

# THE *Bridge*

The Bridge	page 1
Reverend's Page	page 2
Calendar	page 3
Session Highlights	page 4
"Fences"	page 5
Deacons	page 6
Visions, Vines & Voices	page 7
Receipe of the Month	page 8
Shared Ministry	page 9
Fund Tech & Media	page 10

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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Happy Birthday!” Or should I say, “Happy Birthday to the Church!” On Sunday, May 24, we will celebrate the Day of Pentecost, that day in the life of the Church when we celebrate the Holy Spirit’s arrival in the rush of a violent wind and its descent upon the earliest followers of Jesus with tongues of fire resting on each one. As you will probably remember even from your earliest days in Sunday school, all of the disciples were then filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in different languages “as the Spirit gave them ability.” This was an awe-inspiring event. It inspired amazement and confusion from the people who witnessed it firsthand. But, as we know, it was so much more than that. This event served as the birth of the Church, and it marked the beginning of the Church’s mission to “be [Jesus’] witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth,” a mission that is still ours even today!

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we therefore believe that the Church is called “to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God’s transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord” (F-1.0301). In other words, everything we say and everything we do points not to ourselves, but to the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us. It is not our own finely tuned gifts that are put to work, but the gifts that Christ has given that we might be his body in the world.

In this Spirit-filled season that will begin on the Day of Pentecost and run through the month of November, I would challenge you to be attentive to the Holy Spirit at work in your midst. Is the Spirit nudging you toward something new? Inspiring you to share a quietly held gift with others? Moving you to compassion for your neighbors in need? Convicting you to get back in right relationship with God?

Friends, the Holy Spirit is our guide and our helper, our sustainer and our intercessor. The Spirit is never done with us no matter how old we are or how many years of ministry experience we have. And so, be open to the Holy Spirit’s work in your life today. You just might be surprised by how it moves you!

God’s grace and peace,

Rev. Emily

P.S. – Friends, I want to share a bit of exciting news with all of you! A few months ago, I was accepted into Princeton Seminary’s Iron Sharpening Iron Executive Leadership Program for Women, a program that was inspired by Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” And so, in May, I will travel to Princeton, New Jersey for a week to participate in plenary sessions on design thinking, change management, and conflict management along with 23 other clergywomen.

This is, of course, an exciting time for me. But it is also an exciting time for all of you because it is an investment in our shared flourishing and in the vitality of the faith community we love and are called to serve together. I am very grateful for Session’s willingness to work with the program’s schedule and for their yearly financial support that makes my participation possible. Any prayers that this program might be an edifying and enriching experience would be greatly appreciated, too!

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” – Acts 2:4, NIV



# May

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

Rev. Emily will be on Study Leave May 4-10 and on vacation May 31-June 6.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

26	27	28	29	30	1	2
8:30 am - Worship with communion	Rev. Emily on Study Leave		6:45 pm - Final Spring Choir Rehearsal			
8:30 am - Worship - Rev. Mike Dismer  Last Choir Presentation		12:00 pm - Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories Bible Study  NO Deacons Meeting				10 am - 5 pm Bible Baptist Church Event
8:30 am - Worship 9:30am - Fellowship hosted by Deacons & Member Care		12:00 pm - Last Sack Lunch & Sacred Stories until Sept  6:15 pm - Session Meeting				10 am - 2 pm Thrift and Gift
8:30 am - Worship (no choir)  Day of Pentecost						
8:30 am - Worship - Jessica Harrison, CRE						



## **RULING ELDERS**

**BOB DINSE**  
TREASURER

**N HALL**  
PERSONNEL

**JASON HARMON**  
BUILDING GROUNDS AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

**JESSICA HARRISON**  
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 met on Tuesday, April 21st.

- Holy Communion was celebrated on April 2 (Maundy Thursday) with CRE Jessica Harrison presiding and April 5 (Easter) with Reverend Emily presiding.
- Home Communion was administered to Maxine Dearstine on April 6th with Deacon Annie Leonard and Reverend Emily.
- Home Communion was administered to Wes Phillips and Nancy Harrison on April 20th with Deacon Karen Angell and Reverend Emily.
- Current Church By-Laws adopted on April 11th, 2019 were reviewed and adopted with no changes.
- Weather cancellation policy was reviewed and adopted.
- Session is applying for a grant from the Winnebago Presbytery to help offset part of the cost of carpet replacement in the Sanctuary and side room.
- Session is putting together 3 welcome baskets to be given to new residents to Winneconne.



# Fences

**A reflection from Marilyn Paulson:**

**During the recent lunar launch Artimus 2 I was reflecting on the powerful images of earth from the moon. It showed our world as one beautiful piece of God's creation with no boundaries or borders or fences, upon which the last of God's creation - humankind - lives. I recall the thrill of seeing images from past Apollo missions and the tragedy of the Challenger as well - and marveled at it's beauty. The poem below is the text of a choral work by Andre Thomas, written in 2003 when the environmental movement inspired by the work of former VP Al Gore called an Inconvenient Truth. Its message is about worldwide unity and peace. The choral group I sang in performed it a few times over the years and it became a favorite of mine, especially during times when our worldwide unity and peace were being challenged - much like our present time. In a time of division and uncertainty, these words offer hope...**

“Fences”, Choral work by Andre Thomas

The Text:

The day the universe was born,  
Mountains rose and starts were torn  
From the wo-ven cloth of time,  
And there were no fences.

Boundaries were not in the plan  
For sky and ocean, earth and man,  
Freedom's only ours to share  
When there are no fences.

In photographs from far in space,  
Earth and oceans have their place,  
A graceful blanket, blue and green,  
And there are no fences.

But man forgot somewhere in time,  
The earth's not yours, or theirs, or mine,  
And for children yet to be,  
There must be no fences.

Borders, Boundries, Walls and Wire,  
Burn a soul,  
Burn a soul,  
Burn a soul  
With freedoms fire hope is born  
When we decide there shall be no fences.

Today's the day we can decide  
To mend the fabric we divide,  
A seamless cloth of you and me,  
Without any fences!

Borders, Boundries, Walls and Wire  
Burn a soul with freedom's fire,  
Hope is born when we decide  
There shall be no fences!





**Salutations! Spring is here!**

**The Deacons here at FPC are actively visiting and offering communion to our members who are unable to share in The Lord's Table in person at church. Please contact one of us if you have need of a visit from one of us and/or would like to receive communion or if you know of someone who does.**

**We thank everyone who shared in the Easter breakfast as it provided a delicious meal and special time for members and families to share in conversation and celebration.**

**Thank you to all who participated in the Health and Hygiene Drive, and to Karen Angell who met the folks who came to collect donated products so they can be made available to those in need.**

**Thank you to Deb Bartelt and to Ronda Marquardt for their elegant cards for Deacons to send to members and for our congregation to send to loved ones at Easter time.**

**The Deacons have discussed how we may be able to use information gained from our Visions, Vines, and Voices event to help our church be more visible in our community. To that end, we had requested the opportunity for FPC to become a sponsor for a summer sports team. Unfortunately, there are no more available spots for groups to sponsor teams for this season, but we will be added to a list of people and groups that are willing to sponsor teams in the future. However, there is good news. We can donate money toward supplies and equipment as there is always a need to update and add to their supplies. We can donate funds for a collapsible wagon that can carry equipment for T-Ball games and it can have our church LOGO on it saying we gave it to the team. We can donate money toward "catcher suits" as those are necessary and most kids don't have their own. And thirdly we can donate toward helmets, which can be given to children for a season and used by another student the following year. These costs are ongoing and they will appreciate any donations toward those items. We can discuss how to help with these ideas at our next Deacons meeting.**

**Remember that anyone willing to share in providing our fellowship table with snacks and tasty treats after church is welcome to share in this hospitality. Thank you to Jack Wirch for his special fellowship during April. The choir also provided fellowship during the month of April. We all say thank you for these times for us all to know and support one another better.**

**As we move into summer, warmer weather, outdoor activities and vacations, we can be thinking of ways to do even more to help our Winneconne neighbors know us better and perhaps consider coming to join us in worship at FPC, where our mission to shine God's light and share God's love will become something everyone will feel and enjoy.**

**Submitted by Annie Leonard**

# Visions, Vines & Voices

Remember the incredible energy from our **Visions, Vines & Voices** event last September? So do the members of Session!

During our March meeting, we took a deep dive into the master list of ideas generated that night. While we knew some items were already implemented, we were thrilled to see that we have implemented at least one initiative in three of the four areas! Building on that momentum, we have officially identified our strategic commitments for 2026.

Even more exciting? The Deacons are actively discussing ways they can bring items from the list to life, too.

Here is the recap of our accomplishments and commitments for 2026:

## ***Spiritual Needs of the Congregation***

- **Accomplished:** We've been sharing Sunday **scripture readings** in the weekly email to help everyone prepare their hearts for worship.
- **2026 Commitment:** Starting in September, we are reviving **Food, Faith, and Fellowship!** We hope you will join us once a month on Wednesdays before choir for a simple potluck meal and meaningful faith discussions. It's a wonderful way to connect with one another and enjoy casual fellowship with Pastor Emily.

## ***Physical, Mental & Social Needs of the Congregation***

- **Accomplished:** We've loved seeing your **favorite recipes** featured in The Bridge!
- **2026 Commitment:** We are moving full steam ahead on **replacing the sanctuary carpet** along with applying for a grant to offset the cost.

## ***Spiritual Needs of the Community***

- **2026 Commitment:** We are excited to begin welcoming new home owners with **"Welcome to Winneconne" gift baskets**. Watch for a full update and more details in the June issue of The Bridge!

## ***Physical, Mental & Social Needs of the Community***

- **Accomplished:** Our **Wise As Serpents** educational event and community meal was a big success! The great turnout helped us build warm new connections with our friends at Winneconne Christian Fellowship as we learned and broke bread together.
- **2026 Commitments:** Plans are in the works for the fall to host **Wise As Serpents: Part 2** along with two **community meals**. We hope at least one of those meals will fully embrace our desire to be present in the community and will extend beyond our church walls. Finally, we are actively researching and planning a **community garden** and the goal is to be ready for the spring 2027 planting season!

Where do you feel called? Is there a project you feel called to spearhead? Or perhaps you'd like to help with our 2026 commitments? Please reach out to any member of the Session to get involved.

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5*

## Lazy Daisy Oatmeal Cake from Roxy Schultz

- 1 1/4 cups boiling water
- 1 cup Quick Quaker Oats uncooked
- 1/2 cup butter softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1 1/2 cups flour

Pour boiling water over oats and let stand for 20 minutes.  
Beat butter till creamy. Gradually add sugars until fluffy.  
Blend eggs and vanilla. stir in oats. Sift together flour, soda, salt and spices and add to creamed mixture mix well. Pour into well oiled 9X13 inch baking pan and bake for 50-55 minutes at 350 degrees.

### Broiled Frosting:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup cream (could use half and half)
- 2 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans (optional)

Melt butter in a heavy sauce pan over low heat. Add sugar and cream, blending thoroughly. Bring to boiling point stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add coconut, blend well. Spread frosting evenly over the hot cake and place under oven broiler. Broil at moderate heat at 350 degrees for about 3 1/2 minutes until golden brown.



# FEBRUARY 2026

TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$	6,443.82
TOTAL EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$	6,746.66
<b>LOSS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>302.84</b>
Reconciled Bank Balance 2/28/2026	\$	24,767.96

# MARCH 2026

TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$	8,137.73
TOTAL EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$	16,152.29
<b>LOSS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,014.56</b>
Reconciled Bank Balance 3/31/2026	\$	20,283.95
<b>YTD LOSS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,614.31</b>



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.