

THE BRIDGE FALL 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.



**SESSION MEMBERS &
MINISTRY TEAMS**

SESSION

N HALL

**PERSONNEL AND
MISSION/OUTREACH**

**MELISSA HARMON
MISSION/OUTREACH
AND LIAISON TO
DEACONS/MEMBER CARE
TEAM**

**BETTE HOYTINK
CLERK**

**ROGER HOYTINK
BUILDING, GROUNDS
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**MARILYN PAULSON
WORSHIP/FAITH FORMATION**

**DAVID STRUENSEE
BUILDING, GROUNDS
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

DEACONS/MEMBER CARE

**KAREN ANGELL
DEB BARTELT
PEGGY BALFANZ
ANNIE LEONARD
ANNA MALEK
LONNA NORTON**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

THE SESSION MET ON OCTOBER 10TH AND RECEIVED REPORTS FROM THE MINISTRY TEAMS. THE SESSION VOTED TO APPROVE A MOTION FROM THE MISSION/OUTREACH TEAM TO DONATE \$500 OF BUDGETED LOCAL MISSION DOLLARS TO THE WINNECONNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL NEEDS FUND TO COVER UNEXPECTED BASIC NEEDS FOR STUDENTS AND REQUEST FEEDBACK FROM THE STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THE FUND ON HOW THE MONEY WAS USED.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTED THAT THEY ARE STILL SEEKING PERSONS TO FILL A TWO-YEAR TERM AS RULING ELDER AND ONE THREE-YEAR TERM AS RUIING ELDER.

November Worship Leadership

Date	Pulpit Supply	Liturgist
Nov 5	Jessica Harrison, CRE	Karen Angell
Nov 12	Rev Linda Morgan-Clement	Marilyn Paulson
Nov 19	Jessica Harrison, CRE	TBD
Nov 26	Jessica Harrison, CRE	TBD

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5.

GIVING TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 28TH

Join with other Presbyterians participating in Giving Tuesday, the global day devoted to giving. Consider setting aside time on this day to give to charities of your choice. The Presbyterian Mission Exchange has an online giving platform that does all the hard work for you. Check out more at pcusa.org/givingtuesday.

THRIFT STORE OPPORTUNITY

The Winneconne Thrift & Gift is a fantastic organization for our community. Not only do they provide great items at a low price, their profits support local charities AND they allow local nonprofits to work on Saturdays and split the profit 50/50. FPC has worked at the thrift store on the fourth Saturday of each month for several years now. Last year, our volunteers brought in nearly \$6000! With that kind of success, let's keep it going! We need at least 5 workers each month from about 10am-2pm to man the register, sort items and collect donations. You can even work a partial shift. Please sign up on the clipboard in the church entryway.

LOOKING AHEAD-HELP ON SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER/CHRISTMAS EVE!

As you plan for the Advent/Christmas Season please note that we will be looking for five church members or families to do the lighting of the advent candles each Sunday in December plus Christmas Eve. If you are interested in doing this, please let Marilyn Paulson or a member of Session know.

On Sunday, December 24 there will be two worship services. The morning service at 9:00 am celebrates the fourth Sunday in Advent, and a Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7 pm.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY-AN UNLIKELY ADVENT: EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Expect the unexpected this Christmas. This four week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. During this Advent season, Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepards. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. Rev. Rachel Billups is a visionary, leader, speaker, and author who currently serves as a pastor at New Albany United Methodist Church in Ohio.

Join Marilyn Paulson for this 4 week Advent study following worship on Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, and 17. Books and a sign up sheet will be available in the entry by mid-November. A donation of up to \$15/book would be appreciated but is not required.



Notes from Member Care

THE MEMBER CARE TEAM (DEACONS) HOSTED AND SERVED AT THE FALL CHILI SUPPER THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12. WE SEND A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE EVENT. THANK YOU FOR THOSE WHO MADE AND BROUGHT CHILI AND DESSERTS, HELPED WORK AT THE SUPPER AND THOSE WHO ATTENDED.

THE CHILI SUPPER WAS A SUCCESS AND WE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO.

- **WE PROVIDED A COMMUNITY MEAL WITH GREAT FOOD.**
- **WE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING CONVERSATION AND FELLOWSHIP.**
- **WE CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY TO THE CHURCH.**
- **WE SHARED THE LEFTOVER FOOD WITH FATHER CARR'S FOOD PANTRY.**

WE CONTINUED OUR BOOK STUDY ON "THE PRESBYTERIAN DEACON" AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING. WE LEARNED ABOUT THE 12 HISTORIC DOCUMENTS IN THE BOOK OF CONFESSIONS. WHEN A DEACON IS ORDAINED OR INSTALLED THEY ADOPT THE ESSENTIAL TENETS OF THE REFORMED FAITH. WE LEARNED THAT THE CONFESSIONS ARE SUBORDINATE TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURE. THE CONFESSIONS ARE VALUABLE BECAUSE THROUGH THEM THE CHURCH PROCLAIMS TO MEMBERS AND TO THE WORLD WHO AND WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT BELIEVES, AND WHAT IT RESOLVES TO DO.

**RESPECTFULLY, YOUR MEMBER CARE TEAM
ANNIE, KAREN, LONNA, ANNA, DEB, AND PEGGY**



NEWS FROM

MISSION AND OUTREACH

WE HAVE TWO EXCITING UPDATES TO SHARE!

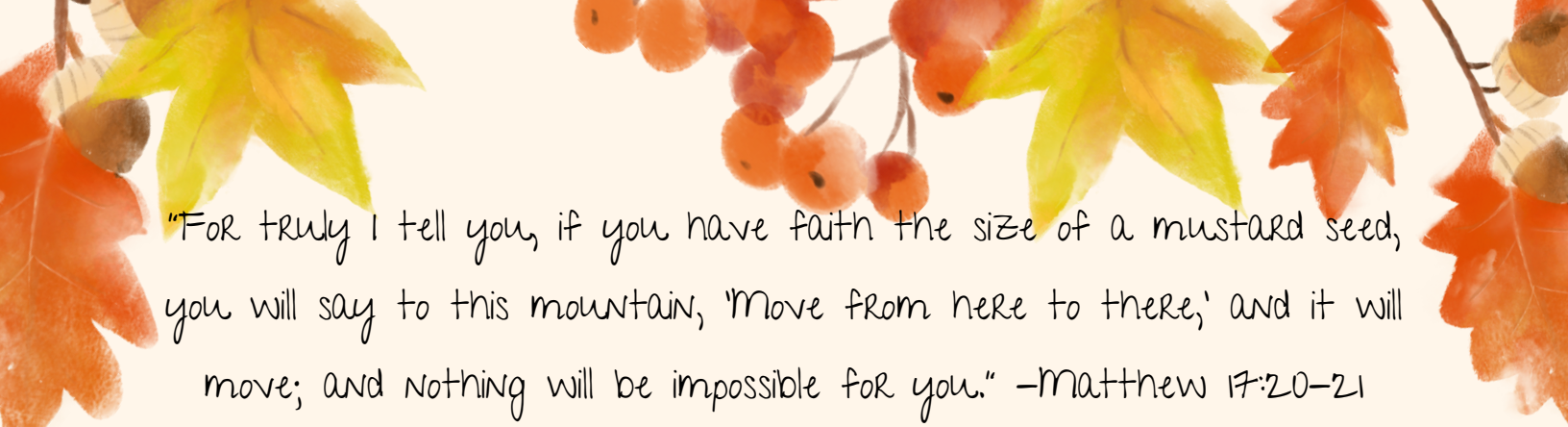
First, we will use the remaining \$500 from our local mission budget to fund a new local project. We have partnered with the Winneconne Community School District to start a fund named “Student Basic Needs Fund.” As the name suggests, this will provide the district with resources to help with the basic needs of students that may not be met at home. When describing the types of needs the school is seeing, we were told about a student who didn’t have a bed and the staff donated money to buy one. The district will provide us updates on how the fund is helping our kids and we may consider future donations to keep the fund going.



Second, World Communion Sunday (Oct. 1st) marked the end of our Peace & Global Witness Offering. This offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering locally.

We are pleased to report our congregation gave a VERY GENEROUS \$725.00!!! Our local portion of \$181.25 will be donated to Damascus Road, an Oshkosh based organization that combats human trafficking.

THANK YOU for continuing to give generously and living out our mission to share God’s love and shine God’s light!



"For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." -Matthew 17:20-21

I have felt compelled in recent weeks to share my thoughts about the vitality of this congregation. I'll cut right to the chase – I think we are doing pretty incredible for being without a pastor for more than 2 years. Only God knows what our future holds, but my faith in us is strong! When I think about our recent achievements, these are some things that come to mind:

- Our Deacons have hosted 2 meals in the past 3 months. Both the church picnic and chili supper took a great deal of coordination and many hands to prepare (and clean up!) It was wonderful to break bread together and reconnect.
- Mission and Outreach is alive and well! YOU have consistently donated generously to support our major mission projects and through your gifts we have been able to donate locally to several new projects. Our little church is making a big difference!
- We've baptized 2 beautiful babies!
- Your PNC has stayed the course. It's no easy task navigating a pastor shortage, learning the Presbytery's new matching system, rewriting our profile and discerning the path God has chosen for us.
- Our clerk keeps the day to day operations running smoothly. She completes too many tasks to list; it's practically a part time job.
- We hired and on-boarded a new secretary and new bookkeeper. These 2 positions are critical to our operations and we are blessed with their talents and dedication.
- Every week God's word is spoken from our pulpit and our sanctuary is full of beautiful music. And in case you can't get there, we've got people who make sure it's on line for you to view.

From the first time I visited this church about 5 years ago, I could tell this was an exceptional group of kind people. There was a new pastor and a palpable energy. But I've decided a congregation's true character shines through when they don't have a pastor; when they need to find their own purpose and their own energy.

Why do you love this church? What has kept you around these past 2+ years? What do you think our strengths are? If you've taken a break, might you consider coming back?

~ Nichole



HOW TO GIVE ONLINE
WINNCHURCH.ORG

CLICK THE LINK ABOVE
THEN CLICK "GIVE NOW"



SEPTEMBER 2023

SEPT TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$5,195.10
SEPT TOTAL EXPENSES(w/o pass thru)	<u>\$ 774.63</u>
GAIN FOR AUGUST	\$4,420.47

YTD INCOME (without pass thru)	\$61,614.94
YTD EXPENSES(without pass thru)	<u>\$64,637.53</u>
YTD LOSS	\$3,022.59

If you have not already paid your Per Capita, please do so as soon as possible. The 2023 Per Capita is \$38 per member.



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.