

# STREAMER

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

April 2016



Eating fast-food, parked at a local retirement home, watching YouTube videos, Connor and I learned that science had detected gravitational waves created by the collision of two black holes, confirming what until now has been the *theoretical* work of Albert Einstein. These gravitational waves released 50 times the energy of *all the stars in the universe*, creating “a violent storm in the fabric of space and time, a storm in which the shape of space was bent this way and that way,” said physicist Kip Thorne. That video led us to a clip on the making of *Interstellar* (Dr. Thorne helped to work on this movie, concept to production, for almost 10 years.), where Matthew McConaughey’s character saves humanity by traveling into the black hole, Gargantua.

What? That was real science?! There we sat, getting ready to go help an elder with a new computer, contemplating the cosmos and our place in it. The next video was a couple of millennial scientists discussing the ramifications of these discoveries. The universe is being unlocked; we can “see” so much more than the 10% of the universe known previously. The more we know, the more we realize we don’t know.

Finally, I pulled up a YouTube Ed McMahon interviewing “Carl Sagan”, when Johnny Carson gave our culture the “billions and billions” quote. It’s hard to imagine billions and billions of stars in billions and billions of galaxies in an ever-expanding universe without a little humor, but more, a little humility—it is not all about us!

*When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place — what is humanity that you should be mindful of us? Who are we that you should care for us? You have made us barely less than God, and crowned us with glory and honor. You have made us responsible for the works of your hands, putting all things at our feet (Psalm 8: 3-6 TIB)*

Or as David said, after being told that God would love him and stay with him, never withdrawing God’s Spirit from David as had happened with Saul, *“Who am I, Lord God, and who is my family, that you brought us to this place? And now you also promise us a future? (2 Sam 7:18, my paraphrase)*

God has given us much love and a vast universe of resources; still we see only a portion of the tapestry God weaves together. Glimpses of abundant blessings and our future with God both inspire and terrify us. Resist the impulse to bury our heads in the sand, yearning for the good ol’ days, hanging out in the tomb; this Easter season, step out into the realms of New Life in Christ, confidently dancing and praying with David, *“And now, may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you have spoken, and when you grant a blessing to your servant, O Sovereign Lord, it is an eternal blessing!” (2 Sam 7:29 NLT)*

*Pastor Judith*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the children and staff of Kemmerer Village, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your recent gift of \$96.00 on 2/18/2016. Your friendship and support serve as encouragement to our staff as we begin another new year providing for the many young people entrusted to our care. We continue to be grateful for your interest and support of our ministry.



As you look around campus you can see all the beauty that accompanies the winter season. December was a busy time for the children in our care. They were able to enjoy Christmas and New Year festivities and some even enjoyed learning to paint. We hope you know that your gift is helping create change in the lives of the young people here at Kemmerer Village. We are always happy to schedule lunch and a tour of our campus. Feel free to contact us. We are grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely, Michael A. Havera, Director of Development and Fundraising



Dear Friends,

On behalf of Rockford MELD we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$329.60. Your support to MELD is truly appreciated.

Each year Rockford MELD continues to advance our mission ... *"guiding young parents to build a strong family and lead a responsible life by providing shelter, education and life skills training"*. Through our programs, MELD's homeless emergency shelter, transitional living housing, young parent support groups, education and employment assistance and prevention education, we have seen many lives change for the better.

Our goal at MELD is to make a difference in the lives of many families right here in our community. With the continued support of contributions to our agency, we can assist many young parents and families.

Thanks again for your generous support to MELD.

Sincerely, Vikki Noe-Eltvedt, Executive Director

Dear Willow Creek Church:

Thank you! On behalf of The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),



**The Board of Pensions**  
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

I am deeply grateful to you, your session, and your congregation for receiving the 2015 Christmas Joy Offering. Through this Offering, you extend a lifeline to PC(USA) retired pastors and other church workers with income and housing needs, and to current teaching elders, educators, and other church workers who find themselves in financial crisis. [...]

Sincerely, The Reverend Frank Clark Spencer

Dear Liz and The February 14 Concert Team;

Thank you so much for choosing the music as therapy program at SwedishAmerican to once again be the beneficiary of your February 14th Concert. I'm sorry that I was unable to attend due to the bad weather. I've heard that I missed a fabulous concert.

Your funds will be used to purchase recorded music to use to comfort, relax and energize our patients.  
Thank You for your generous spirit! Deb Schwabe

SWEDISHAMERICAN  
HEALTH SYSTEM



**BELVIDERE-BOONE COUNTY**  
**FOOD PANTRY**  
"Miracle on 5th Street"

Dear Congregation Members:

Thank you so much for your recent donation from the food drive you held. Here at the Belvidere Boone County Food Pantry, our goal is to make sure that no family suffers

through a month without the food and supplies they need. While we serve over 2,000 individuals each month, the sad fact is that thousands more adults and children still went to bed hungry or without the daily necessities they needed.

Your generous donation will go a long way to helping us end hunger in Boone County. Your support means more than we can express and it is greatly appreciated.

The Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry is a non-profit organization established in 2004 that provides

food, non-food products, clothing, and other household products to those facing challenging economical situations in Boone County. We desire to be a bridge to help transition those facing hard times until they become self-sufficient. Our goal is to give people hope and make a difference in their lives.

We rely on individuals, companies, churches, schools, and clubs to help us meet the needs of the ever growing population of people living in poverty in our county. Thank you for caring.

Sincerely, Tracy Dlugosz, Administrative Assistant



We thank all who have signed up to host Fellowship on Sunday mornings. We hope you will also help us provide refreshments on the blank Sundays. When you are baking at home, bake extra for the church. We will “Bank Baked Goods” in the freezer (labeled & dated) and get them out for Fellowship whenever we have a blank Sunday.

## Fellowship

### 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, Pat Nortch, Delores Hall, Jim Hall) or Pastor Judith.



### Mission & New Beginnings

One leg of the New Beginnings was to get us out into the community. Willow Creek is planning to have a booth at the GPS Farmers Market this summer. The market opens May 26 and runs through September 22, that is a Thursday from 3 – 7 p.m. We hope you will want to be a part of this “adventure” either by supplying produce from your gardens, baked goods, plants, soaps, or other homemade items. Since this will be a first time experience for all of us, we thought we could learn (and possibly host a market here in the future) from the GPS people since their Market is established and successful. We hope you will plant an extra row of something in your garden, perhaps bring some berries, breads, etc. They even have live music from 5-7 p.m. and hot food. It could be an afternoon/evening out. There will be opportunities to man the booth as well as come to shop. GPS is located on North Second Street in Machesney Park, about ½ mile north of 173. We need to begin to plan now, May is just a wink away. Please look for sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall soon! If you have any questions, ask Pastor or one of our elders. Thank you!



## It's A Birthday Party

You are invited, it is for everyone!

**When:** Sunday, April 17, 2016 during Fellowship.  
**Where:** Fellowship Hall, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church  
**What:** Find the table decorated just for the month of your birthday. Join those who share your month.

Enjoy special cupcakes and other goodies. Gifts will be what you give to the Birthday Offering in the Mission Envelope in your bulletin. Those gifts will be forwarded to the Birthday Offering PW to be combined with other gifts and given out in Grants for very Special Projects.

We hope you will all be there! MMS Committee



### Choir Rehearsal:

Sunday, April 3, 10, 17, 24 @ 8:30 am  
 Chancel Choir Sings for Worship all Sundays in April

### Young Peoples Choir Rehearsal:

Sunday, April 3, 10, 17, 24 @ 11:00 am

### Willow Creek Youth Group

Sun, April 10, 1-3pm – Games & Lesson  
 Sun, April 17, 1-3pm – Games & Lesson  
 Sun, April 24, 1-3pm  
 Sun, May 1, 1-3pm – Games & Lesson  
 Sat, June 4-5, Time TBD, Lock-In  
 July 18-23, 2016 – PYT



Jack and the collection of pins traded from other youth around the globe.



Skyler at one of the pre-worship rallies. Are you in God's hands?



Jack, Sara & Skyler enjoying the youth hangout space.

**PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH**  
**Triennium**  
 July 19 – 23, 2016

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN  
[www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

**Help them GO!** PYT is a life giving, life changing, faith moving experience! As the world changes, society shifts – and the church expands – the need for vibrant young Presbyterians grows. Help your young people **GO** to the next great place in their faith! Donate now to help offset the \$700+ cost per individual.

NOTE: We'll spend the night at Stronghold on **July 18<sup>th</sup>**. PYT is for high school age youth, incoming freshmen to graduated seniors.





### Mariners

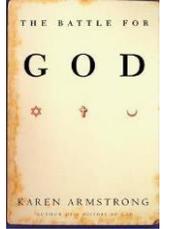
Wednesday, April 13 @ 11:30 am  
@ Garrett's Restaurant, 1631 N Bell School Rd, Rockford  
If you have any questions, please contact your hosts  
Nettie Parker (815-885-8005) & Elaine Zotas (779-774-9172).

### Study Group

Wednesday, April 20

6 pm (some come @ 7) to 8:30 pm @ Mary's Market

This will be our last conversation around this informative history of world-wide religious fundamentalism. You need not have read to enjoy the topic of conversation.



### Skiffers

**(Mariners are invited to join us!)**

Sunday, April 24 @ 3:00 pm

Kishwaukee Valley Band Spring Concert

@ Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2821 N Bell School Rd, Rockford

Enjoy concert and dinner @ Machine Shed afterwards

Please RSVP to Barbara & Roger Cummings 815-397-7885.

### Martha Ruth Circle

9:30 am, Tuesday, April 26

@ the home of JoAnne Reid-Hostess

Please note the hostess change from the published Circle Booklet.  
JoAnne Reid will now be hosting April and Delores Hall will host May.



### 2016 Willow Creek Summer Camp Week of June 27<sup>th</sup>

Opportunities for Everyone!

Pre-K	(ages 4-5)	Vacation Bible School
Elementary	(Grades 1-5)	Stronghold Day Camp
Middle School	(Grades 6-8)	Local Mission Tour
High School	(Grades 9-12)	Summer Camp Crew





## WCPC Operating Statistics February 2016



Our expenses for 2015 averaged \$13,649/Month.  
 The costs of operations have not decreased in 2016,  
 with expectations that they will average \$500/Month more.  
 In the month of February, our expenses were nearly double our income.  
 Please consider increasing your giving , if you are able.  
 No matter how big or small, we again thank you for your continued financial support.

### WCPC Operating Statistics February 2016

Income	8,898.00
Expenses	<u>16,593.00</u>
Excess/(Deficit)	<b>(7,695.00)</b>



Beginning Sunday April 10, 2016 WCPC will become a host site for a new Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. These will be open meetings and will be held from 5-6 pm each Sunday evening. Please spread the word and invite all those you know who have a desire to stop drinking. If you have questions please contact Jodi Henderson at 815-621-3877 or Barbie Riley at 815-243-3311.

Registration Deadline for the Grief Support Group is April 28<sup>th</sup>.  
 Contact Barbie Riley 815-243-3311 or [Bettersogether@charter.net](mailto:Bettersogether@charter.net)

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Tuesdays 6:00- 8:00pm  
 May 17 - August 9, 2016  
 Willow Creek Presbyterian Church  
 For More Information Contact Barbie Riley 815-243-3311  
[Bettersogether@charter.net](mailto:Bettersogether@charter.net)



All are invited to take this Course.

Please notify the Office if you have completed the training and are certified.



# Heartsaver® CPR/AED COURSE

**WHERE:**

**STATION 3  
13974 WILLOWBROOK ROAD  
ROSCOE, IL 61073**

**WHEN:**

**EVERY 2nd WEDNESDAY OF  
THE MONTH — 6:00 p.m.**

**Or**

**EVERY 4th SATURDAY OF  
THE MONTH — 8:00 a.m.**

Class size is limited.  
Advance registration is required



**FREE COURSE TO AGES 15+  
(MUST RESIDE WITHIN DISTRICT)**

**PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE  
HEARTSAVER® CPR/AED  
CERTIFICATION  
(AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION)**



**DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED!**

**CALL 815-623-7867  
TO REGISTER!**

### April 2016 All Church Calendar

Fri 4/1	3:15-5:45 pm	Girl Scouts Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
Sun 4/3	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School (Children K-8 <sup>th</sup> and Adult)
	10:00 am	Worship with Traditional Communion; Pulpit Supply
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
Mon 4/4	---	Preschool Resumes after Spring Break
	Mon 4/4 – Tue 4/5	Pastor Vacation
Wed 4/6	<b>7:00 pm-9:00 pm</b>	<b>Session Meeting</b>
Thur 4/7	Noon	Pastor-Stateline Clergy Lunch
Sun 4/10	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School (Children K-8 <sup>th</sup> and Adult)
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Youth Group Lesson & Games
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting
Mon 4/11	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Mission/Membership/Stewardship Meeting</b>
Tue 4/12	---	<b>Presbyterian Meeting @ First United Presbyterian in Henry</b>
Wed 4/13	<i>7:30-10:30am &amp; 2:00-4:00pm</i>	<i>Pastor Coffee Shop Hours @ Meg's Daily Grind South of Riverside</i>
	<i>11:30 am</i>	<i>Mariners @ Garrett's Restaurant (Nettie P. &amp; Elaine Z. Hosting)</i>
Thur 4/14	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Deacon Meeting</b>
Fri 4/15	3:15-5:45 pm	Girl Scouts Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
Sun 4/17	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School (Children K-8 <sup>th</sup> and Adult)
	10:00 am	Worship; Church Birthday Party; MOM-Birthday Offering
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Youth Group Lesson & Games
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting
Tue 4/19	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds Meeting</b>
	1:00 pm	Pastor – Stronghold Meeting
Wed 4/20	<i>7:30-10:30am &amp; 1:30-3:30pm</i>	<i>Pastor Coffee Shop Hrs @ McDonalds on Riverside and McFarland</i>
	<i>6/7-8:30</i>	<i>Book Club @ Mary's Market (Chapters 4-5)</i>
Fri 4/22	<i>10:00am- 4:00pm</i>	<i>Communications Workshop @ Stronghold</i>
Sun 4/24	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School (Children K-8 <sup>th</sup> and Adult)
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Personnel Meeting</b>
	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Youth Group
	<i>3:00 pm</i>	<i>Skiffers (Mariners also invited to attend)-Kishwaukee Valley Spring Band Concert @ Westminster Presbyterian; Enjoy concert followed by dinner at the Machine Shed; RSVP Barbara &amp; Roger Cummings 815-397-7885</i>
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting
Tue 4/26	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>Martha Ruth Circle – JoAnne Reid Hosting</i>
Wed 4/27	<i>7:00-9:00am &amp; 7:00-9:00pm</i>	<i>Breakfast at Sophia's in Roscoe 7-9am &amp; Supper @ Sophia's 7-9pm</i>
Fri 4/29	3:15-5:45 pm	Girl Scouts Kitchen & Fellowship Hall



## What Happened to Our NEW BEGINNING?

You may remember shortly after I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer that I began a seemingly crazy and counter-intuitive high fat diet (prescribed by doctors at UW) to lose weight and gain health...and I did! In 6 months I'd lost 85 pounds. I finished my chemo and radiation and felt so much better, I kind of took my foot off the gas. I wanted to hit the 100-pound mark; but suddenly, the old habits started coming back. My old ways of starvation diets, occasional exercise, and daily time

on the scale crept back. As I turned from the dedication to living longer to losing weight, the roller coaster of losing less and gaining more began. Soon, I began to have new and returning health problems. It took a while, and another health crisis—losing my voice (actually caused by the old ways and exacerbated by old medical advice)—before I was ready to hear and fully digest the fact that my diet was not a program that I could turn on and off again, but a complete lifestyle change I needed to make in order to live and enjoy life. Weight loss will come too, but that's not my focus—living is!

I tell you all of this to suggest our congregation has been on a similar journey. We realized an “ongoing health problem,” and sought “medical attention.” A change in lifestyle and focus was needed. Rather than focusing on gaining new members and increasing our financial support, we needed to focus on reaching out into the community and increasing our faith. Our New Beginnings Leadership Team and Session agreed that we needed to build on our strengths and resources in service to others, “no strings attached.” 1--We would deepen our relationships with God and others through something we already did well—fellowship, but this time the focus would not be on numerical growth, but true growth and faith development. 2—We would expand our hospitality, more fully utilizing the blessings of our resources (our facilities) by opening the doors and welcoming outside ministries. 3—We would develop our own volunteerism by reaching out into the community through partnerships with existing area ministries. This is quite a change in lifestyle and focus, and we agreed that to continue focusing on money and membership would not lead us into new life.

So, let's get off the scale and off the caboose in order to truly dedicate ourselves to loving and enjoying God through this new lifestyle of following Christ into the wider community! Look back through this newsletter for the GPS Market opportunity and figure out a way you can help. Look through the newspaper for community needs we could address by helping other existing ministries. Look through the calendar to join someone somewhere for deeper conversations and learning. And, look through, no, read your Bibles. Start with Matthew 25.

### **Stronghold - AmeriCorps Arrive at Stronghold!**

Once again Stronghold will host an AmeriCorps NCCC team! The team will stay with us for six weeks and during their time will be focusing a large percentage of their time removing invasive species from our woodlands, especially the area visible as you drive up the main road. They will also assist the maintenance department around Stronghold complete a variety of projects. If you would like to bring a group out to help the NCCC team work on the removal of invasive plant species please email Richard Simpson ([richard@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:richard@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 606.

### **Stronghold - 5K Run to the Castle**

RETREAT! Run to the Castle by way of hilly trail and smooth gravel paths to arrive safely in the Castle courtyard.

For the second year in a row Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center will host a 5k run for participants of all ages. This event will take place on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016. Mark your calendars and 'like' our Facebook page to stay in the loop! If you are not on Facebook please contact Chris Busker via email ([chris@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:chris@strongholdcenter.org)) to get all the information first!

### **Stronghold - Stories in the Castle**

Stories in the Castle is back! Did you know that since Stories in the Castle first began back in November of 2015 we have seen over 400 people come to the castle for this monthly event? Join us on April 21<sup>st</sup> as we hope to break the 500 barrier. Our guest reader is once again Debbie Herman from the Oregon Public Library and she will be reading stories related to Earth Day! Questions? Please email Richard Simpson ([richard@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:richard@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815 732 6111 ext. 606.

### **Stronghold - Like us on Facebook**

Please take the time to 'like' and 'share' the Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center Facebook page. By doing so you will allow us to share our events, messages and other posts with a wider audience as well as staying informed and up to date about everything that is happening here at Stronghold! [www.facebook.com/Strongholdcenter](http://www.facebook.com/Strongholdcenter) will take you straight to our Facebook page or you can search Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center.

### **Stronghold - Help the Stronghold Outdoor Education Program**

Stronghold is looking to grow our Outdoor Education Program at Stronghold. We are going to develop a series of self-led lessons accessible for all guests on site. These activities will be conveniently assembled in backpacks, to be picked up at the front desk of Brubaker.

To donate a gently used backpack (please let us know by calling or emailing Richard Simpson (815-732-6111 ext. 606 or [Richard@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:Richard@strongholdcenter.org).) Backpacks can be dropped off at the Stronghold display table at the Blackhawk Presbytery meeting (April 12<sup>th</sup>, Henry, IL) or at Stronghold during regular business hours (9 – 4 Monday – Friday)

### **Stronghold - Summer Staff Wanted!**

Do you know a college student who is good with kids and is looking for a fun and rewarding summer experience? Stronghold is looking for good people in your church community to be summer camp counselors and to help make summer camp a success. If you know someone, please direct them to [www.strongholdcenter.org](http://www.strongholdcenter.org) where they can download an application packet or direct them to Ryan Anderson via email ([ryan@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:ryan@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 609.

### **Stronghold - Summer Camp Registration Now Open for INTERGENERATIONAL Camps!**

Trying to decide what to do with your family this summer? Enjoy a new adventure for the entire family. Parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles and all the cousins are invited for a weekend of games, crafts, swimming, campfires, and fellowship in the beauty of God's creation. Stay in one of our beautiful retreat buildings or bring a tent and stay at the Stronghold Family Campground area. Join us for these special weekends at Stronghold July 22nd – 24th or July 29th – 31st. Grandcamp, for grandparents and grandchildren ages 5-12 is June 10-12. You can get more information and register online by visiting [www.strongholdcenter.org](http://www.strongholdcenter.org) or pick up a brochure from the church office or by contacting the Ryan Anderson ([summercampinfo@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:summercampinfo@strongholdcenter.org)) or by phone (815-732-6111 ext. 609.)