

# THE BRIDGE

SUMMER 2023

## CONTENTS

---

The Bridge	page 1
Session Highlights	page 2
May Worship	page 3
Member Care	page 4
PNC Update	page 5
Faith Formation	page 6
Shared Ministry Fund	page 7
Tech & Media	page 8
Calendar	page 9

9:00  
AM

## SUNDAY SERVICE

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

10:00  
AM

## COFFEE HOUR

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

# Summer 2023

## SESSION MEMBERS & MINISTRY TEAMS

### SESSION

Lisa Baltes  
-Faith Formation  
and Co-Clerk

N Hall  
-Personnel and  
Mission/Outreach

Melissa Harmon  
-Mission/Outreach  
and Liaison to  
Deacons/Member Care  
Team

Bette Hoytink  
-Co-Clerk

Roger Hoytink  
-Building, Grounds and  
Infrastructure

Marilyn Paulson  
-Worship/Faith Formation

David Struensee  
-Building, Grounds and  
Infrastructure

### TREASURER

Jessica Harrison

### DEACONS/MEMBER CARE TEAM

Karen Angell  
Deb Bartelt  
Peggy Balfanz  
Annie Leonard  
Anna Malek  
Lonna Norton

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### The Session met on May 9th

- Approved the purchase of fifty new folding chairs from KI in Green Bay. The chairs will have vinyl padded seats and backs. The broken chairs were donated to the recent "Scrap for Trap" collection of scrap metal by the high school trap team.
- Received a report from the Personnel Team that Shonda Messerschmidt will fill the role of Media and Communications Coordinator. She is currently employed as a secretary in the Oshkosh School System. She will be in the office four hours per week during the summer and then will work primarily remotely during the school year. She will begin her training on our applications on June 6th. Special thanks to those who have stepped up to cover the tasks of this position during the month of May.
- Personnel also reported that organist, Linda Harmon, will be on vacation June 4th, June 11th, and August 20th. A substitute pianist has been scheduled.

# June Worship Leadership

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pulpit Supply</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
June 4	Jessica Harrison, CRE	Karen Angell
June 11	Nancy Siewert, RE	Marilyn Paulson
June 18	Jessica Harrison, CRE	Sue Forbes
June 25	Greg Braatz, CRE	Bette Hoytink

---

## WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

*We are in need of your help this Summer!  
We are looking for liturgist for July and August. Sign up sheets are in the Lobby.  
We need an additional person to run the projector on Sundays. Please contact Jessica Harrison about this opportunity*

---

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies wants you to mark your calendars for July 23-28, 2023 for its 69th Synod School!

Registration has begun. Visit the Synod website for more information: [lakesandprairies.org](https://lakesandprairies.org) or pick up a catalogue at church.





# *International Mission Trip*

For approximately the last ten years, the church I belong to in Appleton has been in partnership with an organization in Nicaragua called CEPAD. CEPAD's mission statement is "Providing faith-based training to people in rural Nicaraguan villages through programs of leadership training (which includes pastoral development), sustainable agriculture, economic development and community organization so they can break the cycle of hunger and poverty and support themselves and their families."

In February of 2020, I led a delegation to Nicaragua and CEPAD, that included Nancy Graham. I found it life changing. While we were there, we met women whose lives had been changed through the help of CEPAD. We met a woman who before working with CEPAD whose family often went hungry, but after working with CEPAD to learn organic farming practices, her family was not only fed, but she now sells her surplus in the market to support her family. We met a group of women who learned to be community organizers. Before CEPAD training, they were frustrated that their efforts in working with the government seldom generated any results. After training from CEPAD, they have effectively learned how to bring resources to their communities. We saw playgrounds, community centers, better wells and increased sanitation because of the training supplied by CEPAD.

If you want to learn more about CEPAD here is a link to their website [CEPAD Link](#). Also, after our trip I led a worship that was a report back to the congregation. That service can be seen here - [Nic Mission Trip Worship Service](#).

The Appleton group is in the early stages of planning our trip. What we do know is that it will be sometime in February next year for about a week. The trip will focus on education and while we will spend some time in the capital of Managua most of our time will be in the mountain province of Matagalpa.

If any of this sounds at all intriguing, please contact me ([gabraatz11@gmail.com](mailto:gabraatz11@gmail.com)) for more information. As I said, for me the last trip was life changing. It changed what I understood about life in third world countries (which is very different from what you see on the news), it strengthened my belief in the dignity of people, it reinforced the idea that we are all more alike than different and it changed how I thought about international church mission work.

Thank you and I very sincerely hope you will consider joining us!

Greg Braatz

# AN UPDATE FROM THE PNC

---

It is with a sense of anticipation and hope that the Session is announcing on Sunday June 4th that we have begun the process of searching for a full time pastor with our brothers and sisters at First Presbyterian Church of Weyauwega.

Weyauwega has been searching for over two years and Winneconne has been searching for over one year....both without extending a call or contract.

The two Sessions met on May 22 and agreed to move forward as two distinct congregations who wish to be served by one full time pastor.

Many details have yet to be defined, but a small subgroup will be meeting to work on those details. We will keep the congregations informed as we move forward.

We ask for your continued patience and prayers as we take this new step.

# FAITH FORMATION

## SUMMER SUNDAY PSALMS

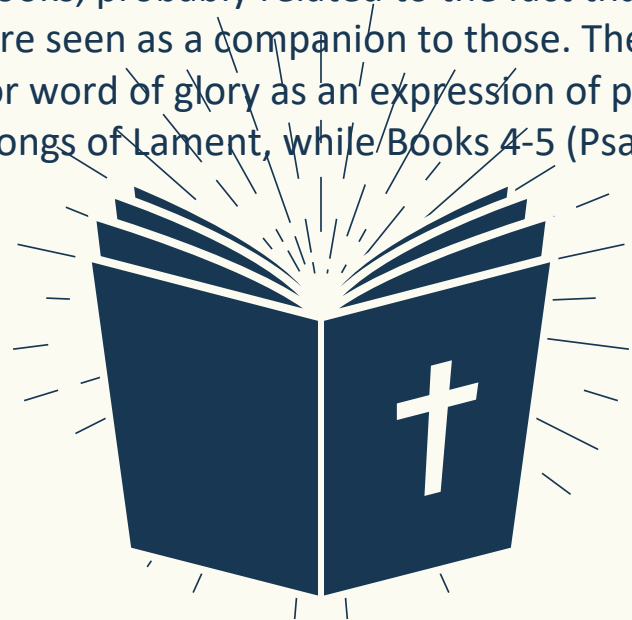
Our series on highlighting the Psalms during the summer will begin on June 4. Thank you to those who shared requests for favorites! They include Psalms 1, 23, 25, 39, 42, 104, 121, and 150. Our pulpit supply preachers will select from these and other favorites on which to focus their summer preaching. Stay tuned!

When the Disciples were with Jesus they asked, “Lord, teach us how to pray.” We also that Jesus used quotes from the Psalms more than any other OT scripture (for example, from the cross, Psalm 22). The book of Psalms is the only book in the Bible that is actually written to God over a period of nearly 1,000 years. And it is the only Book that is actually written to God.

Through the Psalms, we learn about the importance of prayer and the acknowledgment of pain, as well as the power of praise and fulfillment of prophecy. This book has been designed as a prayer book for God's people as they wait for the fulfillment of God's promises.

The major categories in the book of Psalms are Thanksgiving, Lament, Praise, Trust, and Royal Psalms (referring to the King of Israel). Psalms elicit a variety of emotions: fear, anger, praise, gratitude, joy and despair. Psalms make it ok for us to be real with God.

The Book of Psalms is a collection of five books, probably related to the fact that there are five books of the Law and the Psalms are seen as a companion to those. The 150 Psalms each end with a brief “doxology”, or word of glory as an expression of praise. Books 1-3 (Psalms 1-89) tend to be more songs of Lament, while Books 4-5 (Psalms 90-150) contain more songs of praise.





# SHARED MINISTRY FUND

## FOR APRIL 2023

<b>TOTAL INCOME (without pass thru)</b>	<b>\$6,088.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES (without pass thru)</b>	<b><u>\$5,972.01</u></b>
<b>LOSS FOR MARCH</b>	<b>\$ 115.99</b>
<b>YTD INCOME (without pass thru)</b>	<b>\$28,131.24</b>
<b>YTD EXPENSES (without pass thru)</b>	<b><u>\$36,090.56</u></b>
<b>YTD LOSS</b>	<b>\$ 7,959.32</b>



**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. Click the button below to be taken to our website. Click the "Online Giving" button to be automatically directed to the Online Giving page.

[OUR 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.