



# STREAMER

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

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

A year ago, Scott and I were traveling east from California, our destination a new home and church we had never seen in person and a community we'd only begun to get to know. We were nervous but full of hope, certain God was calling us to Willow Creek.

And what a wonderful year it has been! You managed to welcome us well even during a pandemic, and you have graciously welcomed Emmett and supported us so kindly as we became a family of three (well, four, including our dog, Henry).

It's past time to make it official, y'all!

At long last, on October 17th, almost a year to the day from my first Sunday with you, we will celebrate together my Installation and Emmett's Baptism during our regular worship service. Our Book of Order says it like this: *"In Baptism each Christian is called to ministry in Christ's name."* In the liturgy for our Installation services, the first constitutional question begins like this: *"In baptism, you were claimed by the love of God, clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ, and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to share Christ's mission in the world."* I love this connection between Baptism and ministry. Our qualifications for ministry are the same as our qualifications for baptism - total dependence on the grace of God.

I can't wait to celebrate with you that amazing grace, as well as the clear sense of how at home my family and I feel here at Willow Creek.

I have invited a dear friend of mine to give the sermon and do the baptism. Rev. Joel Moore is the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo (Texas). Many years ago, he was the Executive Director of the Atlanta Youth Project (an urban youth ministry non-profit) which I volunteered for when I was in college. This led to a friendship that has lasted nearly twenty years, as we ended up becoming neighbors, and then both eventually went to seminary and entered the ordination process, and were briefly on staff together at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. I am grateful that we will all have the opportunity to hear him preach on the 17th.

I hope you can join us in worship that day!

In Christ,

Pastor Lauren



We are very pleased and excited to inform you that we have hired a Director/Teacher for Argyle Preschool. Her name is Christa Dennis and she is in the process of recruiting students. Our Goal is to have a Monday/Wednesday/Friday class beginning October 13<sup>th</sup>.

We appreciate Christa's enthusiasm and initiative in getting our Preschool up and running again! We look forward to working with Christa and seeing the Preschool grow again in time.

Thanks for all of your patience and interest as we weathered these strange times!!

Sincerely,

The Argyle Preschool Board  
(Kim Reid, John Reid, Sandra Bell, Pastor Lauren)

To All of You!

It is a bittersweet moment as I am letting you know that as of October 12, 2021, I will be leaving Willow Creek as your Secretary. I have been offered an opportunity that my husband and I feel God is leading me. I have been so honored to have worked here for you all and feel as though I have made friends along the way. I wish only the best for all of you and know that whomever comes after will be a great blessing for you as well.

Sincerely,

Peggy



WCPC Family,

*I can't tell you how sad I am to see Peggy go! While I am happy for her and the new opportunity she has, she will be greatly missed in the church office. She has been wonderful during a season full of transitions, and we are all so grateful for her hard work!*

*Thank you, Peggy, and best wishes!*

*Pastor Lauren*



Dear Church Family,

How do we begin to thank you all for everything you have done for us at this difficult time? We are not only blessed to have such a special church family, but more than grateful for the support we have received from you. The cards, phone calls, visits, food, love and prayers are so appreciated.

And Pastor Lauren – well – you're just the best! Our family is truly missing our Husband, Dad and Grampa and at the same time we are aware all of you are missing a dear friend. Jim touched so many lives. To say he will be missed is clearly an understatement. Despite our heavy hearts, your kindness and support are gentle reminders that we will get through this difficult journey.

Much love from the Jim Ralston Family.

# 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](http://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

	August 2021	Year-to-Date
Income	11,420.91	105,361.18
Expenses	10,599.58	104,803.58
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess/(Deficit)	821.33	557.60



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**Covid Policy Reminder:** 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](mailto:Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org)).

Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel & the WCPC Session



Dear Willow Creek Friends,

There are five Sundays in October and I just at this moment managed to fill them all. The line up looks like this:

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

October 10...Carol Pann, vocalist

October 17...Lucas Greenlee, pipes

October 24...Katie & Kylie Monroe, vocalists

October 31...Nicholas Janitzky, baritone

Please let me know if you are interested in sharing music with the congregation. I will fit you in!

Enjoy the nice, cool weather.

Liz

Bell Rehearsal begins Thursday September 30th at 6:00 pm and continues weekly. We will meet in the Sanctuary. (There will be no rehearsal on Thanksgiving Day!)

Thank you.

Dianne Londo

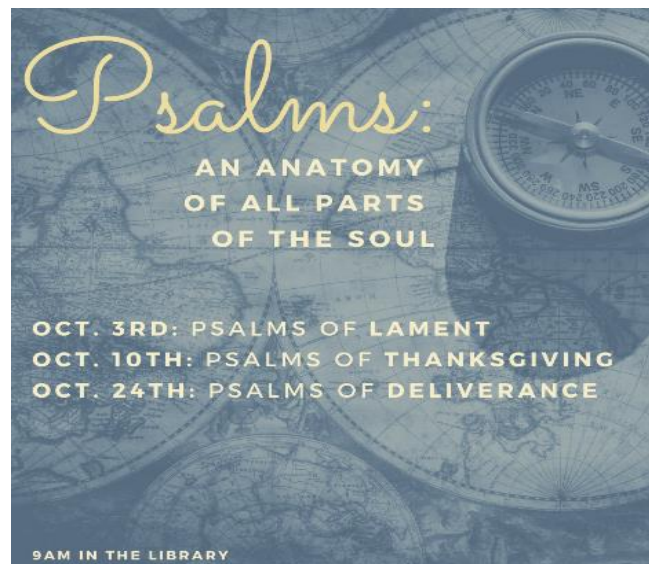
## Bell Choir



## CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> @ 10:30 am

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





# youth group SCHEDULE

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

Date	Time	Activity	Location
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	



## ***Stewardship Season: A Beacon of Light!***

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church has long been a **beacon of light** in this community. As we reflect on our 176 years, and look toward the future, we are all invited to wonder how God is calling us to shine on - as individuals, and as a church. How is God moving us to give of our time, talent and resources this stewardship season? How can we share the good news of grace and how it is lived out at WCPC with just one more person?

Looking ahead to my second year here at Willow Creek (a year that I hope is less shaped by Covid) we have so much to be excited about. We will continue enjoying our old traditions while finding new ways to engage with our neighbors. I have already experienced your heart for this community, particularly through our Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build and our Boone County Fair Respite Tent. We are planning more opportunities like this that will allow our neighbors to experience the beacon of light here on the corner of 173 and Belvidere.

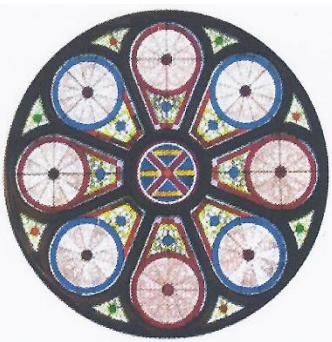
We know we shine brighter when we combine our light with one another. All who give their financial offering to this church are incredibly generous, allowing us to continue to worship God and serve the community. Your giving goes to everything from mission funds - which support ministries around the globe - to staff salaries and the upkeep of our historic building. One of the ways we keep track of giving in the church office is by using "giving units", which are the number of individuals or households affiliated with the church. We currently have ninety-one giving units. Fifty-six percent of those ninety-one give using their designated envelopes or a check. (We know that other folks give as well, but choose not to use checks or the envelopes, which makes their gift anonymous.)

As Session has prayerfully planned for our Stewardship season, we wonder what it would be like if 100% of our giving units made a pledge this year. I ask you to prayerfully consider how God is moving you to give - of your time, talent and resources. And I ask that as an indicator of your prayerful consideration, you would pledge to give *something* for the upcoming budget year. It can be \$1 (or less!). The amount is not what matters. What matters is that we come together as individual lights to shine even brighter for God's glory. I would love to report that we have pledges from all of our giving units! What a message of unity and hope that would be as we all look toward the future with hope and faith.

Stewardship season will begin on Sunday, October 31st, and pledge Sunday is November 14th. More info on how to pledge will be coming soon. Your pledges are what we use to build the church budget. It is incredibly helpful to every aspect of our ministry to know what you hope to give throughout the year so that we can plan accordingly. I deeply appreciate each of you spending time in prayer as we continue in ministry together, shining bright as a beacon in our community.

Seeking God and serving with you,

Pastor Lauren



## ***Rose Window Update!***

This congregation has responded with great generosity as we repair our Rose Window! We asked if we could raise \$500 from congregational gifts - and you have more than doubled that goal! We have over \$1200 in designated gifts for the Rose Window, plus several memorial funds. We are still totaling everything and I look forward to reporting very soon precisely how far your generosity has stretched. Thank you for your gifts and your ongoing care and stewardship for our sanctuary.

Pastor Lauren

## October 2021 All Church Calendar

Sun 10/3	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship: Communion Special Music by Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto
Tues 10/5	6:30 pm	Session Meeting
Thurs 10/7	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sun 10/10	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Service Special Music by Carol Pann, Vocalist
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:30 am	Youth Group
Mon 10/11	10:00 am	Deacon Meeting
Thurs 10/14	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sun 10/17	10:00 am	Installation Sunday for Pastor Lauren Special Music by Lucas Greenlee, Pipes
	11:30 am	Youth Group - CROP Hunger Walk – Rock Cut
Tues 10/19	8:00 am	B & G Committee Meeting
	6:00 pm	W & M Committee Meeting
Thurs 10/21	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Fri 10/22	---	Streamer articles due to office
Sun 10/24	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Special Music by Katie & Kylie Monroe, Vocalists
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
Thurs 10/28	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sun 10/31	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Special Music by Nicolas Janitzky, Baritone
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:00 am	Trunk or Treat in Parking Lot!
	11:30 am	Youth Group
	11:15 am	F/P/E Committee Meeting



Please click on the link below and donate to a great cause.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/willow-creek-presbyterian-church-of-argyle>

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$500.

RAISED:GOAL: **\$130 out of \$500**

Donate Now

### "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!



### Church Office Hours:

Open Monday – Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm or email the church office at [willowcreekchrch@aol.com](mailto: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

9:00am 10:00am 11:00am

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