



STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

January 2018

We stand on the threshold of a new year. Most people generally look at the New Year as a fresh beginning, as an opportunity to start over, to overcome a habit, or do a better job of something important that needs improvement. It may be better parenting, being a better spouse, losing weight (which, by the way, is the number one resolution according to polls taken). It may be developing different priorities, using time better, overcoming a bad habit or achieving some new goal.

Traditionally, this is the time we hear about New Year's resolutions. Local gyms will be advertising special joining fees—banking on good intentions that may soon be forgotten. Many people have become fairly pessimistic about making resolutions in general because of the all-to-common history of past failures. As Christians, however, we need to look closely at each chance for renewal. Now (right now, no need to wait) *is* a good time to reflect on what the past year has brought and what the New Year could bring (or more simply, what yesterday was and what tomorrow could be). It is a time to stop and analyze, to take stock of our priorities, values, pursuits, and goals. We need to ask questions like, "Who am I? What am I doing with the life I've been given? What could I be doing better as a Christian steward, investing my life and all God has given me?" We need to keep growing, to continually shed our own desires to become more and more like Christ.

Many times failed resolutions and failed quests fail because we either try to do too much too soon, or to take on too much all on our own. We forget that we are made to live in community. We are meant to connect with and help one another; we are made to connect with and be helped by God through Jesus Christ and the Church. Now none of us is perfect, and we will all experience failures, however by centering and re-centering our lives in Christ, we can practice this way of living with grace and kindness; we can get better and better at it! It is never too late to learn a new song to sing. It's never too late to learn a new skill, trade, or passion—Pat Bindenagel's story of beginning to learn to paint china only after she retired is one of my favorite examples. I am sure her first tile, cup or plate was not as exquisite as the punch bowl we use for special occasions, but that's how this life works. We do our best. We trust God. We practice and practice. And, so long as what we do, we do unto the Lord, we get a little better with the passing of time (and practice).

As this year ends, I hope we can each take some time to contemplate, to ask God to show us where we have failed or fallen short, and then to help us awaken a new intention to change. I hope that we, as a church community, can let go of what burdens us, and learn how to plant seeds of hospitality and grace in our own community and beyond. I hope that we, as disciples of Christ, can let go of our doubts or fears, and move forward in our giving, our learning, and our joy. I hope that we, as stewards of God's blessings, can grow in generosity and wisdom and

faith. And I hope that we, as Children of the Living God, can commit to moving forward, step by step, toward the life that God is so willing to give to us if we only ask.

It is God's love that warms me in the sun and God's love that sends the cold rain. It is God's love that feeds me in the bread I eat and God that feeds me also by hunger and fasting. It is the love of God that sends the winter days when I am cold and sick, and the hot summer when I labor and my clothes are full of sweat: but it is God Who breathes on me with light winds off the river and in the breezes out of the wood. His love spreads the shade of the sycamore over my head and sends the water-boy along the edge of the wheat field with a bucket from the spring, while the laborers are resting and the mules stand under the tree.

It is God's love that speaks to me in the birds and streams; but also behind the clamor of the city God speaks to me in His judgements, and all these things are seeds sent to me from His will. If these seeds would take root in my liberty, and if His will would grow from my freedom, I would become the love that He is, and my harvest would be His glory and my own joy.

– Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Pastor Judith

PS. Please take a look to see if you can join me in attending the Faithful Desegregation training to be held at three area churches. The pastor from the Caledonia church is a part of the leadership team!



Christmas Card Tree on Sanctuary Landing

If you did not receive a Christmas Card from the following people, check the Christmas Card Tree. They made a contribution to WCPC as part of the Kemmerer Village Project instead of mailing a card.

The Hamiltons

Richard and Sue Brick

Jim and Delores Hall

Kim and John Reid

Ed, April, Sara Rottman and Meagan and Jake Walker

Gene and Carolyn Wheeler

Janet Hyland

David and Janet Ensminger

Jack and Jean Greenlee

You all have been such a blessing to me all year. Thank you for the kind words, beautiful cards, and thoughtful gifts you have given. My hope for the new year is that we may find time to deepen our relationships with new church family, with one another, and with Christ Jesus.

Peace & Joy to All,
Judith





Thank you all for the wonderful cards and gifts - they truly are appreciated.

Thanks,
Tom Andrew

I wish to thank you all for the gifts and well wishes I have received these past few Sundays. They are much appreciated and cherished. The sendoff you gave me was wonderful and left me with many good feelings. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you continue your journey as a congregation.

Liz O' Leary

*Thank
You*



Thank you for your thoughtful cards and gifts. May your Christmas holiday be filled with cheer, warm memories, and happiness.

Carol Nevicosi

Thank you all for the cards, kind words and gifts. I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stephanie Konen



I'd like to thank everyone for the many thoughtful and generous cards.

Season's Greetings to all, Diane VanVleet

Thank you to all who made the No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant and the Cookie Walk a **HUGE SUCCESS.**



Thank you for your generous contribution to help strengthen communities worldwide.

A donation of \$85 was sent to CWS to handle the school kits & buckets shipping around the world.



rockford rescue mission
rescue + recover + restore

Your recent gift is making a difference in the lives of so many in need. Thank you again and have a wonderful holiday season.

A donation of \$45 was sent to the Rockford Rescue Mission in November.



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 Pastor Judith.



Fellowship is an important part of our gathering. Sign-up is available in the Kitchen Window. Help us welcome newcomers with light refreshments and warm hearts. If you need any assistance setting up or serving for Fellowship, please call Sandy Bell cell # 815-871-6301.

Want to help out at Northern IL Food Bank?

Go to website www.SolveHungerToday.org
or call 815-639-1257 to sign up.



Habitat for Humanity - Boone County

If you are interested in putting together a work crew, contact Beth @ Habitat (phone 815-980-6247). There are ongoing builds in both the Belvidere and South Rockford areas.

Choir Rehearsals:

Stay tuned for Choir Rehearsals to be announced at a later date.



Children's Sunday School (geared for children in grades PreK-5th)

Jan 7: Birthday Party for Jesus during church undecorating	Mar 18- 10:30
Jan 21- 10:30	Apr 8- 11:15
Feb 4- 11:15	Apr 15- 10:30
Feb 18- 10:30	Apr 29- 11:15
Mar 4- 11:15	

Youth Group January Dates

Jan. 7 - Youth will help undecorate the church and stay for the potluck.
Jan. 14 - lunch, games, and a lesson at church 11:30-1:30
Jan. 28 - lunch, games, and a lesson at church 11:30-1:30



Join us for a six week program on relationships. Using a video/reflection/discussion format, we will look at five foundational lessons from renowned author John C. Maxwell on what it takes to build lasting relationships with the people closest to you.

Thursdays, January 4th thru February 8

5:30-8:30 pm in WCPC Argyle Room

No cost, led by "Better Together" Coaching Team.

Contribution Envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you did not get a box, but would like one please let us know.

Offering Envelopes



Holiday Hours

Holiday Church Office Hours:

Office Closed - Fri, Dec 22 – Tues, Dec 26

Office Open - Wed, Dec 27 - Fri, Dec 29

Office Closed - *Mon, Jan 1; Wed, Jan 3; Thurs, Jan 4

Office Open - *Tue, Jan 2 & Fri, Jan 5

* Please note change from Previous (December) Streamer



Birthday Party for Jesus & Church Undecorating Party

On Sunday January 7th, we will combine the Birthday Party for Jesus and the tasks of undecorating the church. There will be games for children immediately after church while we start undecorating. A Crock Pot potluck will follow and end with a birthday cake for

Jesus. Please come join us. Bring your favorite crock pot recipe. Rolls, crackers, relishes, drinks and table settings will be provided.



As gifts for Jesus at our Birthday Party, we will be collecting items for the Baby Angel closet. Items that are most needed include: diapers (newborn through 5), diaper cream, onesies or other clothes (sizes newborn through 24 months), and books (can be new or gently used). Any donations can be placed on the gift table in Fellowship Hall on 1/7.



Faith Explorers

January 16, 9:30 am at the church

“In Community with the Living Word,” facilitated by Nettie Parker

Please join us!

Mariners

Tuesday, January 9th at 11:30 am at the church.

Please join us for soup and board games.



WCPC Operating Statistics

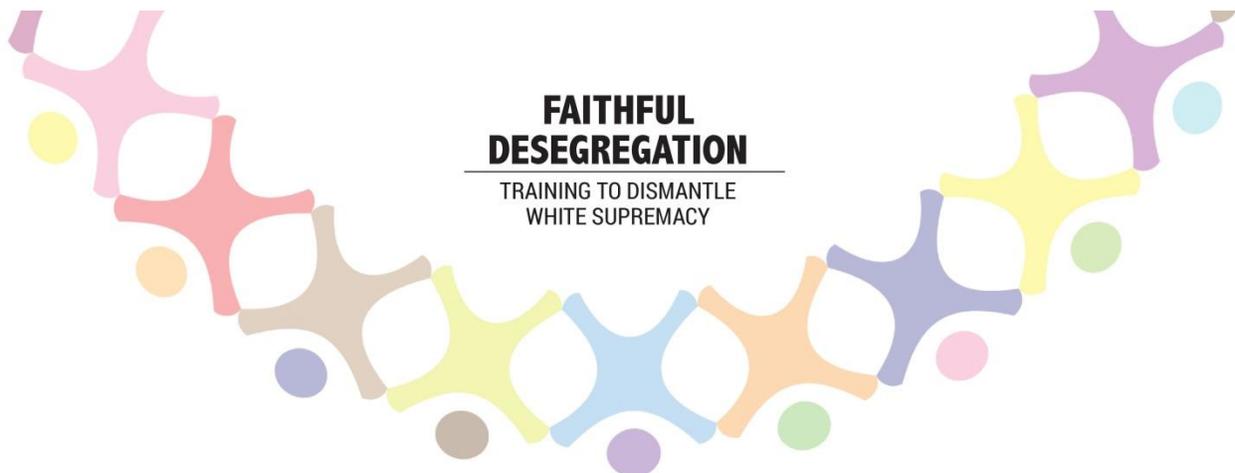
November showed us its usual colors and brought us the general overage we have come to expect in income. While we may not wipe out our deficit spending as we proposed last month, we are thankful for the excess received to help cut our losses.

Thanks again for your continued support.

	WCPC Operating Statistics	
	November 2017	Year-to-Date
Income	17,032.78	139,993.89
Expenses	12,824.76	153,794.72
	4,208.02	(13,800.83)

January 2018 All Church Calendar

Mon 1/1-1/5	---	No Preschool
Mon 1/1	---	Church Office Closed
Tue 1/2	8:30 am-12:30 pm	Church Office Open
	4:00-8:00 pm	Fellowship Hall reserved by Jackie Turbot
Wed 1/3	---	Church Office Closed
	7:00-9:00 pm	Session Meeting TBD
Thur 1/4	---	Church Office Closed
	5:30-8:30 pm	Argyle Room Reserved-Jodi Henderson
Fri 1/5	8:30 am-12:30 pm	Church Office Open
Sun 1/7	10:00 am	Worship with Traditional Communion
	11:00 am	<i>Undecorating Church followed by Crock Pot Potluck & Birthday Party for Jesus (Youth Group will help undecorate the church and stay for the potluck lunch.)</i>
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 1/8	9:00 am	Mission TEAM Meeting
Tue 1/9	7:50-8:50 am	Pastor @ Washington Academy in Belvidere
	11:30 am	<i>Mariners meet at Church for soup & games</i>
	6:00 pm	Music & Worship Meeting
Thur 1/11	1:30 pm	Deacon Meeting
	5:30-8:30 pm	Argyle Room Reserved-Jodi Henderson
Sun 1/14	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Youth Group-Lunch, games, and a lesson at church
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 1/15-1/16	---	No Preschool
Tue 1/16	7:50-8:50 am	Pastor @ Washington Academy in Belvidere
	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
	9:30 am	<i>Faith Explorers @ Church; "In Community with the Living Word" facilitated by Nettie</i>
Wed 1/17	12:16 pm	Preschool Board Meeting
Thur 1/18	5:30-8:30 pm	Argyle Room Reserved-Jodi Henderson
Sun 1/21	10:00 am	Worship; Dan Holmes Music
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 1/23	7:50-8:50 am	Pastor @ Washington Academy in Belvidere
Thur 1/25	5:30-8:30 pm	Argyle Room Reserved-Jodi Henderson
Sun 1/28	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship Hour
	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Youth Group-Lunch, games, and a lesson at church
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 1/23	7:50-8:50 am	Pastor @ Washington Academy in Belvidere



FAITHFUL DESEGREGATION

TRAINING TO DISMANTLE
WHITE SUPREMACY

White Supremacy has to go. The Bible tells us so. (And the Quran and Langston Hughes and the Bhagavad Gita) But what does that even mean? And how would we do that? And how do we even enter into that conversation with our communities of faith? What should we do in the Rock River Valley? Let's gather to figure that out.

WHAT

A four-session program for leaders and teams from congregations to develop their understanding and skills to do effective intercultural racial justice ministry in our metropolitan area. Participants will learn common language and concepts about racism, power, intercultural competence, equity, and solidarity so that their congregations can be more effective in building the beloved community in our world.

WHO

Please join for conversation and training with Father David Beauvais (Catholic Priest, Retired), Rev. Ken Board (Pilgrim Baptist), Pastor Tito Cevallos (Shalom Comunidad de Paz UCC), Rev. Edward Copeland (New Zion Baptist Church), Rev. Matthew Johnson (Unitarian Universalist Rockford, co-lead), Ann Rundall (Baha'is of Rockford), Rev. Gary Schwerin (Bridge Ministries) and Rev Rebecca White Newgren and Andy Newgren (SecondFirst Church, co-leads).

You should send a team of 5 from your congregation. That team might include governing board members, staff members, committee leaders, or others. Include some of your social justice team members if you wish, but don't limit your team to those persons! Send people ready to move forward in this work. Include the clergy leader!

Every member of the team you send should be at every session.

WHEN

9:00am-11:30am on four Saturdays in 2018

SESSION ONE

January 13, 2018

What is Cultural Competence? Developing a Common Language
Second Congregational / First Presbyterian Church, 318 N. Church Street

SESSION TWO

February 3, 2018

Whiteness: What is it? Understanding Ourselves within the Landscape of Race
Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1703 S. Central Ave

SESSION THREE

March 3, 2018

How To Be Anti-Racist: Equality and Equity
Unitarian Universalist Church, 4848 Turner Street

SESSION FOUR

April 14, 2018

Planning For Action: Ourselves, Together, for Our Region and Our City
Second Congregational / First Presbyterian Church, 318 N. Church Street

HOW

Register by sending the names and emails of your team members to minister@uurockford.org.

* See note from Pastor on page 2

