

THE BRIDGE

SUMMER 2023

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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 April 18th

We received the resignation of Kristen Deadwyler as the Media/Communications Coordinator, effective April 30, 2023.

The Personnel Team is working on temporary coverage and will be actively seeking someone to fill the position.

If you know of someone who likes to work with technology applications to create the weekly bulletin, the weekly email, and the newsletter, please encourage them to consider our position.

This part-time job (15-20 hours per week) would be ideal for a young mom or dad who could work for the church while children are in school. Members of the Personnel Team are N. Hall, Kristina Mosley and Bette Hoytink.

MAY WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pulpit Supply</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
May 6	Jessica Harrison, CRE	Annie Leonard
May 14	Greg Braatz, CRE	Melissa Harmon
May 21	Jessica Harrison, CRE	Lisa Baltes
May 28 (Pentecost Sunday)	Jessica Harrison, CRE	Nancy Harrison

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, May 28 is the Day of Pentecost in our church year. This occurs 50 days after Easter and celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples following Christ's death, resurrection and ascension. It marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world. **HELP US CELEBRATE BY WEARING RED** to church that day.

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 or pick up a catalogue at church.



MEMBER CARE

We shared a wonderful Easter morning breakfast in our Fellowship Hall and it was such a delight to be gathered again (like in pre-Covid days) to visit with one another and share stories and plans and LIFE once more! It is our hope for our church family that we can be more regular and intentional about doing this as we all feel that pleasure in each other's company. It is positive and motivating and joyful and we all need that on a daily basis. Let's keep our "Radical Hospitality" alive and fluorescing here at First Presbyterian!

This LETTER keeps reappearing in unexpected ways, so here it is again in case you may have missed it. You may even want to tape it up somewhere so you can't help reading it in your morning routine. Perhaps on your bathroom mirror, inside your kitchen coffee cupboard, on the back door as you leave your house.

"A Letter From God"

Good morning! This is your Heavenly Father. Today, as with every day, I will be handling all your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help. If the Devil happens to deliver a situation that you can not handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in all in the SFJTD box (Something for Jesus to do). It will be addressed in MY time, not yours; please be patient.

Once the matter is placed in the box, do not hold onto it. Do not become impatient and take it back out to see if you can find a solution. Holding on or removal will only delay the resolution of your problem. You must surrender the problem to me completely for proper resolution.

If a situation you think you can handle arises, please consult me in prayer. Together we will come up with the proper resolution. If you don't receive what you anticipate as proper response from Me, remember: some of God's greatest gifts are unexpected answers to prayers.

Because I do not sleep, there is no reason for you to lose sleep. Rest My Child. If you need me I am only a prayer away.

With all my love, God

AN UPDATE FROM THE PNC: WHY IS TAKING SO LONG?

FPC Winneconne is currently one of five churches in Winnebago Presbytery that is searching for a new pastor. Our MIF, aka Ministry Information Form, has been active with the denomination for just over one year. One congregation has been searching for over two years without success. The Presbytery Executives from around the state of Wisconsin recently hosted a Zoom conference at which they shared some reasons as to why it is taking longer for all congregations to call a new pastor. Winneconne is not alone in feeling a bit frustrated with the slow process.

Within the Presbyterian Church (USA), the numbers help tell the story. From 2006 to 2021, the number of retirements increased from 173 in 2006 to 394 in 2021. We know that the challenges of “doing church” during the pandemic contributed to this dramatic increase in retirements.

Also, the number of newly ordained pastors has declined significantly during the same time period. In 2006, ordinations within our denomination totaled 375. In 2021, that number dropped to just 145. This drop is not unique to the PC(USA). Over the last forty years, enrollment at Christian seminaries in the United States has dropped about 30 per cent. This year, 2023, Dubuque Seminary will graduate twelve students with a Master of Divinity (MDIV) degree. Of the twelve graduates, eleven already have some affiliation with a congregation and have no immediate plans to search for a pastoral position.

The Wisconsin Presbytery Executives are working on a promotion to try to attract pastors to Wisconsin. They also shared some ideas for PNCs to enhance their MIFs that share more compelling stories about the specific congregation—to make your church stand out. We have done interviews with two potential candidates. One pastor with whom we spoke shared that he was in conversation with 42 churches!

Please continue to pray for the church and the PNC. We believe that God has a plan for a new leader of this congregation. However, God’s timeline is not generally the same as ours.

FAITH FORMATION

Have you been thinking about what your favorite Psalm might be?

Now it's time to let us know so we can prepare our "Summer Psalms" series and give our pulpit supply preachers advance notice to prepare for leading us in worship this summer.

Throughout May there will be a sign-up sheet in the entry at church requesting suggestions for Psalms you love. You may simply suggest some or include your name and offer some background about why a particular Psalm is important to you.

We will include some of your reflections as part of our summer worship experience. We're also hoping to "step out" a bit – outside that is – and perhaps hold some of our worship in the neighborhood outside (weather permitting).

If you prefer, you may contact Marilyn Paulson (marilyn.paulson1@gmail.com) or Lisa Baltes (lbates16@alumni.uwosh.edu) with your requests. We'd also love suggestions for favorite hymns that might be used during the summer.

Thank you in advance,

Your Faith Formation Team





SHARED MINISTRY FUND

FOR MARCH 2023

TOTAL INCOME (without pass thru)	\$7,555.73
TOTAL EXPENSES (without pass thru)	<u>\$14,519.89</u>
LOSS FOR MARCH	-\$6,964.16
YTD INCOME (without pass thru)	\$22,043.24
YTD EXPENSES (without pass thru)	<u>\$30,118.75</u>
YTD LOSS	-\$8,075.51
YTD PER CAPITA RECEIVED	\$990.00
PER CAPITA PAID 3/31/23	\$3,838.00



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.

MAY 2023

THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR OF FPC

BE

IN THE

KNOW...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Communion Service 9:00am Fellowship 10:00am Member Care Mtg	8	9 Session Meeting 6:30pm	10	11	12	13
14 Service 9:00am Fellowship 10:00am Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Service 9:00am Fellowship 10:00am	22	23	24	25	26	27 Thrift & Gift 10am-2pm
28 Service 9:00am Fellowship 10:00am	29 Memorial Day	30	31			