

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.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

I say this too often, but it always feels true. Time just goes too fast! The season of Advent was a whirlwind, and both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were over as quickly as they had come.

We are, of course, still in the season of Christmas as we begin this new year. But before we know it, the journey to Bethlehem will be in the rearview mirror and the journey to the cross will be before us. After all, this year, the season of Lent begins in February with Ash Wednesday falling on February 18. And yet, it is important to not rush too quickly ahead. That time in between Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter is simply too special for us to miss.

Known as the season after Epiphany, that in-between time always begins 12 days after Christmas on January 6, the date that is marked as the Epiphany of the Lord and commemorates the magi's search for the newborn King of the Jews, and continues until Ash Wednesday. It is a season that celebrates God's manifestation to all of creation in the person of Jesus. Indeed, the word 'epiphany' means 'appearance' or 'manifestation.'

An important symbol of this season is light. And so, the season after Epiphany is sometimes called the season of light. (The Greek word for 'epiphany' comes from the Greek word for 'sunrise' or 'dawn.' For readers of Greek, then, the season after Epiphany would call to mind the image of light coming into view in the midst of darkness.)

Now, we may not be fluent in Greek, but we, too, draw this same connection in our weekly worship and study. Throughout the season after Epiphany, we read and reflect upon stories in which God's light is revealed to the world through Jesus, including the stories of Jesus' baptism and his transfiguration. At the same time, we are invited to witness to that same light through our own word and work.

This does require something more of us though. If we are to witness to God's light in this broken and fearful world, we must be willing to keep our eyes peeled for God's light in our midst. Through Scripture, God has promised that it is there even when it seems difficult to find. Indeed, God assures us that there is no darkness that can overtake it.

Have a blessed Epiphanytide, my friends.

Rev. Emily

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it."
- John 1:5, NRSVue

January

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:30 am - 4 Worship with communion	5	6 12:00 pm - Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study	7 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10
8:30 am - 11 Worship (Ordination & Installation of deacons/elders) 9:30 am - Fellowship and meeting	12	13 12:00 pm - Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study	14 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17
8:30 am - 18 Worship 12:00 - 4:00 pm Bible Baptist in Fellowship Hall	19	20 12:00 pm - Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study 6:15 pm - Session Meeting	21 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 10 am - 2 pm Thrift and Gift
8:30 am - 25 Lessons and Carols Service	26	27 12:00 pm - Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study	28 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31



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 Stated Session Meeting was held on December 9th.

A Special Session Meeting was held on December 16th.

The following actions were taken:

-Approved the 2026 Revenue Sharing Contract with Winneconne Thrift & Gift Store. First Presbyterian will continue to staff the store on the 4th Saturday of each month.

-Approved the request from Bible Baptist Church to use the sanctuary on the afternoons of December 13 and 20 for the purpose of practicing a children's Christmas program.

-Approved the hiring of Graham Goland for snow removal this winter.

-Voted to adopt the revised version of the Safe Church Policy as presented on December 9th. Verbal approval was given for the Background Information Disclosure Form and the Report of Suspected Incident of Abuse Form. The documents will be available in the church office.

-Voted to approve the communion schedule for 2026, which includes the first Sunday of each month as well as Shrove Tuesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.

-Voted to elect RE Jessica Harrison as the Commissioner to meetings of Winnebago Presbytery in 2026.

-Voted to elect Robert Dinse as the Treasurer for 2026.

-The election of a Clerk was tabled until the January 2026 meeting.

-Reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2026. This budget includes a 2.5-3.0% increase for all paid staff, both those paid at an hourly rate and those receiving a monthly stipend. The pastor's Terms of Call were previously approved at the congregational meeting held on November 9th.

-Received information regarding a 22% increase in the insurance premium for 2026. Additional conversations were initiated with the insurance company contact person. Upon receiving more information, Session voted to increase the deductible on any future claims and remove a blanket clause that covered multiple buildings. These two actions will keep the 2026 monthly premium in line with what we have paid in 2025.

Worship and Faith Formation

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

On Sunday, January 11 we look forward to the service of ordination and installation of our newly elected Deacons – Peggy Balfanz and Ronda Marquardt, and newly elected Ruling Elders – Jessica Harrison and Robbie Mosley.

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES-

SACK LUNCH AND SACRED STORIES: The weekly Bible study will resume on January 6. 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.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

We continue to seek assistance for worship leadership. You are invited to consider serving as a liturgist or an usher on Sunday mornings. Sign-ups are in the narthex, or you can let Rev. Emily know of your willingness to help. We would love to see some new faces this year!

HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED THIS PAST YEAR!

We extend our gratitude and thanks to all who stepped up to volunteer this past year! Deacons/member care, Session elders, liturgists, ushers/greeters, changers of chancel paraments/decorations, choir, and others behind the scenes. You are a blessing and a joy and have truly helped our congregation “Share God’s Love and Shine God’s Light”!!



Applesauce Bars

Submitted by Karen Angell

Bar Ingredients

4 eggs
1 cup applesauce
1 cup oil
2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup chopped nuts (your choice)

Frosting Ingredients

4 ounces cream cheese
6 tablespoons butter (softened)
3 cups powdered sugar
dash of milk

To make the bars:

Beat the eggs in a mixing bowl
Add applesauce, oil, & sugar. Mixing well.
Add remaining dry ingredients and blend.
Pour mixture into a greased pan and floured 12x15 pan.
Bake at 350 for 30 minutes or until set in the center

To make the frosting:

Beat cream cheese and butter together until smooth.
Add powdered sugar, one cup at a time.
Add milk as needed for smoothness.

Once bars are cooled, frost and enjoy!





NOVEMBER 2025

TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$	9,549.29
TOTAL EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$	8,419.17
GAIN	\$	1,130.12
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YTD INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$	81,358.42
YTD EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$	111,522.30
YTD DEFICIT	\$	30,163.83
Reconciled Bank Balance 11/30/25	\$	19,623.58



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.