

June 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
Ammy Peterson Elder at Large
Julie Trepanier Elder at Large
Polly Exferd Clerk of Session
Nikki Giese Session Recorder
Lynn Hollander Treasurer 2026
Wil Andersen - Assistant & Financial Secretary

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

Pastor Greg Braatz 06/07/2026

Pastor Greg Braatz 06/14/2026

Gina Struensee 06/21/2026

Pastor Greg Braatz 06/28/2026

Pastor's Corner – Greetings!

It has been said that most pastors really only have one sermon and every Sunday they just find different ways to preach it. While I hope that is not true of me, by now you most likely have noticed that most of my sermons include such things as a reassurance of God's love, that we are all made in the image of God, that we are all loved children of God and the inclusive message of the gospels. One of the topics that rarely make into my sermons is the idea that we are sinners in need of salvation. As I have reflected on this, I thought I would do a sermon series to help you better understand my thinking. Those sermons will be:

- 6/07/26-Who do they say I (Jesus) am? -Matthew 16:13-20- Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was. Today someone answers this question, and they are a multitude of ways to do so, can all the difference in the world.
- 6/14/26-Preaching-Where will you spend eternity? -Matthew 19:16-22-Isn't this the question all of us ask, but do you know the answer?
- 6/28/26-Preaching-Living a Life of Faith-Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21-Depending on what you believe from the first two sermons, will determine, how you do this.
-

I look forward to seeing you then! - Pastor Greg

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June

Birthdays

Brenda Jicha
Michael Wickman
Shirley Sikma
Susan Sorenson
Brian Rice
Chris Mlnarik



Anniversaries

Ben & Liz Huempfer
Jeff & Martha Krueger
Ben & Anna Bourassa
40th year playing Donna Boehmer



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, 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 Margret Drewry; To the family of Mark Orth; To the family of Barbara Hollihan**

General Prayers: Barb, Debbie, Steve, Mary Augustine, Kathy Bancroft, Bill Boesen, Joel Caulum, Margaret Dakins, 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 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

June 7		June 14	
Duties	Volunteer	Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd	Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	?	Greeter/Usher	?
Snack Provider	?	Snack Provider	?
Hostess/Close	?	Hostess/Close	?
June 21		June 28	
Duties	Volunteer	Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd	Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	Emily Duffy	Greeter/Usher	Nikki Giese
Snack Provider	Michelle Bahrke	Snack Provider	Jenny Wickman
Hostess/Close	Wil Andersen	Hostess/Close	Jenny Wickman

Psalm 100:2 (NRSVA)
"Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing."

PART-TIME OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED:

The First Presbyterian Church of Oconto is seeking a Part-Time Office Administrator.

Position Details: 15 hours per week

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Salary negotiable, based on qualifications and experience.

Qualifications: Excellent communication and organizational skills - experience creating newsletters and managing - Facebook/social media - understand all Microsoft Office products, especially Microsoft Word - basic accounting knowledge (experience with Church Windows a plus) - ability to work independently self-motivated and dependable

To Apply: Please submit a letter of application and resume to: office@fpcoconto.org

Or "Human Resources, First Presbyterian Church Oconto,
133 Jackson St., Oconto, WI 54153

We look forward to hearing from qualified candidates interested in serving our church community.
Position open until filled.

Mission Committee Mission will be wrapping up our donations to Marion Medical Mission Wells at the end of the month. Please prayerfully consider donating to this organization. They are a wonderful Christian based group that works with underdeveloped countries to dig wells for clean water. The communities are also taught how to maintain those wells so they will continue to have clean drinking water far into the future.

For the 3rd Quarter, we will be asking for donations for Shop With A Cop. We do this early so that by November they have the funds to work with.

Worship Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 18th worship service will be led by "The Voices of Peace. 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



Deacons are looking for help with food and gas cards for the pantry or to give out as need arises. Our pantry could also use more fruits, vegetables, proteins, and pasta. As always, we are deeply appreciative of any help we receive! Thank you and God Bless.

From Stacy:

It is with great sadness, thought and consideration that I am going to be leaving my position with the church. I wish you all the best and hope that we will see each other out and around town.

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2026 GRADUATES:

OCONTO HIGH SCHOOL-

Eli Bahrke-he is planning to attend NWTC to complete a certificate in Welding while continuing to work at Robinson.

Ellyson Place-she will be attending Marian University for Radiology and to play softball.

Natalie Schlueter-plans on attending NWTC for Surgical technologist.

OCONTO FALLS HIGH SCHOOL-

Brady Roskom-he will be attending Fox Valley Tech for Diesel Mechanic.

Riley Roskom-he will be going to NWTC for his Gen Ed and then transferring to UW-Stevens Point for Environment Science or Business.

North Penn High School-

Gavin Rice-he will be attending Gwynned Mercy University in Pennsylvania for Nursing.

College Graduates-

Luke Krueger-he graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Engineering.

Gavin Mlnarik-he graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Engineering.

Abigail Roskom-she graduated from Fox Valley Tech with a degree in Veterinary Tech.

Psalm 119:105 (NRSVA)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.”



Recipe Corner

We are going to be starting up the recipe corner again and the church office would like anyone that has a favorite family recipe to please send it their way. This recipe is one for a hot summer night.

Fresh Strawberry Chicken Salad (serves 2-4)

6 C. spinach or field greens	1 C. sliced strawberries	$\frac{3}{4}$ C. blueberries
$\frac{3}{4}$ C. mandarin orange slices	$\frac{1}{2}$ ripe avocado, chopped	$\frac{1}{4}$ C. sliced almonds
8 oz. cooked chicken, chopped/shredded		

Homemade Poppy Seed Dressing:

1/3 C. Greek yogurt	2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil	2 Tbsp. honey
$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground dry mustard (or 1 tsp. Dijon mustard)
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. poppy seeds.	

Toss everything together in a large bowl, except for the dressing, until combined. Whisk all of the poppy seed dressing ingredients together. Pour desired amount of dressing on top, toss to coat, and serve immediately.

Notes:

Dressing: you could really dress this summer salad with just about anything. Either balsamic or raspberry vinaigrette would be incredible, too.

Can I add Cheese? Yes, absolutely. Try adding 4 ounces goat cheese, gorgonzola, or feta cheese.

Change to Policy on Locking Church Doors

Recently two things happened coincidentally. The first was the sheriff talking to session about reviewing our safe church policies. One of his observations was that we needed to lock our doors even when people were inside. The second thing that has happened couple of times recently, is an individual from the neighborhood, with mental health and addiction issues, has entered and wandered the building while groups were meeting. They have become quite belligerent when asked to leave. So, after some discussion, session has decided to lock the church doors five minutes after services have begun. An usher will be situated where they can see the front door so that if someone approaches the door it will be opened for them. When different committees or groups are using the church, they can decide if they want to lock the doors. The recommendation is that they do so.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Greg.



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.

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 National Dairy Month	2	3 Egg-a-Day Pledge World Bicycle Day	4	5	6 Belmont Stakes
7 9:00am Deacons 10:30am Worship	8 5:00pm Manna Meals	9 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	10	11 1:00pm Yak & Yarn	12	13 World Softball Day
14 10:30am Worship Flag Day	15	16	17	18 1:00pm Yak & Yarn	19 Juneteenth	20 World Refugee Day
21 10:30am Worship Father's Day	22 World Rainforest Day	23 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	24	25 1:00pm Yak & Yarn	26	27
28 10:30am Worship	29 World Social Media Day	30				

