volume 94 november 2026

the Bridge

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Please join us...

8:30 AM
SUNDAY SERVICE
Service is streamed live on Facebook. A recording of the live stream will be made available on YouTube and is linked in our weekly newsletter.

9:30 AM
COFFEE HOUR
Coffee Hour and Fellowship will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following service every second Sunday of the month! Join us for coffee, snacks, and conversation hosted by Member Care!



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Standing in the card aisle at the local Dollar General, I was trying to find the perfect 'thank you' note for a long overdue word of gratitude. From a young age, my parents instilled the belief in me that a simple 'thank you' is not always enough. Handwritten, well-written, and personalized notes matter. Gratitude matters not only for the person who receives a gracious word, but for the one with pen in hand.

Gratitude also matters in our faith. The psalmist repeatedly implores us to "give thanks" as a faithful response to God's goodness and steadfast love (Ps 107:1). The apostle Paul not only exhorts his readers to be thankful, but he models gratitude for his readers, frequently expressing gratitude for the churches he established (Col 3:15; 1 Thess 1:2). Even Jesus himself practiced thanks-giving on many different occasions. He gave thanks over the loaves and fish before feeding the five thousand and before he raised his friend, Lazarus, from the dead (John 6:11; 11:41). Indeed, centuries later, we get to participate in that thanks-giving every time we gather at table. The sacrament of Holy Communion is also called the Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving" in Greek, because Jesus gave thanks before breaking and distributing the bread and cup among his disciples (Matt 26:26-27).

But note: None of this was done simply because of good manners instilled by earlier generations. The psalmist, Paul, and Jesus gave thanks precisely because of their relationships with God. In the same way, we are not called to be thankful because it is the proper or polite way to be. As followers of Jesus, we are called to give thanks because we, too, are in relationship with the living God who created us, redeemed us, and sustains us still. When we pause and consider this, we realize how extraordinary it all is. God is with us. How can we not give thanks to God for that?

As I write this newsletter article, I am preparing for All Saints' Day on November 01. While we do not honor specific saints or martyrs from the past in the reformed faith, this is the day when we intentionally give thanks and praise to God for "the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age." We remember with gratitude the men and women who have died in the past year and all those who have helped to shape our faith along the way.

For me, this year is bittersweet as I remember two saints from my home congregation who have each completed their baptism: a gentleman named Allen and one of the sweetest women, Frannie. I am filled with gratitude for their lives of faithful service and for their steadfast presence in the pews, for their encouragement and their kind smiles, and for the ways they both modeled a life worthy of God for me as a young person. I wish I had had the opportunity to thank them for the big and small ways they helped me to grow . . . which makes me think: Gratitude to God matters. So, too, does gratitude to one another. So, maybe we might each do well to take some time this
season and truly thank someone for being a part of our "great cloud of witnesses," for shaping our faith, and for helping us to grow while we have the chance. Will you join me in doing that?

Gratefully,

Rev. Emily

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses . . . let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." – Hebrews 12:1-2



November

Reverend Emily's office hours are every Monday and Tuesday from 9:30am - 3:30 pm

Reverend Emily will be on vacation November 23rd-27th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **8:30 am -** Worship with Communion Remembrance Sunday	**2**	**3** **12:00 pm -** Sack Lunches and Sacred Stories	**4** **6:45 pm -** Choir Practice	**5** **4 pm - 7 pm** Annual Chili Supper	**6**	**7**
8 **8:30 am -** Worship - Congregational Meeting **9:30am -** Fellowship by Deacons & Member Care	**9**	**10** **12:00 pm -** Sack Lunches and Sacred Stories **1:15 pm -** Deacon/Member Care Meeting	**11** **5:15-6:45pm -** Food, Faith, and Fellowship **6:45pm -** Choir Practice	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 **8:30 am -** Worship	**16**	**17** **12:00 pm -** Sack Lunches and Sacred Stories **6:15pm -** Session Meeting	**18** **6:45 pm -** Choir Practice	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 **8:30 am -** Worship NO Choir **1:15-4:30pm -** Bible Baptist Church Dinner	**23** **Rev. Emily on Vacation**	**24** **NO** Sack Lunches and Sacred Stories	**25** **NO** Choir Practice	**26** Thanksgiving Day	**27**	**28** **10 am -** Hanging of the Greens **10 am - 5 pm** Thrift and Gift
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** **8:30 am -** Worship	**30**	1	2	3	4	5



RULING ELDERS

BOB DINSE
TREASURER

N HALL
PERSONNEL

JASON HARMON
BUILDING GROUNDS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

JESSICA HARRSION
WORSHIP & MUSIC
FAITH FORMATION

KRISTINA MOSLEY
WORSHIP & MUSIC
MISSION AND OUTREACH

ROBERT MOSLEY
MISSION AND OUTREACH

MARILYN PAULSON
MEMBER CARE LIAISON

CLERK OF SESSION

JACK WIRCH

MEMBER CARE/DEACONS

KAREN ANGELL
PEGGY BALFANZ
SANDRA BUSER
ANNIE LEONARD
RONDA MARQUARDT
ROXY SCHULTZ

Session Highlights

The session did not meet in October.

Wise as Serpents 2.0: Fantastic Fellowship and Turnout!

Thank you to everyone who attended Wise as Serpents 2.0 this past September! The turnout was great, and the feedback from attendees was very positive. This event proved to be a wonderful way to partner with our friends at Winneconne Christian Fellowship, who graciously hosted us for this second installment. By combining our congregations, we strengthened our community bonds while tackling a critical, everyday safety topic together. Best of all, this collaboration directly satisfied another key goal from our Visions, Vines and Voices event!

Food, Faith & Fellowship: The November Gathering

Food, Faith & Fellowship returns next month for another evening of community, great conversation, and a chance to connect around a faith-centered topic. For those who miss the opportunity for fellowship with Pastor Emily after church on Sundays, this gathering is the perfect opportunity to catch up! We've proven our flexibility and resilience with our shared pastoral position, and this is yet another way we can adapt how we enjoy fellowship. Session made the decision to resume Food, Faith and Fellowship based on requests for the event and as an intentional way to create space to chat with Pastor Emily in a casual environment. If you've been looking for that time together, we invite you to come out and join us.

Whether you are a regular or joining us for the very first time, come as you are for a relaxed, meaningful evening.

When: Wednesday, November 11th from 5:15-6:45 PM

Menu: Mystery Potluck! There is no designated main course or specific food category for this month, although we may have leftover chili from the chili supper. So, bring whatever you want! If we end up with 13 desserts, we will make a memory



Personnel Committee Update: Caring for One Another

The Personnel Committee has completed staff evaluations and annual check-ins for the year. We are grateful for the time, energy, and dedication our staff members give to serving our congregation and supporting the life of our church.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting our staff, we would like to offer a gentle reminder about our pastor's office hours and the importance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Our pastor is available in our church office on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She maintains the same office hours in Weyauwega on Wednesdays and Thursdays. If a need arises, she can be reached there as well.

Please keep in mind that these hours may occasionally vary due to home communion visits, hospital visits, meetings outside regular office hours, or adjustments to her schedule to accommodate the needs of ministry. Drop-in visits are always welcome, but if you are planning a visit and want to be sure she is available, it is best to check with her beforehand.

Whenever possible, we encourage everyone to communicate with Pastor Emily during her regular workweek, Monday through Thursday. Phone calls and text messages during the workday are welcome, and email is especially helpful for matters that arise outside of regular work hours or for issues that require more detail or thoughtful consideration. Email allows her to respond when she is back at work and has the time and space to give the matter her attention. Ministry is a deeply rewarding calling, but it is also a demanding one. Being mindful of when and how we reach out is a small but meaningful way we can support our pastor and help her maintain a healthy balance between work and personal life.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of kindness, grace, and consideration in all our interactions. In a church community where we know one another well and feel comfortable together, it can sometimes be easy to speak too casually or directly without considering how our words might be received. Even when our intentions are good, our words can have an unintended impact. We never truly know what someone else may be carrying, facing, or working through. A little patience, a thoughtful word, or a moment of grace can make a greater difference than we realize. As Colossians 4:6 reminds us, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt…" May we strive to make our church a place where everyone—staff and congregation alike—feels respected, supported, and cared for.

Thank you for helping us foster a culture of mutual respect, compassion, and encouragement as we continue to serve and grow together in faith.

From the Deacons

SALUTATIONS AND WELCOME TO CHANGING OUR CLOCKS - TO LOSING DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!

We are always getting used to something it seems. Now, it's setting our clocks back one hour and teaching our body clocks to either try a new bedtime or try to wake up differently. Is there no end to all the adjusting, adapting, retraining, recalculating, reorganizing, reshaping, and changing we must do? Apparently not! We change our minds, we change a tire, we change the menu, we change a paint color, we change the furniture, we change direction, we change clothes, we change our diet, we change schools, we change the date, we change the channel, we change _____- fill in the blank for yourself. Change, then, is a constant!

So - what are we to do about this? Roll with it. Be flexible. Embrace change. Chill. Lighten up.

These are the things people tell us - but what if we just can't? What do we do when it is simply too much? If you're expecting to get the perfect answer here and now, you're not.

But we do have choices. Some changes we initiate ourselves; some are foisted upon us. The secret in managing change becomes first deciding if the change is one of our own making or not. That information is helpful in and of itself. For example, when we vote in elections, we have an opportunity to effect change in our leaders. Once the results are in, we look at what took place and assess how much of a change that creates for us individually, and in community with our peers and neighbors. If we lose one thing, do we gain something different? How can we reconcile the losing with the gaining? We may have to sit down and consider how a loss can be a gain; how we can turn that loss into something positive that works for us.

In Isaiah 43: 18-19 we read "*Forget the former things; do not dwell in the past. See, I am doing a new thing, now it springs up.*" Ahhh, there it is. We do our best to go forward with what is now before us. If it is a time change, we do what we can to adapt to the light and darkness and find peace with what that means for us. We are strong, we are courageous, we are good, we can do this! And one of my favorites . . . Philippians 4:13 "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*"

Submitted by Deacon Annie Leonard

HOW TO GIVE ONLINE

WINNCHURCH.ORG

CLICK THE LINK ABOVE
THEN CLICK "GIVE NOW"



SEPTEMBER 2026

TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	$	7,745.35
TOTAL EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	$	8,895.40
LOSS	$	1,150.05
YTD LOSS	$	16,706.74
Reconciled Bank Balance 9/30/2026	$	13,605.58

*The 2027 weekly envelopes have been received and placed in your church mailboxes. Please pick them up the next time you are in church. Thank you.

Visit our website often to get access to past sermons, musical selections from the Harmons, and stay up to date with our church calendar. Click the button below to be taken to our website. Click the "Online Giving" button to be automatically directed to the Online Giving page.

FPC WEBSITE

ONLINE GIVING

If you don't want to worship in person, please join us in live worship every Sunday, streamed from our Facebook page at 9:00am. FPC of Winneconne regularly posts pictures, videos, church information, and events on our page. Please "like" our Facebook page for updates.

FPC FACEBOOK

YouTube gives you access to all of the videos we have produced. Here you can find past worship services and musical selections from the Harmons. Missed our live Sunday Service? Recordings are posted for viewing following the service on our YouTube Channel.

FPC YOUTUBE

Various church-related meetings, special gatherings, and Bible Study will be held via Zoom. Links will be provided in our weekly email as scheduled.