

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.

October

Dear Friends,

As we enter into the season of fall, I continue to be amazed by the countless ways in which God is revealed to us. With sunrises getting later, I have been blessed to see God's abundant and life-sustaining light as I make my way to work in the mornings. I have also seen God's beloved community in the fall festivals that draw people together from both near and far. And, of course, I have seen God's creativity and God's transformative power on full display in the trees that are slowly beginning to change color and shed their leaves.

In recent weeks, though, I have been noticing God in the more mundane places of life and in the throes of my day-to-day routine, and I want to tell you about the very best place that I have seen God recently. (I suspect some of you will be able to relate!) I caught a glimpse of God in my sometimes sweet, sometimes salty, but always lovable shepherds, Lily and Koda.

Now, we have all heard it said that 'dog' is God spelled backwards because dogs reveal the unconditional love of God to humankind, and there is some truth to that. But, I have to tell you, it is more than that still. For me, Lily and Koda are little embodiments of God's great joy.

I see it in the fall when all the leaves have fallen to the ground. Lily and Koda love to play in the crunchy piles Elvin and I have made, and when we throw the leaves into the sky, they will spring up into the air to try and catch them with their teeth. The same happens in the winter. They are astonished by the snow. And so, they will either propel themselves into the air using only their back legs to try and catch snowflakes or they will dig their snouts into the snowbanks of our backyard before revealing snowy mustaches just below their noses. Without a doubt, the change in seasons is always cause for joy in Lily and Koda's world.

And yet, I witness that same joy through Lily and Koda on the most boring of days, too. When I walk into the house after a day in the church office, Lily's whole body begins to shake as though she is so excited she could just combust, and she will cry and whine until she decides that enough cuddles and kisses have been exchanged. And, all the while, Koda runs around the room, her tail wagging so furiously that it sounds like she is drumming on the walls. One might think that my dogs and I had been apart for years when, in reality, it had only been a few hours of separation. But those are my dogs for you . . . and, friends, that is God for all of us.

When we go away from God and God's way for us, God longs for each one of us to turn back. And when we finally do, we find God there, waiting to welcome us with open arms, bursting with joy at the sight of us.

Thanks be to God for the divine truths revealed in critters and creatures like my Lily and Koda.

Rev. Emily



"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you . . ."

– Job 12:7, NIV

October

Reverend Emily's office hours are every Monday and Tuesday from 9:30am - 3:00 pm.
She will be off Monday 10/27 and Tuesday 10/28.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
8:30 am - Worship with communion World Communion Sunday	6	7 12:00 pm - Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study	8 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11 2:00 - 3:00pm Pet Blessing
12 8:30 am - Worship with choir 9:15 am - Deacon fellowship and meeting	13	14 12:00 pm - Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study 6:15 pm - Session Meeting	15 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	16 10:30a - 2:30pm Retired Educator Association Luncheon - Fellowship Hall	17	18
19 8:30 am - Worship with choir	20	21 12:00 pm - Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study 6:30 pm - Joint Session Meeting at Weyauwega	22 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 10am - 2pm Thrift and Gift
26 8:30 am - Worship w/out choir	27 Rev. Emily on Vacation	28 No Bible Study	29 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	30	31	1





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 September 9th.

- Rev. Emily is planning an outdoor pet blessing event on Saturday, October 11th from 2:00 to 3:30 PM.
- The Session approved a motion from the Mission and Outreach Ministry Team to split the local mission budgeted amount of \$1000 equally between the Winneconne Community School District Emotional Wellness Fund and the Winneconne Schools Basic Needs Fund.
- The Session approved a motion from the Mission / Outreach Team to designate 25% of the gifts received for the Peace and Global Witness Offering to support the newly established Winneconne After School Program being offered by the Boys & Girls Club. Promotion will culminate on World Communion Sunday, October 5th.
- The first draft of a Safe Church Policy was presented; some changes were suggested. A second draft will be available at the October Session meeting.
- Plans for the September 17th dinner were finalized.
- The Nominating Committee will present a full slate of candidates who have answered the call to serve as Deacons and Ruling Elders beginning in 2026.

Worship and Faith Formation

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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – Sunday, October 5th

World Communion Sunday is celebrated by Christians throughout the world as a day to acknowledge and celebrate our unity and interconnectedness as one body in Jesus Christ. The celebration was first conceived by the PCUSA in the 1930's as an ecumenical effort during World War II. Many denominations use this day to collect offerings to support international missions. It is our tradition to collect the Peace and Global Witness offering on this day.

Rev. Emily will be on vacation from Oct. 26 – Nov. 1. Jessica Harrison, CRE will be leading worship on Oct. 26. Someone is needed to assist with media that day. Please let Jessica know you can help.

PET BLESSING

The pet blessing will be held on Saturday, October 11 from 2:00 - 3:00 PM outside the church building near the fire pit. The brief service will begin promptly at 2:15 PM. All crowd-friendly pets are welcome. We only ask that all animals be leashed or held in their carriers. If your pet is anxious or shy, still bring a photo to share. Please also bring a lawn chair. Questions? Contact Rev. Emily at pastoremilyp@winnchurch.org.

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.

At this time, the previously announced book study has been canceled. Another type of study in a different format will be considered for next year. There was some good feedback about study opportunities from the Vision, Vines and Voices event in September.

From the Deacons

The Deacons and Session say thank you and what a joy it was to have such an excellent turnout for our “Visions, Vines, and Voices” dinner event on the 17th of September. Take a look at the charts on the wall in Fellowship Hall and gaze upon the creative and meaningful suggestions for ways we can consider moving forward as a congregation. The lasagna meal, salad, bread, and desserts were wonderful along with the energetic brainstorming that accompanied each table. It was a delicious way to spend quality social time with our church family and get to know people a little bit better and including in new ways. Time was spent talking about where we are and where we want to be in spiritual growth, sharing within our church family and within the larger community, discussing goals we’d like to work toward as a church, and so much more. We are blessed to have so many who truly care about one another. Ideas abound and more are always welcome!

Recently a friend came across several translations of THE LORD’S PRAYER. Here are just a couple you may enjoy reading and comparing to the one most familiar to us. Consider how the different versions carry the message and how it lands with you. This could even become a “side study” for interested folks at a future time.

FROM THE NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

Maronite translation from the Aramaic of the Lord's Prayer:

All nourishing God, you are the breath and being of all.
Let your light create a heart-shrine within.
Let your counsel rule until oneness guides us all.
Your one desire then acts with ours; as in heaven, so on earth.
Grant what we need, each day, in bread and in sight.
Let us experience the same freedom for our mistakes as we allow others to experience.
Do not let us forget that there is more to life than the surface things,
but neither let us become so inward that we cannot act kindly at the right time.
For to you and in you belong the guiding ideals,
the life-force to accomplish them and the song that renews all from age to age.
Amen.

Remember to plan to enjoy fellowship hosted by the Deacons on the 2nd Sunday of each month, And if the Spirit should move you to having a coffee and snack time on another Sunday let us know and any of us will be happy to support you in making it happen. October often brings out some of the most scrumptious recipes we all love to share.

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.

HOW TO GIVE ONLINE
WINNCHURCH.ORG

CLICK THE LINK ABOVE
THEN CLICK "GIVE NOW"



AUGUST 2025

AUGUST INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$ 5,397.33
AUGUST EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$ 8,918.50
AUGUST DEFICIT	\$ 3,521.17
YTD TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$ 57,482.93
YTD TOTAL EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$ 83,874.20
YTD DEFICIT	\$ 22,870.30
Reconciled Bank Balance as of 8/31/25	\$ 17,882.10



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.