



STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

November 2020

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

Update: Remote Worship & Church Gatherings

As of Sunday, Oct. 25th, our region’s restrictions per the governor’s office limit gatherings to “essential” and 10 or fewer people. Because of this restriction, our Session voted to return to **remote worship** until things change.

It is always hard to decide to not gather in our sanctuary. We all hope and pray for the spread of covid to slow, and pray for healing for the sick and strength for the caregivers. We pray also for a vaccine and end to this pandemic.

Be on the lookout for updates regarding committee meetings, rehearsals and youth group. For now, we will be doing a lot of things by Zoom and doing our very best to do our part to keep one another as safe as possible and slow the spread.

Thank you for your understanding of these difficult decisions. Please continue to be in touch with one another - phoning and sending cards to check in. Please also continue to keep the prayer chain and church office updated with your prayer requests and any needs you may have. (You can always reach me at: Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org or 678-230-7549).

There are many of you I haven’t yet met face to face, and I look forward to the day! It’s an admittedly strange time to get to know a new church family, but I believe that we will navigate this well together. And I have to be honest with you, there are some aspects of this strange start that I’m excited about:

- We get to have at *least* two starts to ministry! We have this start, which is less than ideal, but it gives me an opportunity to connect with you individually by phone (if I haven’t called you yet, I’m making my way through the directory, I’ll get to you eventually!).
- This is a season where we have the opportunity to dream: what might our church look like after covid? A pandemic is an event that changes us and will lead to new opportunities and new ideas. Our regular ways of doing things have already been interrupted, and interruptions can become fallow ground for something new we wouldn’t have thought of before. What dreams for Willow Creek is God planting in our hearts while we wait at home for the sanctuary to re-open?

- That will be our second start! Someday in the future, we'll have a chance to fling our beautiful doors wide open and extend an expansive welcome to our community. Who might that welcome reach that it never has before?

Usually, when a pastor starts at a new church, the impulse is to jump straight to flinging the doors wide open. Sometimes, that goes really well. But it often does not. The reasons for that include a disconnect between the new pastor and congregation, a disconnect that exists simply because the relationship is so new and trust hasn't had a chance to grow yet.

So we have a blessed opportunity to build the relationship and trust *first*, to learn from and with another what God's dream for this church is, to dream big and then plan well. The covid restrictions are frustrating and we are all tired of them, but they are giving us a unique opportunity to prepare well for an exciting future for the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle.

In Christ, Pastor Lauren

All Saints' Day Communion (Nov. 1st)

Our November 1st worship service will include the Celebration of the Lord's Supper. As we are worshipping remotely at this time, you are invited to celebrate wherever you may be worshipping, using simple elements to represent the bread and cup. Perhaps for the bread you have a baked good, a cracker, or a slice of bread. For the cup, anything that connects your heart to the fruit of the vine.

One of the cherished aspects of Communion is that it *is* communal - it connects us to each other. Remote Communion, then, almost feels like an impossibility, an oxy-moron! But it isn't. How profoundly unifying it is to sit in the warmth of our homes and partake, knowing our church family is doing the same. We are not in the same place, we are not using the common loaf and cup, but we are unified in spirit and action. Indeed, this unity extends beyond our church family - Christians around the world are celebrating in similar ways.

That said, this is only an invitation. Just as it is so every time you are invited to the Lord's table, you always have a choice in how to respond. For you this time in the worship service may simply be an opportunity to reflect and pray. In reflection and prayer, too, we are connected to one another.





Willow Creek Church Family,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the incredible welcome you've given us! We are especially grateful for the PNC members who showed us hospitality and friendship throughout the call process and greeted us like old friends when we arrived. A huge thank you to Steve Picken, John Reid, and the amazing Building and Grounds crew who worked so hard to get the manse ready for us. Thank you also to the children who created the beautiful welcome

banner, and for the kind folks who put together a basket with local goodies and mums for us. All of this kindness made us feel at home from the moment we arrived. We are overwhelmed to call this beautiful place home, and look forward to spending many years here. We could not be more grateful to be part of such a generous and hospitable church family.

Thank you!

Lauren & Scott

To our church family,

Thank you for:

Phone calls

Cards for:

70th wedding anniversary

JoAnne's 90th birthday

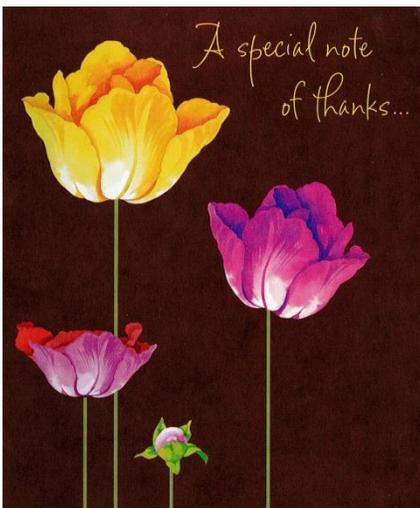
Get well cards

Wilbur's 95th birthday

Drive by greeting

Each contact was a bright star in a difficult Spring/summer season. Thank you for each one.

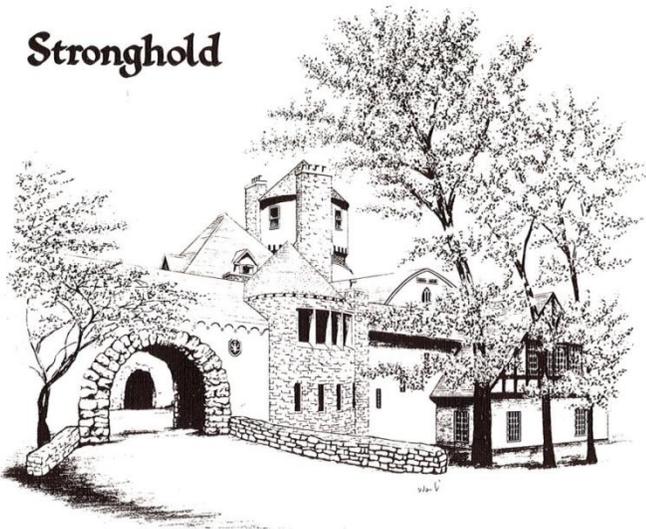
JoAnne and Wilbur Reid



Hi Church Members,

Thank you for the gift of money donated to Habitat Boone County. Your donation help provide affordable living for our partner families. The next build will be for the Davis Family,
Kind Regards, Kim Mickey

Stronghold



To the Wonderful Congregation of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church,
Simply put...Stronghold would not be the same place of Ministry without all the years of support, time and talent of your church. Thank you for the \$1,000 donation in joining with 1st Pres of Dixon to raise over \$30,000 during these Covid-19 days. May God's grace shine on all we do.
Prayers of wellness to each of you, your families & loved ones,
Danny



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Presbyterian Mission

Dear Partner's in God's Mission:

On behalf of the Mission Agency, thank you for your generous and faithful support during August. On August 18, 2020, we received \$25 for Shared Mission.

Thank you once again for your support, dedication and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. You are a valued partner in mission and we greatly appreciate your prayers and support.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Chris Roseland, Mission Engagement Advisor

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

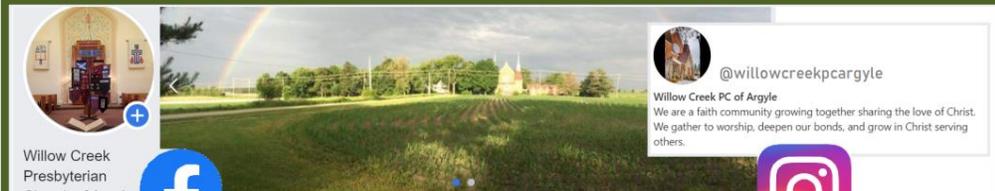


Come Learn, Worship and Share
with us every Sunday



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/>

WCPC Operating Statistics

Each month when I review the financials I continue to be amazed at the generous support this congregation supplies to keep us strong financially. That means a lot to me personally, and to the staff that has the responsibilities to keep everything going for the rest of us.

**Thank you again for your support.
Stay safe and God Bless everyone.**



WCPC Operating Statistics

	September 2020	Year-to-Date
Income	12,857.91	114,154.40
Expenses	7,430.74	100,105.85
Excess/(Deficit)	5,427.17	14,048.55



During this pandemic time, the church office is closed. Please email the church office at willowcreekchrch@aol.com.

In case of emergency members should contact:
 Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel 678-230-7549 or
 Maren Reid (Clerk of Session) 815-978-5307 or
 Jim Hall (Chairperson of Deacons) 815-633-1784

“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. Please mail your offering check to the church and indicate in the “memo” Change for Change.

Thank you for your support!



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

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE
 Actual vs Budget
 FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:			
Contributions - General	112,751	104,555	(8,196)
Contributions - Special	563	55	(508)
Other Income	4,425	3,444	(981)
Endowment	2,700	6,100	3,400
School & Event	750	-	(750)
	<hr/>		
Total Revenue	121,189	114,154	(7,035)
EXPENSES:			
MINISTRY OF:			
Personnel	78,353	53,662	24,691
Christian Ed & Youth	3,300	1,073	2,227
Music & Worship	4,298	4,561	(263)
Member & Stewardship	506	246	260
Building & Grounds	33,064	34,057	(993)
Session	11,054	2,387	8,667
Deacons	150	140	10
Missions - Budgeted	5,202	3,980	1,222
-	Unbudgeted	-	-
	<hr/>		
Total Expense	135,927	100,106	35,821
Change in cash from operations	(14,738)	14,048	28,786
OTHER:			
Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	2,629	(2,629)
Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	-	-
	<hr/>		
Change in cash since January 1, 2020	<u>(14,738)</u>	<u>11,419</u>	<u>26,157</u>

MUSIC News

A graphic of a musical staff with a treble clef and several colorful notes (red, green, orange, blue) floating above it.

Dear Willow Creek Friends,

I am very excited to be coming back to you as Music Director. It is my hope to have your ears and hearts full of meaningful music.

As I was walking today, I was counting the times in my life when I returned to a place or situation that I thought I would never return to. These places include coming back to Michigan after a 15 year absence, and coming back to Rockford,

TWICE!! I counted and coming back to Willow Creek is the seventh time. And seven is my lucky number.

There is no choir right now and we will see what the future holds for that. After the first of the year, depending on the virus situation, I hope we can favor you with some small group numbers. I am also calling upon some of my musical colleagues to delight your souls with their music, as well as our wonderful members who have so faithfully been sharing their gifts during this pandemic.

Your help is needed, however. Please, let me know if you are interested in making music for worship, or if you know of anyone who would like to do so. My e mail is lizoleary66@hotmail.com. You can text me at 815-593-0219. OR...just talk to me at church or contact the church office. I will be glad to help you with whatever you may need from me, if anything. Your music can be vocal or instrumental.

It is exciting to be coming back the same time as Pastor Lauren is starting. I feel good things are in the future for Willow Creek.

Yours in Christ,
Elizabeth LaGrande O'Leary

The November Special Music Schedule

- Nov 1 Lucas Greenlee, bagpipes
- Nov 8 James Burrignt, baritone and guitar
- Nov 15 Nioolas Janitzky, baritone
- Nov 22 Renee O'Dell, soprano
- Nov 29 Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto



Congregational Meeting

The Session calls the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle, to be held on Sunday, November 22, 2020 @ 11:00 am for the purpose of electing Officers, and approving Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel's contract for the 2021 year. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Stay tuned for further information.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

If you would like to give to the Thank Offering, you can give by sending your donation to:
Presbyterian Women Inc.

PO Box 643652

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652

Thank Offering

The WPCPC Session voted in February 2020 to approve WPCPC's mission on funding wells through the Marion Medical Mission and buying landscaping (trees and shrubs) for the Habitat for Humanity homes and keeping One Great Hour of Sharing, Birthday Offering, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering and Christmas Joy Offering.



At this time WPCPC services will be remote. The service will be recorded and posted on the church's webpage: www.willowcreekpc.org

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School



Children's Sunday School, Adult Sunday School and Youth Group will not be meeting at this time. Please stay tuned for further information on how we will stay connected.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING - Due to the Covid restrictions, this year's plan to decorate the church for Christmas clearly had to be reconsidered. The Worship & Music Committee has created a sign-up sheet for people/families to choose a day and time they are available to decorate a particular area during the week of November 22-28. Please email the church @ willowcreekchrch@aol.com to sign-up. Decorations will already be in each location. Please keep social distancing in mind when you choose - one group could be upstairs while another group is

downstairs, but we encourage you to avoid two groups close together. Katherine (815-494-8065) and Kim (815-978-1920) will unlock for groups/families to get in the church. We are hopeful this will make for a pleasant holiday season in spite of the restrictions. Christmas Blessings to everyone!

Poinsettia Order Form

Would you like to order a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? The cost is \$10.00 each, and they are available in white, pink or red. You may take your poinsettia home, or donate it for the Deacons to deliver to the elderly and infirm. Please fill out this form and mail it to the church with your payment.



The deadline to order is Monday, November 23.

Color _____ Number _____

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor Name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin: _____

Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, with memo: Poinsettia

Flowers not picked up prior to Wednesday, December 30 will be delivered by the Church Deacons to the elderly and infirm.