots please remember the teens. They are the hardest to get donations for. If you would like to volunteer your time to help with Toys for Tots, we need help in the following areas:

- Setting up the Hall December 9th-13th from 1:00pm-6:00pm (Dates and Hours could be extended)
- Shopping days December 16th-18th and possibly the 19th from 9:00am-12:00pm and then again from 3:30pm-6:00pm.
- Taking down the Hall Date and Time to be determined.

Volunteer schedule:

The volunteer schedule for 2025 is now open on SignUp Genius. Please look ahead to consider what dates you would be available to support your family of faith. You can sign up on the SignUp Genius website, the paper copy schedule in the Narthex or by calling the office. If you are unable to fulfill this duty, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement. Please notify the office with that person's name so the sign up can be updated to reflect the change.

Christian Education:

The CE committee has some great events planned for 2025 for our youth and families. More information to follow in the upcoming weeks.

The Mission Possible Kids group had a successful Soup Kitchen evening on November 17th. They were able to raise approximately \$525. Proceeds will be donated to Bread by the Bay and our Deacon's Pantry.

Upcoming events:

- Dec. 1st TBD MPK @ OUMC
- Dec. 8th 11:30 am Adopt-a-family shopping/lunch
- Dec 15th 2:00 pm MPK @ FPC

Worship Committee:

Advent is quickly approaching and there are many things to accomplish, now thru Christmas Eve.

- **7 - 8 Advent Readers / Candlelighters** are needed for each Sunday in Advent which starts on December 1 thru Christmas Eve. This can be an individual or a couple or family if you so wish. If interested in reading, please contact Stacy in the church office or Polly with your desire to help out with this request.
- With Advent being a time of preparing for Christmas, we have little time to get the Christmas decorations up. All the decorations and tree have been moved into the coat room from the garage. Decorating will take place from **November 25th thru the 30th**. This is busy times for all of us and we are hoping we can count on you to help at some point. **Friday and Saturday, the 29th and 30th** will be the best time for most of us to get this done. If you could help out between **9:30 & 3:00** on those days, it would be greatly appreciated. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex or email Polly (pollyexferd@yahoo.com) if you can volunteer some time to help out.
- **Advent Devotionals** for individuals or a family are on the table in the narthex. Remember - December 1st we begin Advent and start to prepare ourselves for what is to come. Please read and prepare yourself!
- **Poinsettias:** If you wish to bring your own poinsettia (any color) for Christmas Eve, in honor or memory of a loved one, there is a sign-up sheet available on the table in the narthex. Deadline to sign up is December 18th but you or the florist can deliver them to the church no later than Sunday December 22. Both local florists are taking orders but your order must be in soon as your color choices go quickly.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services has been set for 7:00 pm.**



Our MPK group spent the afternoon on Nov. 3rd food prepping for their Free Soup Kitchen at FPC on Sunday, November 17th. The kids toured Bread by the Bay pantry and learned about this amazing program in our community. They also did a great job working together to clean and chop veggies, some taste testing my have been performed.

Thank you to all those who stopped by November 17th to eat dinner or carry out a meal for themselves or others! We even heard some were going to bless others by doing a surprise dinner porch drop off. We are so appreciative of all the donations received to make this event possible and for all the generous monetary donations received that will benefit our local Bread by the Bay and Deacons Pantry.

Next meeting dates: December 1st at OUMC at 2pm
December 15th at FPC at 2pm



Youth Updates

On **December 8th**, the FPC youth will be sharing a meal at Luigi's Restaurant and then spend the afternoon shopping and wrapping presents for our Adopt-a-family. Designated Mission giving for the 4th quarter will support the Adopt-a-family needs. If you would like to donate, please make sure to mark your giving envelope with **Adopt-a-family**. You can also donate through VANCO.

Discussions continue for updates to the youth room to make it a more functional and inviting space for our youth, youth events, VBS, and MPK. In January, we will begin some of those updates. We will be in need of new furniture items, supplies, etc. If you would like to make a monetary donation for the purchase of those items, please mark your giving envelopes and have it designated **Youth supplies**.

Upcoming Events

- December 1st 9:00 am Deacons meeting
- December 1st 2:00 pm MPK at OUMC
- December 8th 11:15 am Mission committee meeting
- December 8th 12:00 pm FPC youth shopping
- December 8th 5:00 pm Session meeting
- December 9th 1:00 pm Worship meeting
- December 15th 2:00 pm MPK at FPC
- December 24th 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service



A calendar has been created using SignUp Genius. This calendar will include the most up to date volunteer schedules for Sunday worship and events. Please utilize the following link to access the calendar to review events and sign up for volunteer positions.

www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB4EA4AC2BABF8Co7-48074672-please#

If you are unable to access the calendar, you may still call the office and Stacy will add the information for you.



First Presbyterian Church Oconto

133 Jackson Street, Oconto WI

December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 • 9 am Deacon's meeting • 10:30 am worship • TBD MPK at OUMC	2	3 • 12:30-5pm Bread by the Bay	4 • 6:45 pm Cub Scouts	5 • 1 pm Yack & Yarn Club	6	7
8 • 10:30 am worship • 11:15 am Mission meeting • 12 pm Youth Adopt a Family shopping • 5 pm Session meeting	9 • 1 pm Worship meeting • 1-6 pm Toys for Tots set up	10 • 1-6 pm Toys for Tots set up	11 • 1-6 pm Toys for Tots set up • 6:45 pm Cub Scouts	12 • 1 pm Yack & Yarn Club • 1-6 pm Toys for Tots set up	13 • 1-6 pm Toys for Tots set up	14
15 • 10:30 am worship • 2 pm MPK at FPC	16 • 9-12 pm & 3:30-6 Toys for Tots shopping hrs	17 • 9-12 pm & 3:30-6 Toys for Tots shopping hrs • 12:30-5pm Bread by the Bay	18 • 9-12 pm & 3:30-6 Toys for Tots shopping hrs • 6:45 pm Cub Scouts	19 • 1 pm Yack & Yarn Club	20	21
22 • 10:30 am worship	23	24 • 7 pm Christmas Eve service	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29 • 10:30 am worship	30	31				



Schedule

December 1st

December 8th

Duties	Volunteer
Opening church	Polly E
Greeter/usher	Wil A
Snack provider	Dawn S
Hostess/closer	Dawn S
Weekly cleaning	Comms Team

Duties	Volunteer
Opening church	Polly E
Greeter/usher	Duffy Family
Snack provider	Michelle M
Hostess/closer	Michelle M
Weekly cleaning	Martha K

December 15th

December 22nd

Duties	Volunteer
Opening church	Polly E
Greeter/usher	McDowell Family
Snack provider	Rosemary R
Hostess/closer	Michelle M
Weekly cleaning	Nikki G

Duties	Volunteer
Opening church	Polly E
Greeter/usher	Duffy Family
Snack provider	Toni H
Hostess/closer	Toni H
Weekly cleaning	Wil A

December 29th

Duties	Volunteer
Opening church	Polly E
Greeter/usher	OPEN
Snack provider	Michelle B
Hostess/closer	OPEN
Weekly cleaning	Michelle M

Bread by the Bay

Bread by the Bay is an ongoing 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 last month:

Households: **169**

Adults: **340**

Children: **145**

Your continued support is needed and appreciated – Thank you!



Knowing God to be our Great Physician we bring our requests before Him. Lord, hear our prayers for...

All Military personnel & their families including: Sterling H stationed in San Diego on the USS Montgomery. James A stationed in Columbus, Mississippi at Columbus A.F.B.

Local Congregations in Pastoral transition: Presbyterian Churches in Abbotsford, Marinette, Oconto, and Shawano.

General Prayers: Bill B, Andi B, Kip B, Margaret D, Brooks D, Margaret D, Eugene D, Mary E, Carol F, Betty G, Jason G & caregivers, Carol G, Ted H, Rosetta L, Nick L, Brooks M, Barb M, Fran M, Margie M, Joan N, Ron P, Amanda R, Ted R, Judy S, Pug S, Ruth S, Jo S, Cindy S, Shirley S, April S, Gary S, Rob S, Sue S, Diane W...**as we keep them faithfully in our prayers. Amen**

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.