

# THE BRIDGE



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## NEW WORSHIP TIMES:

9:00am

In-Person Worship with  
Livestreaming

10-10:30am

Coffee Fellowship Outside  
between Services

10:30am

In-Person Worship



## MINISTRY TEAMS

### SESSION

Dave Norton - Clerk of Session  
Jessica Harrison  
Kristina Mosley  
Barb Biggar- Personnel rep  
Dave Norton - Treasurer  
John Harmon

### WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Rose Mc Curdy  
John Harmon - Session Elder  
Linda Harmon  
Kristina - Session Elder

### MEMBER CARE TEAM

Jessica Harrison - Session Elder  
Anna Malek  
Annie Leonard  
Lonna Norton  
Peggy Thums  
Dawn Schafer  
Deb Bartelt

### EDUCATION TEAM

Jessica Harrison - Session Elder

### MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM

Barb Biggar - Session Elder  
Bette Hoytink  
Char Alecos  
Lorraine Papke  
Marilyn Paulson

### Building Infrastructure and Grounds (BIG)

Jack Wirsch- Session Elder  
Wayne Rudisill  
Roger Hoytink  
Dennis Biggar

### Moderator

Rev. Rose McCurdy

### Presbytery COM Liason

Rev Richard Moore, Honorably Retired

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Things to celebrate since our March Session Meeting:

Barb's new grandson.

The fact that all session members have completed Covid-19 vaccinations.

In person visits and celebrations are now possible.

Our April session meeting was very productive, we voted on a number of important and one very exciting measure (Back to face to face services)

We approved the following:

- ▣ Having an "Outdoor Welcome Back Party" during June.
- ▣ June session meeting to be face to face in fellowship Hall
- ▣ Building use for Tyler and Maddie Prochnow wedding on February 19, 2022.
- ▣ Baptism request for Forest Clint Schafer on April 25, 2021 at 2:00pm.
- ▣ The recommendation from the COVID Task Force to reopen the building starting on May 2, 2021 which includes the following:
  - 2 services, 9:00am and 10:30a
  - 9:00am service will have streaming to Facebook and YouTube
  - Masks will be required, approximately 30 people limit ,
  - every other pew, increased airflow, no singing,
  - increased sanitation, outdoor fellowship between 10:00am and 10:30am (weather permitting)
- ▣ Re-adding Bill Oostra to membership rolls.

# A Church with "No Strings Attached"

Hi, I'm Rev. Christine Kaplunas, and when I'm not guest-writing for Rev. Rosie's Reflections, I serve as the Pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, Iowa. I'm also a classically-trained violinist with a Bachelor of Music degree in performance. I'll tell you a secret about our church though: we love good puns. Choir rehearsal night was always comedy gold.

In Waterloo, the community has a special relationship with the local schools: we are called Partners in Education. When I joined the ministry of Unity, the mission committee was ready to try a new big project with our neighborhood school, Kittrell Elementary. When we met with the Principal, we pitched several ideas, but nothing was sticking. Our community is already very generous. They didn't need afterschool care, mentors, or reading buddies. Then something really strange happened in that meeting.

Two years earlier, I had a dream of starting an afterschool strings program, so I randomly pitched an idea to start this kind of program for their 4th and 5th graders. I still don't know why I did that. The Principle jumped out of her seat and said YES! I had helped run a program like that at the University of Georgia for elementary and middle school students, but I had no idea if we could access resources in Waterloo to set up such a wild idea.

But sometimes the Spirit calls people to do wild things. Long story short, Unity Presbyterian Church set up the "No Strings Attached" program at Kittrell Elementary, in partnership with several community organizations: the school provided the students, the music teacher provided the classroom space and storage, the Waterloo Community Schools provided free stringed instruments (they closed their elementary instrumental program only a few years previous, and they had all these little violins and violas and cellos sitting in storage). The local luthier gave us a discount to fix the instruments. The local Presbytery awarded us \$3000 to start the mission project. So much fell into place in those next weeks, but the name is what defines us, in a way.

How does a church just come into a school and not violate the separation of church and state? How do we work with a majority of student who are either non-practicing or Muslim refugees? What are we teaching, anyway?

We knew that we had an enormously rare opportunity to work directly with students in the school district. No church had done anything like this before. We had to play by the school's rules, and we needed to live our values in a way that respected the faith traditions of so many families who had endured trauma before arriving in Waterloo.

So they call me Mrs. K, even though we are transparent about our church and my role as pastor, as well as my role as Director of the strings program. The members of my congregation became volunteers who checked-in students every class, gave them a healthy snack, then listened to their stories, and became local celebrities to a generation of students in the Liberty Park Neighborhood.

We hired some of the best-qualified string teachers in the Cedar Valley, because we agreed to pay our teachers fairly. We remind students in every class three distinct things: 1. You are loved, 2. You belong, and 3. You can do amazing things, and playing the violin, viola, or cello is just one of those amazing things.

This whole idea is wild, and I have questioned relentlessly every decision in every step of the way. But something strange happened: the church built a relationship with the community for giving a gift without expecting anything in return. Churches have a reputation, you know? We want more butts in pews and more income in the bank and we'll do anything to get it. At least in my city, people expect pastors to be scam artists and churches to be selfish and judgmental. In fact, when I applied for a grant from the Waterloo Community Foundation, the director asked to meet us, because we literally didn't make any sense. Churches don't just do things for people with no expectation that they will give us something back. What sort of creatures are we???

# "No Strings Attached"... Continued

We are Christians who are called to pick up a cross and follow Jesus, without our own glory or honor, without pride or power for ourselves. We are faithful to God alone, and the whirlwind of the Spirit somehow dropped us into this place and this time together to serve God and love neighbor, and I found myself standing in front of 45 children with noise makers.

But then we walked with those students through tough times:

- the boy who kept getting into fights, but really just needed some gentle, stable, compassionate care from our volunteers (he loved the viola enough that we didn't want to hurt his hands, because then he couldn't play!)
- the family who was going through domestic violence and severe mental illness, and finally connected with the social worker and counselor after our volunteers talked with the mom.
- the girl whose father was killed in an accident, who needed a place to express her feelings, a place that made sense.
- the girl who had been bullied by a classmate, who finally found support with her fellow string-players (because they "belonged" to each other finally).

I'll be honest though: the church changed too. Suddenly, we were less worried about money and how much it costs to keep the lights on, and more about how each student was improving in behavior and study. They chuckled about being greeted in every store in town by name by the young people they care about. Mission has not been abstract or distanced. We've been fully involved in every struggle, every grant, every discernment, and now with the hardest part: closure.

The pandemic has done something almost nothing could do: stop us from teaching string students face to face. Some have asked, "why not over zoom?" Many of these students grew up in refugee camps, while others grew up with screens in their faces. Many don't have well-developed fine motor skills. They need someone to physically move them to the right position in order to play these instruments. Many students have different learning styles, and they can't sit in front of a zoom window for more than 4 minutes. The truth is apparent: we are ending our program.

But it's the same Spirit who brings us where we are, and it's the same Spirit who will bring us where we should go next. Church does not look the same now as it did in years past. Our political power wanes, our financial power seems weak, and people wonder if Christianity is even relevant to our current world.

But this is God's world, Christ is still the Head of the Church, and the Holy Spirit is still leading the church in faithful paths. None of these things is compromised by a pandemic. On the other hand, we aren't really left with "no strings attached." Some of those neighboring families are now helping us with our food pantry, as we support families that have been hit hard by unemployment during COVID. I might not be standing in front of a classroom of children with noisemakers right now, but the music of the Holy Spirit sings on.

# Mission & Outreach

The total of \$1141.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing was given by our congregation. This is a great testament to the will of our church to offer help to others in need! Thank you for your support and generosity.

Carson Hall delivered 13 items to WAAC last month. Now that we have reopened the building for worship, please bring your food items and leave them in the grocery cart.

Our church's next offering is the Pentecost Offering, which unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their gifts, faith and ideas with the church and the world. This mission celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Pentecost Offering nurtures the faith of children, youth and young adults, who are the future of our church.

With this offering 40% remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our church and community. Our Mission & Outreach Team has decided to designate this portion of the Offering to The Winneconne Community School District Wellness /Mental Health Fund. We have supported this fund in the past and it seems really appropriate as students emerge from the pandemic year.

Another 25% goes to Youth Adult Volunteer experiences. This portion of the Offering supports YAV serving in communities around the world. It provides funds for retreats, orientation events and counseling to help YAVs discern God's call.

The next 25% supports Ministries with Youth. This ministry is planning for 2022 Presbyterian Youth Triennium and a new endeavor called the Senior Project. This project offers a path and plan for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith, community and vocation.

The next 10% of the Pentecost Offering is devoted to children at-risk. The "Educate a Child, Transform the World" initiative is supported by this Offering. The goal of this initiative is to motivate and inspire Presbyterians to improve the quality of public education.

Please help us build God's house by laying down a strong foundation of faith. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith confirmed during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, our congregation encourages our children, youth and young adults to be the church of tomorrow.

Psalm 71 "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."

Your Mission & Outreach Team – Char Alecos, Bette Hoytink, Lorraine Papke, Marilyn Paulson & Barb Biggar

## WAAC NEEDS

- Kleenex
- Cleaning items
- Deodorant
- Baby diapers size 4-6
- Jelly (any kind but grape)
- Small cans of baked beans
- Juice boxes
- Children's snacks

Money donations are always welcome. It is used to purchase items needed but not donated.

Consider giving powdered milk, as milk is often something needed to prepare box meals, which are often sent. Cake mixes and canned frosting allows families to make birthday cakes! Dish soap and laundry detergent are also necessities that are happily received. And feminine hygiene products are so greatly appreciated they often bring tears.

## Education

The Tuesday Moring Bible study "Coffee with the King" will remain on Zoom for the month of May. We are currently studying Psalms, and will move to the study of the book of revaluation in June, stay tuned!

If you have a book or topic you would like to learn about let us know!

## Worship Team

We are delighted that on Sunday May 2nd we welcomed 44 members and guest to in-person worship! We are still working out some issues around livestreaming, and insuring that our members who wish to remain outside the building have the access they deserve. Please bear with us!

We would like To remind you that Sunday May 23 is Pentecost Sunday. We encourage everyone to wear red, and join us in a Joyous celebration of the Holy Spirit and the formation of the Christian church.

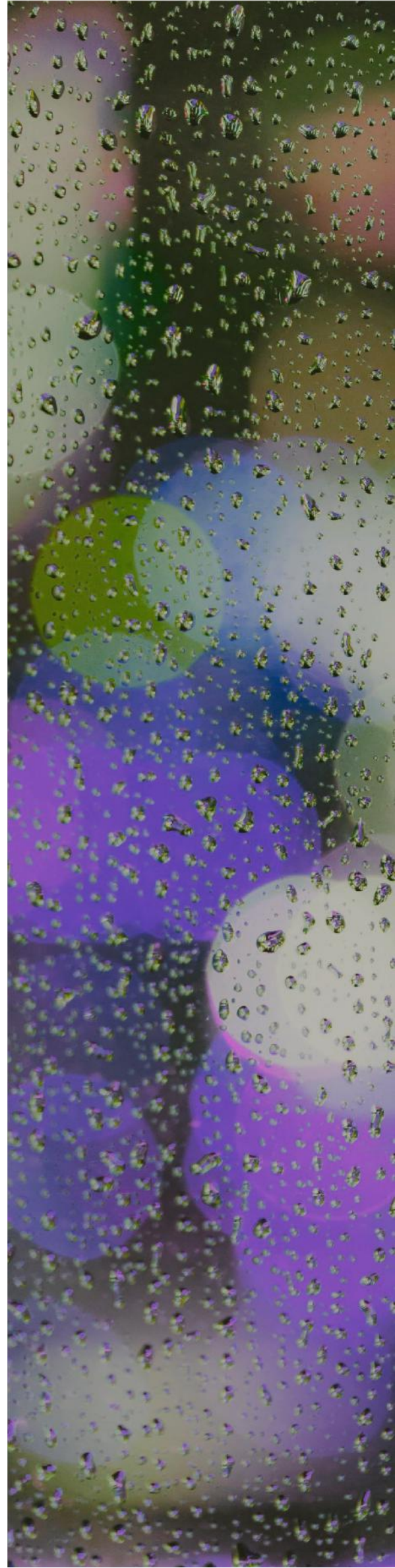
Lastly, we are looking for those of you who are choirs members or have musical gifts you would like to share! We are currently pre-recording our songs, and would love to have you share your musical gifts with us. Please contact John Harmon if you are interested in singing.

## Member Care

April showers bring May flowers, and MAY brings CHURCH-In-Person for everyone at FPC! Your Member Care Team is celebrating being with our people again. Remember you can always reach out to your Deacon if you have a special need or concern. Bounce ideas off of us, share a joy, ask for a hand with a chore, request support in your life where you need it. If you aren't sure who your deacon is, you can find out by calling the church office.

We will have a church garden again this summer, and plans to weed and prepare for planting are already in the works. Annie Leonard and her grandson, Kaden, will be getting started soon, and Marilyn Paulson has some experience with square foot gardens, so she has helpful ideas. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions for what to plant. We intend for these two garden beds to be for everyone! We will be able to share everything that grows with church members. Whether during our fellowship time or any other times, all are welcome to reap the harvest!

Let us hear from you if you have something we need to know so we can continue our ministry. We hope growing new healthy food plants will be a way to continue to SHINE GOD'S LIGHT and SHARE GOD'S LOVE.



# Welcome our new Communications and Media Assistant, Kristen Deadwyler!



"With my skills in communications and media, I hope to share my gifts in a way that spreads God's love and message. Thank you to First Presbyterian for being so welcoming!"

Born in Georgia and raised in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Kristen graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology.

Quickly learning that writing and design were her God-given talents, Kristen returned to school to get an associate's degree in Digital Marketing.

With Kristen's passion for journalism, digital marketing, communications, and a spiritual existence, she strives to contribute to an organization that will improve the state of their community by lending her strengths.

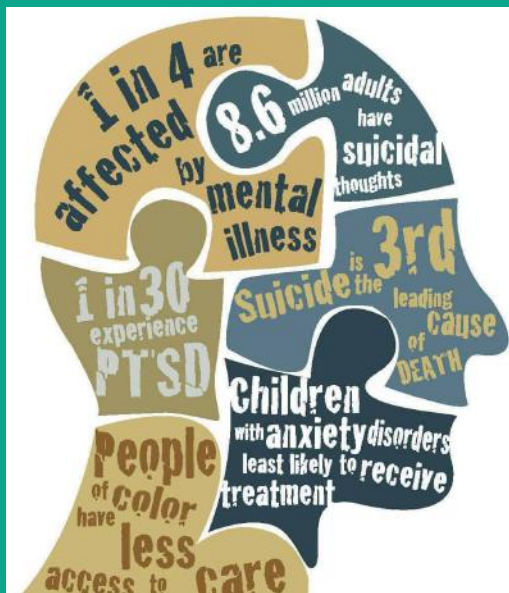
Kristen works multiple jobs as a freelance artist, journalist, writer, and design assistant—all while attending school part-time.

During her free time (if she has any), Kristen loves watching movies, reading the newest best-selling novels, kayaking during the summer, taking morning walks, and painting with acrylic on canvas.

Kristen hopes to connect with every member of the congregation in a meaningful way, and to spread God's love and message with every person she meets. Please feel free to contact Kristen if you're ever in need of a helpful ear.



# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



**1 IN 5 PEOPLE**  
EXPERIENCE A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION

Learn more, share your story and spread the word.  
*You can make a difference.*

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

# Mental Health Checklist

### EVERY DAY I WILL:

- Move my body
- Take a screen-time break
- State 3 things I am grateful for (write down or say aloud)
- Eat fruits and vegetables
- Sleep for 7-9 hours a night

### ONCE EACH WEEK I WILL:

- Connect virtually with a friend or family member
- Plan an outdoor activity, like a picnic, hike or bicycle ride
- Set a new goal, like finishing a work, school or home project
- Claim a win for the week: It can be big or small. Celebrate with a reward or an act of kindness towards yourself!

### ONCE THIS MONTH I WILL:

- Finish reading a book
- Take a 1-day break from all social media and news
- Try a creative activity
- Help someone or complete a community service project

Choose 2 more activities that are personal and meaningful to your mental health:

### REFLECTIONS:

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♥ **MENTAL HEALTH TIP:** Check-in with how you are feeling often! "Labeling your emotions is key. If you can name it, you can tame it." — Marc Brackett, Ph.D., Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence



MakeItOK.org/IOWA



# THE SHARED MINISTRY FUND

How to Give Online

[Winnchurch.org](http://Winnchurch.org)

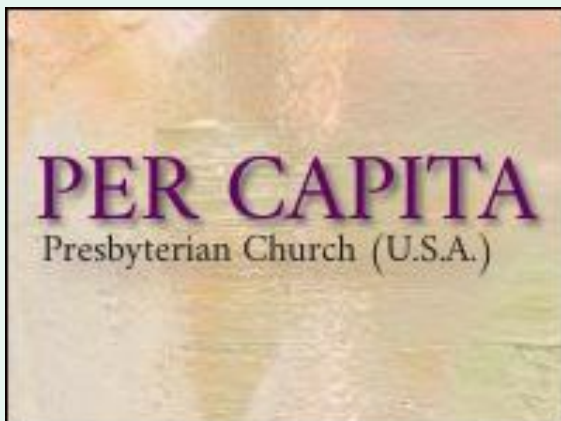
Click on the "[Give Now](#)" Button

We are still accepting your weekly offering envelopes. You may mail your offering to church or donate online, or use the offering plate in worship. If you need help getting started online, you may contact the church office or any Session member and we can walk you through it. Our counters meet every two weeks to make deposits so it may take a bit for your checks to get cashed.

Total Income for March (w/o pass thru) \$11,107.67  
Total Expenses for March (w/o pass thru) \$15,839.35  
Loss for the month \$(4,731.68)

Total Income YTD (w/o pass thru) \$52,197.02  
Total Expense YTD (w/o pass thru) \$36,507.42  
Gain for YTD \$15,689.60

Thrift and Gift income for March was \$490.84



Per Capita income for March was \$222.00  
YTD Per Capita income is \$1,375.00  
We paid \$4,033.00 Per Capita to Presbytery during March

# FPC Website

Visit our website often to get access to past sermons, musical selections from the Harmons, and stay up to date with our church calendar. You can also find the link for online giving.  
[www.WinnChurch.org](http://www.WinnChurch.org)

Online Giving - Click here to be taken directly to the online giving page.

If you don't want to worship in person, you can go to Facebook and participate in a "live" service online. This means you can watch the service online with our members and friends from home. these video's can be accessed later in the week as well.

We continue to post pictures/videos/church information here so "Like us" to get updates or leave a review of our church to promote us.

[www.facebook.com/FPCwinneconne](http://www.facebook.com/FPCwinneconne)

# You Tube

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.

[www.youtube.com/FPCWinneconne](http://www.youtube.com/FPCWinneconne)

Our Bible study, and meetings can be accessed via ZOOM. Click the link to stay connected.

Join Zoom

Meeting<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76023091426>

Meeting ID: 760 2309 1426

# Connect with ZOOM

# May

THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR OF FPC

*Be in the know*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <b>-Communion-</b> 9:00 Livestream and in-person worship 10-10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 In-person worship	3	4 8:30a Coffee with the King	5	6	7	8
9 <b>-Mother's Day-</b> 9:00a Livestream and in-person worship 10-10:30a Coffee Hour 10:30a In-person worship 11:30a Member Care Mtg (in-person)	10 6:15p Session Mtg	11 8:30a Coffee with the King	12	13	14	15
16 9:00a Livestream and in-person worship 10-10:30a Coffee Hour 10:30a In-person worship	17	18 8:30a Coffee with the King	19	20	21	22 10a-2p Thrift and Gift
23 <b>-Pennecost-</b> 9:00 Livestream and in-person worship 10-10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 In-person worship	24	25 8:30a Coffee with the King	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 Livestream and in-person worship 10-10:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 In-person worship	31					

Please Note: All meetings are assumed to be electronic until further notice

First Presbyterian Church

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Contact us at 920-706-0047 [www.winnchurch.org](http://www.winnchurch.org)