



STREAM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

February 2021

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

I probably don't have to remind you of this, but last year, in the middle of Lent, we went into shutdown. You may remember a more typical Ash Wednesday service, and a few typical Lenten Sundays, and a couple of Lent studies, and then: the hard decision of halting in-person gatherings per public health guidelines.

We were navigating all the same choices at my church in California at that time, and looking back on the first few weeks of "quarantine" is a bit surreal. We all hoped we would be back in our sanctuaries by Easter, and that was certainly not the case. Sometime between that first decision to go to remote-only worship and virtual Holy Week, I remember reading this quote: *This is the Lentiest Lent I ever Lent-ed.*

Lent is the season of preparation and reflection before Easter, and it is traditionally marked by giving something up as a practice of focusing on God for the forty days (not counting Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter. While other expressions of focus have emerged, especially in recent years, like practices of *adding* something like a daily devotional or prayer time instead of removing something like caffeine or desserts, Lent still has the reputation of a time when we abstain in some way from the comforts of this world so as to be more finely attuned to the comfort of Christ.

So, yes: last year was the Lentiest Lent we ever Lent-ed. We gave up so much more than we could have imagined, and even after Easter, we weren't able to return to worshipping in person, eating at restaurants, and hugging friends. In addition to requiring that we give up so much, that Lentiest Lent lasted for way longer than it had any right to!

How do we greet Lent this year? What's left for us to "give up"? And where could we possibly find the energy to give anything else up, after a year that has taken so much?

These are good questions that I invite us to dig into in the days ahead as we prepare for Ash Wednesday. If ever there was a year for considering practices of adding to observe Lent, perhaps it's this one! And hopefully we really do have the chance to add, as things are looking more and more promising for our careful return to in-person opportunities.

This gives us the chance to be intentional about our return, and perhaps *that* is what this Lent is about. Lent practices are always about noticing, that's why we often remove a habit (like caffeine or Facebook) to notice how that removal makes us feel and how we handle those feelings - do we take them to God? Do we sink into irritability? And either way, do we locate the grace that is present in everything?

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How might we bring intention to what I *hope* is the most un-Lenty Lent we ever Lent-ed - a season of adding, of returning? How might we mark the many returns that are on the horizon with faith and gratitude?

I'm excited to explore this with you in the coming weeks. Among other things, we will have a Lenten study this year (details in this Streamer!), and I hope to talk with you there, and *hopefully* in person, about how you are finding opportunities for intention as we add back some of what was lost, but doing so in such a way we hold these worldly comforts in an increasingly God-honoring way.

Pastor Lauren



**Join us the first Sunday of the month at 11:30am for fellowship!
Sunday, Feb. 7th we'll meet on Zoom.**

The link will be in your weekly updates email. If you have any questions about Zoom, let Pastor Lauren know! We'd love for you to join us for this time of conversation and fellowship.



To our Willow Creek family and friends,
Thanks to everyone for all the cards, calls, visits, food, and memorial donations for Todd. It's been a long road over the years, and your support has certainly helped.

Your support and thoughtfulness is truly appreciated and will be remembered for years to come.

The Greenlee Family,
Jack and Jean
Mike and Shelly + Megan, Britlyn, and Jaden
Scott and Katherine + Aidan and Collin

Thank you to the Jim & Katherine Ralston families and the John & Kim Reid families for coordinating and undecorating the church.



Dear Willow Creek Friends,
Thank you for adding “**JOY**” to my retirement with all your well wishes! It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know you over the past years.

As I look forward to this next chapter in my life, I know I will miss all of you.

Sincerely, Carol

faith and finances

Per Capita

Please submit your Per Capita prior to December 1, 2021 in order to meet the Blackhawk Presbytery Deadline.

Bank Draft

A Bank Draft is an easy way to give monthly. Many of our members have chosen this method. Several advantages include: no church weekly giving envelopes, no need to write checks, no handling by the Church Financial Secretaries & there are no fees. Please contact our bookkeeper Diane VanVleet at the church for assistance to set up a bank draft.

Online Giving

Through the website: willowcreekpc.org, click on the "Giving" or "Make a Donation" tabs and follow the instructions. This is a very simple method to give. There is a 2% fee per dollar amount on each transaction. On a gift of \$50 the fee would be \$1. If this is a recurring gift, and you would like to avoid the fees the church pays you may want to consider a bank draft.

Church Envelopes

This is a traditional method of giving. Church envelopes are generated for you and used to give weekly gifts. If you wish to receive or discontinue receiving a box of envelopes, please notify the church office.



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

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 14 @ 11:00 am

The Session calls the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle, to be held on Sunday, February 14 @ 11:00 am for the purpose of receiving the 2020 Annual Report and the 2021 Budget.

The Zoom link and instructions on how you can call in by phone will be sent at a later date.



Ash Wednesday February 17th
Willow Creek Sanctuary
4pm - 6pm (drop-in)

Join us for this day of invitation into Lent.

Drop in anytime between 4pm and 6pm.

There will be “stations” set up around the sanctuary for individuals or households to explore Ash Wednesday and

prepare for Lent. These stations will include creative approaches to prayer and the safe imposition of ashes. These activities are designed with all ages in mind, and while many of them will be contemplative in nature, don't expect a silent sanctuary - we welcome the joy of children of all ages as we gather in our church on this holy day. Most people will spend an average of 30 minutes in the sanctuary.

We will practice all necessary safety precautions, including wearing masks in the building at all times, and maintaining social distance between households. We will honor public health limitations of how many folks can be in any space at any given time, and appreciate your patience if you have to wait your turn to head into the sanctuary (*and* we appreciate your awareness that others may be waiting for their turn, as you move through the stations).

You will enter the church at the doors by the offices and follow the guidance of volunteers for a one-way flow of traffic, then exit using the stairs and doors closest to the manse (or the elevator as needed).

We look forward to seeing you at church on Wednesday, February 17th from 4pm - 6pm.



Children's Sunday School via Zoom
Sunday, February 21 @ 10:30 am

Zoom Link to be sent to participants the prior week



Hello Willow Creek Friends,

Like many of you probably do, I have what I call "Januaryitis", made worse this year by the pandemic. However, I keep telling myself that the days are getting longer and that even if we can't worship inside as soon as we would want, spring is coming and we can hopefully be outside then if need be.

The musical lineup looks like this for February:

February 7 Dan Holmes, voice and guitar

February 21 Jamie Cunningham and Mandy Nelson, flutes

February 28 Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto

If all goes as planned, Dan will have someone you know singing with him on the 7th. You'll have to log in to find out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carol for all of her hard work. She has always been right there for me. We will miss you, Carol.


January is almost over. I wonder what the groundhog will say? At least we are, at this point, not buried in snow.



WCPC LENTEN STUDY 2021

COVENANT(S)

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 PM
FEB. 24TH - MARCH 24TH



"God said:
"When the rainbow is in the clouds,
I will see it and remember the
everlasting covenant
between you and me."
- Genesis 9:16

Perhaps you've heard the word "covenant" before and wondered: "What does that even mean?" We might hear this word at a wedding or occasionally in Scripture readings, but it's not a word we usually use in our daily lives. It happens to come up a *lot* in the lectionary this Lent, so it seemed like a good opportunity to learn more about it together. We will explore the first covenants found in Scripture, what "covenant" means, and how ancient covenants continue to shape our faith today.

We will meet on Wednesday evenings in Lent (Feb. 24th - March 24th) at 6:30pm. If possible, we will meet in person in the Fellowship Hall (and offer a Zoom link for those who would rather participate that way).

Keep an eye on your updates email for whether or not we will be able to meet in person, or only on Zoom. This study is designed for adult learners.



Our Lenten devotionals this year are called "Where Your Heart Is".

Here is a note from the creator of the devotionals, Illustrated Ministry:

Our theme's inspiration comes from Jesus' teaching about storing treasures in his Sermon on the Mount. This Lent, we invite you to explore the many treasures you have in your life...By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, we

invite you to wonder more deeply about what kinds of treasure matter, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives.

We encourage you to explore how these ideas and themes influence how you view God, your faith, and the world. This Lenten devotional is written to be used individually or as a household, and is for all ages.

So grab a pen, some crayons or colored pencils, and start working through the devotional.

Printed devotionals will be available to pick up at church on Ash Wednesday. If you can't pick one up on Ash Wednesday, let the church office know if you would prefer the digital version emailed to you or a printed version mailed or delivered to you.

February 2021 All Church Calendar

Tue 2/2	6:30 pm	Zoom Session Meeting
Thur 2/4	4:30 pm	Worship Service Recording
Sun 2/7	10:00 am	On Line Service; Communion (Prep Katherine Ralston) Special Music by Dan Holmes
	11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Fellowship
Sun 2/14	10:00 am	Online Service Details Pending
	11:00 am	Annual Congregational Meeting for the purpose of receiving the 2020 Annual Report and the 2021 Budget
Tue 2/16	8:00 am	Buildings and Grounds Meeting in Fellowship Hall
	6:00 pm	Music and Worship Meeting
Wed 2/17	4:00 pm- 6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Drop-in WCPC Sanctuary
Thur 2/18	4:30pm	Service recording
Sun 2/21	10:00 am	On Line Service; Special Music by Jamie Cunningham and Mandy Nelson, flutes
	10:30 am	Zoom Children's Sunday School
Mon 2/22	---	Streamer Articles due to Office
Wed 2/24	6:30 pm	WCPC Lenten Study
Thur 2/25	4:30 pm	Service recording
Sun 2/28	10:00 am	On Line Service; Special Music by Elizabeth O'Leary

Attention High School Seniors

The Flora McEachran Scholarship Fund



If you are interested in applying for the Flora McEachran Scholarship, please submit a letter to the Clerk of Session, Maren Reid, stating your intent to apply for the Flora McEachren Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Scholarship. The letter should include the name of the college or secondary school you are planning to attend and your field of study, if you have decided. You may also wish to include information about yourself including activities,

community service, etc... Please mail the letter to the church office. (Maren Reid, Clerk of Session, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, 7300 Belvidere Road, Caledonia, IL 61011) This is a one-time grant with a maximum of \$500. Prior to the September 30 Scholarship disbursement, recipients chosen for the scholarship will need to show proof of enrollment in a course of basic study or training beyond high school.

WCPC Operating Statistics

For the second consecutive year, we ended the year in the black, thanks to you. We faced many new things as none of us had ever done before due to the pandemic. As we await the vaccine to hopefully quell this monster, we remain strong and thankful that few, if any, has been directly affected in our small community. Thanks be to God.



Thank you again for your support. Stay safe and Happy New Year.

WCPC Operating Statistics

	December 2020	Year-to-Date
Income	20,828.00	162,080.81
Expenses	9,792.66	134,274.00
Excess/(Deficit)	11,035.34	27,806.81

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE
 Actual vs Budget
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

		Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:				
	Contributions - General	150,335	150,389	54
	Contributions - Special	750	1,100	350
	Other Income	5,900	3,592	(2,308)
	Endowment	3,600	7,000	3,400
	School & Event	1,000	-	(1,000)
	Total Revenue	161,585	162,081	496
EXPENSES:				
MINISTRY OF:				
	Personnel	104,471	74,053	30,418
	Christian Ed & Youth	4,400	1,273	3,127
	Music & Worship	5,731	5,594	137
	Member & Stewardship	675	246	429
	Building & Grounds	44,085	42,448	1,637
	Session	14,739	4,855	9,884
	Deacons	200	245	(45)
	Missions - Budgeted	6,935	5,560	1,375
	- Unbudgeted	-	-	-
	Total Expense	181,236	134,274	46,962
	Change in cash from operations	(19,651)	27,807	47,458
OTHER:				
	Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	3,762	(3,762)
	Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	-	-
	Change in cash since January 1, 2020	(19,651)	24,045	43,696



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 of Argyle
@willowcreekpc

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

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



Come Learn, Worship and Share
with us every Sunday

Adult	Children	Worship	Fellowship
9:00am	10:00am	11:00am	

search: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

Easter Flower Order Form



Would you like to order an Easter Flower in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? The cost is \$12.50 each. You may take your flower home or donate it. Leftover plants will be delivered to the elderly and infirm by the Deacons. Please fill out this form and drop it in the collection plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church. **The deadline to order is March 15.**

Type of Flower _____ Quantity _____
(indicate Easter Lily, Tulip, Daffodil, or Hyacinth)

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: Easter Flowers.