

APRIL STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

April 2021

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

As I write this, the March winds are blowing all around the manse. It's a beautiful, sunny day, full of spring's promise, and I am reminded with the power of the gusts how often in Scripture the Holy Spirit is described as wind. I am reminded of the persistence of that Spirit of God that moves things, that can be both constructive and destructive, that isn't seen but can't be avoided.

The Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity that we are most intimately familiar with yet we have the smallest reservoir of language to describe. We tend to know when something is of the Spirit - those indescribable, indelible moments of experiencing God. We know that while we can pray for experiences with the Holy Spirit, we certainly cannot summon, control or contain the Spirit's movement.

As I write this final Streamer note before maternity leave, I am so comforted by the windy day and its Holy Spirit reminders. I want to be completely honest with you: as thrilled as I am to welcome Baby Betzel sometime very soon, I struggle with the timing of my maternity leave. We are just getting to know one another - I am just now getting to see some of your faces on a weekly basis, our work is just beginning. It's a strange time to be on leave.

But I no more chose the time for this than you did, and I trust the movement of the Holy Spirit and the timing of our Holy Creator. This is how God ordained things, and that's not something for me to lament, but rejoice in. The Holy Spirit was moving in and through you long before my arrival, and the Holy Spirit does not depend on mine - or any pastor's! - presence in the pulpit or office to continue to move.

While I am more than confident that Pastor Dave will provide wonderful sermons and pastoral care and leadership while I'm next door tending our newborn, I also know my Willow Creek church family is not the type to sit back and *wait* on pastoral leadership. You hear and respond to the movement of the Holy Spirit just as easily as you note the persistence of wind. You do not need someone to show you where the wind is blowing or where the Spirit is moving, because that is knowledge you already carry.

That doesn't mean the pastor doesn't have a role, it just means that the pastor's role is not to keep things moving. The wind - the Holy Spirit - is doing that without our provocation or interference.

So things will continue moving. Our church will continue opening. You will have lovely ideas of how to return to one another and how to welcome and serve our community. You'll host events and opportunities that I'll miss out on. You'll worship together and I'll miss that, too.

Separately, we will continue to pray and hope and dream about what is next for Willow Creek, and then I'll return, baby in tow, and we will continue the work of being a beacon to this community together. We'll have a chance to rejoice at another new beginning - and certainly after the pandemic year, we can't celebrate enough new beginnings, right?

My prayer is this: that over the eight weeks of my leave, you and I both will have our hearts and minds open to the moving of the Spirit, guiding us back to familiar routines as well as new paths of love and service to God and community. Then, when I return and we rejoice at another new beginning, we can compare those prayers God has given us, and plan for how to shine ever brighter reminding our beloved community of God's everlasting faithfulness and love.

Pastor Lauren

EASTERTIDE WITH DAVID JONES

A baby in the manse. What a wonderful gift your pastor brings to Willow Creek Church this spring. I share in your joy thanks to the invitation to lead services of worship as Pastor Lauren and Scott adjust to their new roles as parents.

My eight week sojourn with you occurs during Eastertide, six weeks following the Great Paschal that leads to Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. The epistle readings are from 1 John which extols God's love and exhorts us to celebrate it and share it with others. In a country torn by division - in a world filled with desperation - our need to appreciate and live out the love of God tops my list of sermon topics. I look forward to sharing God's word and the 'why' and 'how' of its call to love one another as God first loved us.

Pastor Dave

Hybrid Worship

We have returned to hybrid worship! Our local public health guidance allows for 50 folks in our sanctuary, and so if you feel comfortable, you are welcome to join us in person for worship on Sunday mornings at 10am. You are also welcome to continue worshipping virtually on Facebook live, YouTube or our church website.

Per current public health guidelines, we will wear masks in the building at all times, practice social distancing between households, and we will not be able to sing or recite together. Our hope is that these restrictions are temporary.

If you do choose to join us for worship in person, we ask that you sign our updated WCPC Covid-19 Waiver.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask! Call or email the church office.



Holy Week March 28th - April 4th

Join us for these Holy Week Worship opportunities:

Palm Sunday – worship at 10 am

Maundy Thursday – child-led communion service in the Fellowship Hall @ 6 pm

Easter Sunday – Worship (with communion) at 10 am, kid's Easter Egg Hunt to follow

Preparing for Baby Betzel!

Pastor Lauren and Scott are expecting their first baby on April 10th!

Per her terms of call, Pastor Lauren will have 8 weeks of full maternity leave, tentatively beginning April 10th. During those 8 weeks of full leave, Pastor Lauren will be unavailable for any church business. Then, Pastor Lauren will use accrued vacation to have 4 weeks of part-time leave. During these 4 weeks, she will preach and be available for all pastoral care needs. During those first 8 weeks of full leave, Pastor David Jones will be back to preach, moderate Session and be available for pastoral care emergencies. We anticipate welcoming Pastor Dave on Sunday, April 11th.

While we are all excited about Baby Betzel, as well as excited that many of the pandemic restrictions are lessening, there is still a great deal of uncertainty around the coronavirus and newborns. We ask that the Betzel Family's need for privacy as well as their need to practice the utmost caution be honored during these first few months. We will have many years to get to know this new addition to our Willow Creek family, and appreciate everyone's patience.

Mike Landi (F/P/E Chair), Maren Reid (Clerk of Session), and Pastor Lauren



Baby Shower Thank-You

Scott and I thank our wonderful church family from the bottom of our hearts for your kindness and generosity! We are so thankful for the opportunity to raise our child in this loving congregation. Thank you for the gifts that will help us care for Baby Betzel, and for your excitement for our family. Our baby is already so blessed by our amazing church family. Thank you especially to the wonderful folks who planned and organized the shower. You have all made us feel so welcomed and cared for! Thank you!

Easter Flower Donations



Phyllis Cummings	In Loving Memory of My Husband Dave Cummings & Todd Greenlee
Jack & Jean Greenlee	In Loving Memory of Our Son, Todd
Jim & Delores Hall	In Loving Memory of Our Parents
Donna Hamilton	In Loving Memory of My Husband Les, Daughter Kimberly Kay, & Grandson Jonathan
Kathy Meyer & Family	In Loving Memory of Roger Meyer. Doris & Tim Paceb, & Our Parents
Rebecca Neys	In Loving Memory of Nellie Buffington, Betty Davis, Terry Belzer & Bill Belzer
Renee O'Dell	In Honor of My Grandchildren
Renee & Rick O'Dell	In Loving Memory of Michele Bocke, Betty & Don Paulson
Rod & Jackie Turbot	In Loving Memory of Dad & Grandparents, In Honor of Hilton & Coty Turbot
Dick & Carolyn Wheeler	In Loving Memory of Our Parents
Lee Pickett	In Loving Memory of George Pickett
Janet Hyland	In Loving Memory of Parents, Ross & Ruth Greenlee, Nephew Todd Greenlee

Any Easter Flowers not picked up prior to Tuesday, April 6th will be delivered by the Church Deacons to the elderly and infirm.



Congratulations to Abigail Guthrie on being granted a Flora McEachran Scholarship. We know you will do great things!

We rejoice with the family of Crew Michael Johnson, son of Trace & Megan Johnson, at the occasion of his baptism on March 14, 2021.



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.

WCPC Operating Statistics

WCPC Operating Statistics		
	March 2021	Year-to-Date
Income	9,774.56	16,932.72
Expenses	17,041.38	29,356.93
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess/(Deficit)	(7,266.82)	(12,424.21)





Dear Willow Creek Friends,

Even though there will be no special vocal music for Easter, I feel that what we have planned will be a treat for you. Bill and Joyce Zartman are coming to share their wonderful music with you, along with Tom's help. You have heard them both before on several occasions. Bill will play his violin and Joyce will play several selections on the bell tree. She played the bell tree several months ago and I received many positive comments on it. So even though we don't have trumpets and a 100 voice choir, it will be a beautiful service, I am sure. Bells, violin and organ.

The rest of the month looks like this:

April 11....Tom Andrew, keyboard

April 18 ...Renee O'Dell, soprano

April 25...Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto

I know we are all looking forward to the spring and to the world opening up again, in more ways than one. A closing thought from a friend with whom I sang in a choir years ago. She was about 80 at the time. One day as I was driving us to rehearsal she said "Isn't it wonderful that the Lord gave us voices of all ranges and colors, so that we can sing in harmony. Just think if everyone's voice was the same!" How true. Sing to the Lord a new song!!

Liz

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

Meeting in Person after Scripture Reading

April 11th, 18th, & 25th

April All Church Calendar

Thurs 4/1	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Sun 4/4	10:00 am	Easter Hybrid Worship; Communion; Special Music – Bill & Joyce Zartman, Violin & Bells, along with Tom Andrew, Organ
	11:00 AM	After the 10:00 am worship service, there will be an Easter Egg hunt outside. This is geared toward children 5 th grade and younger, but everyone is welcome to come watch!
Tue 4/6	6:30 pm	Session Meeting
Sun 4/11	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship; Special Music -Tom Andrew,
	10:30 am	Keyboard
	11:00 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:30 am	Youth Group
		Zoom Coffee Fellowship
		Blackhawk Presbytery Assembly Mtg - Most Likely Zoom
Sun 4/18	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship; Special Music – Renee O'Dell,
	10:30 am	Soprano
	11:00 am	Children's Sunday School
		Youth Group
Tue 4/20	8:00 am	Buildings and Grounds Meeting in Fellowship Hall
	6:00 pm	Music and Worship Meeting
Fri 4/23	---	Streamer Articles Due to Church Office
Sun 25	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship; Special Music – Liz O'Leary, Contralto
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 am	Youth Group

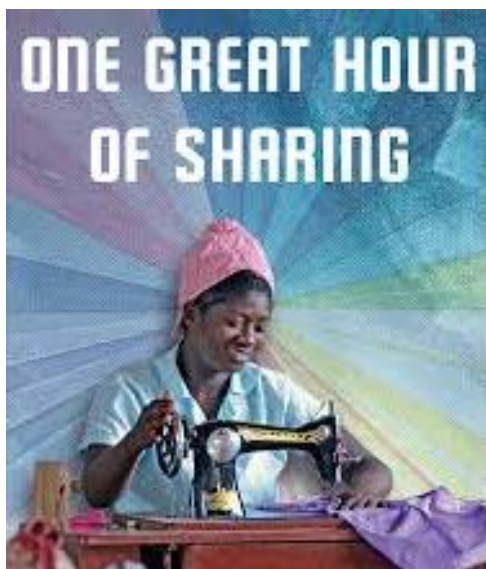


Attention High School Seniors

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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday April 4th

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. The three programs supported by ONE GREAT Hour of Sharing --- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and self-Development of People --- all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 17 – April 4), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.



The Church Office will be open M – F from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you need anything at all, please don't hesitate to contact Peggy or email the church office at willowcreekchrch@aol.com. In case of emergency during Pastor Lauren's maternity leave, members should contact:

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



@willowcreekpcargyle
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/>

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



Come Learn, Worship and Share with us every Sunday



search: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle