

October 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

Rev. Rebecca Proefrock 10/05/2025

David Rasmussen 10/12/2025

Gina Struensee 10/19/2025

David Rasmussen 10/26/2025

Voices of Peace *Cancellation Notice...*

We had originally scheduled the "Voices of Peace" to share their gospel music ministry with us on Sunday October 19th. Unfortunately, we just received word that they must cancel their commitment with us for that day. Bud, the leader of the group had quadruple bypass surgery several weeks ago and is in need of more rest and healing to gain back more strength. But the good news is we are already excited about rescheduling them for some time in 2026. Please continue to keep Bud and the "Voices of Peace" in your prayers as they take this time to rest, heal and gain strength to be able to continue sharing their gospel music ministry with us next year.

Thank you to Gina Struensee who will now be leading us in worship on this day.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

OCTOBER

Birthdays

Ben Bourassa
Kathryn Hendzel
Jackie Roskom
Michelle Bahrke
Abigail Roskom
Richard Medd



Anniversaries

David & Vicki Haag
Harry & Cindy Shallow



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 of Michael Krueger,

To the families and friends of two Marinette students who lost their lives,

The family of Mike Dombrowski.

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, Dick Medd, Margie Murphy, Harlin Nowak, Joan Nowak, Ron Palmer, Kyle Patrick, Matt Rastall & family, Mike Rehberg, Judy Sanford, Ruth Saber, Jo Schulz, Cindy Shallow, Shirley Sikma, April Steen, Sue Strandt, Jason Stewart, Beau W., Robert & Lydia Warrichaiet, 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!

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.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

October 5

Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Wil Andersen
Greeter/Usher	Nikki Giese
Snack Provider	Wil Andersen
Hostess/Close	Emilie Duffy

October 12

Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Krista Stewart
Snack Provider	Jenny Wickman
Hostess/Close	Jenny Wickman

October 19

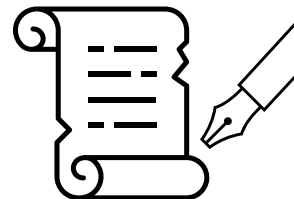
Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Michelle M
Snack Provider	Rosemary Rice
Hostess/Close	Martha Krueger

October 26

Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	?
Snack Provider	Toni Hendzel
Hostess/Close	Toni Hendzel

Mission Committee

As we enter the final quarter of the year, our mission committee has elected Local Mission Giving to assist with the church in adopting a family.



Transition Team News for Pastor Search

Tammie, Rosemary, Lynn, Wil, Polly, and Craig

Please continue to keep your Transition Team in prayer while in the midst of searching for a Part-Time Pastor for our church family. The good news is, the Transition Team has begun conversations with an interested candidate and our hopes of getting just a bit closer to maybe fulfilling our call have reached a new level on the path of this journey. We ask for your continued support and patience as we proceed forward through this part of the process in the pastor search.

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 September 2, 2025

Households: 83

Adults: 153

Children: 60

The Pantry served the following September 16, 2025

Households: 78

Adults: 143

Children: 68

Your continued support is needed and appreciated – Thank you!

Deacons

- World Communion Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday in October. Join us for a time of unity in joining together for a worldwide interconnectedness among Christian emphasizing the sacredness of Holy Communion as a symbol of Christ's body. Then following worship, the Deacons will host a special coffee hour, continuing the celebration with fellowship and specialty breads.

The Deacon's pantry is still empty, and we are asking for some help. Please if you are able, we need 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. So, during the month of October, we will be doing a food drive to help fill the shelves in preparation for the Thanksgiving & Christmas holidays. You can bring in your items and place them in front of the sanctuary and we can watch the collection grow. Thank you for any help and God Bless.

Matthew 25:35-40 (NRSVA)

"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, as naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

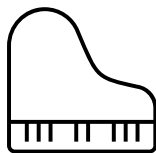
Roberta Carlson

A lifelong lover of music, I began piano lessons at age 7, accompanied church choirs beginning at age 10. In Jr. High, I began formal classical organ studies at UWGB and St. Norbert College, which gave me a deep appreciation for the power of sacred music to uplift, inspire and draw people together in worship. I also enjoyed playing violin and viola with a local youth and symphony orchestras. Whether accompanying hymns, preparing special pieces or supporting the choir, I have always seen music as a meaningful way to serve God and the Church community. After completing my education at Bethel, leaving Green Bay, I pursued various job opportunities, to later return to Green Bay closer to our family and 2 grandchildren and Packer season tickets. I began playing organ again, filling in as a substitute organist at churches in the Green Bay area. I now play at St. Maximilian Kolbe in Sobieski, Holy Trinity in Oconto as well as here at FPC. I also volunteer with Brown County Civic Music and serve on their board of directors. I enjoy travel, golf, gardening, and retirement. My husband Dave and I live in Little Suamico, daughter and her family in DePere and Dave's mother in Howard. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my love of music with your congregation and look forward to continuing to grow in faith and music alongside this church family.



Psalm 71:23

"My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you' my soul also, which you have redeemed."





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 month recipe is from Tammie.

Chicken Corn Chowder

- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 ½ C. Milk
- 2 C. Cubed chicken or 10-12 oz. can of chicken drained
- 1 can Corn, drained
- 4 oz. Shredded cheddar cheese

Combine in a saucepan the cream of chicken soup and milk. Stir in the cubed chicken/canned chicken, and the corn. Heat through. Add the shredded cheddar cheese and heat until the cheese is melted. Enjoy.



Yack and Yarn Club

On September 7th, the Yack and Yarn club which meets every Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church, made a donation of handmade items to the Kairos Outside Ministry. They are an organization that helps women who have been impacted by incarceration. This was specifically for a yearly retreat.



Toys for Tots is starting their campaign up for the 2025 Christmas season. There will be a box out in the narthex for anyone that would like to contribute to the campaign. If you would like to volunteer in anyway, please talk to Stacy in the church office. Thank you!

October 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1 Campaign starts for Toys for Tots boxes are out.	2 1:00pm Yack & Yarn Yom Kippur	3	4 National Play Outside Day	5 9:00am Deacons 10:30am Worship/World Communion Sunday
6 National German-American Day	7 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	8	9 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	10 National Costume Swap Day	11	12 10:30am Worship Clergy Appreciation Day
13 Indigenous Peoples' Day, Columbus Day	14	15	16 1:00pm Yack & Yarn World Food Day	17	18 National Sweetest Day	19 10:30am Worship, Children's Sabbath
20 Youth & Young Adult Day	21 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	22	23 1:00pm Yack & Yarn National Boston Cream Pie Day	24 United Nations Day	25	26 10:30am Worship/Reformation Sunday
27	28 National First Responders Day	29	30 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	31 Halloween		



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