



STREAMER

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

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

Does it feel just a little bit like fall? I think I have noticed a shift in the weather and length of days - but maybe it's just wishful thinking that the humidity might soon fade away! Either way, fall *is* coming, and we have much to look forward to!

You're ALL invited to our church cleanup day on Saturday, September 11th. A lot of our building hasn't been used in recent months because of Covid, and we have planned this cleanup day in the hope and expectation that in the coming months we will be fully open for all activities - returning to old ones, and dreaming up new ones. In preparation for that, we need help knocking down some cobwebs and polishing things up, as well as making some hard decisions about what to throw away and what to keep.

In fact, if you know there's something tucked away at church - a painting, book or other treasure - that means something to you because you know the story behind it, can you reach out to me before September 11th and let me know what that item and its story is? I don't want to throw away something simply because I don't know its full story, and I always love learning more about the history of this place. And please plan to join us on September 11th for our cleanup day - there will be tasks appropriate for all ages and abilities.

We will finish our clean up and have everything polished and ready just in time for Kirkin' of the Tartans on September 19th!

As excited as I am about my first Kirkin' and some of the other fall plans we have, it is with a bit of weariness and apprehension that I look toward the future while keeping one eye on the present pandemic situation. I don't know about you, but it's hard to continue to find the energy to hope for things being fully open, to hope for the feeling of safety we once enjoyed pre-pandemic.

We might never feel that safe again, and that's a hard reality to grapple with. It simply is hard that this pandemic remains with us, continuing to create uncertainty.

I am grateful that our certainty in the future is staked elsewhere - in God and God's Word of hope. Again and again I am encouraged when I remember that Covid has never been a surprise to God - not the first time it emerged, and not as other variants emerge. I am as tired of writing about Covid as you are of reading about it, but I still trust that there is divine purpose in all of this, and I pray that all of our hearts are open to how God is choosing to shape us as individuals and as a church through this difficult season. These days I find myself again and again turning to Romans 8 and finding comfort in reminders of God's sovereignty:

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to frustration, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free... We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose...What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"

(Continued from first page)

Truly, God is for us. God's love for us is greater than we could imagine. Knowing this, no matter what the present circumstances might feel like, no matter how frustrated, uncertain or anxious we might feel, God *is* for us, and if this is so, who or what could possibly be against us? Nothing can separate us from God's love, and in God's great wisdom, it is often the frustrations that help us more deeply understand that love. It is often the things that initially feel like barriers to peace that teach us that true, everlasting peace is rooted somewhere other than our circumstances. My hope for all of us is that we can keep looking toward the future with hope and expectation that God is doing something good, knowing we are invited to be a part of God's good work here at Willow Creek. Good work that might just include polishing the pews on September 11th! See you then.

Pastor Lauren

I will be on vacation from Monday, September 20th through Monday, September 27th. Scott, Emmett and I are traveling to Georgia to visit family.

Pastor Dave Jones will return to our pulpit for Sunday, Sept. 26th, and he will be available for pastoral care emergencies while I'm away. If you have a pastoral care emergency during this time, please reach out to Maren Reid (Clerk of Session), Jim Hall (Chair of Deacons) or the church office, and they will get in touch with Pastor Dave.



In consideration of the most recent Executive Order from the Governor of Illinois, the increased spread of covid in our region, and our ongoing commitment to love our neighbor, our current covid policy is:

All individuals age 2 and older are required to wear masks while in the building.

- Masks may briefly be removed to partake in Communion.
- Please continue to social distance between households.

Our worship service remains unchanged at this time (and you are still invited to sing and pray aloud).

Please do not enter the building if:

- you aren't feeling well, have a temperature, or any covid symptoms such as loss of smell
- you are quarantining for any reason (have tested positive for Covid-19, have been in contact with someone who tested positive, etc)

Thank you so much for honoring the public health guidance and working together to keep everyone safe. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Lauren (Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org).

Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel & the WCPC Session

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 Van Vleet 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	
	July 2021	Year-to-Date
Income	13,337.02	93,940.27
Expenses	9,676.39	94,204.00
Excess/(Deficit)	3,660.63	(263.73)





Dear Willow Creek Friends,

I am certainly looking forward to the cooler weather coming this fall. It has been one hot summer.

There is good news. Dianne Londo will be directing the hand bells for us again! Welcome back, Dianne. We are so glad to have you and Rich back at Willow Creek. More beautiful music for us.

The music line up looks like this for September:

September 5...Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto

September 12...Tom Andrew, keyboard

September 19...Kirkin' O' the Tartans...Lucas Greenlee and the Pipe Band

September 26...John Harden, vocalist

On a personal note, I would like to express my sadness upon the death of Jim Ralston, who sang in the choir. I will miss him and his fine baritone voice. When I met Jim it was February and he had his beard. One Sunday in April or May a clean shaven man walked into rehearsal whom I did not recognize. "Sir, may I help you?" I asked. It was Jim, after his annual spring shave!! I have never lived that one down...a nice memory for me.

All for now.

Liz

Willow Creek Ringers will have an organizational kick off meeting on Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 pm at the home of Dianne Londo. 12372 Ayrshire Lane, Loves Park (Just off Argyle Road near Gensler Gardens). Call or text me of your intention to attend at 815-543-8667. Anyone interested in ringing with us is welcome. At that time we will determine rehearsal dates and choose Sundays to participate in worship, so bring your calendars. Two possible dates that I know of now are December 12th and December 24th. Ages 1- - 100 are invited to join us. No one over 100 should attempt it! If you're a young person with interest, but no background in music, let me know and we can work together separately before you join the group. I look forward to reuniting with ringers that I know and meeting new ringers that I don't know!

Dianne Londo

Bell Choir



April and I are very excited about our fall Sunday school plans for adults!

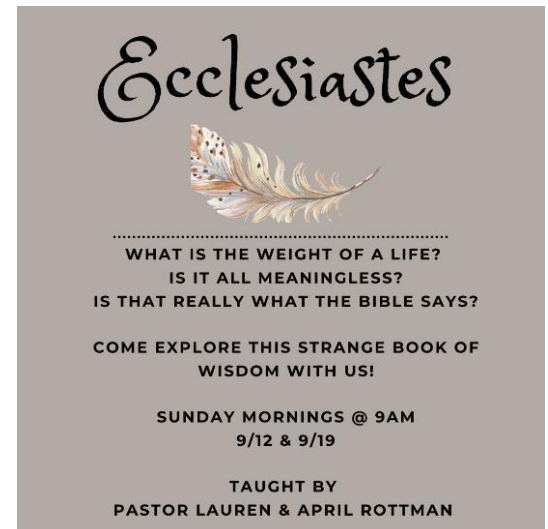
Join us in the Library at 9am!

On September 12th and 19th we will be studying the fascinating book of Ecclesiastes.

There will be no adult Sunday school on September 26th.

Then, for our next series (Oct. 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th), we want you to vote - would you prefer to study the Psalms (the book John Calvin called "the anatomy of the soul"), or would you like a class on the Canon (how did the Bible become the Bible? Which books were included, who decided, and why?). Be on the lookout for a poster in the Fellowship Hall where you can cast your vote!

See you in Sunday school!



We're excited for a fun fall with the youth!

Date	Time	Activity	Location
8/29	11:00-1:00	Fall Kickoff w/all ages	Church
9/12	11:30-12:30	Lesson & Games	Church
9/26	11:30-12:30	Lesson & Games	Church
10/10	11:30-6:00	High Ropes	Stronghold
10/17	11:30-12:30	CROP Hunger Walk	Rock Cut?
10/31	11:00-12:30	Trunk or Treat	Parking Lot
11/7	11:30-1:30	Lesson & Games	Church
11/14	11:30-1:30	Lesson & Games	Church
12/5	11:30-1:30	Christmas Caroling & Lunch Out	

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

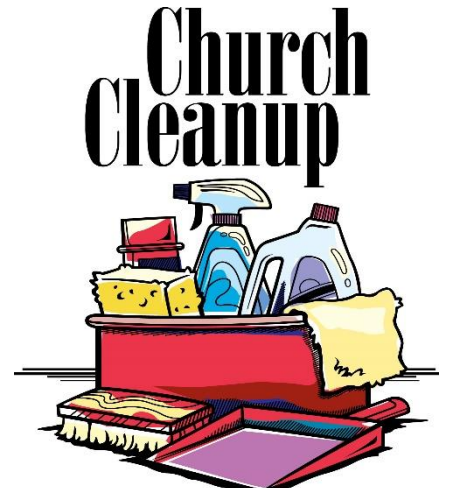
Sunday, September 12th, 19th, 26th @ 10:30 am
We will meet in person. Children can go down to Sunday school after the Scripture reading.

Church "Spring" Clean in the Fall! Saturday, September 11th 8am 'til the work is done!

It's time to knock down some cobwebs, polish some pews and get our kitchen ready to be used! Mark Sept. 11th on your calendars. We'll get started at 8am, and work until around 2pm or until the work is done! You can come for the whole day, or for part of it.

There will be a job for everyone - all ages and abilities and interests! Many hands make light work, so I hope you can join us on the 11th as we get ready for a vibrant church year!
Thanks!

Pastor Lauren

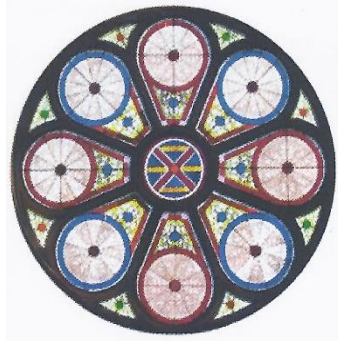


Kirkin' o' the Tartans! Sunday, September 19th.



I want to Thank you for the prayers, cards and phone calls. Your expression of concern are greatly appreciated. As of now I am moving to my son Chris's home in Crystal Lake, IL. He and his wife are both retired. Janet is a retired RN, so I should be in good hands.

Blessings, Lee Pickett



Rose Window Repairs & Funding

We are excited and grateful that the lower petal of our beloved Rose Window is being repaired and will return sometime in the next few months. The glass as well as the wood surrounding the lower panel are being repaired.

I am so grateful that the generosity of this church along with wise stewardship has enabled us to make this important repair.

Knowing a repair was on the horizon, your Finance/Personnel/Endowments Committee and Session made a withdrawal from the endowment fund in November 2019. That withdrawal was for \$30,000. Our practice is for one third of each endowment withdrawal to go to Mission, one third to Building Repair, and one third to Capital Improvement. That means that \$20,000 (Building Repair and Capital Improvement) was set aside for the Rose Window project.

Due to Covid, it was several months before Building & Grounds was able to select a company to do this work. The actual project started this past June with the removal of the petal.

The estimated cost of the project is a little less than \$30,000, so it is largely covered by the \$20,000 from the November 2019 Endowment Withdrawal.

Session has decided to fund the remainder of the cost through **Memorial Funds** and through **gifts** from the congregation.

Would you like your loved one's memorial funds to be used for this project? If so, let me or the church office know. We will have a plaque made indicating whose funds were used for the window.

Would you like to give to this project? We are setting a fundraising goal of **\$500** from the congregation. We have already received some gifts and are well on our way to meeting this goal. We would like to collect all of these gifts by September 19th, which is Kirkin' o' the Tartans. If you would like to give a special gift to the rose window, simply indicate that on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for your support for this important repair! Our church building is a landmark in our community - not just for us who love it so much, but for the many folks who drive past it every day. While the building itself is not the most important part of our church, the way we care for what God has entrusted to us sends a message about who we are as a congregation. Caring well for this historic structure shows our community that we are rooted in tradition while also attentive to the needs of the present, and able to prepare for the future.

Pastor Lauren

September 2021 All Church Calendar

Sun 9/5	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship: Communion Special Music by Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto
Tues 9/7	6:30 pm	Session Meeting
Wed 9/8	6:00 pm	W & M Committee Meeting
Thurs 9/9	7:00 pm	Handbell Choir Meeting @ Dianne Londo's Home
Sat 9/11	8:00 am ---?	Church Spring Clean in the Fall!
Sun 9/12	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Special Music by Tom Andrew, Keyboard
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 am	Youth Group
Mon 9/13	10:00 am	Deacon Meeting
Sun 9/19	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Kirkin' O' the Tartans Service Special Music by Lucas Greenlee & the Pipe Band
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
Tues 9/21	8:00 am	B & G Committee Meeting
Fri 9/24	--	Streamer Articles due to Office
Sun 9/26	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Service Special Music by John Harden, Vocalist
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 am	Youth Group
	Noon	F/P/E Committee Meeting

"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!



In



Church Office Hours:

Open Tuesday – Friday from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm or email the church office at willowcreekchrch@aol.com.

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



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

Adult Sunday School	Worship	Fellowship
9:00am	10:00am	11:00am

search: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

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