



**S T R E A M E R**

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

October 2020

***“A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ”***

After three autumns in Oakland, I could not be more excited about a real fall in northern Illinois. My memories of fall from Georgia, where I spent most of my life, include going to visit apple farms with my family, enjoying fresh pressed cider and hot apple pies and fritters. We always balanced the sweet treats with a stop at some roadside stand for hot boiled peanuts. And we worked up our appetite for so much indulgence by finding beautiful places to hike, enjoying the riot of rich fall colors as the leaves turned then fell.

As someone who has always loved the promise of fall, the promise of the new school year, the dawning of a season of wonderful celebrations, I have really missed these autumn experiences these past few years.

The Reformed Church, and the PCUSA in particular, treasures this motto of the reformers: *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda!* These Latin words are often mistranslated as “Reformed and always reforming”, a reminder that the church is and always has been reformed by God, and is always in the process of reforming.

This is *almost* right. A slightly more accurate translation is: “Reformed and always being reformed.” This subtle shift is a profoundly important reminder that we are neither able to reform the church, nor responsible for doing so. The church is God’s, and God - not us - is the reformer.

This reminder is a great comfort to me. It comforts me to know that the church always has been and always will be re-forming - change and growth are inevitable for God’s church. These changes occur not because of the influence of culture, or the whims of we humans with our finite imaginations. These changes occur because of who God is, and who the church is to God.

We have certainly seen this in recent months as one adaptation after another has been made to weather covid. We worshiped in ways we wouldn’t have dreamt of before March - but worship persisted through it all. I am especially impressed with how Willow Creek made difficult decisions around this, showing inspiring courage, creativity and care for the congregation.

We will continue to see this nature of the church - this reality that we are reformed and we are always being reformed. This is an encouraging reminder to not fear when the church seems to look and feel a little different than it did in the past.

These are things I think about as we greet the fall, because as those glorious leaves tumble to the ground I am reminded that they were once vibrantly green, and now gold or maroon they fall from their branches and blanket our autumn paths. As we walk those paths, we help the leaves become rich soil for next spring. These seasons of change are reflected in the inevitable changes all living things go through - including the church.

Sometimes those changes feel like loss as the once full trees become bare. But there is a newness revealed as possibilities emerge, and even while captivated by the beauty and promise of fall, we can remember to look ahead toward spring, to when all these things will be made new.

I am reminded of Romans 12:1-2: *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

As we contemplate change and transformation, this powerful reminder to not be conformed to this world, but transformed resonates with me, reminding me that transformation is God’s good for us - it is the world that would have us remain stagnant and conform. These verses also remind me that we are all in this together. This is not about individual transformation or growth, but our growth as a congregation that seeks to reflect Christ to all in our community. I see this call to unity in verse 1, when we are told to present our bodies - plural - as **one** living sacrifice.

As Willow Creek enters a new season this fall, this opportunity for transformation is encouraging and exciting (and maybe also a little scary). We are all called to live into transformation together. We require one another as the body of Christ to seek, find and follow God’s will for Willow Creek.

I am beyond excited to join you in ministry and I cannot wait to see what things we learn together as we seek God’s will for how to continue to shine as a beacon in the community.

I am full of gratitude to each of you as we begin this next season, and look forward to this vibrant October - and many more in the years to come - at Willow Creek.

Lauren

**F**irst **S**unday

**Pastor Lauren’s first Sunday at WCPC will be October 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Thanks to everybody for cards, best wishes and prayers.  
 Doing good from my hip replacement surgery and looking  
 forward to seeing you at church.  
 Don Greenlee



**Thanks!**

Thanks to all involved with the “The Builders” Drive-  
 in movie and the Kirkin’ Service and Celebration!

**WCPC Operating Statistics**

In keeping with our summer giving activity,  
 August proved it belonged in our monthly  
 lineup.

**Thank you again for your support.**



	<b>WCPC Operating Statistics</b>	
	August 2020	Year-to-Date
Income	12,840.90	101,386.49
Expenses	10,614.35	92,675.11
Excess/(Deficit)	<b>2,226.55</b>	<b>8,711.38</b>

## October Calendar

Sun 10/4	10:00 am	In Church Service; Pulpit Supply David Jones; Brown Bag Communion; Peace & Global Witness Collection
	10:30ish-11:00 am	Children's Sunday School
Tue 10/6	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>Session Meeting – Fellowship Hall &amp; Zoom</b>
Sun 10/11	10:00 am	In Church Service; Welcome Pastor Lauren; Special Music Liz O'Leary; Change for Change Collection
	10:30ish-11:00 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:15 am – 12:45 pm	Youth Group
Mon 10/12- Fri 10/16	---	Secretary on Vacation
Sun 10/18	10:00 am	In Church Service
Mon 10/19- Fri 10/23	---	Secretary on Vacation
Tue 8/20	8:00 am	<b>Buildings and Grounds Meeting in Fellowship Hall</b>
	6:00 pm	<b>Music and Worship Meeting in Fellowship Hall</b>
Sun 10/25	10:00 am	In Church Service
	10:30ish-11:00 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:15 am – 12:45 pm	Youth Group



All October services will be in the Sanctuary. The service will also be recorded and posted on the church's webpage: [www.willowcreekpc.org](http://www.willowcreekpc.org)

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



# 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.

Oct. 4, 11, & 25

Nov. 8, 15, & 22

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

## Youth Group

Youth Group will meet from 11:15 am to 12:45 pm on the following Sundays:

Oct. 11 & 25

Nov. 8 & 15

Dec. 6 & 20



With the official calling of Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel, the PNC work is now complete. We want to extend our gratitude to you for your many blessings, prayers, patience and support during the process. Above all else, we give thanks to the Lord for leading us through the turbulence and ultimately to Pastor Lauren. Our future together is bright and we have much to be thankful!

**PASTOR  
NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE**

Blessings, Brenda Benning, Pat Nortch, Steve Picken, Ed Rottman and Marie Wiersema



During this pandemic time, the church office is closed. Please email the church office at [willowcreekchrch@aol.com](mailto:willowcreekchrch@aol.com).

In case of emergency members should contact:

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

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

## Thank You Buildings and Grounds!



For managing the new roofs on the church, education wing and manse from the hail damage on July 14, 2019.

For the clean-up after the August 10, 2020 Storm.



And for preparing the manse for the arrival of Pastor Lauren and her husband.



## What are other Blackhawk Presbytery churches doing for worship:

- Less than 30% are holding only online services
- About 20% are worshipping outdoors in parking lots, on lawns, under tents
- About 45% have returned to worship inside their buildings
- Almost all who have resumed in-person worship are still offering remote options
- Options for CE varied widely, the most common response stated either they were unsure or were not offering regular programming for youth. Only four churches responded that they were holding in person classes.
- About half offer children's messages as part of their worship - half do not.
- Almost all replied positively to "Has your church responded in a new way (during COVID time) to needs in your community?" See the ways featured in the word cloud below - congratulations everyone!



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

Come Learn, Worship and Share  
with us every Sunday

9:00am 10:00am 11:00am

search: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle  
@willowcreekpc

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/>

## “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!**

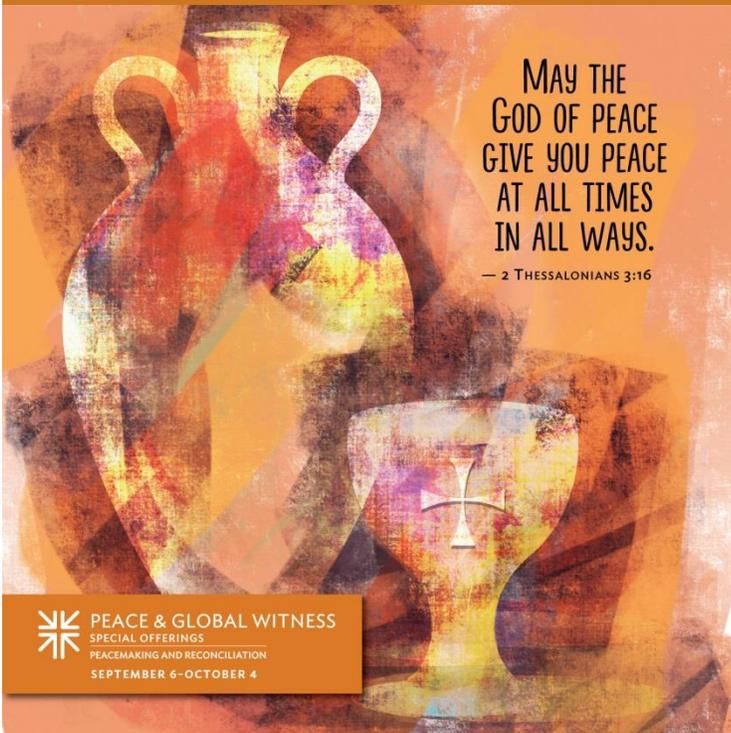


**The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** will be postponed until we can gather in full again. If you would like to contribute to the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, please mail your offering check to the church and indicate in the “memo” 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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

**Peace & Global Witness  
Collection  
Sunday, October 4**

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE



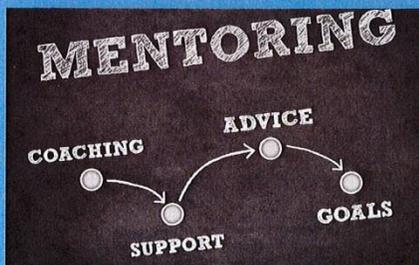
# ROCKFORD STUDENTS NEED YOUR HELP!

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Become a volunteer mentor for a RPS 205 high school senior for the 2020-21 school year.

As a mentor, you will provide support and encouragement by checking in virtually with your mentee two times per week for up to 30 minutes.

Help to ensure our graduating seniors are on track to meet their postsecondary goals.



## Connect with future graduates!

If learning gaps continue, research shows that students affected by COVID-19 have a higher likelihood of being less skilled and productive. During this time, increasing engagement and providing additional support is critical to student success.

*We need your help in meeting these new challenges more than ever before!*

We are seeking business and community partners to virtually mentor high school seniors to ensure they are on track to meet their postsecondary goals.

Virtual mentoring allows the flexibility for community partners to continue connecting with students while helping them to navigate their senior year of high school and plan beyond graduation.

To participate or for more information contact:  
Work-Base Learning Coordinator Jessica Hayes at [jessica@alignmentrockford.com](mailto:jessica@alignmentrockford.com) or 815-708-7549.

Thank you for your support!



## **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.