

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!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I sat down to plan out this newsletter article, I was deeply saddened to hear about the death of country music superstar, Dolly Parton. From “I Will Always Love You” to “Just Because I’m a Woman,” many of her songs were and continue to be impactful and inspiring across the generations. So, too, is the legacy of giving she leaves behind. Between her Imagination Library, which provides books to children from birth to age 5 regardless of family income, and her financial support of important causes like medical research and disaster relief, she used her platform to make a difference, and a difference she did make. And yet, I suspect Dolly Parton made an even bigger impact that often goes unnoticed . . .

Almost a year ago now, my parents and I had the opportunity to visit Sevier County, the birthplace of Dolly Parton and the home of Dollywood Parks and Resorts. And so, while we were ultimately there for a family wedding, we knew that we needed to check it out.

We finally got to Dollywood on the Sunday before our trip ended, and the theme park was everything you would want it to be. There were rollercoasters and water rides. There was a candy shop, and there were dinner shows. There was an express train that took us through the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, and there was even a 25-pound apple pie available for purchase at the bakery. Anything you would expect to find at a theme park, Dollywood has.

The best part for us, though, was something you wouldn’t expect to find. Nestled among the restaurants and the shops filled with knickknacks, there is a chapel called the Robert F. Thomas Chapel. Named after the local physician and minister who delivered Dolly back in 1946, worship is still held there on a weekly basis. Indeed, my parents and I got to participate in it firsthand.

Built as a replica of the Appalachian mountain churches of the 1800s, the chapel is small and simple with its white exterior, creaky wooden floors and pews, quilted wall hangings, and small stained-glass windows. And yet, something special happens there at 11:30 on Sunday mornings. Men, women, and children from all walks of life come and worship God together. Hymns are sung. Scriptures are read. A message is delivered. The peace is passed among strangers and friends.

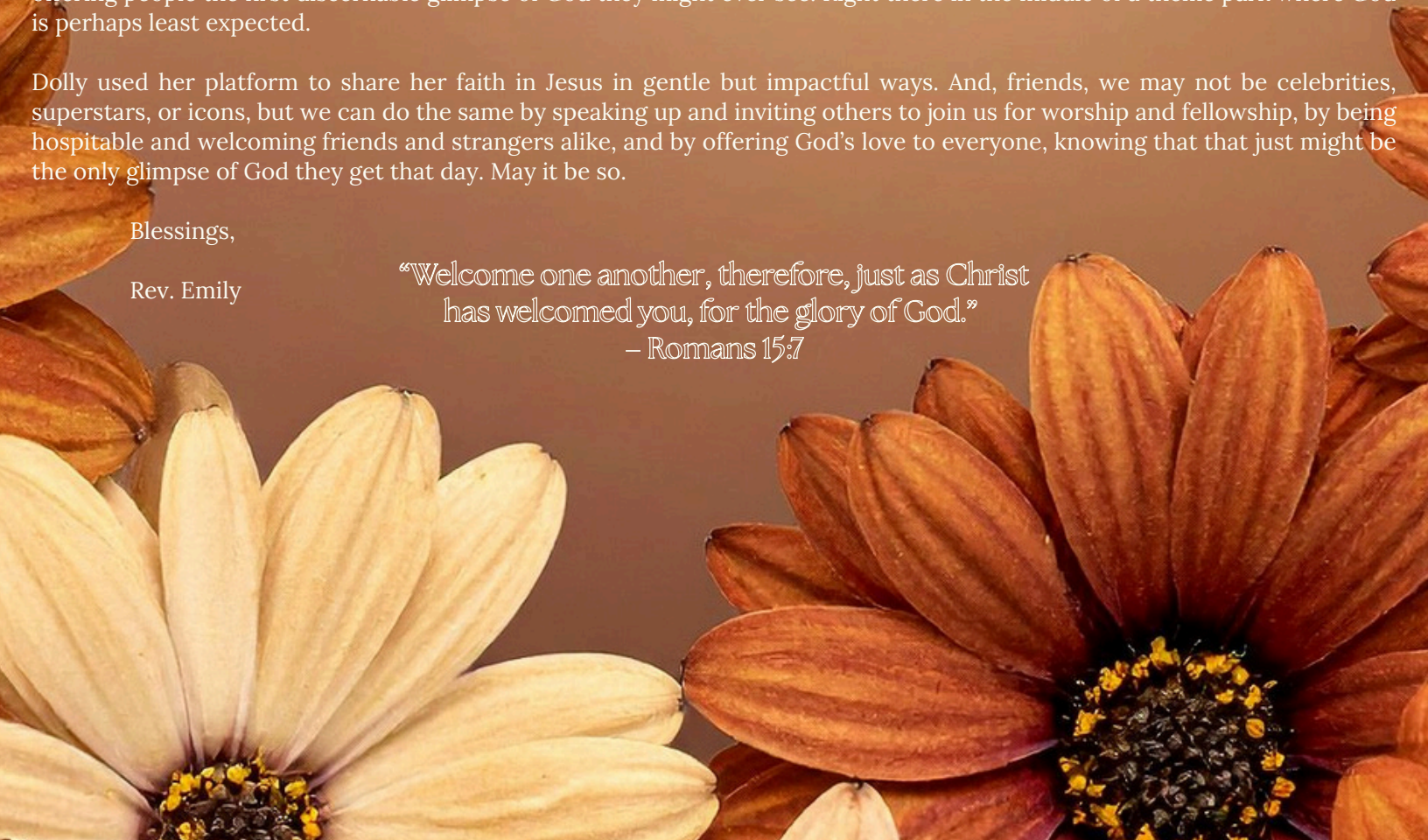
My parents and I had arrived to the chapel early. And so, we watched as the pews filled up with God’s beloved. Then it hit me. While most of the people in the pews probably attend church somewhere every week, there were probably also people who hadn’t come to church in a very long time, if ever. By keeping the chapel doors open and welcoming anyone and everyone inside, Dolly Parton was potentially offering people the only invitation to worship they might ever receive. She was potentially offering people the first discernable glimpse of God they might ever see. Right there in the middle of a theme park where God is perhaps least expected.

Dolly used her platform to share her faith in Jesus in gentle but impactful ways. And, friends, we may not be celebrities, superstars, or icons, but we can do the same by speaking up and inviting others to join us for worship and fellowship, by being hospitable and welcoming friends and strangers alike, and by offering God’s love to everyone, knowing that that just might be the only glimpse of God they get that day. May it be so.

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ
has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
– Romans 15:7



September

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
8:30 am - Worship with Communion	7	8	9 5:15-6:45pm - Food, Faith, and Fellowship 6:45pm - Choir Practice Returns	10	11	12
8:30 am - Worship - 9:30am - Fellowship hosted by Deacons & Member Care	14	15 6:15 pm - Session Meeting	16 6:45 pm - Choir Practice	17	18	19
8:30 am - Worship	21	22 12:00 pm - Sack Lunches and Sacred Stories returns!	23 6:45 pm - Choir Practice	24	25	26 10 am - 2 pm Thrift and Gift
8:30 am - Worship	28 6:30-8:00 pm - Wise as a Serpent 2.0 @ Winneconne Christian Fellowship	29 12:00 pm - Sack Lunches and Sacred Stories	30 6:45 pm - Choir Practice	1	2	3



Session Highlights

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 met on Tuesday evening, August 18th, 2026

Communion celebrated on August 2nd with Rev. Emily presiding

Clerk submitted the following reports to Presbytery:

- Proof of Insurance
- Loan information (our church does not have any loans)

Completed Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions Annual Filing.

Session passed a motion to meet on a bi-monthly basis rather than monthly. Since our by-laws allow conducting business on-line, it was decided that any urgent business would be handled via electronic communication. Session will meet in September and November in 2026.

Joint worship and fellowship with Weyauwega held on August 02. Very positive feedback from members of both congregations.

Session approved building requests from Annie Leonard and the Winnebago County Educators Association to use the fellowship hall on:

- Thursday, Oct 15 from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Thursday, Nov 19 from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Worship Team

We are excited to announce that the Chancel Choir will resume our weekly practices on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:45 PM. The first choir anthem will be performed during the service on September 20th.



Mission and Outreach Team

Back to School Fair: Donations to the Winneconne Back to School Fair this August totaled \$439. Thank you for your generosity and supporting the children in our community.

Tornado Relief: During the joint congregational service on August 2nd, our congregations raised \$504 for the local tornado relief efforts.

PC USA Special Offerings: The World Communion Offering (traditionally received on World Communion Sunday) will run from September 6th through October 4th, 2026. All of God's people gather around the Communion Table to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This special offering is designed to cultivate reconciliation and experience grace by supporting ministries both locally and globally.

More information will be shared in our weekly emails and in church on Sundays this month.



Community Garden: one of the ideas proposed in our Vines and Vision meeting was a community garden. We have received permission to establish raised garden beds at the Winneconne Area Assistance Center on 3rd Street. We are applying for a PC USA grant to purchase the raised beds, soil, seeds, and plaques, with planting to begin next spring.

Fall Fest: First Presbyterian Church will host a booth at the Winneconne Fall Fest on October 3rd from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The booth will feature an interactive game with promotional prizes as a way to reach out to our community.

Kristina Mosley & Robbie Mosley

Mission and Outreach Team



. . . Salutations from the Deacons . . .

The Member Care Team is in the process of scheduling visits to individuals who wish to have Communion delivered to them in their home or residence. This can include any members who typically receive the sacrament in person at church but who for some reason cannot do that so would like to have a personal visit and receive it in their home. Persons need only call and ask for a visit and we will arrange to serve them at home.

Our mission to share God's love and shine God's light has taken us to giving some financial support for the memorial for the two girls who lost their lives to a violent domestic event recently in our peaceful little village by the river. As sadness and questions ripple through our community, and people try to make sense of something that bears no understanding, we have contributed through our Agape fund to remind people that we believe in radical hospitality and we care.

We are reminded every week when we gather in church that we cannot fix many aspects of what is taking place in the world at large, even in our country, but each in our own way can do what we best know how to do right here at home. Whether sending a card to cheer someone, taking flowers or home grown vegetables to share with co-workers, driving someone to an appointment or event, giving time to visit or just listen to someone who needs companionship, all of these and more are ways we can give our "service in the world" close to home. Take a moment to reflect on what you can do, and God bless you and may the doing bring you joy.

Thank you for the many who shared ideas during our Visions, Vines, and Voices gathering. It is a joy to see the results of one of the ideas that became a reality and we now have a beautiful and more importantly, safe, carpet installed in our sanctuary. Thanks and gratitude for all those who helped to remove pews for the project to be done and then return them to their positions. When many hands join in, the labor effort seems much easier. Our church family is generous with their time, their assets, and their talents and we appreciate everyone.

Watch for more about "Food, Faith, and Fellowship" starting up again this September.

Watch for more about another "Pet Blessing" on Saturday, October 10th.

Sign up or just decide to host fellowship after church anytime this fall - and thank you!

Wise as Serpents 2.0: Staying One Step Ahead of Scammers

Hosted by Winneconne Christian Fellowship

Following the tremendous response to our first Wise as Serpents event earlier this year, we are excited to continue the conversation with Wise as Serpents 2.0!

Our first gathering was well attended, including a wonderful showing from our friends at Winneconne Christian Fellowship. We are grateful for the interest and enthusiasm our congregations showed in coming together to learn how we can better protect ourselves, our families, and our communities from scams and fraud. This time our friends at Winneconne Christian Fellowship have agreed to host and we're doing a deeper dive into the topic.

Wise as Serpents 2.0 will take a more detailed, practical look at some of the most common scams people encounter today. The goal is not only to recognize a scam when we see one, but to understand how to identify, mitigate, and report suspicious activity.

We'll focus on several types of scams that can affect anyone, including:

- Imposter scams — when someone pretends to be a trusted person, business, government agency, church, or organization.
- Social media scams — fraudulent accounts, messages, offers, and requests designed to gain your trust or personal information.
- Text message scams — deceptive texts that may ask you to click a link, provide information, send money, or take immediate action.
- Phishing and vishing scams — fraudulent emails, websites, and phone calls designed to trick you into revealing sensitive information.

This event is designed to be practical and useful for everyone. Whether you are comfortable navigating technology or sometimes find yourself wondering, "Is this message legitimate?", there is something for you to take away.

Join Us!

What: Wise as Serpents 2.0

When: September 28th

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Where: **WINNECONNE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
313 N 9TH AVE., WINNECONNE WI 54956

Please note that a full meal will not be served, but we will have light refreshments, finger foods, and desserts. Everyone is welcome to bring a dessert or appetizer to share! Winneconne Christian Fellowship will provide the beverages.

Most importantly, we hope you'll join us—not only to learn valuable information that could help protect you and your loved ones, but also to continue building the strong ecumenical relationship that began with our first Wise as Serpents gathering. The strong attendance at our first event demonstrated that this is a topic our communities care about. Let's keep that momentum going!

Bring a friend. Bring a family member. Bring your questions. And, if you can, bring a snack or dessert to share.

Food, Faith & Fellowship Is Back!

The table is set, and we're ready to gather again! **Food, Faith & Fellowship** returns this month for an evening of good food, good conversation, and an opportunity to connect with one another around a faith-centered topic.

Whether you've joined us before or this will be your first time, come as you are and enjoy a relaxed evening of **food, fellowship, and meaningful conversation**.

When: Wednesday, September 9, from 5:15–6:45 PM

Where: Fellowship Hall

What's for dinner: The Session will provide sloppy joe sandwiches and buns. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

And mark your calendars—Food, Faith & Fellowship will continue on **October 14** and **November 11**.

Come hungry, bring a dish to share, and enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship!

Policy Update

The Session has worked diligently to review and revise our Safe Church Policy, and we are pleased to make the updated policy available to the congregation.

The policy is intentionally called a "Safe Church Policy" because its purpose extends beyond any one group. It is about creating a physically and emotionally safe environment for all members, guests, visitors, and others who use our church building. It addresses safety throughout our church ministries, programs, and operations, with particular attention to those who may be vulnerable.

Copies of the revised policy are available in the narthex. If you would prefer an electronic copy, please email Pastor Emily and one will be provided.

We encourage everyone to take a few minutes to become familiar with this important part of our commitment to caring for one another.

HOW TO GIVE ONLINE
WINNCHURCH.ORG

CLICK THE LINK ABOVE
THEN CLICK "GIVE NOW"



JULY 2026

TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$	8,310.74
TOTAL EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$	12,995.40
LOSS	\$	4,684.66

YTD LOSS	\$	7,725.84
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Reconciled Bank Balance 7/31/2026	\$	15,957.51
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New Covenant Endowment Balance as of 6/30/26	\$	105,171.52
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Vanguard Money Market Balance as of 6/30/2026	\$	320,371.44
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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.