

## STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

January 2021

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

Willow Creek Church Family,

Happy New Year! I greet 2021 with hope that our days of social distancing and remote worship are drawing to an end. I pray with you for efficacy of vaccines and for everyone's health and safety.

As I was researching for one of the hymns we learned about in our Advent study, *We Three Kings of Orient Are*, I discovered some things about the Epiphany of the Lord, which is traditionally celebrated on January 6th (or the preceding Sunday) and signifies the conclusion of the season of Christmas.

*We Three Kings* is considered an Advent hymn - Advent being the season of anticipation as we await Christ's birth. But this hymn is really the story of the magi visiting the Christ child and would not have happened on the night of the Nativity, but much later, perhaps even as late as Jesus being two-years-old! (Matthew 2:1-12) We particularly remember these wise royals and their journey of seeking when we observe Epiphany. Here is a description of Epiphany from our PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*:

*"Epiphany" means manifestation or revelation. At the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation of God's saving purpose to all the nations of the world. Just as the magi came from a distant land to worship the Christ child, God's covenant of grace is extended to all people who believe the good news of Jesus Christ. The symbolism of light is important - not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggests the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ's light in the world.*

What a way to greet the new year, with hearts full of celebration for the covenant of grace God extends over all of creation.

My hope for all of us is that we find space within our hearts to hope not just for the end of the pandemic, but for the radical healing and reconciliation promised in Scripture. As I consider Epiphany's focus on manifestation and revelation, I wonder what God might be revealing to each of us, how God may be encouraging us to manifest God's love to others? In some ways, that's a lot to ask! To dig deep and find the energy and capacity not only for hope, but for action, to pray: "God I want to be a bearer of your light in all the world - what does that look like today?" It is a lot to ask, but it's not too much to ask, because with God all things are possible.

There is an old Epiphany practice of “chalking the doors”, writing the letters CMB and the numbers of the current year, separated by crosses (+), over the doors of congregations and Christian homes: *20 + C + M + B + 21 or CMB + 2021*. The letters CMB stand for the names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) or the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this house).

I wonder if you have a piece of chalk at home, or can think of another way to observe this tradition? Here’s a prayer from our *Book of Common Worship* to use as you find your own way to greet this new year:

*God of doors and homes, bless this home this year and every year. Bless all who come and go through this door, both those who live here and those who visit. May all who enter through this door come in peace and bring joy. May all who come to this door find welcome and love. May the love and joy in this home overflow and spread into the community and the world. And may Jesus Christ watch over us all. Amen.*

I will pray this prayer at the manse door and the doors of our beloved sanctuary. I pray it with the hope that many *will* cross both of those thresholds in this new year, and that they will be blessed, and that as you and I come and go through these doors, we too will bring the blessing of God’s light to all whom we encounter.

New Year’s Blessings to all of you! I can’t wait to see what God does this year. We may not have chosen all of the circumstances of last year, but we can open our hearts and minds to see what we have learned, to see what we have been reminded to cherish, and to ask how we have been newly prepared to be bearers of God’s light for all of creation.

In the Light & Love of Christ,  
Pastor Lauren



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

Dear Fellow Partners in God’s Mission:

Please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and

congregation for your gracious and faithful support of Presbyterian Mission. Your contribution changes peoples’ lives for the sake of the gospel all around the world. On November 13, 2020, we received \$25 for Shared Mission Support.

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, thank you again for your generous support and prayers. I hope you have a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas. May Christ’s peace and love be with you always.

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

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers who worked to decorate our church for Advent! And thank you to the Music & Worship Committee for coming up with a safe way for us to decorate this year, and to Kim Reid and Katherine Ralston for their leadership.

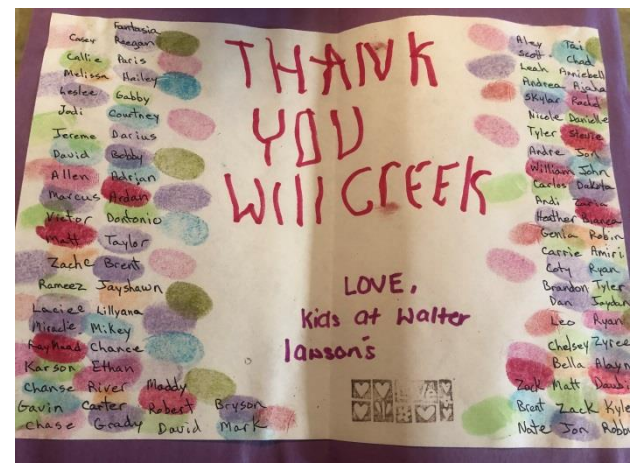


We would like to thank the church and members for your well wishes and gifts of Christmas joy.

Thank you,

Tom Andrew, Liz O'Leary, Stephanie Konen,  
Diane VanVleet and Carol Nevicosi

We received this wonderful thank you from Walter Lawson Home! They appreciate the cards you have continued to bring to the church. Keep bringing cards, and we'll keep making sure the children received them to use for their crafts and other purposes.



To all,

Thank you for your donation. It will be used in support of our Christmas food drive. Because of your generosity and donation, Holiday Reindeer Family Drive will be able to continue our mission in bettering the lives of children and families in our fire district and local area that may be less fortunate and encountered hardship form Covid.

This year we will be assisting 26 families' which breaks down to 52 adults and 75 children with gifts, food, and a complete holiday meal.

Again, many thanks for your support. It means the world to us to be able to bring joy to the parents, children and now seniors who might not have had the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season this year.

Sincerely, Donald Shoevlin, Fire Chief



A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who organized/worked, baked, donated and purchased cookies to make the Christmas Extravaganza a success! The Families in Need Fund, Baby Angel Closet and Harlem Roscoe Fire Department appreciate your donations!

**Thank you Willow Creek one and all!**

THANK  
YOU



UN-Decorating



the church!

The undecorating of the church will take place **January 2-6** in the same way as the decorating. A sign-up sheet is in the office to volunteer for a particular section on a particular day/time so as to stay within the Covid restrictions. We would appreciate the boxes/totes be left in the storage room downstairs so that the committee can take them to the attic all at once after January 6. The Outdoor Nativity can be placed just inside the south door - where we originally set them for decorating. Thank you, everyone!



First of all, a big thanks for all of those who participated in the Christmas music at Willow Creek. We have a lot of talent in this congregation and I certainly intend on using it to the fullest.

There are 5 Sundays in January and I have managed to fill them all! I think it is a good mix to start the year 2021.

January 3....Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto

January 10....William Zartman, violin

January 17 ...Tom Andrew, piano

January 24...Joyce Zartman, bell tree

January 31...Jamie Cunningham and Mandy Nelson, flautists

With the advent of vaccines very soon, hopefully we can make music in person for you all as the weather gets warmer this spring. I have hope. Don't forget that I love to get your feedback on the music.

Thanks....Happy New Year to all!!

Children's Sunday School via Zoom

@ 10:30 am January 17.

A Zoom link will be sent out when it gets closer.

CHILDREN'S  
Sunday School





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

### WCPC Operating Statistics

An out of the ordinary expense for pastor relocation caused us to experience a loss new pastor, so it was no surprise. For seven out of the previous ten months we have been able to cover our expenses, thanks to each of you.

**Thank you again for your support.  
Stay safe.**



### WCPC Operating Statistics

	November 2020	Year-to-Date
Income	12,362.77	141,252.81
Expenses	13,962.32	124,600.34
Excess/(Deficit)	<b>(1,599.55)</b>	<b>16,652.47</b>

### 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.



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:

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 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.**



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!

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