

# the bridge

## fall 2024

The Bridge	page 1
Pastor's Page	page 2
Session Highlights	page 3
Worship/FF	page 4
Emily's Installation!	page 5
Member Care	page 6
Shared Ministry	page 7
Fund Tech & Media	page 8

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,

Welcome to November!

Believe it or not, in just a few short weeks, we will kick off the holiday season with family and friends gathered together at table for some delicious food and meaningful fellowship on Thanksgiving Day. If I'm catching the Wisconsin drift, I suspect many of us will also kick off the season either at Lambeau Field or around the nearest television as the Packers face off with the Dolphins. And then, before we know it, Thanksgiving will be in our collective rearview mirror as we slide over into the express lane that carries us to Christmas and the start of a whole new year.

Indeed, just walking into Walgreens with their assortment of stocking stuffers or Hobby Lobby with their aisles and aisles of indoor and outdoor décor, I sometimes feel as though I already am on that fast track to Christmas and to 2025. Maybe you do, too.

But I wonder what it might be like if you and I didn't rush right to the tree trimming and the gift giving. I wonder what it might be like if we chose to be intentional, to slow down and appreciate each occasion in its own time.

I personally suspect that I might feel more grounded and less stressed if the seasons of Advent and Christmas were rooted in gratitude and thanksgiving, if I were present each and every day rather than worried about my ever-growing to-do list, if I remembered that my busyness was the result of the blessings God has bestowed upon me.

And so, that is what I have made up my mind to do. For the month of November, I am going to lean into the theme of thanksgiving. I am going to strive to be intentional in practicing gratitude. My plan is simple. Each day, I will set aside just a couple minutes to pray and thank God for the big and small blessings I have received. And then, I am going to commit those blessings to paper, writing them down on tiny slips and adding them to my "blessings jar." That way, I can look back with joy at the things God has done for me on Thanksgiving Day. (I can also look back and remember God's goodness on those days when it is hard to feel grateful.)

If this gratitude practice appeals to you, it is my hope and my prayer that you might join me. Or if you already have a practice that has helped you lean into gratitude, please feel free to share it with me. In any case, I hope you have a meaningful and intentional start to your holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving, my friends!

Rev. Emily



"I thank my God every time I remember you." - Philippians 1:3 (NIV)



## **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 October 8th.**

- The Session will host a joint meeting with the Weyauwega Session on November 6th. The purpose of the meeting is to negotiate the 2025 Terms of Call for Pastor Emily and share thoughts on the Shared Pastoral Services Agreement which has been in effect for the first five months of our new relationship.
- Jessica Harrison's name will be submitted to Winnebago Presbytery Commission on Ministry so that Jessica may continue to be commissioned to preside at the table for Holy Communion in our church in 2025.
- The Session heard the highlights of the September 26th meeting of Winnebago Presbytery, which included an announcement by the Leadership Commission that they approved a grant of \$1000 to our very own Young Adult Volunteer, Robbie Mosley. Each YAV needs to raise \$4,000 to cover expenses during their year of service. Robbie is currently working in New Orleans.
- Updated policies for the Administrative Manual of Operations are being reviewed. The final product will be shared with the congregation upon completion and approval.



# *Worship and Faith Formation*



**Our Service of Remembrance will be held Sunday, November 3rd. Members are invited to bring a small candle to be lit during the service in remembrance of a loved one who has died this past year.**



**Readers and candle lighters are needed for the lighting of Advent Wreath candles during December beginning Sunday, December 1st. At least two people will be needed for each of 5 services. Please let Marilyn Paulson or Rev. Emily know if you would like to participate. Readings will be provided.**



**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!**



**Daylight savings time ends Sunday, November 3rd. Don't forget to set your clocks back!**



**This Saturday, November 2nd, is Rev. Emily's installation at FPC in Weyauwega at noon. All are welcome to attend!**





**REV. EMILY LUEDER IS OFFICIALLY INSTALLED AS  
FPC WINNECONNE MINISTER**

**On October 12 we had a joyful celebration in the Service of Installation for Rev. Emily as she “officially” became “our” pastor. In addition to a number of members from our church, we also welcomed several members of the Winnebago Presbytery to share in the service. As part of an installation service there is something called “Charge to the Congregation”. Rev. Katie Estes (FPC Green Bay and former moderator of our Session during our transition) offered an inspiring “charge” to us as members of FPC Winneconne. CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION.**

**We presented Rev. Emily with a new stoll as a gift from the congregation, Rev. Matt Sauer (Presbytery Moderator) asks Rev. Emily the installation questions, and participants in the service included representatives from Presbytery, our congregation, and Weyauwega’s congregation. She will be installed at FPC Weyauwega on November 2 at 2pm.**





## **MEMBER CARE TEAM**

**Our Chili Supper was a succes as it has been in other years. We served about 70 bowls of chili and took in \$392.00 minus expenses of about \$90.00.**

**Each year we have people tell us that they were just waiting for the signs to go up around town, letting them know the date of the supper. It has been known to be the perfect evening to eat and visit with friends and family. For all who attended - thank you for your support and hope to see you again next year!**



HOW TO GIVE ONLINE  
WINNCHURCH.ORG

CLICK THE LINK ABOVE  
THEN CLICK "GIVE NOW"

# SHARED MINISTRY FUND



## SEPTEMBER 2024

TOTAL INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$ 10,395.27
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,671.54
DEFICIT FOR SEPTEMBER	\$ 276.27
YTD INCOME (w/o pass thru)	\$ 69,542.57
YTD EXPENSES (w/o pass thru)	\$ 83,835.28
YTD DEFICIT	\$ 14,292.71

You may recall that in the summer of 2017, we sold the rental house that the church owned just north of the fellowship hall. In our proposal seeking approval of the plan by Winnebago Presbytery, we pledged to donate 10% of the proceeds of the sale to establish the Winneconne Community School District Emotional Wellness & Mental Health Fund. This fund is part of the Winneconne Area Community Foundation, which in turn is a component of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to help support emotional wellness programs at our Winneconne schools.

While 10% of the sale proceeds came to \$7,000, the Session agreed to donate a total of \$10,000 in order to establish the fund with the foundation. Over the last seven years, the fund has grown because of healthy growth in the investment portfolio and additional donations from community members. At the 10th anniversary celebration of the Winneconne Area Community Foundation, we learned that the fund we established now has a value of \$80,000. First Presbyterian has made and will continue to make a difference in our community. Praise the Lord!!





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.