



STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

August 2020

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

Georgia church creates 'Porch Pictures' document history

By Donna Frischknecht Jackson | Presbyterians Today

Congregation chronicles COVID-19 in pictures

Presbyterians Today

July 2, 2020

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Presbyterians researched their church histories in hopes of discovering how congregations responded to the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. Some were dismayed, though, to find that there was little to no mention of the flu in session minutes. Trinity Presbyterian Church, however, is making sure history doesn't forget its response to the current pandemic. The Valdosta, Georgia, congregation has created a photobook called "Porch Pictures."

Featuring photos of members sitting in front of their homes, the book commemorates the unique time when being a faith family was redefined, says the Rev. Anghaarad Teague Dees. The photobook idea began in a Zoom meeting when the conversation turned from the logistics of reopening the church to how to preserve this moment in time, says Dees. Then one day, while in the church's library, the pastor spotted a 9/11 scrapbook, filled with the congregation's reactions to the Twin Towers attack 19 years ago. "I knew then we had to do something to remember this crisis," said Dees. With the help of her church administrator, members' pictures were shot from a prescribed safe distance. A photo printing and sharing website was then used to create the book. Two were ordered for the church's library. The congregation was invited to purchase their own. The money from the sales of the book, which is also filled with drawings, reflections and poetry from Trinity members, was used to replenish the church's food pantry, says Dees.



Bob and Deb Radabaugh and their dogs, Ginger and Cotton, are just one of the many families featured in Trinity Presbyterian's "Porch Pictures" book. Anghaarad Teague Dees

I am writing to thank you for a generous donation we received at the Food Bank last week. We appreciate your support as we respond to the increased need for food during this time of crisis.

We would also like to share this update on our food distribution to neighbors in need in May – 7.3 million meals is by far the most food we have ever distributed in a single month in our 37 year history.

Our warehouse and processing staff, drivers, agency liaisons and program managers continue to work at full capacity to supply our member agencies and our direct distribution programs with fresh produce, protein, dairy and shelf-stable foods. This month has seen the start of our summer meal program where children can pick up breakfast and lunch meals at 79 sites across our service area and take them home to nourish children during their school break while minimizing contact and respecting social distancing recommendations.

Right now, we're seeing COVID-19 impact so many people – and they're telling us their stories. One such neighbor is a woman we met in Elgin at a pop-up market. She was there picking up food not only for herself, but for three other families and received produce, a box of protein, a box of shelf-stable food, and yogurt for each family. She is 56 years old, and lost her husband to cancer within the last three years and has now also diagnosed with cancer and unable to work. Of the three families she was getting food for, two had immunocompromised folks – one with a person over 80, and the other with a Vietnam veteran. The third family was new to the community, a young single mom with young children who just couldn't get out.

As Illinois starts to open up, the Food Bank and our member agencies are reviewing our operations and will continue to provide access to food in the most efficient way, while protecting the safety and health of our staff, volunteers and neighbors. Please continue to check updates on our website www.solvehungertoday.org/coronavirus or call if you have questions or need more information.

Thank you again!

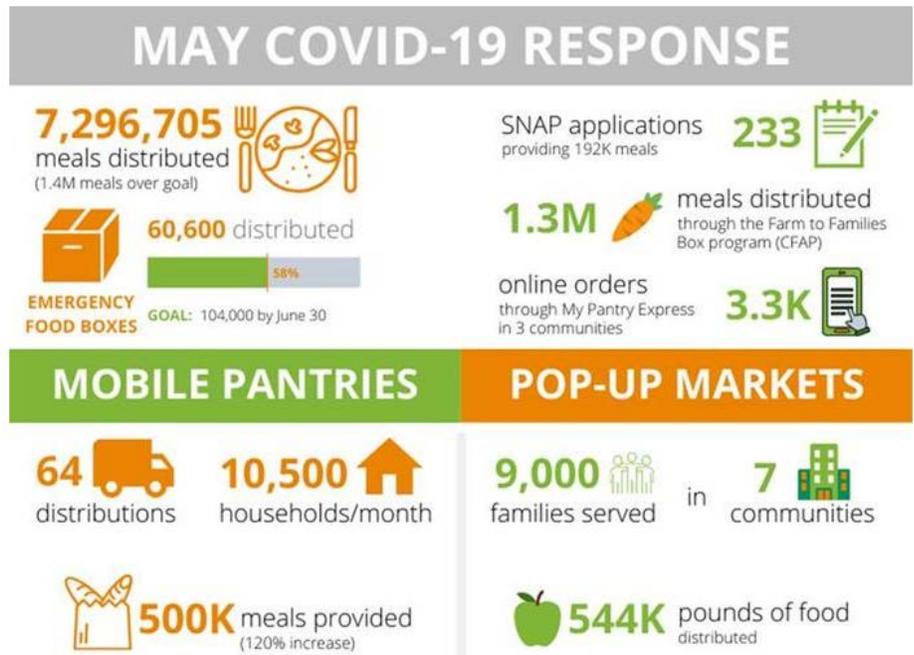
Hester Bury

Development Officer, Corporate and Foundation Giving

Northern Illinois Food Bank

273 Dearborn Court

Geneva, IL 60134





Presbyterian Mission
Mission Engagement
& Support

Thank You!

Dear Partner's in God's Mission:

Grace and peace to you and yours through our Lord Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

As we embark on the long, hot days of summer and the uncertainty of life during a pandemic, we give thanks for the faithful support of churches like yours. On behalf of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. Your church's support changes lives for the sake of the Gospel not only here but also around the world. During May, we received the following contribution from your church:

On May 18, 2020, we received \$25 for 102 Shared Mission Support.

Thank you, once again, for your witness to the Great Commission and your support of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. You are a valued partner in mission.

Blessings on your mission and ministry,

Rev. Chris Roseland, Mission Engagement Advisor

WCPC Operating Statistics

With the reduced expenses that accompany a pastoral vacancy, June gave us a chance to play catch up to some of our expenses that ran larger than expected during the early months of this year.

Again, thanks for your support.

We have been, and continue to be, truly blessed that we have the love and support of a loving and caring church family that knows what it takes to keep Willow Creek PC a functioning and viable house of worship.

God bless each and everyone. Please take care of yourself, and each other.



WCPC Operating Statistics

	June 2020	Year-to-Date
Income	13,347.34	74,461.55
Expenses	9,442.74	75,408.06
Excess/(Deficit)	3,904.60	(946.51)



August Calendar of Worship Services

Date	Pulpit Supply	Service Information
8/2	David Jones	Recorded
8/9	Mile Engle	Drive-in Worship in the Parking Lot Change for Change Collection
8/16	David Jones	Recorded Service; Dan Holmes Music
8/23	Mike Engle	Drive-in Worship in the Parking Lot Brown Bag Communion
8/30		

Worship Services can be found online at: <https://willowcreekpc.org/sermons>

August 2020 All Church Calendar

Thur 7/30	5:45 pm-7:00 pm 7:30-8:30 pm	Recording of 8/2 Sunday Service - Sanctuary Bell Practice - Sanctuary
Sun 8/2	10:00 am	Recorded Service Available Online; Pulpit Supply David Jones
	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Family Fun Day at the Church-Everyone is invited (Rain Date 8/5)
Tue 8/4	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Session Meeting – Fellowship Hall & Zoom
Wed 8/5	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<i>RAIN DATE for Family Fun Day at the Church (Everyone is invited)</i>
Thur 8/6	7:30-8:30 pm	Bell Practice - Sanctuary
Sun 8/9	10:00 am	Drive-in Worship; Change for Change; Pulpit Supply Mike Engle; Special Music Liz O’Leary
Thur 8/13	5:45 pm – 7:00 pm 7:30-8:30 pm	Recording of 8/16 Service - Sanctuary Bell Practice - Sanctuary
Sun 8/16	10:00 am	Recorded Service Available Online; Pulpit Supply David Jones; Special Music Dan Holmes
Thur 8/20	7:30-8:30 pm	Bell Practice - Sanctuary
Sun 8/23	10:00 am	Drive-in Worship; Brown Bag Communion; Pulpit Supply Mike Engle
Thur 8/27	5:45 pm-7:00 pm 7:30-8:30 pm	If Needed Recording of 8/30 Sunday Service - Sanctuary Bell Practice - Sanctuary
Sun 8/30	10:00 am	TBD



Family Fun Day

Sunday, August 2nd from 1:00-3:00 pm

at the church

for children of all ages

We will have a Bible lesson, games, and water fun outside. We will be practicing social distancing guidelines. All are welcome to come participate or watch!

Rain Date is Wednesday, August 5

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your PNC is working in creative ways to amplify our reach to candidates. We are positive that this, along with your prayers, will lead us to the pastor God has in store!"

On behalf of the PNC, we send blessings and love to you all!
Marie Wiersema

PNC Members: Ed Rottman, Brenda Benning, Steve Picken, Pat Nortch and Marie Wiersema



During this pandemic time, the church office is closed. Please email the church office at willowcreekchrch@aol.com. Until Willow Creek has a Pastor or there is a new Interim Pastor, in case of emergency members should contact:

Maren Reid (Clerk of Session) 815-978-5307or

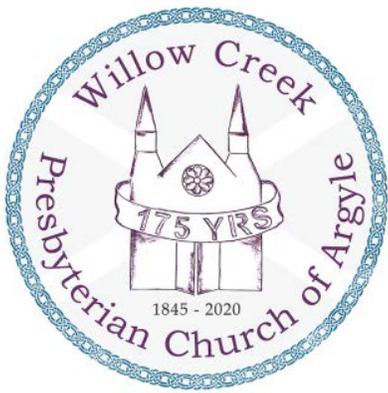
Jim Hall (Chairperson of Deacons) 815-633-1784

Dan Holmes will be with us for Special Music on the following Sundays:

August 16 (Recorded Service)

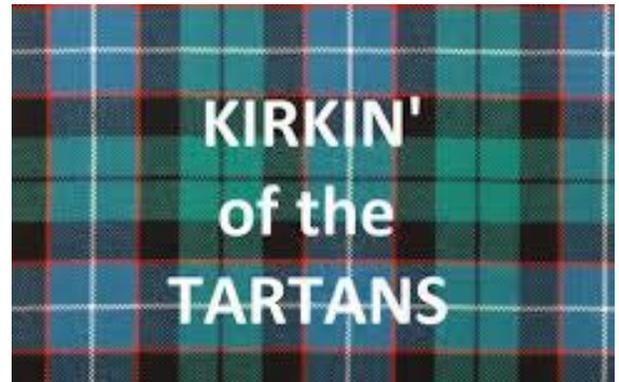
September 13





The 175th Anniversary Celebration will be postponed until we can gather in full again. Watch your emails for ways we still plan to acknowledge the 175th Anniversary during the drive-in service on Sept. 27th

Kirkin' o' the Tartans
Sunday, September 27th
Drive-in Service



"Change for Change Sunday"

Each **Second Sunday** of the summer months will be "**Change for Change Sunday**". The children will be collecting change at the Drive-in service. We have pledged to raise 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!



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle was begun 175 years ago. If you would like to contribute to the 175th Anniversary Celebration, please mail your offering check to the church and indicate 175th Anniversary Fund on the memo line. The celebration will be postponed until we can gather in full again.

Signs of Hope and New Life in Blackhawk from the Blackhawk Presbytery COVID-19 Response Task Force

Community Efforts Rise to Meet Needs

Prior to COVID restrictions, the Westminster DeKalb congregation had been offering bi-weekly community dinners to their neighbors. Uniquely situated in the highest density and lowest income neighborhood in DeKalb, it was a popular program that was beginning to transform the mission focus of the congregation. Then the virus hit and increased the food insecurity of this neighborhood and beyond.



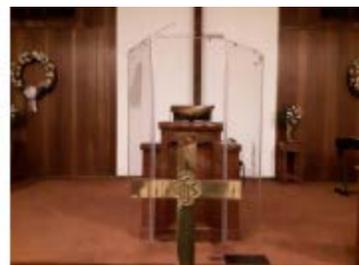
After securing a variety of funding sources (including a Presbytery Peacemaking grant and a Synod of Lincoln Trails grant) and a significant partnership with the DeKalb County Community Gardens organization, the church has expanded its offerings. They have been able to offer weekly drive-through food distributions, serving an average of 200 households/week (400 adults + 300 children), and a summer sack-lunch program for school aged children three times a week.

A dedicated team of about 25 volunteers have streamlined the weekly operation (see the video) using conveyor belts, Kindles (to collect data), traffic cones and smiles. An additional 4 people pre-pack boxes of staples a day earlier and 6-9 people facilitate the sack-lunch program run each week. The goal in all of these efforts is to provide about 40 pounds of food to every household in a friendly and welcoming way, build community and keep everyone safe.

Known anecdotally as the church that says "Yes", these food initiatives have connected the church to not only the immediate neighbors, but to international students at NIU who are living with travel uncertainties and very limited resources. Many of those served have begun to volunteer their time as well.

Necessity is the Mother of Invention

Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva and her husband, Patrick Steva purchased and assembled an impressive Plexiglass drum shield for their inevitable return to in-sanctuary worship. An accomplished soloist, Pastor Anita also intends to share her voice with the congregation in song (thus the extra shielding). The Middle Creek Church of Winnebago is blessed with a shady yard and plenty of space to hold worship outdoors for the near future, but will be prepared when the time comes to move inside. We are wondering when Anita will pick up drumming too!?



Miss a Worship service?
Check out recordings on
Willow Creek's new YouTube channel!



*Come Learn, Worship and Share
with us every Sunday*

*Adult
Sunday School*



9:00am

Worship



10:00am

Fellowship



11:00am



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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/>