



Streamer

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011
815-885-3455
July 2021

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

June 13th was a very good day, church family! That was the day we were able to sing in worship together for the first time. That was the day I finally saw your whole faces, without masks!

There are so many ways in which I feel like I just arrived, and just met you, because your faces remain new to me. There are still many of you I have not yet been able to meet face-to-face! (That's something we're working on: finding more opportunities to casually get to know one another. Be on the lookout for those chances. Meanwhile, I deeply appreciate your ongoing patience with me as I learn names.)

Reflecting on how strange it is to have been here since October and still be in the process of meeting you face-to-face, I can't help but think of these verses from 1 Corinthians 13:

*For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see **face to face**. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.*

That first verse really captures a lot of what I've been feeling. I feel that I see glimpses of my new home and glimpses of who you are, of who we might be as a church together - but just glimpses, just wavering reflections. Now I know only in part what our potential is, now I know only in part the depth of your goodness, love and grace, now we know only in part the future God is calling us to.

And in some yet-to-be determined future, we will know fully why God called us to be together at this time. I confess I have had moments where I have caught myself thinking: *I wish covid weren't so bad when I arrived, so we could have done _____*. There are any number of things I would have liked to have done in my first weeks or even months of being your pastor - everything from chatting during fellowship hour to visiting you at home - that simply were not possible.

It's increasingly possible now, though! What difference does it make that I didn't just arrive - I still want and need to get to know you! I am still excited to talk with you face-to-face.

I think each month I've written something for the Streamer, I've said something along the lines of: "This is an exciting time for our church!" And it is! It's still true. We seem to be caught in a long season of new beginnings: new pastor (with a new baby!) and newly reopened - what isn't there to be excited about? We are now in a stage of finally, finally getting to *meet* each other face to face and begin the foundations of what I hope is a long relationship.

As I continue to reflect on those couple of verses from 1 Corinthians, I'm struck with the reminder that *faith, hope, and love abide*. Haven't we learned that throughout covid? Everything else shifted and changed, but these three remain, and will continue to remain, and will be our foundation as we finally meet face-to-face and share our histories with each other as well as our hopes for the future of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Lauren

The Session met on June 8th and prayerfully updated our covid policies here at Willow Creek in consideration of the CDC's most recent guidelines and recommendations from the Presbytery. While we ask that you still keep social distance between households, we invite you to:

- decide whether or not to wear a mask at church **if you are vaccinated**. This goes for any gathering (worship, meetings, etc)
- sing together during worship (hymns, Gloria Patri, the Doxology) and to recite liturgy and pray aloud together
- *If you are not yet vaccinated, we ask that you wear a mask for your own safety and the safety of our youth who haven't yet been authorized for vaccination, per the CDC guidelines.

The following practices will remain and be evaluated regularly:

- We will continue to take attendance for the time being, in case contact tracing proves necessary.
- Our worship service will remain at the length it currently is (around 40 minutes), and we don't yet plan to resume fellowship hour. Staying in the building a shorter amount of time is still an important risk reduction practice.

These changes are effective immediately, and I look forward to singing with all of you Sunday morning.

Pastor Lauren



Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

Words do not begin to express our thanks for the countless ways you have loved and supported us as we became a family of three. Your welcome to Emmett has eased our hearts as we start this new chapter so far from our families. Thank you for becoming our family, and thank you for being the kind of community we always hoped to raise a child in. We feel so blessed to be able to raise Emmett here and so grateful he gets to learn about God's love from folks who share that love so effortlessly. Thank you.

Lauren, Scott and Emmett

Pastor's Office Hours

For the rest of the summer, you *should* be able to find me in my office on **Tuesdays from 10am - 4pm**. These are not the *only* hours I'll be there! But as long as there are no emergencies, you can count on finding me there during those hours. Drop by and say hello! You can also reach out to make an appointment if you wish - I'd love the opportunity to spend some time getting to know you!

Pastor Lauren

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		
	May 2021	Year-to-Date
Income	22,601.85	67,209.18
Expenses	21,507.25	74,823.87
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess/(Deficit)	1,094.60	(7,614.69)





Liz

Dear Willow Creek Friends,

Here is our Special Music lineup for July:

July 4.....Monroe Family Singers

July 11...Dan Holmes, (church picnic)

July 18...Renee O'Dell, Soprano

July 25...Bill & Joyce Zartman, Bells and violin

These beautiful summer days in northern Illinois....hard to top them. Let's all enjoy them while we can. It will be nice to worship outside upon occasion because we want to, not because we have to. I so look forward to our church picnic....hope to see you all there.

"Worship in the Park"

Sunday, July 11, 2021 @ 10:00 am we will have a Worship in the Park service again after a one year hiatus due to Covid. It will be held at Aberdeen Park and Shelter at 1343 Orth Road. There is a shelter with picnic tables and bathrooms, playground, sand volleyball, walking path, tennis courts, baseball diamond, and basketball courts. Although the Worship and Music Committee does not feel a "potluck" is quite in order yet, we encourage you to bring sack lunches for you and your family, as well as drinks. Our committee will provide charcoal and lighter fluid if you would like to grill some meat. The worship service will start at 10:00 am with music by Dan Holmes, lunch will follow if you choose to stay.



A wheel chair will also be available for anyone who might need it. There are plenty of picnic tables and benches, but you are also welcome to bring you own chairs if you prefer or would be more comfortable with those.

Hope to see you there!



VBS UPDATE: After much deliberation Christian Education reached the decision to not host a week long VBS this year. Instead, we have decided to offer 4 'VBS' Events spread throughout the summer. These will be for a couple of hours (11:00-1:00) on Sunday after church and for kids of all ages; from toddlers to seniors (both high school and age-wise). We'll fill the time with games, a lesson, and a picnic lunch (brought from home).

Here are the dates for the 'VBS' Events:

June 13, July 18, August 1, and August 29th.

Mark your calendars for the week of August 9.....because it is Boone County Fair time! We have registered to host our respite tent again this year. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to volunteer to offer our hospitality to fair goers.



The Office will be closed from July 22nd through August 2nd. Peggy will be on vacation and will return to the office on August 3, 2021.

Thank you for your prayers, cards, texts, flowers and calls during my bout with multiple sclerosis this spring. I can truly say I felt your love and care! I'm very fortunate in that this was caught early, my symptoms are mostly resolved and this is very treatable. I will be just fine and I thank the Lord for that every day!

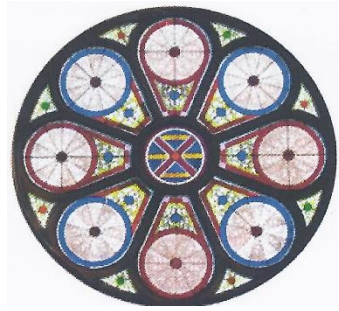
Blessings, Marie Wiersema





Thank you everyone who helped out and donated to our Sleep in Heavenly Peace service project on June 19th! It was a great workday in partnership with our friends at Caledonia Congregational Church. We built beds in the parking lot and made tie blankets in the Fellowship Hall, then shared a delicious lunch that was also prepared by volunteers. We planned to make 20 beds, but actually built 34! These beds will be given to kids in our greater community who would otherwise be sleeping on couches or the floor. Since a good night's sleep is crucial to a child's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being, these beds are truly life-changing for the families who receive them. We hope this was the first of many future Bed Build events!





Memorial funds for Rose Window request

Our Rose Window will receive some TLC in the near future, and since it is such an important part of our sanctuary and history, we want everyone to have the opportunity to be a part of this project. If you would like your loved ones' memorial funds to be designated for this, please let Pastor Lauren know. We will make a plaque listing the names of all who donated to keep our Rose Window a bright beacon for our community.



The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$18 million for ministries of education and spiritual formation events such as the Presbyterian

Youth Triennium, Young Adult Volunteers and the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* initiative. In addition, 40% of the Offering stays with local congregations to support their own ministries.

Please give generously, for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

“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!



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday, July 18th & 25th @ 10:30 am

We will meet in person. Children can go down to Sunday school after the Scripture reading.

July 2021 All Church Calendar

Sun 7/4	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship: Communion Special Music by Monroe Family Singers Happy Fourth of July!
Sun 7/11	10:00 am	Worship in the Park – Aberdeen Park - Special Music by Dan Holmes, Guitar
Mon 7/12	10:00 am	Deacon's Meeting
Sun 7/18	10:00 am	Worship in Parking Lot (Can bring lawn chairs and sit in family groups, or can sit in cars). Special Music by Renee O'Dell, Soprano
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 am	Vacation Bible School
Tues 7/20	8:00 am	B & G Committee Meeting
	6:30 pm	Media Committee Meeting
Fri 7/23	--	**Streamer Articles due to Church Office**
Sun 7/25	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Service: Special Music by Joyce & Bill Zartman, Bells & Violin
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	Noon	F/P/E Zoom Meeting



Summer Church Office Hours: Open Tues-Wed-Thurs
from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm or email the church office at
willowcreekchrch@aol.com.

In case of emergency members should contact:

Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel 678-230-7549

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

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



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

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

Sabbath School	Worship	Worship
9:00am	10:00am	11:00am

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