

May 2026

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



Please give securely online at  
[www.fpcocoonto.org](http://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 Secretary

### Deacons

Bert Hollander, Jennifer Wickman  
Emilie Duffy, Cindy Rysewyk  
Wil Andersen, Sam McDowell,  
Krista Stewart

### Worship Committee

Polly Exferd, Wil Andersen,  
Pete Gabrielson, Krista Stewart,  
Julie Trepanier

### 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

## Pastoral Leadership

Pastor Greg Braatz 05/03/2026

Gina Struensee 05/10/2026

Pastor Greg Braatz 05/17/2026

Pastor Greg Braatz 05/24/2026

Brooks Darrah 05/31/2026

## Pastor's Corner – Greetings!

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!

Blessings- Pastor Greg

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

May

### **Birthdays**

Eli Bahrke  
Andrew Stellmacher  
Jerid Staidl  
Cindy Shallow  
Henry Bourassa  
Valerie Staidl-Borkovec  
Scott LaPlant  
Jackson Martin  
Mary Peterson

### **Anniversaries**

John & Brenda Jicha  
Dean & Heidi Reed



All Military personnel & families including:

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

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

The families and friends of those who have passed away:

### **To the family of Kyle Patrick**

General Prayers: 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, 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, 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!

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**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

May 3	
Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Tammie McCarthy
Snack Provider	?
Hostess/Close	?

May 10	
Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Tammie McCarthy
Snack Provider	?
Hostess/Close	?

May 17	
Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Tammie McCarthy
Snack Provider	Wil Andersen
Hostess/Close	Wil Andersen

May 24	
Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Wil Andersen
Snack Provider	?
Hostess/Close	?

May 31	
Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	?
Snack Provider	?
Hostess/Close	?

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**Gina** would like to invite you to wear your sweaters to worship Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate Mister Rogers! Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. Join us as we celebrate his life and legacy to the church.

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**Communication/Christian Education Committee:** We will be honoring our graduates Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>. So, if you have a senior graduate/a college graduate please send a picture of the graduate along with their future plans to the office no later than May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Psalm 37:5 (NRSVA)

"Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act."



Psalm 20:1 (NRSVA)

"Prayer for Victory

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble!

The name of the God of Jacob protect you!"



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**Mission Committee** Our Mission committee had a very successful 1st quarter. We received \$355 for gift cards to be given the Abundant Life Mission Homeless Shelter. And \$200 in donations to go to Feed My Starving Children. These are both wonderful charities and very appreciative of the support.

The 2nd quarter mission is Marion Medical Mission Wells. They work with underdeveloped communities in other countries to help them dig wells for clean water. They also teach those communities to how to maintain those wells. Thank you to all who have supported our causes! And please prayerfully consider our next mission cause.

**Worship** we are looking for names of deceased veterans with the branch of service to be added to our list for Memorial Day. If you wish to add a name, you may email or call the office with your request. Thank you!



**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!

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**From the Clerk of Session:** Upon recommendation from the worship committee, it was brought to the attention of session, that our Steinway grand piano in the sanctuary needs a major rebuild, due to aging of this piano manufactured in 1899, wear and tear on parts and does not hold a tuning, which has been an ongoing problem for some time. When the piano technologist was here in March to do a tuning, he pointed out the issues again and stated that the piano is not tunable. His suggestions were to completely refurbish, which is very costly or to consider selling. After reviewing through the preliminary information sent to us, we had agreed that selling the grand piano would be in our best interest. A complete refurbishment could cost anywhere from \$20,000-\$50,000. Unfortunately, we don't have the funds to even consider that, so we have decided to look selling. Yes, it will be very sad to let go of this grand instrument that has blessed us for many years, but how fortunate we are to have our Moller Pipe Organ and the Clavinova that has over 600 voices and includes 8 piano settings, which are both played on a weekly basis for our worship services.



## **Recipe Corner**

In honor of Cinco Dia Mayo, I thought that this recipe would be a great one to try. If you like churros, you'll love this recipe. Again, if you have a recipe you would like to share with us, please get it to Stacy by the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. Thanks, and enjoy!

### **Churro French Toast (yields 10 slices)**

#### **For the Cream Cheese Glaze**

4 Tbsp. cream cheese, at room temp.  
½ C. powdered sugar

4 Tbsp. milk  
½ tsp. vanilla extract

#### **For the Cinnamon Sugar**

½ C. granulated sugar      ¼ C. packed light brown sugar      2 Tbsp. ground cinnamon

#### **For the Toast**

6 Lg. eggs      1 ½ C. Milk      1 tsp. grated orange zest(optional)  
½ tsp. pure vanilla extract    1 Tbsp. good honey      ½ tsp. kosher salt  
1 Lg. loaf challah, sliced into ½ in thick slices      Unsalted butter  
Vegetable oil

#### **Instructions**

- 1.) Preheat the oven to 250° F.

#### **Make The Glaze**

- 1.) In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat all the glaze ingredients together until smooth. Remove to a zip top bag and set aside.

#### **Make The French Toast**

- 1.) In a Lg. shallow bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, orange zest, vanilla, honey, and salt. Soak as many slices in the egg mixture as possible for 5 minutes, turning once.
- 2.) Heat 1 Tbsp. of the butter and 1 Tbsp. of the oil in a very lg. sauté pan or griddle over medium heat. Add the soaked bread and cook for 2-3 minutes per side, until well browned.
- 3.) Remove the French toast from the pan and immediately dip in the cinnamon sugar, turning to coat completely. Remove to a sheet pan and keep it warm in the oven until ready to serve. Fry the remaining soaked bread slices, adding butter and oil as needed, until it's all cooked.
- 4.) Remove the warm French toast slices to plates. Snip a small hole in the corner of the zip top bag filled with the cream cheese glaze. Drizzle over the French toast and serve immediately.



## **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.

# May 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					<b>1</b> National Mental Health Month	<b>2</b> Kentucky Derby
<b>*3</b> 9:00am Deacons 10:30am Worship	<b>4</b> Teacher Appreciation Week 5:00pm Manna Meals	<b>5</b> Cinco de Mayo 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	<b>6</b> Pastor Greg in office	<b>7</b> National Day of Prayer 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:30am Worship Mother's Day	<b>11</b> Pullman Strike	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> National Receptionists Day	<b>14</b> Ascension Day 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>*17</b> 10:30am Worship, Hunger and Homelessness Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	<b>20</b> Pastor Greg in office Worship Meeting 10:30am. Session Meeting 5:30pm	<b>21</b> 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>*24</b> Pentecost 10:30am Worship Heritage Sunday	<b>25</b> Memorial Day, Whit Monday	<b>26</b> National Parfait Day	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 1:00pm Yack & Yarn	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Trinity Sunday 10:30am Worship, Graduation	<b>*Conformation at 9:00am*</b>					



**Information for next newsletter is due to the office by May 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have a recipe to share, please get it to me by that date also. If you have something you would like to see in the newsletter, please get that to Stacy by that date. Thank you!**