

# THE BRIDGE

## DECEMBER 2022



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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.

# December

## SESSION

Bette Hoytink - Clerk of Session  
Jessica Harrison - Treasurer  
Kristina Mosley - Personnel  
Dave Struensee - BIG  
Marilyn Paulson- Faith Formation  
John Harmon- Worship  
Rev. Katie Estes- Moderator

## WORSHIP TEAM

John Harmon - Session Elder  
Linda Harmon  
Kristina Mosley

## MEMBER CARE TEAM

Kristina Mosley- Session Elder  
Anna Malek  
Annie Leonard  
Lonna Norton  
Deb Bartelt  
Karen Angell

## FAITH FORMATION/WORSHIP COORDINATION

Marilyn Paulson - Session Elder

## MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM

Bette Hoytink  
Char Alecos

## BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROUNDS (BIG)

Dave Struensee - Session Elder  
Jack Wirch  
Roger Hoytink  
Dennis Biggar

## PRESBYTERY COM LIAISON

Rev Richard Moore, Honorably Retired

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session met on November 8th and took the following actions:

- Designated Sunday, December 11th, as the date for a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing new church officers.
- Designated Sunday, January 29, 2023, as the date for the annual congregational meeting. New church officers will also be ordained and installed on this date during the worship service.
- Received letters of thanks from WAAC and World Relief Fox Valley for donations made by First Presbyterian Church.
- Took action on a request from Doug Nelson and Mary Selle to transfer their membership from FPC to Lord of the Lakes ELCA Lutheran Church.
- Received the news that the estate of Bernice Divall has been finalized. Our church has been gifted with a final and very generous gift of \$140,321.
- Approved a proposal from the Personnel team to hire seminary student, Gina Struensee, to work up to 20 hours per week in the role of Congregational Ministries Coordinator. The position includes worship coordination, which has been done voluntarily by RE Marilyn Paulson for the past year. Other responsibilities include leading a Bible study, pastoral care as needed, and an administrative component which specifies four hours per week spent in the church office working with Kristen, Media Coordinator/Secretary. An at-will contract, which includes a ninety-day probation period, will begin December 1st.

# PULPIT SUPPLY FOR DECEMBER

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Pulpit Supply</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
Dec. 4	Jessica Harrison, CRE	Karen Angell
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b> <b>Annie Leonard &amp; Family</b>		
Dec. 11	Greg Braatz, CRE	Bette Hoytink
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b> <b>Roger and Bette Hoytink</b>		
Dec. 18	Greg Braatz, CRE	Rich Belfanz
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b> <b>Rich and Peggy Belfanz</b>		

**\*\*Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00pm)**

Jessica Harrison, CRE and Gina Struensee, RE will preach  
Lisa Baltes is the liturgist

**Lisa Baltes and Marilyn Paulson will do the Advent  
Candle Lighting**

**\*\*Sunday, Dec. 25**: There will not be an in-person  
worship service, but we encourage all to view the  
Christmas Eve or other worship services on YouTube  
or our website.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONS

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We invite you to take part in the Advent Devotions  
this month as we prepare our hearts and minds for  
the celebration of Christ's birth. We are including a  
link to the devotional "Attending to Advent: Poetry,  
Prose, and Prayer".

Below you will find the link to the PDF version. Using  
the link, you can download a printable version, if  
more convenient to read. Physical copies can be  
printed on Tuesdays from 10-2 or Sundays before and  
after worship, if needed.

"Attending to Advent: Poetry, Prose, and Prayer"  
[Click here to view and download](#)





# HOLIDAY REMINDERS

Another reminder that Christmas service will be held on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm. There will be no Sunday service on Christmas Day.

There will be service on Sunday, January 1st. Kristina Mosley will be leading the congregation in a Lesson in Carols with Jessica present to run the AV.



## OFFICE & MEDIA HOLIDAY HOURS

During the holidays, the Secretary/Media & Communications Manager Kristen will have slightly different hours.

Tuesday office hours will remain the same through the end of the year. You can stop by the church office on Tuesdays between 10-2 for any needs you may have.

Kristen will not be streaming Christmas Eve or New Year's Day. If you have any requests or needs during that time, please either stop by during office hours or send the request via email at [media@winnchurch.org](mailto:media@winnchurch.org)

Please keep an eye out for email communication about new office hours starting January.

Happy holidays to everyone, from Kristen!

# LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH



In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Advent started Nov. 27 and will conclude Christmas Eve. Join us Sundays in December for Advent service!



## WORSHIP



Another reminder that Christmas service will be held on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm. There will be no Sunday service on Christmas Day.

There will be service on Sunday, January 1st. Kristina Mosley will be leading the congregation in a Lesson in Carols with Jessica present to run the AV.



## PNC UPDATE



Please continue to lift prayers for guidance as the PNC continues to meet with applicants and seek a good fit for our congregation. We continue to remain in communication with the Presbytery for guidance and support.





# CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



In the story of God, as we tell it, there is a barrier that exists between the Created world and its Creator. A wall. Sin, we believe, separates us from God, and separation from God is unbearable.

Our story goes on to tell us that God, seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of getting over, or through or around what separates us, offered us a gift in Jesus Christ, who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves.

## What a gift!

But the story goes on to say that Jesus is the perfect gift; not only opening a door but coming through it. Our story says God is with us.

In Jesus, God joined with humanity, pointing the way to the end of our separation. And in his life, death and resurrection, so our story of God goes, Jesus is the door, now standing open. The giving continues because God is with us, still — and always.

Because being with us is part of God's story, being with others is part of our call.

During this Advent Season, we are called to support the Christmas Joy Offering, to celebrate God's perfect gift and open doors for those we might not be able to meet face to face, but who need the support that our gifts provide.

We support the potential of students of color who are becoming leaders in our churches and communities as we seek to come alongside them, to encourage and to open doors. And we support church workers and their families who encounter critical financial needs as we come alongside them, to assist them — we open doors for them. We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

The story of God, as we tell it, is not about a barrier, but about a gift. It's not about the separation, but about the gift of "being with." Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering, in celebration of God's perfect gift to us. Give because it brings us together, to open doors of relief and opportunity and to relationships that are part of God's story, a part of God's perfect gift to us.

Our gifts reflect our generous God. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world — past, present and future.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

# MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS



On behalf of First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne, the Mission/Outreach Team recently sent a check of \$1000 to Visions of SuAnne Big Crow Inc. This facility is located on the impoverished Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. When discussing with Session where to donate the budgeted local/special mission dollars this year, RE John Harmon suggested Pine Ridge, where over 90% of the population lives below the poverty level. In doing some research, I discovered an amazing story of a young woman named SuAnne Big Crow and the lasting impact her short life made with her people, the Ogala (Lakota Sioux).

A natural at basketball, SuAnne made her mark on the sports world. In 1989, she dominated in the state championship, and made the winning shot at the buzzer. She was the best girls player in South Dakota's history, scoring an average of 39 points per game. Her 67 points in a single game was a state record. She united a divided tribe in a celebratory parade with her team's victory. She stood strong against racism in rival gyms, silencing haters with spontaneous, tribal dances. December 19th was declared "SuAnne Big Crow Day" by the state of South Dakota, and she was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame on March 25, 2017.

However, the story is not all happiness. In 1992, SuAnne was driving to pick up the Miss Basketball Award. Suddenly, along a dusty South Dakota road, her car flipped and she died. Like other fallen heroes before her, she would never know the impact she'd have. While living as a basketball superstar, she used her platform to teach her culture that there was, what she called, "a better way." She dreamed of a place called "Happy Town" a place where young people could learn and be safe from drugs and alcohol, violence and gangs. After her death "Happytown" became a reality. In 1992, The SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club was started in a metal building. In 1999, then President Bill Clinton visited the reservation and they received a six million grant to build a new modern building. This marked the first Boys & Girls Club ever built on Indian country. This facility is managed by SuAnne's mother, Chick.

I had the pleasure to speak with Leatrice (Chick) Big Crow recently. She explained how the COVID pandemic had severely impacted the boys and girls club. Today they are operating as a day-care center and offering some special programs only. When she received our check, she shared with me that the money will be used to repair a propane leak that just developed in the HVAC system. With winter already present, the check was a real blessing. With this donation we did Share God's Love and Shine God's Light.

# MEMBER CARE



On Sunday, November 20, 2022 the Member Care Team hosted a celebration of 40 years of John and Linda Harmon's Music Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Winneconne. The music at FPC is unique in a number of ways. John (THE John Harmon, Jazz Performer) has shared his gift of composing and writing pieces for offertory, special themes, choir anthems and communion. He often performs original pieces during our church services tailored to the meaning of the day's service. Linda, a gifted and talented musician in her own right, is accomplished at the organ keyboard as well as the piano. It is not unusual to hear "Happy Birthday" bring the congregation into song at just the right moment to surprise and honor a member. To be able to change keys during a hymn with many verses keeps it from becoming dull, and Linda does that with such expertise you barely notice being carried along to a new key so smoothly.

The Harmons are a rare combination of creative genius and humble faith filled people. They generously provide not only the music each week, but participate in the worship service planning and selecting the hymns, choir anthems, and special music to accompany the liturgy and sermon topics.

So many prayerful and poetic pieces have provided comfort and peace during difficult times for our church family. Whether the occasion is a funeral, a baptism, a confirmation, or wedding, the Harmons were there with all the right notes!

It is quite a rare treasure to find two such capable, warm, and compassionate individuals to blend their talents and continue sharing their gifts for 40 years. We at FPC know how fortunate we are to have them, and any who are curious or just plain love music are welcome to join us on any given Sunday for a taste of the finest of church music found anywhere. Every church has its own unique personality and every church community can take bragging rights for what they value highly.

This past Thanksgiving found us grateful to be part of a congregation that is fortunate to be able to cherish an exceptional music ministry, one we appreciate and enjoy every time we come to worship and celebrate our lives in Christ.



# MEMBER CARE



Below is the next installment of our recipe series, provided by your Deacons!

## THE WINNECONNE COOKBOOK ©1913

### FACTS WORTH KNOWING

To take spots from wash goods: Rub them with the yolk of eggs before washing.

To make tough meat tender: Lay the meat in strong vinegar water for a few minutes.

To clean iron sinks: Rub them with a cloth wet with kerosene oil.

### FRUIT CAKE

- 1 1/2 cups of sugar
- 2/3 cup of butter
- 2/3 cup of water
- 5 eggs, leave two whites for frosting
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 1 cup of raisins
- 1 cup of figs
- 1 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon of cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon of all spices
- 1/2 teaspoon of nutmeg
- 4 cups of flour
- 3 teaspoons of baking powder

Cream sugar and butter and then add eggs well beaten. One cup flour, then add milk, water and spices. Mix the raisin and figs with 1 cup of flour. Last the flour and baking powder.

Submitted by: Mrs. A. Smith



HOW TO GIVE ONLINE

[WINNCHURCH.ORG](http://WINNCHURCH.ORG)

CLICK THE LINK ABOVE  
THEN CLICK "GIVE NOW"

# SHARED MINISTRY FUND

<b>Total income for October (w/o pass thru)</b>	<b>\$147,618.58</b>
<b>Final distribution DiVall estate</b>	<b>\$140,321.67</b>
<b>Total income minus DiVall contribution</b>	<b>\$7,296.91</b>
<b>Total expenses for October (w/o pass thru)</b>	<b><u>\$6,873.76</u></b>
<b>Gain for October</b>	<b>\$423.15</b>
<b>Total Income YTD (w/o pass thru)</b>	<b>\$267,812.00</b>
<b>Total Gift DiVall Estate YTD</b>	<b>\$191,725.99</b>
<b>Total Income YTD minus DiVall</b>	<b>\$76,086.01</b>
<b>Total Expenses YTD (w/o pass thru)</b>	<b><u>\$67,115.39</u></b>
<b>Gain for YTD minus DiVall</b>	<b>\$8,970.62</b>
<b><u>Fund Balances (as of 9/30/2022)</u></b>	
<b>New Covenant Fund</b>	<b>\$1,262.00</b>



**FPC WEBSITE**

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.

[OUR 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.

# DECEMBER 2022

THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR OF FPC

BE

IN THE

KNOW...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Service 9:00am Fellowship 10:00am	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Service 9:00am Member Care after service Congregational Meeting	12	13 Session Meeting 6:30pm	14	15	16	17
18 Service 9:00am Fellowship 10:00am	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm
25 Christmas Day No service	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve