



STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

February 2020

"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ"

I began my time as your interim minister here on the first Sunday of Advent 2018. So I have been among you, ministering with you for just over 14 months. What have I experienced and noticed as we have journeyed together?

1. As hard as Pastor Judith's departure was on this congregation- She did a wonderful job helping this congregation become Mission Focused without losing your sense of community- you not only survived her loss, but began to more fully take hold of what she showed and taught you.
2. Through the leadership of Maren Reid, the youth group has flourished. Lucas Greenlee and myself have helped. Not only did we meet regularly during the year, but we also had a great time during Mission's week (VBS week) as well as at Presbyterian Youth Triennium. The church helped to support the funding of that endeavor. Thank you.
3. Conspiring with Rebekah Landi and the Christian Ed Committee, we refocused "Change For Change" which Pastor Judith had begun. Now, each 3rd Sunday of the month, the children solicit pocket change from the congregation which they use to purchase items selected from the Presbyterian Gift Catalogue. The congregation has generously responded to the children's energy to take the lead in this mission and mission giving. Who is teaching who?
4. Watching the church move outside its walls at both Maple Crest, at the Boone County Hospitality tent and the Habitat Build was both inspiring and energizing. Those are solid mission opportunities in which the church is involved. If you have not taken part in either of those opportunities to practice your faith, you are missing out.... Church used to be a spectator sport, but now this church is realizing that there are no spectators, only people on the sidelines getting ready to get back in the game.
5. Here are some personal highlights
 - Communion during Advent and Lent- Such a wonderful tradition.
 - Memorial Day early Service in the Scottish Cemetery. Incredible.
 - Communion during "Worship in the Park."
 - Liz O'Leary, Dan Holmes and Tom Andrew- wonderful musicians.
 - Lisa Andrew inviting me to visit with her ailing aunt.

Pastor letter continued from first page...

- Going through Confirmation with the Abbie and Mandy Nelson.
- Turning the car around when Bryson O'Dell said that we could visit his pregnant mother in the hospital and doing so.
- Jim and Delores Hall's dedication to weekly praying for our church at our church.
- And all of us who join in lifting up this church in prayer on Wednesdays.
- Conspiring with Mike Landi, Beth Monroe, Maren Reid and Marie Wiersema to plan, execute and write up our Mission Study- Cottage Meetings, All Church Survey and Community Survey.
- Gently and firmly pressing the Committee on Ministry to both allow us to elect a PNC and then approve our MIF.
- Offering a prayer at the Habitat for Humanity House Blessing.

I am sure that I have missed some other "holy" moments during this past year. I have not mentioned those one-on-one times with many here. This list is not supposed to be exhaustive but suggestive.

What are we looking forward to in 2020?

- Partnering with the new Called and Installed Pastor
- New Roofs on the Church, the Manse and the CE wing
- Our Stained Glass windows refurbished and preserved
- A new Mission proposal from the CE committee- digging wells and planting trees
- 175th Anniversary Celebration

As I have said all along, "God is not done with this church yet".

When Jesus began his ministry of teaching and healing, he did not stop along the road, set up a booth, and open shop.... Jesus was always on the move, always meeting people, talking with people, feeding people, healing people. Needy people like us. We are to do the same..... How does a church grow? One by one, two by two and four by four.....

We are followers of the ONE who beckons us forward into God's future for us saying, "Come, follow me." Who knows where Jesus will lead us? All that matters is that we will move forward together with Jesus.

Blessings,



What is Per Capita?



Each year, I get asked about this item called “Per Capita”. It is what each member of a PCUSA church is asked to pay for the good of the whole church. Here is an excerpt of a much longer PCUSA article explaining the reasons why the National PCUSA asks each congregation to pay their yearly “per capita” apportionment. It is money well worth spending. If you want to talk to me further about this, please feel free to make an appointment. Thank you. Peace, Pastor Glen

Understanding per capita

Per capita is a set amount of money — sometimes referred to as “apportionment” — per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is like a Presbyterian community fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because Presbyterians share in the benefit of the PC(USA)’s system of government, the expenses associated with performing the functions of that system are shared by everyone.

Deeply rooted in Presbyterian history — the first-known mention of per capita dates back to 1734 in a letter to ministers — per capita makes it possible for the OGA to organize and manage General Assembly, as well as to staff and support special committees and commissions, provide legal counsel for churches dealing with staff issues and seek ways to minister to a growing immigrant population.

When Presbyterians participate in per capita, they’re saying, “I’m in. I’m a part of this denomination. We are connected to it. We intend to support it.”

Where the per capita system has worked best over the years, sessions have taken seriously the unity of the church and have supported their presbyteries in working out a formula by which the per capita is distributed for support of the more inclusive governing bodies. Reflecting the unity of the church from congregation to General Assembly, per capita dollars help sustain mission at the local, regional and national level. In effect, per capita becomes the channel through which local Presbyterians can see their role in not only local mission programs but also the regional, national and worldwide mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

When giving stops

Over the last 30 years, per capita giving has been declining, and it is not just due to declining membership. In some cases, small struggling churches haven’t had the money to pay and some have chosen to withhold their share as a means of expressing disagreement with the policies of the national church. As churches have pulled away from the denomination, the financial burden on presbyteries has grown. The snowball effect continues as the ministers and staff of the Office of the General Assembly, who provide services to all levels of the church, are impacted.



Per capita continued from previous page...

Per capita giving makes the work of those like the Rev. Dr. Tim Cargal possible. Cargal is the manager of preparation for ministry and examinations. In that role, he helps prepare the next generation of pastors who will be serving Presbyterian churches. He also helps congregations explore different ways of going about ministry and thinking about the role of the pastor.

“The work that I do with regard to ordination exams is funded in part through per capita as well as examination fees,” he said. “The share that is carried through per capita helps us to be sure that we can control the amount of fees that are going to have to be paid by the candidates as they take exams.”

If per capita were not available, Cargal says, the denomination would have to switch to a fee-for-service basis to cover costs for some of the work.

“There are certain responsibilities that would shift entirely to the presbyteries in terms of training for members of their committees on preparation for ministry,” he said. “There would be a number of resources that we have been able to provide over the years that we simply wouldn’t be able to provide, either in terms of in-person or online training, as well as the print materials that help people to understand the work and responsibilities of entering into ministry.”



Each Wednesday at 12 noon, I invite all members of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church (WCPC) to join me in praying for the needs of the church. If you are not able to get to church due to work or family obligations, I ask you to stop at some point during your day (close your door if you are able) and offer up a simple prayer for the needs of the church as in “Loving God, I join with

others in praying for WCPC.” Ask God to reveal God’s holy intentions for this expression of Christ’s body.

I hope you find time to join in this simple but necessary exertion.

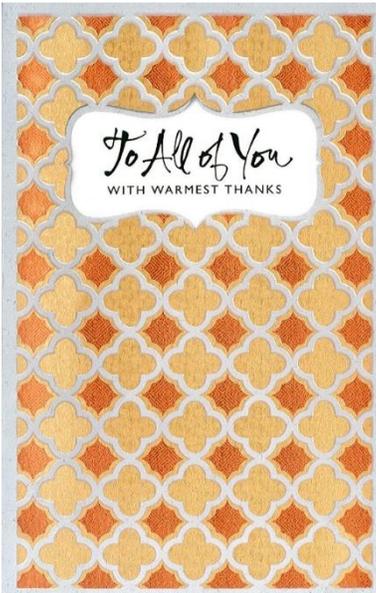
“Prayer is work.” Let us join together in this work. Pastor Glen



Thank you!

The Cookie Walk raised \$1,698
for our Families in Need Ministry.





Thank you so very much for all the cards, prayers and support during this very difficult time. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

God Bless Everyone.

Love, Gyneth

Dear Church Family,

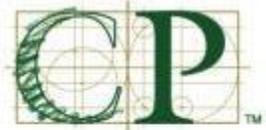
THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND TO THE HOMELESS!

Your generous donation to Carpenter's Place is deeply appreciated.

May God Bless you abundantly for your kindness and compassion for those who do not have a place to call home at this time. Together, where're making a difference! We're ending homelessness, one person at a time. Thank you!

God Bless, Teresa Lantz, Community Engagement Manager

(Extra food from the Bob Lamont Memorial Luncheon was donated to Carpenter's Place.)



CARPENTER'S PLACE™

PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR REBUILDING LIVES™



We would like to thank you for your donation in support of our Christmas drive. Because of your generosity and donation, **Holiday Reindeer Family Drive** will be able to continue our mission in bettering the lives of children and families in our fire district and local area that may be less fortunate.

This year we assisted 23 families' which broke down to 52 adults and 45 children with gifts, food, and a complete holiday meal. We also began reaching out to senior citizens.

Again, many thanks for your support. It means the world to us to be able to bring joy to the parents and children who might not have had the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season this year. You have been a large contributor to us being able to deliver this joy.

Sincerely Donald Shoefflin, Fire Chief

(Boxed Potato Drive)



A Huge Thank you for all the Baby Angel Closet Donations received at the Birthday Party for Jesus. We received flannel sleepers, board books, diapers, body wash, pacifiers, diaper rash cream, onesies and other clothes.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Dear Partners in God's Mission,
We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of

Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation, education and witness.

On December 10, 2019, we received \$198.99 for the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Your congregation's giving, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need.

Again, **thank you** for giving to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ.

With gratitude to God for our shared mission, Bryce Wiebe

Additions to January Streamer Christmas Card Tree on Sanctuary Landing

If you did not receive a Christmas Card from the following people, it is because they made a contribution to WCPC as part of the Kemmerer Village Project instead of mailing a card.

Jack & Jean Greenlee
The Miskell Family
Dave & Phyllis Cummings
Ed, April & Sara Rottman

Kemmerer Village
Blackhawk Presbytery & Stronghold Camp
Doug Dicks (Presbytery Mission Agency)





PASTOR
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

Your prayers are working and the PNC has been busy reviewing several applications. Please continue praying that our positive conversations continue at this productive pace.

Sincerely, The Pastor Nominating Committee

CHANGE
FOR
CHANGE

“Change for Change Sunday”

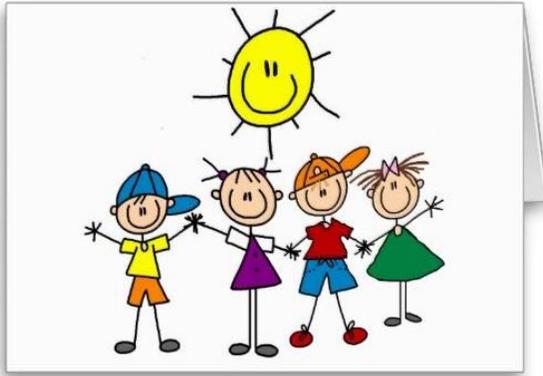
Each **Third Sunday** of the month from is "**Change for Change Sunday**". The children as part of the worship service will be collecting change from the congregation so that their chosen Mission projects can be fully funded. We have pledged to raise these our children in the faith. The children have taken the lead in this mission project. They have given us the opportunity to show, surround and saturate them in the Gospel value of generosity. **Thank you for your support!**

Do you like to sing or play an instrument? We are looking for people to share their gifts of music as anthems and offertories during worship. Please let the Worship & Music Committee know if you (or someone you know) is interested.



Walter Lawson Card Cutting – Fourth Sunday of the Month

We will be cutting the Greeting Cards for the Walter Lawson on the Fourth Sunday of the Month. **Please join us!**



Greeting Cards of all Kinds

When you are cleaning out a drawer and find those Christmas cards and the cards people sent for your birthday or when you were recovering from whatever, they can be used by Walter Lawson Home in their activity center. You can bring them to church just as they are. The youth will cut the front of the card off to prepare them for Walter Lawson. A box will be in Fellowship Hall for the card deposit. Thank you for recycling your cards in a way to help others. The cards will be delivered by the Deacons when we have some to give them.

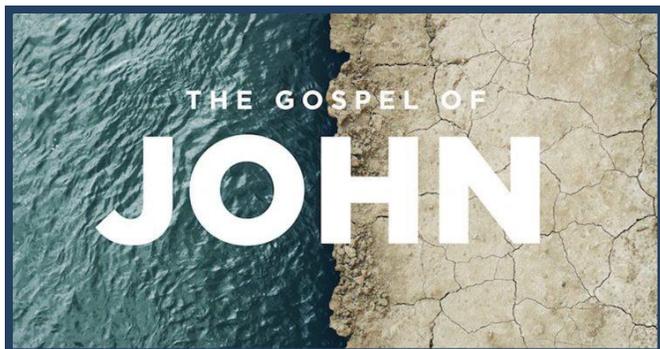


Fellowship is an important part of our gathering.

Sign-up is available in the Kitchen Window.

Help us welcome newcomers with light refreshments and warm hearts.

Dan Holmes will be with us for Special Music on the following Sundays: March 29, May 31, July 12 (Worship in the Park), August 16, September 13



The **Christian Education Committee** invites you to deepen your faith in God as we study together using the Gospel of John. We learn from each other.

We meet at 9 am in the Library each Sunday.

Bring a friend. We hope to see you there.



Sunday, February 2nd
 Ordination and Installation of Officers
 followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting
 called for the purpose of receiving the
 2019 Annual Report and the 2020 Budget



Mariners

The Mariners will meet on Tuesday, February 11 @ 11:30 am at Jerry's Café, 2601 N. Mulford Road, Rockford (In Brynwood Square).



Ash Wednesday, February 26

7:00 – 8:00 am Drive thru Ashes in front of Willow Creek Church
 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service at Willow Creek Church



WCPC Operating Statistics
 Well done good and faithful servants.
 May the Peace of Christ be with you.
Thank you for your faithful support.



	WCPC Operating Statistics	
	December 2019	Year-to-Date
Income	25,176.83	159,540.47
Expenses	11,745.63	152,900.39
Excess/(Deficit)	13,431.20	6,640.08

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE
 Actual vs Budget
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

		Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:				
	Contributions - General	149,300	145,885	(3,415)
	Contributions - Special	750	1,333	583
	Other Income	5,460	5,760	300
	Endowment	3,600	5,807	2,207
	School & Event	1,000	755	(245)
	Total Revenue	160,110	159,540	(570)
EXPENSES:				
MINISTRY OF:				
	Personnel	116,242	98,308	17,934
	Christian Ed & Youth	4,300	3,136	1,164
	Music & Worship	5,078	3,860	1,218
	Member & Stewardship	600	651	(51)
	Building & Grounds	43,234	39,433	3,801
	Session	14,878	1,646	13,232
	Deacons	200	105	95
	Missions - Budgeted	7,300	5,761	1,539
	- Unbudgeted	-	-	-
	Total Expense	191,832	152,900	38,932
	Change in cash from operations	(31,722)	6,640	38,362
OTHER:				
	Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	(4,401)	4,401
	Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	-	-
	Change in cash since January 1, 2019	(31,722)	11,041	42,763

The 175th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee would like all members of the congregation, including past members, to feel welcome in planning our 175th-anniversary celebration scheduled for September. Specifically, we are looking for significant stories, historic events by year/month and/or artifacts as well as individuals willing to be interviewed to share memories of their experiences and family in the church. Please contact Lucas Greenlee, Tom Andrew and Annie Picken at events@willowcreekpc.org, or sign up in the back of the fellowship hall to be interviewed between now and June 28th.

Let us celebrate together our wonderful history!



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle
@willowcreekpc

@willowcreekpcargyle
Willow Creek PC of Argyle
We are a faith community growing together sharing the love of Christ. We gather to worship, deepen our bonds, and grow in Christ serving others.

Check out the latest photos and events on our Facebook and Instagram pages!
<https://www.facebook.com/willowcreekpc>
<https://www.instagram.com/willowcreekpcargyle/>



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle was begun 175 years ago. On September 27th, we will be celebrating our history and our heritage. In order to defray the cost of this magnificent moment, on the first Sunday of each month, we will be receiving (in a Scottish Tam) a "freewill offering". The suggested monthly donation is \$1.75/person. Thank you, Session and the 175th Planning Committee

2020 Lenten Soup Suppers will be held 5:30-7pm on Wednesday

- March 4
- March 11
- March 18
- March 25

The members of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church are invited to provide a simple soup or two loaves of hearty bread. Salad and drinks will be provided. Signup sheets will be in Fellowship Hall.



After our meal, the children will have their own time of study.

The adults will be watching and discussing portions of the movie "The Shack".

Invite your neighbors and friends to this enriching time of study and fellowship.



Children's Sunday School

Sunday School will be held after the Children's Sermon on the following Sundays:

Feb 9, 16, 23

March 8, 15, 22

April 5, 19, 26

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:00 am in the Church Library



Youth Group Schedule

Feb. 8-9, 5:00 pm – 10:00 am; Lock-in

Feb. 16, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm; Family bowling – all of church invited

Feb. 23, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm; Lenten Discussion & Burning of Palms

Mar. 8, 11:30-1:30 pm; Lesson & Games

Mar. 14, 9:30 am - 11:00 am; Maple Crest Crafts

Mar. 29, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; Family Activities – Passion Story

Apr. 19, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm; Earth Day Activities

Apr. 26, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; Family Games

May 17, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm; Youth Wrap Up

February Calendar

Sun 2/2	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship; Traditional Communion; Ordination & Installation of Officers; Annual Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of receiving the 2019 Annual Report and the 2020 Budget
	Following Cong. Mtg.	Fellowship
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting in Argyle Room (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 2/4	6:30-8:30 pm	Session Meeting
Wed 2/5	Noon	Prayer in Fellowship Hall
Thur 2/6	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Women's Studies in the Argyle Room (Jodi Henderson)
Sun 2/9	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:15 am	Christian Education Meeting
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting in Church Library (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 2/10	9:00 am	Deacon Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Tue 2/11	---	Blackhawk Presbytery Meeting – Westminster Dekalb
	11:30 am	<i>Mariners lunch @ Jerry's Café, 2601 N. Mulford Rd., Rockford</i>
Wed 2/12	Noon	Prayer in Fellowship Hall
Thur 2/13	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Women's Studies in the Argyle Room (Jodi Henderson)
Fri 2/14	---	No Preschool President's Day Break
Sun 2/16	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship; Change for Change Sunday
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting in Church Library (Sold on Sobriety)
	Mon 2/17-Tue 2/18	No Preschool President's Day Break
Tue 2/18	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
	6:00 pm	Music & Worship Meeting
Wed 2/19	Noon	Prayer in Fellowship Hall
Thur 2/20	---	March Streamer & Calendar Items due to Office
	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Women's Studies in the Argyle Room (Jodi Henderson)
Sun 2/23	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 am	Fellowship; Walter Lawson Card Cutting
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting in Church Library (Sold on Sobriety)
Wed 2/26	7:00 am – 8:00 am	<i>Drive thru Ashes in front of Willow Creek Church</i>
	Noon	Prayer in Fellowship Hall
	5:30 pm	<i>Ash Wednesday Service at Willow Creek Church</i>
Thur 2/27	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Women's Studies in the Argyle Room (Jodi Henderson)