

The Bridge

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8:30 AM

SUNDAY SERVICE

Service is streamed live on Facebook. A recording of the stream will be made available on YouTube following the service.

9:30 AM

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour and Fellowship will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following service. Join us for coffee, snacks, and conversation.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Every once in a while, I come across a reading from the lectionary that has so many important themes I simply cannot cover them all in one sermon, and I find myself thinking and rethinking about it long after the sermon has been written, delivered, and filed away on my shelves.

This is very much true of one of the readings we considered together only a few weeks ago, namely, Jesus' encounter with and subsequent healing of ten men with a skin disease (Luke 17:11-19). Now, as you may recall, we focused our attention on what Jesus did. He saw the men from afar and sent them off to be examined by the priests, and they, of course, were healed as they went. Then, when the one man—a Samaritan man—turned back, Jesus ultimately offered to him the gift of salvation. It is without a doubt an important story about Jesus' engagement with someone living on the margins of society, and it challenges us to consider the people who live on the margins today and our treatment of them.

But, after writing that sermon, I found that I was not only inspired by the love and mercy Jesus embodied, but by the faithful actions of the Samaritan man himself. You see, the Samaritan man could have done what the other nine did. He could have run off to show himself to the priests, and he would have been healed. Indeed, that would have been the obedient thing to do! And yet, he chose to go beyond simple obedience and respond to God's work in his life with all the praise and thanksgiving he could muster. Scripture tells us that while the others went off to the priests, he turned back, praising God with a loud voice, and throwing himself down at Jesus' feet, he gave him thanks.

Now, upon initial inspection, this story from Jesus' life seems relatively simple and straightforward. But I suspect we are actually getting something of a preview here. After all, the same Greek verb (*eucharisteō*) used here to describe the Samaritan man's act of giving thanks is also used later in the Gospel of Luke to describe Jesus' own action at the supper table on the night of his arrest. There, Jesus gives thanks over the bread, breaks it, and distributes it to his disciples, inviting them (and ultimately us) to not only take the bread and eat it, but to do it all in remembrance of him.

You see, as followers of Jesus, we are invited into a life of thanksgiving, and just as the Samaritan man responded with praise and thanksgiving to Jesus' work in his life, we can respond to God's work in our lives and in the world around us through Jesus not only once a year on Thanksgiving Day, but each and every day that we are given.

May God's grace and peace be with you to strengthen you this holiday season!

Rev. Emily



"Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

– Luke 22:19

November

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

SPECIAL NOTE: You can purchase tickets for John's Bday Celebration at: thegrandoshkosh.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:30 am - 2 Rememberance Sunday Worship with communion	11:00 am - 3 Memorial Service for Rich Balfanz followed by luncheon and visitation	12:00 pm - 4 Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study	5 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	6 4 pm - 7 pm - Chili Supper	7	8
8:30 am - 9 Worship 9:15 am - Congregation Meeting 9:30 am - Fellowship and meeting	10	12:00 pm - 11 Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study 6:15 pm - Session Meeting	12 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15
8:30 am - 16 Worship 9:30 am - Book Discussion: "Always With Us?"	17	12:00 pm - 18 Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study	19 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	20 10:30 am - 2 pm Retired Teacher Association Dinner in Fellowship Hall	21	10 am - 2 pm 22 Thrift and Gift 7:00 pm - John Harmon's 90 th Birthday Celebration @ The Grand in Oshkosh
8:30 am - 23 Worship w/out choir	24	12:00 pm - 25 Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study	26 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	27 Thanksgiving Day!	28	10:00 am - 29 Decorating the church for Advent and Christmas
8:30 am - 30 First Sunday in Advent worship	1	2	3	4	5	6



SESSION MEMBERS & MINISTRY TEAMS SESSION

N HALL PERSONNEL

JASON HARMON

**BUILDING,
GROUNDS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND MISSION &
OUTREACH**

MELISSA HARMON

DEACON LIASON

JESSICA HARRISON

TREASURER

BETTE HOYTINK

CLERK

ROGER HOYTINK

**BUILDING,
GROUNDS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

KRISTINA MOSLEY

MISSION & OUTREACH

MARILYN PAULSON

WORSHIP/FAITH FORMATION

DEACONS/MEMBER CARE

KAREN ANGELL

PEGGY BALFANZ

DEB BARTELT

SANDRA BUSER

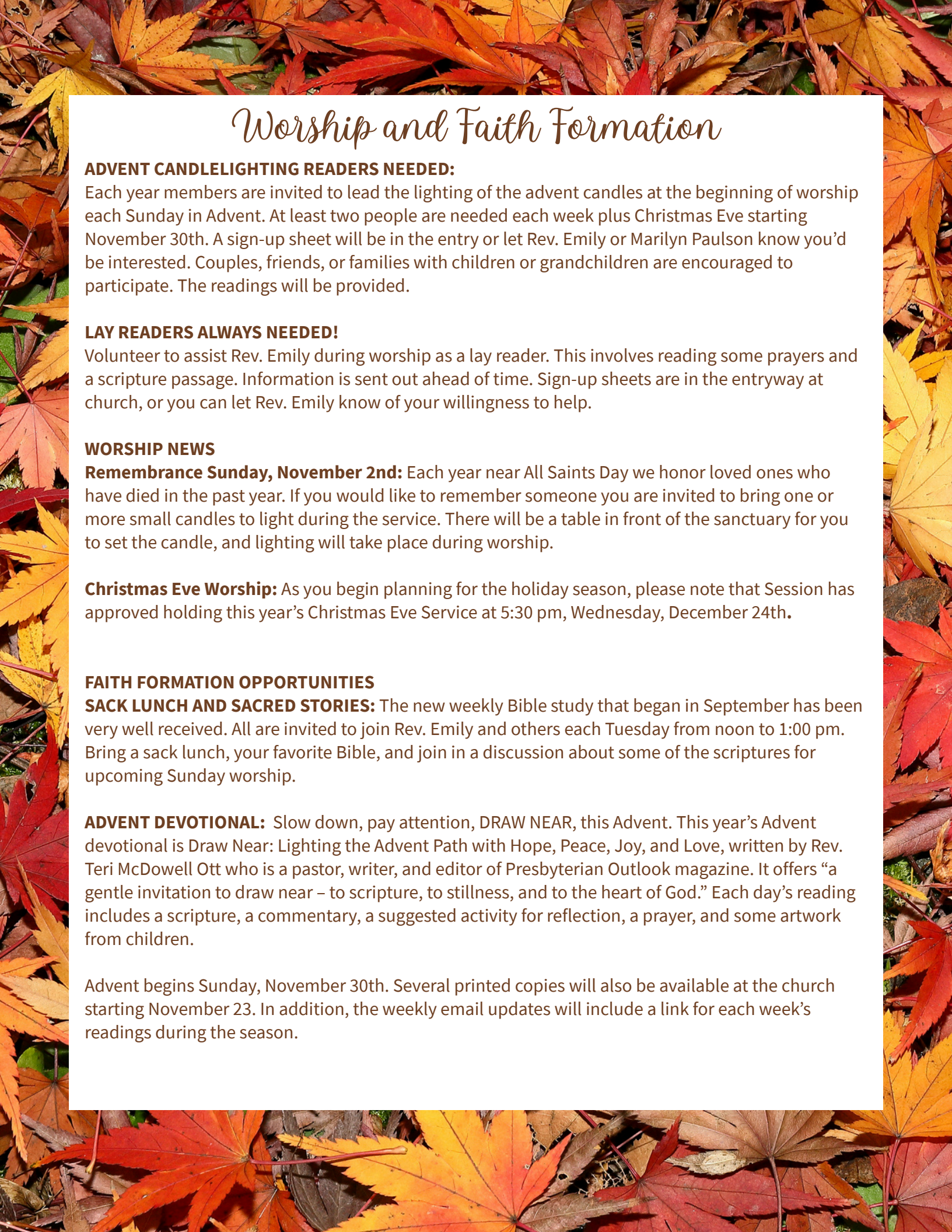
ANNIE LEONARD

ROXY SCHULTZ

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The session met on October 14th and did the following:

- Approved the membership transfer for Gina Struensee from Grace Presbyterian Church in Beaver Dam to First Presbyterian Church of Winneconne.
- Approved the request from Barbara Zimmerman to reactivate her membership with the church.
- Approved a request from Annie Leonard to use the Fellowship Hall on November 30th from 10:30-2:00.
- Heard a report from Rev. Emily on the recent meeting of Winnebago Presbytery.
- Approved the purchase of a replacement desk-top computer for the pastor's office. This is necessary due to age of the current PC (13 years) and the fact that it is incompatible with Windows 11.
- Approved the date of November 9th for a congregational meeting at the close of worship for the purpose of electing new Ruling Elders and Deacons and approving the 2026 Terms of Call for Rev. Emily.
- Heard a report regarding the completion of performance reviews for all part-time staff.
- Reviewed the second draft of the Safe Sanctuary Policy and voted approval with two wording changes to specify that civil authorities will be notified in the event of an incident.
- Approved the time of 5:30 PM for the Christmas Eve worship service.
- Received information regarding two cemetery plots gifted anonymously to the church in 2004 and voted to sell the two plots for a total of \$2,000. Members and friends of the congregation will be given first opportunity to purchase until November 15th, at which time the opportunity will be offered to the public.
- Voted to approve a rent increase for Bible Baptist Church effective January 1, 2026 with a two-year guarantee on the increased rate.
- Agreed by consensus that the per capita rate for 2026 will be \$41 per member.



Worship and Faith Formation

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING READERS NEEDED:

Each year members are invited to lead the lighting of the advent candles at the beginning of worship each Sunday in Advent. At least two people are needed each week plus Christmas Eve starting November 30th. A sign-up sheet will be in the entry or let Rev. Emily or Marilyn Paulson know you'd be interested. Couples, friends, or families with children or grandchildren are encouraged to participate. The readings will be provided.

LAY READERS ALWAYS NEEDED!

Volunteer to assist Rev. Emily during worship as a lay reader. This involves reading some prayers and a scripture passage. Information is sent out ahead of time. Sign-up sheets are in the entryway at church, or you can let Rev. Emily know of your willingness to help.

WORSHIP NEWS

Remembrance Sunday, November 2nd: Each year near All Saints Day we honor loved ones who have died in the past year. If you would like to remember someone you are invited to bring one or more small candles to light during the service. There will be a table in front of the sanctuary for you to set the candle, and lighting will take place during worship.

Christmas Eve Worship: As you begin planning for the holiday season, please note that Session has approved holding this year's Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 pm, Wednesday, December 24th.

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

SACK LUNCH AND SACRED STORIES: The new weekly Bible study that began in September has been very well received. All are invited to join Rev. Emily and others each Tuesday from noon to 1:00 pm. Bring a sack lunch, your favorite Bible, and join in a discussion about some of the scriptures for upcoming Sunday worship.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: Slow down, pay attention, DRAW NEAR, this Advent. This year's Advent devotional is Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, written by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott who is a pastor, writer, and editor of Presbyterian Outlook magazine. It offers "a gentle invitation to draw near – to scripture, to stillness, and to the heart of God." Each day's reading includes a scripture, a commentary, a suggested activity for reflection, a prayer, and some artwork from children.

Advent begins Sunday, November 30th. Several printed copies will also be available at the church starting November 23. In addition, the weekly email updates will include a link for each week's readings during the season.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
ANNUAL FPC WINNECONNE

Chili Supper



Thursday,
November 6th,
2025
from 4-7 pm

Sign-ups for
bringing items will
be in the entry.

-Mission and Outreach-



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering is held during the Advent and Christmas season, starting November 30th through December 21st.

Each year through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers, and their families who have faithfully guided and led us, but who now find themselves in critical financial need.

50% of the Christmas joy offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical financial assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.

We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

50% of the Christmas Joy offering supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to provide education and leadership development.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future.

Please give generously. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot

-Your Mission and Outreach Team



Thank you for
your support of the
Christmas Joy Offering.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 21

As one of the ideas from our Vines and Visions Meeting, I thought it would be fun to add a monthly recipe to the Bridge. I know we have many wonderful bakers among our congregation and I hope you will share your recipes with all of us.

I'm happy to start this new endeavor, and share a recipe for the month of November.

-Kristina

This month's recipe is courtesy of Kristina's mother-in-law, Doris Moseley from Nashville, TN.



Sweet Potato Casserole

Filling:

- 3 C mashed sweet potatoes
- 1 C sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ C butter melted
- $\frac{1}{3}$ C milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla

Topping:

- 1 C brown sugar
- 1 C chopped pecans
- $\frac{1}{2}$ C flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ C butter melted



Mix filling ingredients together until blended to a smooth consistency.

Pour into greased 9x9 pan.

Mix topping ingredients, crumble over top of filling.

Bake at 350 for 45 minutes.



HOW TO GIVE ONLINE
WINNCHURCH.ORG

CLICK THE LINK ABOVE
THEN CLICK "GIVE NOW"



SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPT TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$ 8,097.65
SEPT TOTAL EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$ 7,610.51
GAIN FOR SEPTEMBER	\$ 487.14
YTD INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$ 65,580.58
YTD EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$ 88,807.21
YTD DEFICIT	\$ 23,226.63

NOTE: While the month looks to be in the black, the payments listed below are not included in the monthly expenses.

The \$1000 local mission expenditure approved in Sept was not paid out.

The 3rd quarter mission expenditure was not paid out. This amount is \$1,718.



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.