

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

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

Karen Angell

Deb Bartelt

Peggy Balfanz

Annie Leonard

Anna Malek

Lonna Norton

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- With regret, Session received and accepted the resignation of RE Lisa Baltes from the ruling elder class of 2025. We look forward to Lisa's continued relationship with our congregation.
- The Session agreed by consensus that we should resume the passing of the offering plates during the worship service. This is a visible act of worship and thanksgiving, which was suspended during the COVID pandemic.
- Upon review of the May financial report, it is clear that the anticipated giving is below expectations. We know that the summer provides opportunities for family get-togethers and/or travel that may not include church attendance. If your plans keep you from attending church, you are encouraged to either mail your gift or use the on-line giving option.
- The next Session meeting will be the second Tuesday of August.

July Worship Leadership

Date	Pulpit Supply	Liturgist
July 2	Jessica Harrison, CRE	Karen Angell
July 9	Gina Struensee, RE	Annie Leonard
July 16	Nancy Siewert, RE	Marilyn Paulson
July 23	Greg Braatz, CRE	Rich Balfanz
July 30	Marilyn Paulson, RE	Bette Hoytink

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED:

Now that we have returned to our “traditional” serving of communion we need some teams of two people to help set up and serve the elements on the first Sunday of each month. Please let Jessica Harrison or Marilyn Paulson know that you would be willing to be part of a communion team. Once we have volunteers, we can assign teams so people know when they will be assisting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEDIA BACKUP:

Our new media equipment is installed and word on the street is that it's very user friendly and ease to operate. Jessica Harrison is looking forward to teaching some people how to do the streaming on Sunday mornings when she is preaching. Let her know you'd like to learn how!

OFFERING DURING WORKSHOP

You may have noticed that the Order of Worship has changed for the Sunday service. The Offering time has been moved. This act of faith and thanksgiving will appear in the worship liturgy following the sermon hymn. The plates will be passed then brought to table for dedication.

The Offering/Offeratory/Doxology/Prayer of Dedication is an act of worship. It is a grateful response to God's presence and God's Word. This portion of our worship service had been abbreviated during and since Covid, but Session has approved returning it in its original form as part of the worship liturgy.

If you give on-line there will be a card in the pews for you to put in the plate to symbolize your giving.



Notes from Member Care

The Deacons at First Presbyterian are able to assist with Home Communion where we are needed. If you know of someone who would like to have this sacrament brought to them, please let one of us know so we can be sure to make this happen. Receiving communion is a deeply meaningful time for each of us individually, and it is important that we not overlook anyone who may not be able to get to church for any reason. We generally go in pairs to share the elements and it is one of our joys to be able to provide it.

We have been talking about having an outdoor service sometime during the summer, and perhaps this could even be combined with a picnic for our membership. There is still time to plan for such an event and if you have an idea or suggestion for this, we encourage you to call or talk to one of us or send an email with your suggestion. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month and can share all the ideas that are brought to us. Fellowship is so important in keeping us all together in our goals and dreams for our church family. Have you participated in "Food, Faith, and Fellowship" in the past? Please feel free to share what you would like to see happen during these wonderful days of sunshine and warm weather.

If you enjoy book studies and philosophy and discussion, there is plenty of room for endeavors that challenge and energize our thinking about our faith and what it asks of us. If you know of a title you'd like to explore with a small group, let us know how we can help put it together. So often people have similar needs and interests and a willingness to pursue them, but they don't get off the ground unless more people find out and can assist in getting it going. Are you a starter, a joiner, a doer, a watcher, a listener, a player . . . what gets you excited about your faith and how it plays out in our little community?

Let's live out the words we say at the end of every worship service: . . . "Our service in the world begins!" What does that mean to you? How do you take those words and transform them into action? And is there something we can do all together in a visible way for our community? Let us hear from you.

AN UPDATE FROM THE PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committees from both Winneconne and Weyauwega met together on May 22. The outcome of that meeting was a decision to work together to search for one full-time pastor to serve both churches. This was announced in worship on June 4th and in the June Bridge. A subgroup from each PNC then met via Zoom on June 16th to determine a plan to move forward. Leslie Gunter, COM Coordinator from the Presbytery office, was present to explain the new process that was launched in early June by the CLC (Church Leadership Connection). All churches seeking a pastor and clergy seeking a new church will be using the new process. There are new forms which both churches and pastors must complete. So, that becomes the primary task as we begin the process of searching for one pastor for both churches. While each congregation will be recognized by a few specific identifiers such as membership number, average attendance, community type and cultural composition, the responses to the remainder of the form must be agreed upon by both groups. A meeting of both PNCs is scheduled for June 29th in Weyauwega.

In order to create a joint PNC with equal representation from both churches, Winneconne will need to adjust the number of persons on the PNC. We are also taking this opportunity to invite anyone else from the congregation who may have an interest in becoming part of the joint PNC to step forward. If you have such an interest, please contact Kristina Mosely, our current PNC chairperson.

Please continue to pray for our church and the PNC as we eagerly await the person whom God will send to lead the two congregations.

NEWS FROM
MISSION AND OUTREACH

Well done, AGAIN, FPC members! Our Pentecost offering totaled \$485!
Thanks to your generosity:

- **\$121** will support Young Adult Volunteers who serve in communities throughout the world, growing as leaders through Christian service.
- **\$121** will support youth ministries, such as the dynamic Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- **\$49** will help provide safe havens and education for children at risk.

AND we were able to send a check for **\$194** supporting the
Winneconne Back to School Fair.

That money will help provide new backpacks filled with all necessary school supplies for Winneconne children in need, as well as fresh haircuts, hygiene products, new shoes and an outfit for the new school year! What an amazing way to help the future of our community.

THANK YOU!!!

FAITH FORMATION

SUMMER SUNDAY PSALMS

Our series highlighting the Psalms continues this month with the reading of Psalms 1, 25, 42, and 121. Our pulpit supply preachers have selected the requested ones and will continue the series through August.

The Book of Psalms is a collection of five books, probably related to the fact that there are five books of the Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), and the Psalms are seen as a companion to those. It is the only book in the Bible that is actually written to God over a period of nearly 1,000 years. Through the Psalms we learn about the importance of prayer, the acknowledgment of pain, the power of praise, and fulfillment of prophecy. This book has been designed as a prayer book for God's people as they wait for the fulfillment of God's promises.

The 150 Psalms each end with a brief “doxology”, or word of glory as an expression of praise. Thanksgiving, Lament, Praise, Trust, and Royal Psalms (referring to the King of Israel) are the book's major categories. Psalms elicit a variety of emotions for God's people: fear, anger, praise, gratitude, joy, and despair, and they make it ok for us to be real with God.





SHARED MINISTRY FUND

MAY 2023

TOTAL INCOME (without pass thru)	\$3,997.98
TOTAL EXPENSES (without pass thru)	<u>\$7,406.44</u>
LOSS FOR MAY	\$3,408.46
YTD INCOME (without pass thru)	\$32,129.22
YTD EXPENSES (without pass thru)	<u>\$43,497.00</u>
YTD LOSS	\$11,367.78

Premier checking balance 5/31/23 **\$50,479.34**

Our anticipated income is not keeping pace with our expenses. We know that the summer months offer many opportunities for get-togethers with family and friends, as well as travel, that do not always allow us to attend church. If your plans keep you from joining us in worship on Sunday mornings, you are encouraged to either mail your financial gift or use the on-line giving option available on the church website.

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

Per capita is about community. It is about committing to connection and support between all members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is about joining together and being one body, the body that is Christ's church in the world.

When a congregation gives to per capita, the gifts first go to the presbytery and synod. Each of these mid councils determines the per capita rate for their work and how they allocate denominational per capita from the congregation's overall per capita gift. Typically, the per capita dollars which move through mid councils to the denomination are around 25% of the total per capita given, with 75% going to mid councils and their ministries.

~From PCUSA Office of the General Assembly Per Capita annual brochure 2023



Winnebago Presbytery set the Per Capita rate for 2023 at \$38. That amount is split between the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly. That \$38 is split up at \$22.65 for the Presbytery, \$5.50 for the Synod, and \$9.85 for General Assembly. We're officially half way through the year; if you haven't already sent in your per capita, please do so as soon as you are able.

Scan the below QR code to be taken directly to the annual brochure for more information, including how the per capita funds are used.

Never used a QR code before? It's easy to do! Follow the below steps:

1. Open the camera app on your phone or tablet
2. Point the camera at the QR code
3. Click on the link that appears on your phone





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.