

the bridge

fall 2024

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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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past few weekends, I have been participating in a meditation series put on by the Henri Nouwen Society. Named “A Beautiful Adventure: The Gift of the Arts in Spiritual Formation,” this series includes both brief weekly lectures and opportunities to practice various spiritual disciplines. This past weekend, for example, we learned about attention as a spiritual discipline, and we were invited to reflect on Caravaggio’s 1601 painting “The Supper at Emmaus” for two minutes straight.

Now initially I thought this would be painful. And it kind of was. After all, how often do we actually stop and really look at and think about anything for two whole minutes? But it was also eye-opening. Once I got out of my own head with all of my to-do list items and the random distractions around me, I began to observe new and subtle details about the painting and the figures depicted in it. I ended up seeing and appreciating the painting’s beauty and depth in ways that I would not have with just a quick glance.

Later that day, I tried this discipline out again. Instead of observing a seventeenth century painting, though, I observed the beauty on display from my own front porch. And again, it started out a little rough with the same old front yard and the same old neighbors milling about. But then I saw something that I had not seen before. Across the street from my home, high up in my neighbor’s still overwhelmingly green and leafy tree, I saw the first signs of fall in the changing of its leaves, a welcome reminder from God that new seasons in life are inevitable and yet they can still be beautiful.

In the weeks ahead, I am planning to continue this spiritual discipline by taking some time—even just two minutes—to simply pause and observe the beauty before me—whether it be a painting, a poem, a song, or some small patch of God’s creation—in the hopes that I might be more attuned to the presence of the Lord our God. I hope you will consider joining me in this practice as we enter into a new month together.

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

P.S. Please do feel free to reach out and share your observations with me! I would love to hear about the places where you have felt God’s presence most. You can call or text me at (219) 669-4797 or send me an email at pastoremily@winchurch.org. I am also in the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM. You can simply stop in the office or schedule an appointment with me in advance.

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.”

– Genesis 8:22





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

KRISTINA MOSLEY

WORSHIP/PERSONNEL

MARILYN PAULSON

WORSHIP/FAITH FORMATION

ROGER HOYTINK

**BUILDING,
GROUNDS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

DAVID STRUENSEE

**BUILDING,
GROUNDS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

JESSICA HARRISON

TREASURER

DEACONS/MEMBER CARE

KAREN ANGELL

DEB BARTELT

PEGGY BALFANZ

LONNA NORTON

SANDRA BUSER

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met on September 10th and took the following actions:

- **Approved the Transitional Pastor's Participation option from the PC(U.S.A.) Board of Pensions for 2025. As the employer, Winneconne and Weyauwega will pay for full medical, disability and pension dues for Pastor Emily and her spouse. The pension dues expense will be reflected in the 2025 Terms of Call which the congregation will be asked to approve at the annual congregational meeting.**

- **Approved by consensus these requests from Pastor Emily**

- o **Study Leave – Sunday, 10/20-Saturday, 10/26**

- o **Vacation – Sunday, 12/29 – Saturday, 1/04**

- **Approved the request from the Deacons/Member Care Team to host a community chili supper on October 17th from 4:00-7:00 pm.**

- **Approved to contract with the WebRoot company to provide Security Awareness Training for up to 10 people who use the church computers.**

Mark Your Calendars...



Rev. Emily will be on vacation on Oct. 20. Our friend Greg Braatz, CRE will be our guest preacher that day.



Rev. Emily will be leading a five week study of the Gospel of Mark beginning Thursday, October 17 at 9am in Fellowship Hall. It will continue on Thursday mornings through November 14. All are welcome!



Please mark your calendar for Pastor Emily's Installation service on Saturday, October 12th at 2:00 pm. This is our time to officially welcome Emily as our pastor and celebrate her installation with fellow Presbyterians from around Winnebago Presbytery. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the worship service. Please plan to join the celebration!



The Deacons will be hosting a chili supper on Thursday, October 17th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall! All are welcome!



Liturgists continue to be needed. Please sign up on the sheets in the entryway at church. Bulletins and readings are sent to you in advance of the service so you have an opportunity to read through everything prior to your arrival. We'd love to see some new faces join our regulars in helping Rev. Emily on Sunday mornings. Please consider helping out!



Mission and Outreach

Our congregation participates in all 4 of the special offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA. Each has a unique purpose and great impact.

Having said that, we confess Peace and Global Witness (PGW) may be our favorite. We love that it empowers congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves and allows local congregations to keep 25% of the offering for peacemaking efforts that align with their passion.

Last year we learned of examples where students in our district didn't have some of their basic needs met. One student didn't have a bed to sleep in at home. School staff donated a bed and our Deacons donated bedding in the student's favorite colors. Subsequently, our Mission and Outreach special project was the creation of the Student Basic Needs fund. It provides money for our school staff to meet the needs of students in real time as the needs arise. Last school year this fund ensured 22 students had lunch money, new clothes and grocery gift cards. Our plan for the 25% of the PGW offering this year is to replenish the fund so more students will feel the peace of Christ through the generosity of others.

The remainder of the PGW offering goes to mid-councils (25%) for ministries of peace and reconciliation and to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (50%) to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Let's continue live up to our mission to share God's love and shine God's light ~

Please consider giving generously. We collect the offering on October 6th, World Communion Sunday.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

Thank you for your participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

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

WAYS TO GIVE

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global
- Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 or scan this QR code for more information.

SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE.
ZECHARIAH 8:12

Thank you,
Nichole & Melissa



AUGUST 2024

TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$ 10,528.60
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 8,200.15
GAIN FOR AUGUST	\$ 2,328.45

YTD INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$ 59,147.30
YTD EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$ 73,163.74
YTD DEFICIT	\$ 14,016.44
YTD DEFICIT (w/o village assessment	\$ 6,581.44

CHECKBOOK BALANCE 8/31/24 \$64,909.87



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.