

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,

On my last trip to Indiana, I was driving down the interstate when the bumper sticker on a nearby car caught my eye. In big and bold letters, it read, “Do you follow Jesus this closely?” The driver’s point was well taken, but it also made me think . . . How closely am I following Jesus?

Like many of you, I was born and raised as a Christian. And so, at this point, the rhythm of the Christian life (and the liturgical calendar) is second nature to me. Sunday morning is for worship. Tuesday is for bible study. Choir is on Wednesday. Pray before dinner. Pray before bed. The seasons of Advent and Lent are always the busiest. And, as we are experiencing now, the summer is a welcomed respite before the church rallies in the fall and all the programs and ministries begin again. This is the typical routine. It is comfortable. It is convenient for us and for our schedules. And, unfortunately, it empowers us to be complacent in our discipleship.

I find that many of us, me included, can easily confuse longstanding routines with following Jesus, a schedule packed with weekend worship and monthly church meetings with true discipleship. We think we are following Jesus simply because we are doing what we have always done.

But, in Scripture, Jesus is clear. Following him is inherently uncomfortable and unfamiliar and even inconvenient by our human standards. It means giving up our own way and the way of the world, which so often seeks ease and comfort through power, privilege, profit, and success. It means taking up a cross and laying down our lives. It means being willing to suffer and, in some places, die for Jesus and for the gospel he proclaims.

For those of us who are privileged to live in safe places, discipleship may not look so severe. And yet, it still demands something from us every day. Following Jesus might mean doing the unpopular thing in front of family or friends. It might mean saying no to people or activities that lead us away from him. It might mean slowing down and making decisions that are rooted in prayer and careful discernment when our culture would have us rush. It might mean giving up something that has become for us a god.

Jesus’ way is not easy. But it is the way that is ultimately worthwhile because it is the way that leads to life and to salvation. And so, as we enjoy the summer sun and this extended break in our church calendar, I invite you to find some quiet time to take stock of your life and discipleship. Consider where you have grown too comfortable or complacent and how you might step beyond your comfort zone this coming fall. Ask yourself what needs to change. Pause from the busyness of life and pray for God’s guidance and direction. Maybe even read the stories of the ordinary women and men found in Scripture, and ask, “Do I follow Jesus this closely?”

And, friends, remember this. Because God is gracious and merciful, we are not expected to follow Jesus perfectly. But we can make progress, following Jesus a little more closely each day. That is our aim.

God’s grace and peace to you,

Rev. Emily

“Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, [Jesus] said, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.’” – Mark 8:34, NLT

August

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30 am - 2 Joint Worship with Weyauwega @ Winneconne 10:30 am - Chicken and Waffles pot luck brunch	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30 am - 9 Worship - 9:30am - Fellowship hosted by Deacons & Member Care	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30 am - 16 Worship	17 New Carpet Installation ----	18 New Carpet Installation ---- 1:15 pm - Deacons Meeting 6:15 pm - Session Meeting	19 New Carpet Installation	20	21	22 10 am - 2 pm Thrift and Gift
8:30 am - 23 Worship 9:30 am - Fellowship hosted by Peggy Balfanz, Dave and Lonna Norton	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30 am - 30 Worship	31	1	2	3	4	5



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 HIGHLIGHTS

The session did not meet in July.
Session's next meeting will be August 18th.

-Holy communion was celebrated on July 5th
with Reverend Emily presiding.



Summer Salutations from your Deacons!

In these challenging times I often find myself thinking about some of the wonderful stories and lessons Mr. Rogers shared during his many years of TV programs for children. He always started by singing “It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” as he changed into his sneakers and put on his comfy old sweater. He settled in to talk to kids about all things important to know to get along in the world, whatever neighborhood that may be for every kid watching. Topics like kindness, honesty, compassion, taking turns; these were talked about, but they were also modeled! He never preached to them, telling them what to think or believe (although as you know he was an ordained Presbyterian minister). He just talked about parents, friends, and others you may come across in everyday life as we went through our work or play activities.

In one of his many books, *LIFE’S JOURNEYS ACCORDING TO MR. ROGERS*, he writes about “Things to Remember Along the Way”. Here’s a little piece from the section titled Loving and Being Loved. The following is taken directly from the book. . . .

We’re all on a journey - each of us. And if we can be sensitive to the person who happens to be our “neighbor”, that, to me, is the greatest challenge as well as the greatest pleasure. Because if you’re trusted, then people will allow you to share their inner garden - what greater gift!

In church we hear about neighbors - we pray for our neighbors worldwide and right next door. We ask forgiveness for the times when we mess up and ignore the needs of our neighbors or we don’t invite them to share in our abundance. We ask for the strength and courage to do the right thing. We ask for God’s guidance and love to call us back when we go astray. We try to be loving and serving and we know we fall short, but we know we can always go back out there and try again. What a blessing to KNOW THIS.

It makes me want to pray that we may be able to share our “inner gardens” with one another with freedom and trust, without fear that we will be turned away or disliked by a neighbor. I do pray that while there is so much discord and resistance to the beliefs of people who don’t see the world as we see it, that we can try to be open to where their beliefs come from, to try and understand why or how various influences, family traditions, news channels, etc. informed their thinking. Mr. Rogers is right about it being a very big challenge. But he is also right that getting to know your neighbor and finding that you may share things you didn’t even know you shared, is also a great gift. I wonder where you will find a glimpse of God this month. . . . Won’t you meet a neighbor?

Submitted by Deacon Annie Leonard

Visions, Vines & Voices

Back by Popular Demand: Food, Faith & Fellowship!

We are thrilled to bring back this beloved event! Whether you are a newcomer or a longtime member, it's simple: we share a meal together and enjoy a casual discussion around a faith topic.

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

Where: Fellowship Hall

What to Expect: The Session will provide the main course of sloppy joe sandwiches and buns. Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass!

Save The Dates: Food, Faith and Fellowship is also set for October 14th and November 11th.



HOW TO GIVE ONLINE
WINNCHURCH.ORG

CLICK THE LINK ABOVE
THEN CLICK "GIVE NOW"



JUNE 2026

TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$	19,089.50
TOTAL EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$	14,628.49
GAIN	\$	4,461.01

YTD LOSS	\$	3,041.18
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Reconciled Bank Balance 6/30/2026	\$	19,003.09
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Please note that the church received a \$10,534.67 small church grant to cover part of the upcoming carpeting expense. The June financial numbers reflect the grant and a \$8,000.00 down payment on the carpet. The second quarter general mission giving to Presbytery will show in the July financials.



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.

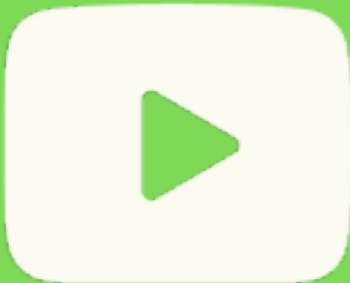
[FPC WEBSITE](#)

[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.