

STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011
815-885-3455



from the Pastor's Pen:

July 2015

Summer officially began on Sunday, June 21st. For many, summer offers a break from the routine. In my life summer has always looked a little different from the other three seasons in terms of my schedule and lifestyle, both as a student and a pastor. I like the idea of emphasizing different aspects of pastoral ministry during this season as it tends to keep me fresh and energized.

For example, I typically spend more time visiting and getting to know the people I serve with during the summer months because the preschool is out, many committees take a month or two off, and the general business around the church decreases. I also have a little more quiet study time in the office to begin to look towards Fall with a "big picture" view and an eye towards a sermon series (I'm working on a Superheroes of the Bible series).

Finally, summer is when I like to take summer vacations, spend what time I can with family, and rest.

Rest. My mind has stopped on the subject of rest; in particular, I am thinking about the difference between replenishing and escaping. Many of us feel depleted by life. We give, we go, we push ... and then we give and go a little more the next day. This cycle tends to make us feel weary and generally "spent". Then there comes an hour or two in the day, or a day or two in the week when we have the opportunity to take a break, to rest.

What do we do during that break time? It seems to me that we take one of two options: we escape reality, which just masks our sense of depletion for a short time, or we actually choose something that replenishes us. Escaping makes us feel good for the short time we're doing the chosen activity (but can sometimes actually spend down our energy even more), but replenishing gives us energy well beyond the momentary. In other words, if you and I choose to simply escape we are soon right back where we started in terms of our emotional state and energy level. If we replenish our lives we are ready to go for the foreseeable future.

Jesus taught His disciples about replenishing. Think about the times that he would leave the crowds behind to spend time in prayer and communion with God. He did this as a way of gaining strength and clarity for the life he was given to live, not as a means of escaping that life. Escaping his reality was never Jesus' intent; fulfilling his purpose with passion and faithfulness was what drove him to break with the routine and get replenished.

So what about you; are you planning to escape or replenish this summer? Where ever you go, whatever you do, take some time to seek refreshment for your life's journey. Resist the temptation to just escape, and connect to the only power source that can truly recharge your batteries-the one that not only created the whole universe, but each one of us, too.

My prayer for our church as a family is that we would find some new and special ways to connect together, resting, rejuvenating, and being made ready for the next leg of our journey on the Path.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Judith



From Health Ministries:

I downloaded the FitBit app onto my phone. I wanted to use the tool to track my exercise miles. Much to my delight, it not only counts the miles and calculates my pace, but it also maps my route (nothing like Big Brother watching!) My walking route at the park is quite interesting w/ it's ever-changing loops & turns. What a nice overview of my accomplishment.

Another aspect of FitBit is the opportunity to track calories consumed (and calories burned w/ exercise.) Every day, I log my meals in great detail, only to watch the "counter" tell me when I'm below-at-or approaching the above-target range! My phone has become my nag.

(Depending on our activity level, age, and gender, our required calories can be quite varied. The number of calories we eat and drink as well as the calories we burn determine whether we lose, gain, or maintain weight. We know this, right?)

My phone is helping me remember which foods provide optimal fuel and volume while staying inside my personal calorie limits. I wish I didn't have to pay such close attention. Sometimes, I choose not to. But then I need to exercise longer or faster to make sure my food intake is as healthy and balanced as possible.

Nutrient-dense fruit, vegetables, whole grains, fish, legumes, low-fat dairy products can help prevent heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and bone loss. For those of us with a diagnosis we wish we could ignore, nutrient-dense foods help manage our health challenges in order to prevent or postpone complications.

How do you maintain your balance? How do you stay focused and on course? Do you use a tool, such as FitBit? Perhaps, you need to reevaluate your food intake and make some changes? Perhaps you need to move more? Do it for the long haul. Do it for your future! (Get a "nag" if you need to...)

**WCPC Operating Statistics
April, 2015**

Income 11,637.00

Expenses 15,183.00

Previous Month -
Excess/(Deficit) (2,440.00)

**WCPC Operating Statistics
May, 2015**

Income 14,145.00

Expenses 10,776.00

Previous Month -
Excess/(Deficit) (3,546.00)



Well, here's a big thank you from the **Greenlees (Jack, Jean, and Todd)** for all the support from our Willow Creek Church relatives and friends. All the food, visits, and phone calls were awesome. We can't thank you enough. Hopefully, we are on the road upward. Todd is back at work, and Jean is running around with her cane to point and give orders, unless worse comes to worse, and she hits you with it. **Thanks again.**

To Pastor Judith & Willow Creek Members,

Thank you so much for your help while I was ill and in the hospital. I enjoyed Pastor Judith's visits at Rockford Memorial Hospital and the phone calls, food, cards and visits when I got home.

Our church does a great job to extend God's Love thru its members. We are truly a loving caring Church.

Thanks,
Dave & Phyllis Cummings



STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION

ABOVE and BEYOND the CALL of DUTY recognizes individuals, couples or groups that serve God through Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

Nominations forms can be obtained on the welcome stand outside Fellowship Hall near the Education Wing. Completed nominations can be deposited in the box on the welcome stand. Nominations can also be made directly to members of the Mission, Membership and Stewardship Committee (David Ensminger, Adam Finley, Sherri Finley, Pat Nortch, Delores Hall, Jim Hall) or Pastor Judith.

**The carton is waiting for more Box Tops.
Thank you for participating!**





Fellowship

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to bring refreshments for Fellowship. There are still Sundays available, please sign-up at the Refreshment Table.

Birthday Offering

Thank you for support of \$382

This donation will be forwarded to the Birthday Offering PW to be combined with other gifts and given out in Grants for very Special Projects.



Pentecost Offering

Thank you for your donations of \$177.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

**GOD, FROM MY YOUTH
YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME**

Psalms 71:17



Dear Friends at Willow Creek Presbyterian,

Thank you so much for your contribution to Stronghold Fundraising in the amount of \$26.16, check # 16468 on 4/24/2015. We are grateful for your support of this ministry of Blackhawk Presbytery.

Summer Camp is coming soon and hiring is well under way with eight 2014 veterans and ten new members on board. Please encourage anyone and everyone to register for one of our traditional youth camping programs or one of 3 intergenerational camps. Family Camp is a wonderful weekend for all age groups and we offer activities for ages 3 to 103.

Please check the Stronghold web site or Facebook page for more updates about camp and thank you again for your prayers and financial support. We invite you to visit with us here at Stronghold, plan a special church event here or invite one of the staff members to visit with you.

Sincerely, Director of Operations and Program Development





Dear Willow Creek Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for bringing grace to the lives of our members, residents and children who rely on the programs at Shelter Care Ministries to provide shelter, awaken hope and honor their dignity as the wonderfully created children of God. Without your generous gift of \$407.00, the work we do would be that much harder.

The board and staff of Shelter Care Ministries continue to work towards creating a world free from poverty, homelessness and despair. Your gift makes a difference to the many adults and children who rely on the support and hospitality offered through our programs. Truly without our wonderful volunteers, donors and community support we could not continue to serve families who are homeless and adults suffering from a chronic mental illness.

You give more than gifts ... you give the miracle of Grace. Thank you for thinking of Shelter Care Jubilee Members, Housing Residents, Careers & MORE clients and the many children who are served through MAYA'S House. Your generosity will not be forgotten.

Many Blessings to you, Louissett M. Ness M. Med., ORSCC, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Throughout the holy season of Lent and Easter, Christians ponder the journey of Jesus from the cross to resurrection. As I pray along my own faith path, it seems I do not walk alone, but in the company of Christians all over the world with whom Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has partnered through the generosity of Presbyterians like you.

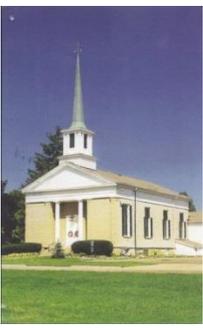


Recently I was privileged to be part of a training, where at the invitation of Presbyterian partners in Kenya and war-torn South Sudan, PDA facilitated workshops with pastors and other faith leaders, that they might be better equipped to respond to the aftermath of trauma in their communities and embody practices of spiritual resilience. Their witness of perseverance and hope in the midst of ongoing chaos was a powerful, moving embodiment of what it means to walk through the valley of the shadow and hope for resurrection life. Brothers and sisters in the Middle East also shine as light in the darkness, welcoming terrified refugees into their churches for shelter and rebuilding homes shattered by ongoing conflict.

Because of your generosity, people of God worldwide have been able to rebuild their lives, support their neighbors, volunteer in recovery, and exhibit resurrection by building peace and working toward the restoration of their broken communities in the wake of typhoon, tornado, or trauma. Whenever I am able to meet survivors, I assure them of the continued prayers and fidelity of the people of the PC(USA). Because of your gifts and faithfulness, we are able to say that in the midst of chaos, and through many *via dolorosas* (ways of suffering), there is hope, help and healing. Thank you, in the name of the suffering and risen Lord.

In Christ's peace, The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus, Coordinator, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Date	Fund Description	Amount
4/24/2015	Mariner's Donation – Disaster Tornado Relief	\$150
4/28/2015	Rochelle/Fairdale Tornado Assistance	\$200



A Postcard from the Old Stone Church in Rockton:

Thank you very much for your ongoing support of our Food Pantry. You've always a major assistant to us feeding area families experiencing extremely difficult situations.

Most Appreciative, Donn VanSchelven, Pantry Supervisor

The Deacons are looking for Personal DVD players (screen and dvd player all in one). If you have a Personal DVD Player that you would like to donate, please drop it off at the Church Office. These will be used to take and share special and Sunday services recorded in our sanctuary with those we visit. Thank you.



KITS CHALLENGE

Sewing Day

Wednesday, July 8th @ 9:30 am at the Church

The MMS Committee has accepted the Kits Challenge. The committee approved purchasing the material for the school bags. We are ready to begin the construction of the school bags. This is when we hope all at Willow Creek will want to be active in meeting this Challenge.

We are planning a SEWING DAY or maybe more than one day. We will cut and sew, perhaps have lunch and sew some more. We have material for at least 50 bags. When we know how many school bags we will have to fill; the famous POST IT NOTES will be put up, and you will all have the opportunity to shop for school supplies to fill the school bags. That will make it a complete church project.

On our sewing day, we are hoping that sewing machines will be brought to the church. Cutting boards and cutting wheels will make cutting easy and quick. Sewing is simple, just straight seams. Please come be a part of this assembly line of blessings for school children!

July Skiffers

Saturday, July 11th at 12:30 pm

Boone County Historical Society (314 S. State St., Belvidere)

The program will be given by Carol Rowe entitled "Beauty of Barns". Dessert will follow the program.

Please reply regrets only by July 5th to Dick & Carolyn Wheeler.





Mariners Tuesday, July 14th Meeting

Mariners will meet at Sinnissippi Park for a box lunch and the concert. We will meet at 6 P.M. Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at the top of the hill, by the Band Shell, in the pavilion. Bring a lawn chair or cushion for watching and listening to the concert. There are park benches that a cushion will make quite comfortable. A lawn chair can be placed on the cement terraces. The concert begins at 7:00 and is usually over by 8:30 or 8:45 p.m. If you wish to join us please call Jim and Delores Hall at 815-633-1784 before July 12, to order your Box Lunch. The cost is \$8.50 per person. The Concert is "An Enchanted Evening" presented by the Rockford Concert Band directed by Kevin Jensen.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE – ROCK CUT STATE PARK - JULY 19, 2015

What better way to enjoy God's gift of creation than to gather in a beautiful setting surround by age-old trees, listening to the sounds of birds, experiencing the scampering of small wildlife and enjoying the community of friends, neighbors and family worshipping together.

Worship in the Park!

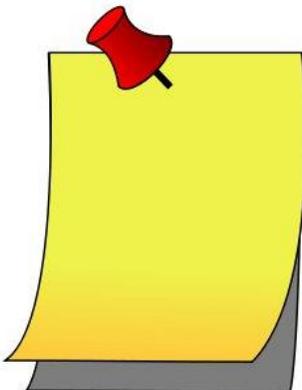


Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. under/by the Lions Club Pavilion on the South side of the park where there is ample parking and a paved walkway to the pavilion. A wheelchair and usher assistance will also be provided. While there is bench seating at the picnic tables, bringing folding lawn chairs may be preferred.

A potluck lunch will be enjoyed following the service. Charcoal grills will be ready for families wishing to bring their own meat for cooking and each family is asked to bring a dish (or 2 if family is large) to pass. Paper products, utensils, ice, and drinks will be provided.

Rain or shine.....this will be a great day!!!

BIBLE SCHOOL/TRAVELING DAY CAMP POST-IT-NOTES



You have heard about the plans for Vacation Bible School and Stronghold Day Camp. Now we will tell you how you can help. Post –It –Notes are well known for items for snacks for Bible School. We will be using them again this year. There will be a poster with post-it-notes on it with the items needed each day as we furnish a snack for the pre-school Bible School and the Stronghold Day Camp. The dates are July 20 thru the 24th.

Thank you for your anticipated help!

July 2015 All Church Calendar

Thur 7/2	9:00 am	Christian Education Committee Meeting
Sat 7/4	---	The Fourth of July
Sun 7/5	10:00 am	Worship w/ Trad. Communion
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 7/6	7-9 pm	Session
Wed 7/8	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>Kits Challenge Sewing Day at Church (bring your sewing machine)</i>
Thur 7/9	1:00 pm	Deacons
Sat 7/11	<i>12:30 pm</i>	<i>Skiffers at Boone County Historical Society (314 S. State St., Belvidere)</i>
Sun 7/12	10:00 am	Worship (Pulpit Supply John Harden)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Tue 7/14	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds
	<i>6:00 pm</i>	<i>Mariners Box Lunch & Concert at Sinnissippi Park</i>
Wed 7/15	11:30 am	Pastor Presby Lunch
Thur 7/16	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>SPONG Retreat at WCPC</i>
Sat 7/18	8:00 am	Music & Worchip
Sun 7/19	10:00 am	Worship in the Park (Baptism Mackenzie Davisson), Lions Club Pavilion Rock Cut State Park; Fun, games, & Food following Worship Service
Mon 7/20-7/24	9:00 am-noon	Vacation Bible School (Ages 4-5)
	9:00 am-3:30 pm	Traveling Day Camp for Elementary (Grades 1-5)
	9:00 am-3:30 pm	Mystery Mission Tour (Grades 6-8)
Thur 7/23	6:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 7/26	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 7/27	9:00 am	Finance & Personnel Meeting
	11:30 am & 2:00 pm	Pastor Meetings @ Stronghold
	7:00 pm	Membership/Mission/Stewardship
Tue 7/28	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>Martha Ruth Circle</i>
	1:30 pm	Pastor Meeting @ Stronghold

Bell Choir Schedule:

Thursday, July 23 @ 6:30 pm



**Please mark your calendar for:
Kirkin' o' The Tartans
Sunday, September 13
See next page for Banner Tutorial**

Banner Tutorial for Kirkin' o' the Tartans

Below are instructions for creating a banner for the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle Kirkin' o' the Tartans worship service:

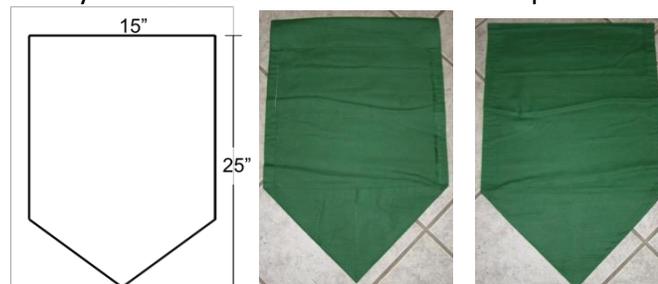
1. Procure solid or tartan fabric. You will need roughly 17"x27". Three sides of a brown paper shopping bag can be used as a rough template.



2. Fold both sides in approximately 1" to obtain finished width of 15". Sew sides or use iron-on hem tape.
3. Fold top down approximately 2" to obtain finished height of 25". Sew or use iron-on hem tape. The dowel rod used to hang the banner will fit through this slot.



4. Fold in triangles at bottom till they meet. Sew or use iron-on hem tape.



5. Add family crest, family name, family photo, or any other appropriate decoration to individualize your banner.



Please call (815-505-5309) or email (greenleelucas@hotmail.com) with questions.

2015 Willow Creek Summer Camp – July 20-24, 2015

Opportunities for Everyone!

Pre-K (Ages 4-5)



Vacation Bible School 9:00 am - noon \$15/child

We will be running a VBS program for 4-5 year olds. The Preschool VBS, led by Rebekah Landi, is from 9:00-Noon and costs \$15. Preschoolers will participate in songs, crafts, games, and developmentally appropriate Bible study.

Elementary (Grades 1-5)



Stronghold Day Camp 9:00 am-3:30 pm \$50/child; \$125/family

This summer Willow Creek will be hosting Stronghold's Day Camp for children entering 1st grade through 5th grade. It is an all day camp (9:00-3:30) full of games, Bible study, crafts, and tons of fun! The cost is \$50 per child with a family maximum of \$125. Snacks will be provided, but children need to bring their own lunch. Click on the following link for more information:

<http://strongholdcenter.org/travelingdaycampfaq.html>

Middle School (Grades 6-8)



Mystery Mission

Mystery Mission Tour 9:00 am-3:30 pm No Charge

Middle School Students (6th-8th grade) will go on a Mystery Mission Tour (9:00 am-3:30 pm). Led by Pastor Judith and Maren Reid, they will get to travel to different places in the community, like an Animal Shelter and a food pantry. Each day they will have a picnic at a local park (bring a sack lunch), along with games, projects, and a Bible lesson. Transportation is provided. Donations to help cover the cost of gas & materials will be appreciated. Please see bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for a list of things we are collecting for our Mission Projects.

High School students will be able to help with the day camp or Preschool VBS. Please call Rebekah Landi (815-978-4982) or the church office (815-885-3455) if you are interested in helping.

Registration forms can be mailed to the church or dropped off in the church office (open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 am - Noon).

Please register early as space is limited!

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CONCERTS

Old Baltic Mill – Belvidere Park

Sunday Evenings – 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 19
GUEST ARTISTS

Alleluia Quartet

Alleluia Quartet has led in worship at several of the Southern Gospel hymn-sings in Rockford. Their beautiful harmony has been inspiring audiences in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin for many years.



Sunday, July 26
GUEST ARTISTS

Heart Song

Heart Song is a family ministry that has presented concerts throughout the Midwest for over thirty years. You'll enjoy their warm spirit and various Gospel songs, which include country, contemporary, and traditional styles.



Sunday, August 2
GUEST ARTISTS

Cody Clauson Trio

Performing regularly in their dinner theater in Coloma, Wisconsin, the Trio features Cody Clauson, tenor banjo and guitar; his sister, Britney, on double bass; and their father, Brent, on steel guitar and fiddle. Their versatility in Gospel vocals and skillful playing of instruments will inspire all.



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- Bring a blanket or chair or use ours
 - In case of rain, concert will take place at the church at 220 East Harrison Street, Belvidere

Sponsored by the
**EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
OF BELVIDERE**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL SCRAP-A-THON

Saturday, August 1, 2015

9:00am-9:00pm



Come out for a day of fun and scrapbooking!

We'll cook for you while you relax and enjoy a peaceful day of crafting. Lunch, dinner and snacks will be provided all day long!

The cost is \$30 for the day.

First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood

106 S. Lincoln St Braidwood, IL 60408

Phone 815-458-6317

We will have door prizes, a scrapbook page contest, raffles and a

TURQUOISE outfit contest!

*For information or to register call:
Roberta at 815-458-2407 or*

Linda at 815-458-6548 or fill out the registration form and mail it to the church.

*(or email the church by going to the website at
www.firstpresbraidwood.com)*

We will have plenty of extension cords and a CRICUT will be available, also.