

July 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
Jim McDowell 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
Wil Andersen Administrative Assistant
& Financial Secretary

Deacons

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

Worship Committee

Polly Exferd, Wil Andersen,
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

Pastor's Corner – Greetings!

July, the midpoint of the summer. How come summer goes so fast and winter stays around forever?

Unfortunately, you won't see to much of me this month. I will here for services on 7/5, but then I'm not back until 8/2 services. My main activity in July is a cruise my wife and I will be taking. We will start with 5 days in London, my favorite city in the world. I went to college just outside of London and I would go there on weekends. One of my favorite things to do when we travel is to visit different churches. We will stop by St. Martin's in the Field. A church that almost closed but reinvented itself with a world class music program. It has a fun restaurant in the area that was once the crypt. We will also be attending evening vesper services at Westminster and St. Paul's.

We then take the ship to Scotland. Our first stop will be Edinburgh and St. Giles Cathedral, the mother church of the Presbyterian faith. It was here that John Knox started things off. Then up to Aberdeen. My wife's clan, she is one-quarter Scottish, is based here. I have identified two parish churches where a number of past generations were baptized and buried. It is then off to Norway, where I hope to visit a stave church. We finish our journey in Iceland, where I plan on visiting Reykjavik's very modern cathedral.

Finally, returning to one of my favorite churches, The First Presbyterian Church on Oconto. Have a great July! See you in August!

Pastor Greg

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July

Birthdays

Diane Fite
Kaitlyn Borkovec
Samantha McDowell
Vicki Haag
Chad Hendzel
Amy Loehlein
Kate Bahrke
Alexis Martin



Anniversaries

Jerry & Nikki Giese
Dennis S & Julie T



All Military personnel & families including:

Sterling Heyrman US Navy, James Alwin 1st Lt. Air Force Base, Crystal Cox 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: General Prayers: Barb, Jenny, 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, Brian Kaufman, Rosetta Lehman, Nick Loeffler, Beth Marty, Jim McDowell, Dick Medd, Kelly Malone, Kairos Ministry, Harlin Nowak, Paul O'Conner, Dick Palmer, Donna Ruleford, Judy Sanford, Ruth Saber, Julie Sauve, Fritz Schulz, Cindy Shallow, Donna Staidl, April Steen, Sue Strandt, Jason Stewart, John VanLannen, Beau W., Robert & Lydia Warrichaiet, Ed Weigelt, and Melinda Witbro, Samantha Young.

Need to add someone to the prayer list? Is an update needed on the prayer list? Please contact Wil in the church office with additions or corrections – Thank you!

Pulpit Supply Leadership

Pastor Greg Braatz 07/05/2026

Gina Struensee 07/12/2026

David Rasmussen 07/19/2026

Brooks Darrah 07/68/2026

Greetings from the Worship Committee!

We hope you are all enjoying this nice warm summer! We would like to remind everyone to call Wil Andersen in the office if there has been any changes to your phone number, email address or physical address. This helps to ensure we can get important information to you as needed.

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.

Deacon Committee – Hello Folks!

Our pantry is beginning to be emptied, and we are asking for some help. Please if you are able, we need canned items like soup, veggies, fruits, juices, 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 continue to assist families. Please contact Wil Andersen in the office for information. Thank you for any help and God Bless.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

COUNTRY • SOUTHERN GOSPEL • BLUEGRASS



*Voices of Peace
Peace Church, Potter*
21st Annual
Gospel Music Fest

Hilbert Civic Park • Hwy 57 • Hilbert, WI

Friday, August 21 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  Saturday, August 22 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



FREE ADMISSION

Bring lawn chairs! • Bring your family!
Food available! • Nondenominational!

PLEASE NO COOLERS!

Free will offerings will be taken.
100% given to the bands.

For more information
contact Bud or Carolyn at:
920-756-3830 • 920-470-0423
e-mail: bud.mcatee@gmail.com
www.voicesofpeacemusic.net



Voices of Peace
Potter, WI



The Chitans
Odon, IN



Skylight Quartet
Grand Rapids, MI



Mulkins Family
Pawnee, IL



The Williamsons
Wetumka, OK



Larry Delawder Family & Barney
Mathias, WV



Don Shire
Bedford, VA



Common Bond Quartet
Raceland, KY



Locke Brothers
Hortonville, WI



The Garms Family
Arkansas, WI



SaltLight
Waverly, IA



Ambassadors of Grace
Thompson, MO



Matt Carroll Family
Excelsior, MO



The Loynachans
Winterset, IA



The Foremans
Fulton, MO

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Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 18th 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

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.

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 July 7, 2026

Households: 82

Adults: 152

Children: 79

The Pantry served the following July 21, 2026

Households: 85

Adults: 157

Children: 79

Your continued support is needed and appreciated – Thank you!



Recipe Corner

If anyone has a favorite family recipe they would like to share, please send it to Wil Andersen at the office.

This is a great one that does not involve an oven on these hot days!

Quick and Easy Skillet Chicken A La King

2 skinless, boneless chicken breasts halves, diced.

1 can (10 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz) condensed cream of chicken soup.

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup low fat milk

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp thyme (optional)

1 can (8 – $\frac{3}{4}$ oz) whole kernel sweet corn, drained.

1 can (8- $\frac{1}{2}$ oz) peas and carrots, drained.

Combine chicken, soup, milk, and thyme in a large skillet. Cook over medium heat for 10 min or until chicken is done, stirring occasionally. Stir in vegetables and heat through. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve over rice or noodles and garnish with chopped parsley, if desired.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

July 5		July 12	
Duties	Volunteer	Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd	Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	?	Greeter/Usher	Wil & Mike Andersen
Snack Provider	Polly Exferd	Snack Provider	Jenny Wickman
Hostess/Close	Polly Exferd	Hostess/Close	Jenny Wickman
July 19		July 26	
Duties	Volunteer	Duties	Volunteer
Open Church	Polly Exferd	Open Church	Polly Exferd
Greeter/Usher	?	Greeter/Usher	Michelle McDowell
Snack Provider	Rosemary Rice	Snack Provider	Michelle McDowell
Hostess/Close	?	Hostess/Close	Michelle McDowell

Please note – we are no longer using SignUp Genius. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We are looking to fill open duties for August and beyond. Please consider volunteering for these duties.

From Wil – I am currently filling in as the Administrative Secretary. Please stop in and say hi and share any ideas you may have!

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.

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3 Civil Right Act	4 Independence Day
5 10:30am Worship	6	7 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	8	9 1:00pm Yak & Yarn	10	11
12 9:30 am Deacon's Meeting 10:30am Worship	13 5:00pm Manna Meals At Holy Trinity	14	15	16 1:00pm Yak & Yarn	17	18 World Listening Day
19 10:30am Worship	20	21 12:30pm Bread by the Bay	22	23 1:00pm Yak & Yarn	24	25
26 10:30am Worship	27	28	29 10:30 am Worship Meeting 5:00 pm Session Meeting	30 1:00pm Yak & Yarn	31	



Information for next newsletter is due to the office by July 22nd. If you have something you would like to see in the newsletter, please get that to Wil by that date. Thank you!