

April 2026

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 2026 Session

Tammie McCarthy Finance Elder
OPEN - P&G Elder
Michelle McDowell Ministry Elder
Jason Martin- Elder at Large
Amy Peterson- Elder at Large
Julie Trepanier- Elder at Large
Polly Exferd Clerk of Session
Nikki Giese Session Recorder
Lynn Hollander- Treasurer 2026
Stacy Suarez- Administrative Assistant
& Financial Secertary

Deacons

Emilie Duffy, Cindy Rysewyk
Wil Andersen, Sam McDowell,
Krista Stewart

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,
Julie Trepanier

Hospitality Committee

Michelle McDowell, Emilie Duffy
Toni Hendzel

Pastoral Leadership

Gina Struensee 04/02/2026 (Maundy Thursday)

Gina Struensee 04/05/2026 (Easter Sunday)

Gina Struensee 04/12/2026

Pastor Greg Braatz 04/19/2025

Pastor Greg Braatz 04/26/2025

Pastor's Corner – Greetings!

Change in Plans:

There had been an earlier announcement that I would be starting Adult Education shortly after Easter, but there has been a change in plans. After consulting with Christian Ed., Session and a group of parents, the decision was made to have a Confirmation class instead!

It will be 10 sessions, five this spring and five in the fall, with Confirmation on a Sunday in October. We will be covering Bible Basics, understanding "Father, Son and Holy Spirit", using the Apostles Creed, the Sacraments, and What it means to be Presbyterian.

If there is someone in your family that has not signed up, but you believe would be interested, please let me know.

I would ask you support these young people through prayer and encouragement.

Blessings- Pastor Greg

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April

Birthdays

Jill Hermsen
Cooper Stellmacher
Jeff Cisar
Remme Stellmacher
Margaret Dankins
Martha Krueger
Ethan Bourassa
Pete Gabrielson
Toni Hendzel
Bobbi Mlnarik
Dean Reed
Jerry Giese



Anniversaries



All Military personnel & families including:

Sterling Heyrman stationed in San Diego, CA on the USS Montgomery
James Alwin 1st Lt. at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, NC
Crystal Cox being deployed to the Philippines, US Navy.

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

General Prayers: Aaron, Barb, Debbie, Engrid, Steve, Mary Augustine, Kathy Bancroft, Bill Boesen, Joel Caulum, Margaret Dakins, Margret Drewry, Eugene Duffy, Mary Ellen, Becky Fahler, Carol Finn, Diane Fite, Betty Geiger, Carol Grose, Steve Golz, Nancy Guthrie, Ted Haakonson, David Haag, Brynlee Hendzel, Roger Hollander, Kairos Ministry, Larry Kaszynski, Brian Kaufman, Rosetta Lehman, Nick Loeffler, Beth Marty, Jim McDowell, Dick Medd, **Kelly Malone**, Harlin Nowak, Paul O'Conner, Ashley Pace, Dick Palmer, Ron Palmer, Kyle Patrick, **Annie Rehberg**, Judy Sanford, Ruth Saber, **Julie Sauve**, Jo Schulz, Cindy Shallow, Donna Staidl, April Steen, Sue Strandt, Jason Stewart, John VanLannen, Beau W., Robert & Lydia Warrichaiet, Ed Weigelt, and Melinda Witbro.

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 2026. If interested, see the clipboard on the table in the narthex for available dates. Sponsorship is \$20 per Sunday.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

April 5		April 12	
Duties	Volunteer	Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd	Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	?	Greeter/Usher	?
Snack Provider	?	Snack Provider	?
Hostess/Close	?	Hostess/Close	?
April 19		April 26	
Duties	Volunteer	Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd	Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	?	Greeter/Usher	?
Snack Provider	?	Snack Provider	?
Hostess/Close	?	Hostess/Close	?

From Gina

Dear Church Family,

We are approaching the most sacred week of our Christian faith—a time to slow down and journey with Jesus from the palms of Jerusalem to the shadow of the cross. We invite you to join us for a unique interactive worship experience on Maundy Thursday at 6:30 p.m. where we will retell the story of the Last Supper, Jesus Washing the Disciples Feet, and the Passion of Christ.

He is Risen! 🌿 **Join us this Easter Sunday as we celebrate hope and new life.** On Easter Sunday, you are invited to join us for the joyous celebration of the Risen Lord at 10:30 a.m. Come gather for a light brunch at 9:30 a.m. and then stay for worship! Whether you attend every week or haven't been in a while, there is a place for you here.

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 March 3, 2026

Households: 74

Adults: 139

Children: 59

The Pantry served the following March 18, 2026

Households: 44

Adults: 73

Children: 32

Your continued support is needed and appreciated – Thank you!

*THE NUMBER OF TIMES THE
AVERAGE PERSON SAYS NO TO
TEMPTATION IS ONCE WEEKLY.
(The Daily Walk Bible)*

From Pastor Greg

I don't want to jump to far ahead of myself, but the next time I will be with you is after Easter. At which time I plan on starting a sermon series that tells the stories of some of the important events that happened very quickly after Jesus' resurrection. I choose these stories because I believe they are foundational to the establishment of the early church, but some of them are barely known or are often misinterpreted. These stories are:

- Luke 24:13-35 -Encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus.
- Matthew 28:16-20 -The Great Commission.
- Acts 8:26-39 -The Baptism of the Ethiopian Enoch.
- Acts 15:1-18 -The Jerusalem Council.
- Acts 2:1-21 -Pentecost.

Hopefully, you will find these sermons equally educational and inspirational. As always, I would welcome any feedback you may have! See you on Sunday!

CE/Communications Team

We will be having a Potluck Breakfast on Easter Sunday at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to bring anything, please have it to the church by that time.

The 2026 Sign-Up Genius is open & it's very important for us to have people sign up to keep the weekly service running smoothly. We would love for members of our congregation to volunteer their time and talent. Just a reminder that if you can't fulfill your duty to please find a replacement and let the office know so it can be changed. If you need help signing up, please call Stacy and she will help you get signed up. If spots need to be filled, we will update the duties by entering people in as needed. If you have any questions, please talk to Michelle McDowell.

The Deacons are asking for your help with our food pantry. There has been an increase in demand and our supplies are running low! Please prayerfully consider if you can help with purchases or monetary donations. Below is a list of things most urgently needed:

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Ramen noodles

Instant Oatmeal

Soup Pasta/Potato dinners

Mayonnaise

Crackers

Ravioli

Cereal

And any cleaning or personal hygiene items are always welcome!

Thank you!

Worship Just a friendly reminder-you can still bring in your "Spring Blooms" for Easter Sunday to be placed at the base of the cross. If you wish to have your name and who they are in honor of or remembrance of, please call Stacy with that information by Thursday morning on April 2nd. There will be a worship meeting on April 15th at 10:30.

From the Clerk of Session: Just a friendly reminder that your per-capita in the amount of \$40.42 per member is now due! Please be passionate about getting yours turned in as this is a great need to support our budget.

Financial Report:

The audit was done March 5th by Pete Gabrielson and Mike Werner. The audit was satisfactory with no errors found in any account balances and 3 small issues for record keeping. Suggestions on how to fix these issues were offered and we will follow their advice on these. Thank you to Pete and Mike for their service!

Mission Committee The mission committee would like to thank everyone for their support in this last quarter, giving to either; The Abundant Life Mission Shelter/Feed My Starving Children.

For the next quarter we will be supporting Marion Medical Mission Wells. We have donated to this cause on prior years. They help underdeveloped countries with creating and maintaining wells in the small communities that are in desperate need of clean water. Please prayerfully consider donating for this wonderful organization.



Recipe Corner

This month's recipe comes from Polly. If you have a recipe that you would like to share with us please send it to Stacy before the end of the month.

Quiche Lorraine

1 (9 inch) unbaked deep dish pie shell
1 C. chopped ham
2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
4 Tbsp flour
½ C. chopped onions

3 eggs, beaten
1 ½ C. scalded milk
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
(optional) I like to add in 1 C. chopped fresh spinach.

Sprinkle onion and ham on the bottom of the pie shell. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over the top. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes. Let sit for 5 minutes before cutting and serving.



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.

If you have someone you want to add to the prayer list or take off the prayer list, please fill out the Prayer request card and put it into the offering plate. Please do not just tell someone, the office likes to keep records of the prayer request. Thank you!

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Passover April Fool's Day	2 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm	3 Good Friday See below for services at other churches.	4 Holy Saturday National Handmade Day
5 9:00am Deacons 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship	6 Easter Monday 5:00pm Manna Meal	7 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	8 International Roma Day	9 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	10	11
12 10:30am Worship National Licorice Day	13 Holocaust Remembrance Day	14	15 Pastor in office 5:30pm Session Meeting Tax Day	16 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	17	18
19 9:30am Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship	20 Patriots' Day	21 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	22 Earth Day	23 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	24	25
26 9:30am Confirmation Class 10:30am	27	28 Workers' Memorial Day	29	30 Honesty Day 1:00pm Yack & Yarn		



Good Friday Services at other churches:

First American Lutheran April 3rd 12:10pm
 Oconto United Methodist Church April 3rd 6:00pm
 Gospel Chapel April 3rd 6:00pm

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