

September 2025

**Join us
Sundays at 10:30 AM
for Worship Service
Office Hours 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Email: office@fpcocoonto.org
(920)835-3922**



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

The Messenger

FPC Oconto Monthly Newsletter

FPC Oconto Leadership 2025 Session

Tammie McCarthy Finance Elder
Jim McDowell P&G Elder
Michelle McDowell Ministry Elder
Mike Duffy Elder at Large
Toni Hendzel Elder at Large
Krista Stewart Elder at Large
Polly Exferd Clerk of Session
Nikki Giese Session Recorder
Lynn Hollander Treasurer 2025
Stacy Suarez Administrative Assistant
& Financial Secetary

Deacons

Bert Hollander, Jennifer Wickman
Emilie Duffy, Cindy Ryswek
Wil Andersen, Sam McDowell

Worship Committee

Polly Exferd, Wil Andersen,
Pete Gabrielson, Krista Stewart

Christian Ed Committee

Michelle McDowell, Emilie Duffy,
Toni Hendzel

Mission Committee

Wil Andersen, Polly Exferd,
Rosemary Rice, Krista Stewart

Hospitality Committee

Michelle McDowell, Emilie Duffy
Toni Hendzel

Pulpit Supply Leadership

David Rasmussen 09/07/2025

David Rasmussen 09/14/2025

Rev. Rebecca Proefrock 09/21/2025

Gina Struensee 09/28/2025

VBS 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



VBS 2025 Road Trip was a totally success. Thank you to all who joined us, who donated in any way towards this event. Many thanks to all the helpers and leaders. VBS would not be possible without the help we received. The kids had an absolute great Road Trip with God and heard so many stories along the way. We had a total of 50 kids' sign-up and averaged about 40-45 kids a night.

Sacrament of Baptism for Brynlee Marie Hendzel



On August 24, 2025, we celebrated the sacrament of baptism of Brynlee Marie Hendzel.

Her parents are Dylan Hendzel and Hannah Alguire. Her Godparents are Lauryn Hendzel and Jared Bins. Grandparents Toni and Chad Hendzel

Please help us welcome the newest member of our church.



All Military personnel & families including:

Sterling Heyrman stationed in San Diego, CA on the USS Montgomery

James Alwin stationed in Columbus MS at Columbus Air Force Base.

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

The families and friends of those who have passed away: **The family and friends Jeanette Jankins, The family and friends of Anita Evers, The family and friends of Lee Gerl, The family of Michael Krueger**

General Prayers: **Aaron, Jenny**, Mary Augustine, **Kathy Bancroft**, Bill Boesen, Margaret Dakins, Margret Drewry, Eugene Duffy, Mary Elliott, **Becky Fahler**, Carol Finn, Betty Geiger, Carol Grose, Steve Golz, Ted Haakonson, Brynlee Hendzel, **Liz Hinds, Roger Hollander**, Rosetta Lehman, Nick Loeffler, **Bud McAtee**, Stella McCarthy, Margie Murphy, Harlin Nowak, Joan Nowak, Ron Palmer, **Kyle Patrick, Mike Rehberg**, Judy Sanford, Ruth Saber, Jo Schulz, Cindy Shallow, Shirley Sikma, April Steen, Sue Strandt, **Jason Stewart, Beau W.**, Ed Weigelt, Melinda Witbro, 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!

If you have any suggestions for sermon topics from the Bible that you would like to hear, contact Rev. Rebecca Proefrock at rproefrock@yahoo.com with your suggestions.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

September 7		September 14	
Duties	Volunteer	Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd	Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Nikki Giese	Greeter/Usher	Wil Andersen
Snack Provider	Toni Hendzel	Snack Provider	Michelle McDowell
Hostess/Close	?	Hostess/Close	Michelle McDowell

September 21		September 28	
Duties	Volunteer	Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd	Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Krista Stewart	Greeter/Usher	Martha Krueger
Snack Provider	Rosemary Rice	Snack Provider	Toni Hendzel
Hostess/Close	Emilie Duffy	Hostess/Close	Toni Hendzel

A Musical Feast

A musical concert to honor the memory of Dolores "Pug" Saucier on August 24.

Here are some of the pictures taken that day.

Thank you to all that participated in this feast in memory of Pug.



*"Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!"*
Psalms 150:4(ESV)



BREAD BY THE BAY

Bread by the Bay is an 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 August 5, 2025

Households: 82

Adults: 152

Children: 79

The Pantry served the following August 19, 2025

Households: 85

Adults: 157

Children: 79

Your continued support is needed and appreciated – Thank you!

Transition Team News for Pastor Search

Tammie, Rosemary, Lynn, Wil, Polly and Craig

Your transition team has begun the process of conversation and interviewing interested applicants in this next step of the process in search of a Temporary Part-time Pastor. This process may take some time but with patience and your continued prayers, our hopes of getting closer to fulfilling our call, are on a new path of the journey which we are very excited about.

Mission Committee 3rd quarter Mission giving will support "Shop with a Cop" as our local mission project. this will help our law enforcement with their annual event, which allows children to shop with a police officer, for gifts for their families for Christmas. After shopping they return to City Hall for refreshments and gift wrapping. Always a fun time for the officers and children. Let's be supportive of making Christmas special for them.

Worship Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 19th worship service led by "The Voices of Peace"-A Southern Gospel Music Ministry. They are returning to us after being here a year ago. You don't want to miss this uplifting hour of music, song and testimony. Check them out at www.voicesofpeacemusic.net

Hello Folks! The Deacon's pantry is beginning to be emptied, and we are asking for some help. Please if you are able, we are in need of canned items like soup, veggies, canned meats, pasta, pasta sauce, personal hygiene items, cleaning items, paper products, cake mixes, puddings, Jello's, rice, box dinners, even cash or gift cards. We have helped several families over the summer and the shelves have been depleted so any help would be great. Thank you for any help and God Bless.

Bulletin sponsorships are still available for 2025. If interested, see the clipboard on the table in the narthex for available dates. Sponsorship is \$20 per Sunday.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Highlight of the Month - Our Moller Pipe Organ In August of 1927 our congregation voted to purchase a new pipe organ. The trustees were to sign a contract with the M. P. Moller Company of Hagerton, Maryland. Specifications were drawn up by Clinton DeWitt, who for nearly half a century served our church as organist, pianist, and choirmaster. In addition, he was responsible for bringing many worthwhile music programs to our community, often underwriting them personally. The first-class organ, a Moller Pipe Organ, was installed in 1928 in our majestic church located at the corner of Main Street and Ellis Avenue. This organ replaced a Felgemacher Organ, built in Erie, Pennsylvania, and was installed in 1890. This Felgemacher was a two manual, straight pedal board, tracker action, hand pumped organ. When installed in 1928 this organ had 12 ½ ranks of pipes, and its cost was \$4,500. Today that cost would be approximately \$85,000. When the old church was razed in 1960, the organ was disassembled, cleaned, and then re-installed by Gustav F. C. Fabry, at a cost of \$6,600. In 2025, the cost now would be around \$72,000. Included in this cost was an exchange of pipes in which a 15th rank replaced a Vox Humana Stop; and a new Open Diapason was placed in the Great Organ, with the old Diapason pipes being used for an additional pedal stop of 8 feet and 4 feet. Before Clinton DeWitt, it is known that 6 people have served as church organists in the early years. After Clinton, our organists have been Tom Jones, Janet Jones, Agnes Segar, Jeris Virch, Alice Sylvester, Mae Norgaard, Donna Boehmer, Ruth E. Baker, and Roberta Carlson. Donna Boehmer has been serving as our organist since 1986 and Roberta Carlson has been serving as our organist since February of 2024. Both Donna and Roberta have a wealth of knowledge and an incredible ability to play the pipe organ on opposite Sundays of each other. What a blessing it is for us at First Presbyterian Church Oconto to have the only remaining church pipe organ in our community. Thank you, Donna and Roberta, for sharing your talented gifts and keeping our Moller Pipe Organ alive!



*"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our
salvation. Let us come before him with
thanksgiving and extol him with
music and song."*

Psalm 95:1-2



We would like to start putting birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter. Please contact the office to make sure we have the right information. Also please let the office know if you don't want your birthday or anniversary put into the newsletter. Thank you!



Recipe Corner

We are going to be starting up the recipe corner again and Stacy would like anyone that has a favorite family recipe to please send it her way. This recipe is one of Stacy's favorite soups.

Slow Cooker Taco Soup (serves 8)

1/2 C. red onion	6 garlic cloves minced	1 red/orange bell pepper diced
1 can(15oz each) diced tomatoes, sweet corn, black bean (only black beans rinsed and drained)		
1/2 C. salsa	6 C. beef or chicken broth	1 bay leaf
3 Tbsp taco seasoning	1 Tbsp. oregano	2 tsp. thyme
1 tsp. chili powder	2 tsp. salt	1 tsp. pepper
3 C. rotisserie chicken shredded	1 1/2 C. shredded cheese	1/4 C. fresh cilantro

Jalapen slices, tortilla chip and shredded cheese for serving.

Add diced onion, minced garlic, diced peppers, diced tomatoes, salsa, sweet corn and black beans to the slow cooker. Add broth, bay leaf and seasonings. Stir well. Set to cook on HIGH for 4 hrs. or low for 6 hrs.. When finishes, add the shredded rotisserie chicken, fresh cilantro and cheddar cheese. Stir well and let soup sit for 20 minutes in the warm pot. Taste and adjust salt, pepper and seasoning as desired. Serve topped with jalapeno slices, tortilla chips and extra shredded cheese. Sour cream, avocado, a squeeze of lime and fresh cilantro also taste great. Storage: keeps in the fridge for up to 1 week and the freezer for up to 6 months.



Yack and Yarn Club

Do you enjoy crocheting, knitting, diamond painting, jewelry making, tatting, embroidery, etc.? The list is endless. Want to learn to crochet or knit? Bring your craft, hooks, yarn, and needles - relax, work on a project, share ideas, and enjoy some great conversations around the table. Bring a friend or neighbor. All are welcome. Come and join us in the Fireside Lounge at First Presbyterian Church on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 thru 4:00. Beverage and snacks available. For more information, please call the church office.

September 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1 Labor Day	2	3	4 1:00pm Craft Group	5	6	7 9:00am Deacons 10:30am Worship
8	9	10	11 1:00pm Craft Group	12	13	14 9:00am Deacons 10:30am Worship Session Meeting 4:30 pm
15 Columbus Day	16	17	18 1:00pm Craft Group	19	20	21 9:00am Deacons 10:30am Worship
22	23	24	25 1:00pm Craft Group	26	27	28 9:00am Deacons 10:30am Worship
29	30					



Information for next newsletter is due to the office by September 23rd. If you have something you would like to see in the newsletter, please get that to Stacy by that date. Thank you!