

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE

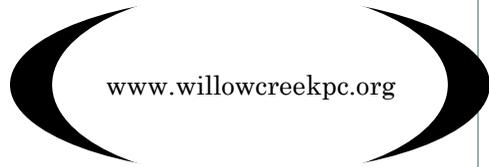
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*A Faith Community, Growing
Together, Sharing The Love
of Christ*



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The Mariners will meet at the Stockholm Inn on Tuesday, May 14th, at 11:30 AM. The Stockholm Inn is at 2420 Charles St. in Rockford; hope you can come!



Come see the Butterfields, PCUSA missionaries serving Portugal, whom we will host on Sunday, May 12th, during our morning worship service at 9:30 AM! They will share their experiences of spreading the Word of God in ministry there. You won't want to miss it!



There will be a Memorial Service at the Scottish Cemetery on Sunday, May 26th, at 11 AM after the Fellowship time.



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle



STREAMER

May 2013

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From the Pastor

Psalm 46:10--"Be Still and Know that I am God."

Jesus continually went off by himself to sit in silence (Lk 4,Mt 4,et al). Elijah received the voice of God in the silence (1 Kings 19). Zechariah was made speechless so that God could speak (Luke 1).

Our lives are filled with noise. Our radios, our televisions, our computers, our smartphones, all constantly beckon our attention. Our minds can seem to never stop racing with all that clutters them. The bombing in Boston happened on Monday afternoon, just as my family and I were entering the mountains of rural Arkansas. I am grateful that I was off in the quiet of God's creation. I was surprised when we went out for ice one day as a momentary spot of signal allowed my Twitter, Facebook, and e-mail accounts to update. No pun is intended here, but my phone was blowing up with so much input, so much noise. I prayed for my fellow countrymen and women, and I thanked God as I lost signal and returned to the forest. For the first time, I was grateful that I let our satellite radio subscription lapse. But, after our first night back in reality, in adjoining hotel rooms with family (4 adults, 2 kids, 3 dogs, and 2 TVs on the same 24-hour news station), I found myself thinking, "Make it STOP!"

It is our nature in the 21st century to want all the answers, to get to the bottom of things, to sleuth out all the information (i.e. Google or Wikipedia), and often to rush to judgment, but this just shouldn't be. Our job as Christians should be to stop. Don't seek answers, don't try to point fingers, but sit instead in the discomfort of not knowing all the answers. We do this all the time in our faith-life, and it's okay. Listen for the entire verse of Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."



God is honored when we sit and we know that no matter the tragedies of this world, God is still God. God is honored when we can just sit and realize there is nothing WE can do to fix the sins of the world. God is honored when we sit and cry for the victims rather than try to point fingers at the perpetrators. God is honored when the victims are lifted up in silent petitions rather than vigilante revenge. God is honored when we stop trying to judge people, places, events, and things, and just live prayerfully in the reality of the situation. God is honored when we stop, when we seek to help the situation rather than rush to judge it.

So, in the next few weeks as police figure out what happened, as our national leaders gather to decide how to proceed, and as social media and news stations follow every move, almost lurking, always scanning the world for that next attention-grabbing part of the story, stop. Stop; turn off your televisions, radios, computers, and mobile devices and be still. Know that God is God. Turn to God. Listen. Study. Pray. And then discern what to do, how to help.

Elijah, who was distressed and depressed, returned to find another helper (Elisha) and other believers (the 7000). He found hope and company in ministry.

Zechariah, who was afraid and doubtful, named and raised John the Baptist, who would lead and teach and prepare believers. Again, a ministry of hope.

And then there is Jesus, the Good and Gentle Shepherd. It is Christ whom we should follow rather than the whim of the media. Turn away from the noise of the world and find the still waters and green pastures; seek God in silence and find your calling.

Health Ministries

Many of us make New Year's resolutions. How are you doing with yours? Forgotten what they were? Not fully committed to seeing them through 12 months? Still plugging along? Did you know that "wellness promotion literature" suggests that **BEHAVIORS (versus diseases) are the primary killers of Americans?** For example, tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable death, followed closely by obesity.

So what keeps us from making healthy choices? Why do we tend to wait until a crisis occurs, a health concern is identified, or a diagnosis is given? Why do we wait?

Here are some suggestions for you and me to consider choosing. Any of them will benefit us: body, mind, and spirit:

1. *Obtain routine physical exams and diagnostic tests, based on gender and age.* Early diagnosis allows prompt treatment but also, our healthcare providers to help us identify our risk factors (which in turn allows us opportunity to make better choices.)
2. *Get moving!* Walk more each day! Find ways of walking more while you go about your normal day. Aim for 10,000 steps (5 miles) a day.
3. *Drink more water.* Water keeps the body hydrated, allows efficient circulation & filtering of waste, and helps prevent constipation. Replace soda and sweetened drinks



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Bible Study 9am Bells mtg. & practice 7-8:15pm	3	4
5 9:30am Worship w/Communion & Baptism 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 S. School	6 MMS 2pm Session 7pm	7	8 (Preschool Field Trip) Deacons 2pm, Blood Drive 3-7p	9 Bible Study 9am	10	11 PW Spring Tea 1:00pm
12 9:30am Worship w/the Butterfields 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 S. School Mother's Day	13	14 Mariners 11:30am	15	16 Bible Study 9am	17	18 M & W 9am ALL HYMNAL ORDERS DUE TOMORROW!
19 9:30am Worship w/Communion, (Pentecost & Youth Sunday) 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 S. School Youth 3-5pm	20 Last Day of Preschool (4's) PW Coord. Team 9:30am STREAMER DEADLINE!	21 Last Day of Preschool (3's) B & G 9am F & P 9am	22 Preschool "Big Show" 5:30pm (Preschool Bd. meets before the show)	23 Bible Study 9am	24	25
26 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Memorial Service at the Scottish Cemetery	27 Memorial Day (Office closed)	28 Martha-Ruth Circle 9am	29	30 Bible Study 9am	31	

ATTENTION BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY...GOLFERS NEEDED!

The Stronghold Committee is looking for 10 more foursomes to join us for a wonderful day of golf & raising funds for Stronghold at the same time.

When: June 6, 2013. We start early at 5:30 AM & go until we play 100 holes (or are too tired to keep moving).

Where: Prairie View Golf Course in Byron, IL

For more information, please see the registration materials on our website at www.BlackhawkPresbytery.org/Stronghold. If you want to sign up &/or you cannot make a foursome, contact Thelma Busker at tkbusker@comcast.net.

Hope to see you on the 6th of June! —Rev. Gavin Finefield



**Red carpet, the bright lights,
Paparazzi and bling.
We're celebrating year-end
with a Hollywood thing!**



Join us on the Red Carpet for Argyle Preschool's
BIG MUSIC SHOW

Wednesday, May 22nd, at 5:30 PM in the Willow Creek Sanctuary.

We're celebrating the end of our school year with a star-studded musical extravaganza... and you're invited!

(Our preschool program is expected to last 20-25 minutes followed by light refreshments downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.)



GIVING OPPORTUNITY: The Board of Pensions administers the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), providing pension, healthcare, death, & disability benefits to qualifying members who serve, or have served, the PC(USA). The Board also provides financial & vocational grants through the Assistance Program, which depends on generous givers across the Presbyterian Church to sustain its ministry. Its programs to assist pastors, other church workers, & their families in times of need are funded by gifts, legacies, income from endowments, & half of the gifts received from the *Christmas Joy Offering*. **If you are able to support them now, as well, please do!** (pensions.org)

with water. Unless you have been specifically instructed to restrict your fluid intake, you most likely need more water!

4. *Quit all tobacco use!* You'll save money, while you minimize your risk of cancer and heart and lung diseases.

5. *Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables.*

6. *Eat out less often.* Plan nutritious meals before you grocery shop. You'll save money, too!

7. *Shop the outer edge of grocery stores.* This is where you find fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, and other more healthy choices. This way we'll avoid more processed, less healthy foods.

8. *Intentionally spend more time with family and friends.*

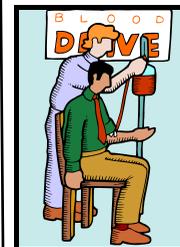
9. *Take prescription medicine as prescribed.* Don't stop taking a medicine without direction from your primary healthcare provider.

10. *Do something you love!* Mental health is improved when we feel joy and satisfaction.

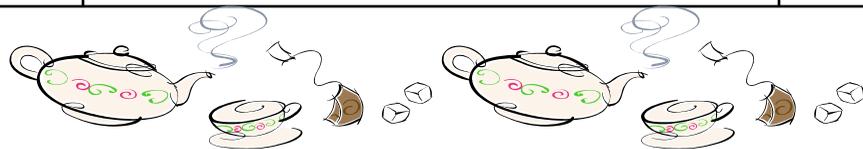
11. *Worship regularly.* Improve your spiritual health with an active devotional and prayer life. But remember, we're designed for community and relationships (even when iron sharpens iron). We need each other!

So, it's May. We can't blame weather any longer! What ONE change will you make toward better health for the rest of 2013? Remember, being healthy actually costs MUCH LESS than treating disease, not to mention the benefits of feeling stronger, better, and having an overall sense of well-being. How can we better steward this gift of life we've been given?

If you are interested in becoming a Willow Creek Walker, the March of Dimes "March for Babies" is on Sunday, May 5th, at the Verdi Club at 782 N. Madison in Rockford. Registration begins at 9 AM. For more information call Denise Temple at 815-262-0670.



Giving Feels Amazing! The Rock River Valley Blood Center mobile bus will be parked at Willow Creek on Wednesday, May 8th, from 3-7 PM. To schedule a time to donate, please see Donna Hamilton after church or call the church office at 815-885-3455. Walk-ins are also welcome. First-time donors, please bring a photo I.D. and be sure to have plenty to eat and drink before you donate! Thank you!



Spring Tea...

PW will host their Spring Tea on Saturday, May 11th, beginning at 1:00 PM. All ladies of Willow Creek and friends are invited. Bring your favorite tea cup and a friend, your mother or your daughter, or just come and join others to enjoy a wonderful afternoon. This event will begin with a program presented by Jodi Beach. Jodi is well known in the Rockford area, and we are looking forward to a delightful program. Afterwards, enjoy tea, savories, and desserts! Tickets will be available, and reservations are required. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 10 & under, and free for children 4 & under. Contact Janet Ensminger at 815-633-8933 or Delores Hall at 815-633-1784 if you need more information. Tickets will be available to purchase after church on May 5th.

Women's Retreat...

The PW Women's Retreat will be on June 8th, hosted by Janet Ensminger, Coordinator of Missions, at 1077 Darwin Dr., Machesney Park. Breakfast will begin at 9 AM, and the Birthday Offering will be accepted and dedicated at this meeting. The Retreat leader will be Pastor Julia Raffety. Julia was ordained at Westminster Presbyterian Church on March 3rd, 2013. She comes from Littleton, CO and is a graduate of Denver Seminary. This is her first ordained call; she will be serving as the Associate Pastor of Congregational Life. A sign-up sheet for the Retreat will be in the Fellowship Hall after May 11th. Everyone is welcome to come, enjoy the fellowship, and renew your spirit for the busy summer season. Please call Janet Ensminger at 815-633-8933 if you have any questions.

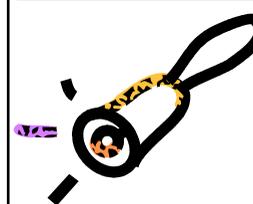
Thank you...

Thank you to ALL who supported our PW Spring Dinner—the planners, the doers, the eaters, and the givers!! It takes many willing hands and hearts to make these dinners a success. We appreciate all your help and time.



Would You Like to Order a Hymnal?

We are excited to be planning to purchase **new hymnals**, titled **Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal**. We have received gifts to help purchase 90 of these hymnals, but our goal is to fully supply our pews and the choir with 215 copies (plus two spiral-bound copies for the piano and organ). Listen for the singing of some of these new and old hymns in worship! *You may purchase a hymnal or hymnals in honor or in memory of someone. Forms can be found on the credenza in the Fellowship Hall. The hymnals are \$15, and orders need to be placed by **Sunday, May 19th**.*



Willow Creek Ringers will meet on Thursday, May 2nd, at 7:00 PM to plan our practice schedule. Anyone interested in ringing or learning to ring bells/chimes is invited and encouraged to attend. If there is enough interest, a youth chime choir is also a possibility. A brief rehearsal will be part of the evening, and we will finish by 8:15 PM. Questions? Contact Dianne Londo at 815-623-8512 or e-mail at dlondo48@londopiano.com.

Dear Friends: Thank you for your kind donation of 65 School Kits to Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter, that someone cares, and that they are not alone. For updates on our most recent work, visit cwsglobal.org, or to find out more about the CWS Kit Program, visit www.cwsglobal.org/kits. Here at home or overseas, when tragedy strikes, your donations ensure that help is never far away.
(from a letter dated April 1, 2013, from Rev. John L. McCullough,
President & CEO of Church World Service)



Willow Creek Operating Stats—March 2013

Income	\$11,724.00
Expenses	\$12,884.00
Previous Month-Excess/(Deficit)	(5,285.00)