



STREAM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

September 2020

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

Stick With Itness

Recently, I was helping my dad tear apart a wall that was blown off during the tornado that blew through our area on August 10. Yes, a wall. A complete intact wall, blown off the north side of a barn. Most of the wall came apart without much trouble. The wood was pried off, screws were taken out, and some wood was salvaged. Throughout this whole process, my dad made several comments about his dad, my grandpa, who would have built the wall. "Did he use screws or nails? This is strong wood he used." You get the drift. Little comments that connected the work we were doing to work of a generation before us. It was while we were pulling apart the metal sheeting that we discovered my grandpa had used glue to hold two pieces together. Only two pieces, not all of them. And it struck me, extra stick with itness. I am pretty sure that term isn't in the dictionary, but we all know what it means. Sometimes life requires a little more persistence, a little more glue, a little more stick with itness. For whatever reason, those two pieces of metal siding needed some of that the day it was built. And much like the glue that held the siding together, our faith in God holds us together. It may seem harder at this moment to see how we are held together, but the glue is there, strong and pliable, willing to stick with us. You see, we are held together through our strong belief in God's love for us, through prayer that encompasses us all, and through the strong community we've maintained even when we aren't worshipping in our sanctuary.

As we prepare to move back into our sanctuary for worship, we will need to continue practicing stick with itness. We'll need to remember that everyone is in a different spot with their comfort level of socializing due to COVID-19. For the health and safety of our entire church family, we'll need to be persistent about doing our part to keep each other safe. We'll also want to be inclusive and understanding of those not yet comfortable returning to our sanctuary for worship. And so, as we prepare to venture into the next thing for our Sunday worships, let's stay strong in our faith because God always sticks with us.

Maren Reid, Clerk of Session

Itness



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church

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

COVID-19 Guidelines

- Masks must be worn whenever in the building
- Sit with family members, leaving 2 pews between families
- All entrances will remain open except the north doors on the educational wing
- The educational wing will be blocked off past the office
- Restrooms are to be used only in an emergency
- Bulletins will be available at the back of the church
- Offering baskets will be available in the back at the end of service
- Hymns can be sung quietly behind masks. Refer to your bulletin.
- Nursery services will not be offered at this time
- Fellowship - please gather outside on the manse lawn as weather permits. At this time food and drink will not be served.
- If you aren't feeling well, have a temperature, or any symptoms, please stay home.
- If you have attended a service and are diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact the office in confidence so we can perform necessary contact tracing.

Church is where God's family gathers

Presbyterians Today August 13, 2020

'Prairie lessons' help mom provide worship experience for family

by *Karen Milholland Alley for Presbyterians Today | Special to Presbyterian News Service*

ELKIN, North Carolina — While the apocalyptic genre might seem relatable in some ways during these times we're living in, the characters I have found myself relating to most during the pandemic are those found in Laura Ingalls Wilder's account of life in 19th century America that she writes about in "Little House on the Prairie." Letting out the hem of last year's dress to make do for a growing child totally makes sense now. Who needs new clothes when you never leave home? Sitting around the fire at night for a sing-along with Pa while Ma does the mending?

And then there's Sundays.

As a Presbyterian preacher's kid, growing up I could totally relate to Laura's Saturday night baths and putting on her best dress for church the next day. Even the happy gatherings of shared meals on the church lawn were familiar to me. But those times when Laura's family lived in remote areas where there was no church — or the weather kept them home — that's where the similarities ended. Her family still celebrated the Sabbath with a day of rest and reading the Bible — at home. To me that sounded like pure torture. Not being able to run and play? Having to just read the Bible with Ma and Pa? I totally felt Laura's pain as she fidgeted in her Sunday best.

"I would never do that to my kids," I said to my 10-year-old self. Well guess what? Things changed.

In mid-March our county government limited the number of people gathered in one place to fewer than 10, even before the governor put a statewide stay-at-home order into play. Churches worked quickly to find ways to continue to minister to their congregations. My church was one of many that now offered the Sunday morning worship service in a new format, streaming live on Facebook. On Palm Sunday, I forced my 15-year-old daughter out of bed, dragged my 12-year-old son away from his Xbox, and we had church. At home. Just like Laura Ingalls. Only this time I'm not Laura. I'm Ma.

While out in the wild of the untamed prairie, she maintained worship on Sunday mornings, doing her best to instill a sense of order and civility in her family amidst a chaotic and uncertain world. As parents, aren't we always trying to provide stability and comfort to our kids?

Now, more than ever in their short lives, our kids are facing unknown, uncharted territory each day. We might not be mapping out new towns in the Wild West, but we are in the middle of our own new territory, facing challenges and uncertainties as we learn to cope with sheltering in place, social distancing, working from home and distance learning.



Before the pandemic, members and friends at Elkin Presbyterian Church in Elkin, North Carolina, including the author, clearly enjoyed the magic of fellowship. (Photos courtesy of Elkin Presbyterian Church)

Like Ma, I'm looking for ways to find purpose and meaning in life, for myself and for my family. For me, that means sticking to our Sunday routine of going to church, even if church looks a lot different these days. Instead of sitting in our pew in stiff Sunday clothes, the kids are coming to the laptop in pajamas while I show up in dirty jeans straight from the garden. We celebrate communion with grape Gatorade in shot glasses and saltine crackers and read the order of worship off an 8 ½-by-11 piece of office paper from my printer rather than the manila bulletin of church.

Even though it's different, there's comfort in the things that remain the same. The familiar face of our preacher, reading from the Bible. Reciting the Apostles' Creed and saying the Lord's Prayer together. I find comfort in the routine, but there is something more my kids and I find when we log on to the service — a sense of connectedness.

On Palm Sunday, the first Sunday we tried the new format, the screen of my laptop was divided with the livestream on the left and the dialogue box on the right. While we probably should have been watching the preacher give her sermon, our eyes were glued to the window where fellow church members typed in comments that showed us they too were online and watching. We watched intently as new people "joined." We laughed out loud when the angry face emoji floated up amongst the thumbs up and hearts reacting to the livestream. Did that 70-year-old church member really mean he disliked what was being said, or was he just struggling to try to participate in this new-to-him medium? (I'm going with the latter.)

When Ma helped Laura button up her Sunday dress and sat down with her children to read Bible stories at home, she knew other mothers were doing the same thing in homes and churches around the country. I understand now how those simple acts helped Ma feel connected to a larger community, especially on those days when the isolation of the prairie was about to do her in. After days of being cooped up together in our house, feeling pretty alone in the world, here was an important reminder that we're not alone.

I've lived in the Bible Belt of America my entire life. Sometimes I have to admit that's been a cause for embarrassment. Even now, I'm sad to see some churches defying stay-at-home orders and continuing to hold Sunday worship services just like they did before COVID-19 became part of our vocabulary. But at the same time, I'm proud of the way the churches around me quickly adapted to a new reality. Our church is one of many live streaming worship services. Others are using transistor radio to reach parishioners as they sit in their cars in the church parking lots like a Sunday morning drive-in. Zoom has become a useful resource not just for public schools but for Sunday school teachers as well. Like Ma, we've all learned the point of church isn't about sitting in pews together. It's about the sense of community that comes from worshipping together, whatever shape that might take.

Last Sunday morning, as we watched online the clerk of session make the opening announcements and the pastor rise to read the day's Scripture, my son kept a close watch of the number in the left-hand corner of the screen. Forty-six people watching ... 49 ... 52. We figured that the number of people watching was closer to 90 or even 100, for there were families like us with more than one person gathered around the computer screen.

"That's way more people than are usually at church," my son remarked with surprise in his voice. I'm wasn't surprised at all.

If this experience has taught us anything, it's that our church community is not dependent on the building itself. I hope that we'll all remember this as we struggle with the questions of when and how to reopen, and to recognize the strength of the online ministries in reaching out to even more people.



Dear Siblings in Christ's service,

During this season of unrest and change, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God's grace to see us through. **Together**, our gifts work to build God's household where all can find shelter, where all can find love. Your generosity helps build a Matthew 25 Church a home of wholeness for people in need, especially those suffering from the impacts of the current crises, disrupting the cycle of poverty. Your generosity creates a space for justice, dismantling systemic racism, and it enlivens the Church, giving

voice to the declaration that we, the Church, are not dying, but are filled with vitality and life.

Thank you!

Following is a record of your gifts to Special Offerings: 6/22/2020 \$590 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Your congregation's giving, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need.

With gratitude for your partnership, and prayers for continued grace and boldness in; your ministry, Bryce Wiebe

WCPC Operating Statistics

It becomes to easy to rest on ones laurels when things are going along to good. Then comes a dose of reality when all gets back to normal and one wonders, what happened? That wakes us up in a hurry and comes as somewhat of a surprise if we are not careful.

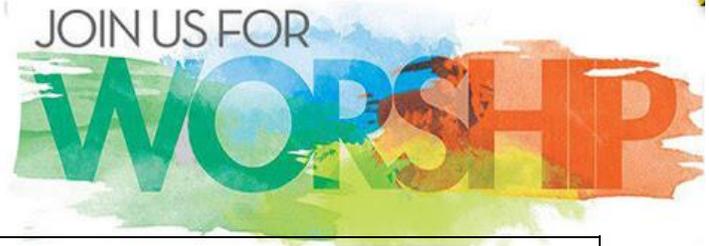
We have been, and continue to be, good stewards of the Lord's resources. Prudent planning and spending keep us in good standing, while trying to be ready when another need arises.



God bless each and everyone, and Thank You for your faithful support.

	WCPC Operating Statistics	
	July 2020	Year-to-Date
Income	14,083.95	88,545.50
Expenses	6,497.44	81,905.50
Excess/(Deficit)	7,586.51	6,640.00

September Calendar of Worship Services



Date	Pulpit Supply	Service Information
9/6	David Jones	In Church Service; Liz O'Leary Special Music; Brown Bag Communion
9/13	David Jones	Drive in Service; Change for Change Sunday
9/20	David Jones	In Church Service; Dan Holmes Special Music
9/27	Guest Speakers	Drive in Service for the Kirkin' o' the Tartans

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

September Calendar

- Sun 9/6 10:00 am In Church Service; Pulpit Supply David Jones; Special Music Liz O'Leary; Brown Bag Communion
- Tue 9/8 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm **Session Meeting – Fellowship Hall & Zoom**
- Sun 9/13 10:00 am Drive-in Worship; Change for Change; Pulpit Supply David Jones
- Sun 9/20 10:00 am In Church Service; Pulpit Supply David Jones; Special Music Dan Holmes
 10:30ish-11:00 am Children's Sunday School
 11:00-12:00 am Youth Group Fall Kick-off; Games, individually wrapped snacks, some God talk, and FUN!
- Sat 9/26 6:15 pm *WCPC Drive-in Movie; The Builders; Bring your own picnic supper and lawn chairs; Movie will play at 7:00 pm*
- Sun 9/27 10:00 am Drive-in Worship for the Kirkin' Celebration



Willow Creek's Drive-in Movie Theater

Now Playing: **The Builders**

Circa 1995

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Bring your own picnic supper and lawn chairs to enjoy at 6:15 pm. Movie will play at 7:00 pm. Lawn chair seating and vehicle parking will be available. Remember to keep your social distance when outside your vehicle.

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Children's Sunday School

We will gather downstairs or outside if the weather permits after the children's sermon until 11:00.

9/20

10/4

10/11

10/25

11/8

11/15

11/22

We do not have plans to have an adult Sunday School yet.

Youth Group Fall Kick-off

Sunday, September 20, 2020

11:00-12:30

Games, individually wrapped snacks, some God talk, and **FUN!**



Beginning in October, we will have a Liturgist for the In Church Services and will follow the 2020 Liturgist schedule.

Dan Holmes will be with us for Special Music on September 20.



YOUR PRAYERS ARE WORKING!



The PNC is making meaningful progress in our search for the next Pastor of WCPC. We want to stress that while the pandemic is causing delays here and there for which we must adapt, it is not hindering progress and we remain confident that this search process works, even in these challenging times. God is calling wonderful candidates to WCPC for which we are thankful. And, we are blessed at the opportunities the

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lord has given us to adapt and continue to perform our work as thoroughly as before. To that end, when we ultimately bring forth our new Pastor to you, some changes to the process may be required. Procedure and rule remain the same – but surface level process may appear different. We appreciate your cooperation and patience with these changes. Rest assured, no stone is being left unturned despite any process modifications you may see.

Blessings,

Your WCPC PNC

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) 815-978-5307 or

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

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



SUBSCRIBE

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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/>



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 month will be "**Change for Change Sunday**". 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.

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.

September 6 - October 4, 2020

Peace & Global Witness

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission to those around the corner and around the world.

MAY THE
GOD OF PEACE
GIVE YOU PEACE
AT ALL TIMES
IN ALL WAYS.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16



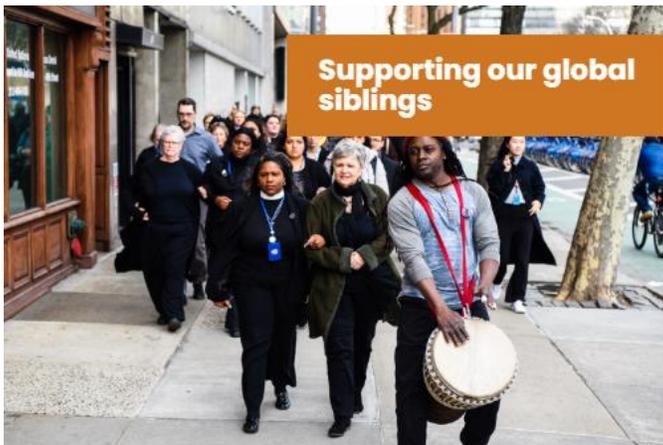
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION
SEPTEMBER 6-OCTOBER 4

Empowering congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves.

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.



The peace of Christ belongs to everyone, everywhere



Supporting our global siblings



Providing nurturing reconciliation