



STREAMER

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

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

I am grateful beyond words for the joy we shared on October 17th as I was installed as your Pastor and Emmett was baptized. Installations begin with this litany which is based on 1 Corinthians 12:4 - 11:

*There are a variety of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.
God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.
Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.*

I love these reminders - that *together* we are the body of Christ. We are each unique and necessary, and God is most clearly seen and experienced when we come together as our whole, authentic selves.

These verses perfectly describe how important each of us is to the body of Christ, which is a central focus for us, especially during stewardship season. God's redeeming work in the world requires that we all participate - it's just as ridiculous to imagine a hand or foot acting on its own as it is to imagine a Christian trying to seek and serve God on their own. We need one another, and our greater community needs us to be unified in purpose and love in order to see how Christ is reflected here at Willow Creek.

This stewardship season, I hope you will find time to pray about what role God is calling you to play in the upcoming year. Perhaps you will continue to do the same role you have done for many years - that is good and appreciated! Or perhaps God is calling you to serve and seek in new ways.

On Installation Sunday we had the chance to reflect on this past year while also looking toward the future. In her charge to me, Marie mentioned my very first communication with the PNC. I remember how excited I was to talk to a church that described itself this way: *"Our history has molded us, our love binds us, and our desire to fulfill God's calling motivates us."*

Amen! We are molded by a wonderful history here at Willow Creek, a history of generosity and faithfulness. Our love for Christ and one another does indeed bind us - and, we can always seek to be more loving. Our desire to fulfill God's calling does motivate us, and this is a season of seeking God for clarity and energy in that motivation.

How can we more fully fulfill all that God is calling us to be at Willow Creek? And what is the individual role God is calling you to play in that, as we come together to seek God and serve God's children?

Praying and seeking God with you,

Pastor Lauren



Dear Willow Creek Friends,

I have the rest of 2021 lined up! Here is the November list:

Nov 7	Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto
Nov 14	Tom Andrew, Keyboard
Nov 21	Joyce and Bill Zartman, Bells and Violin
Nov 28	Dan Holmes

I just got my COVID booster and have hopes that in 2022, Willow Creek can get back to having those wonderful pot lucks and fellowships. I miss them so.

See you in church,

Elizabeth

Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

Thank you so much for your love and support as we celebrated my Installation and Emmett's baptism! Your cards, gifts, and most especially your enthusiasm and joy were great reminders of how loving this church family is. We couldn't be more grateful that God has called us to be here at Willow Creek, seeking God with you.

Thank you!

Lauren, Scott, Emmett (& Henry)



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your kind words, memorials, cards, and prayers in regard to the passing of my mother, Freeda. She always enjoyed coming to church when she was in town and seeing everyone.

Sincerely,

April, Ed, Meagan, and Sara



Dear Willow Creek Presbyterian Church,

With a joyful heart, I thank you for choosing me to serve as your secretary here at Willow Creek. I feel He has made our paths cross and I am looking forward to getting to know all of you better as we continue on this journey together.

Thanks again,

Caryn





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.

September was a great month for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church. We have made it even in terms of income verse expense. What an amazing comeback we have experienced compared to previous years. This can be attributed to your steadfast means of support. Thanks again and please take care of yourselves and one another.

WCPC Operating Statistics

	September 2021	Year-to-Date
Income	11,553.77	116,914.95
Expenses	<u>9,790.50</u>	<u>114,594.08</u>
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ 1,763.27	\$ 2,320.87



Congregational Meeting

The Session calls the Annual Congregational Meeting of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle to be held on Sunday, November 21, 2021 following worship for the purpose of electing officers and approving Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel's contract for the 2022.

The meeting will be followed by our beloved Ham-ball Potluck! This year you can choose to eat in the Fellowship Hall or take your dinner to go! Please bring a hamball or turkey main dish and a side, salad or dessert. Drinks, cups, plates and to go trays will be provided.

Ham Balls Recipe – Recipe by Mrs. Carol Norem & from the 1956 Women's Auxiliary WCPC Cookbook

1 lb ground lean smoked ham

1-1/2 lb ground lean pork

2 cups bread crumbs

2 beaten eggs

1 cup milk

Make into balls, mix 1/2 cup water, 1 cup brown sugar, 1 teaspoon dry mustard and 1/2 cup vinegar to make sauce to pour over. Place in a shallow pan and bake 1 hour or more. Baste occasionally.



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!



Sunday, November 14th, 21st & 28th @ 10:30 a.m.

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



Date	Time	Activity	Location
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	

Veterans Day – November 11, 2021



Birthday Please

Your Deacon Board needs your help. We want to make a list of birthdays, your birthdays, only the month and the date, not the year. It should be helpful to include the year for children. Recognizing birthdays will give the Deacons a way to connect with fellow members of Willow Creek. Since we are limited in being able to do personal visiting we are looking for ways to reach to all. We hope all will be a part of our list.

Please feel free to:

Call the Hall's @ 815-633-1784

Email JoAnne Buffington buff7120@yahoo.com

Call Donna Hamilton @ 815-885-3902



Worship Update

Throughout the past year (and more!) our **worship service** has undergone a lot of changes as we have gone back and forth from virtual to in-person worship. We continue to follow all public health guidelines as COVID persists, which for now include wearing masks while indoors.

In keeping with the guidelines, we feel it's time to add back elements of our worship service. Starting Nov. 14th, we will once again have ushers greeting and taking up the offering, and our service will include an Affirmation of Faith and a Children's Moment.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and commitment to doing the best we can to keep one another safe.

Pastor Lauren

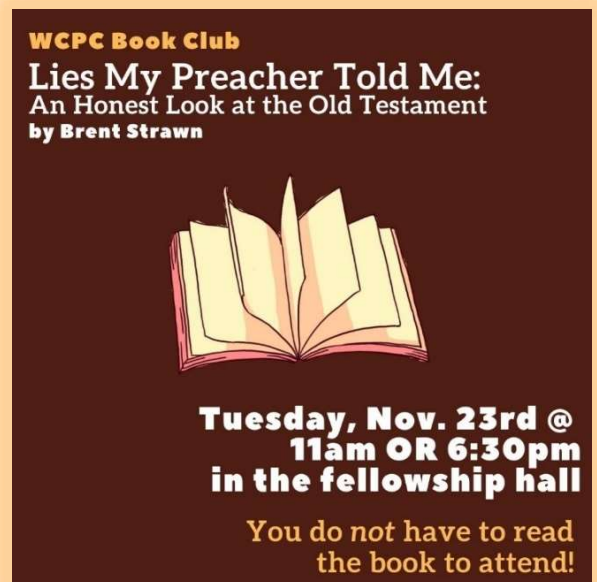
Book Club

Join us for a book club discussion!

The book is *only* 108 pages - just 10 very short chapters! It could be possible to read it before Nov. 23rd. But if you don't have a chance to read it, come to the discussion anyway! **Copies are available in the church office for \$15** - let Lauren know after worship that you would like one or drop in during the week to pick a copy up!

Author Dr. Brent Strawn is Professor of Old Testament and Professor of Law at Duke Divinity School. This book guides readers through 10 "mistruths" about the Old Testament that we often hear in church. The mistruths include things like "The Old Testament God is Mean...*really* Mean" and "The Old Testament law is nothing but a burden, impossible to keep".

Join us on Tuesday, November 23rd at either 11am or 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall to explore each of these lies and their clarifications.



Christmas Decorating

All are welcome and encouraged to join the Worship & Music Committee to decorate the church on November 14th for the Christmas holidays after the worship service. With enough participation, the job will take about an hour.

Thank you,

The Worship & Music Committee

Stewardship Season

October 31st & November 7th *Minute for Stewardship*

November 14th ***Pledge Sunday***, Ed Rottman preaching

Pledge Sheets are available in your email or at church. If you would like one mailed, let the church office know!

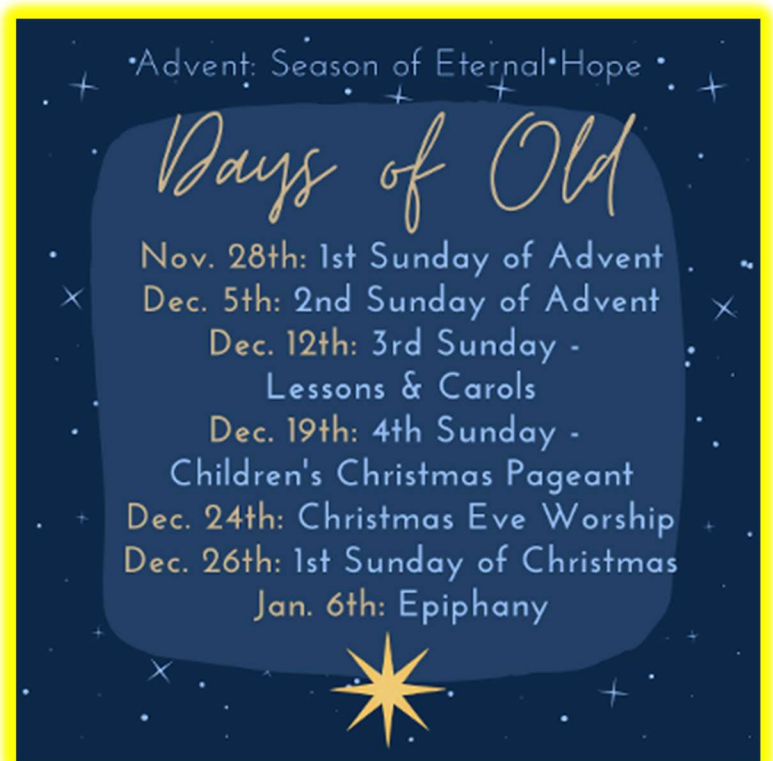
One of the ways we keep track of giving in the church office is by using “giving units”, which are the number of individuals or households affiliated with the church. We currently have ninety-one giving units. Fifty-six percent of those ninety-one give using their designated envelopes or a check. As 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.**

Please pray about how God is moving you to give - of your time, talent and resources. And, as an indicator of your prayerful consideration, would you 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 faith.

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



Don't Forget on Nov. 7th

All Church Calendar November 2021



Tues 11/02	6:30 pm	Session Meeting
Thurs 11/04	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sun 11/07	10:00 am	Worship – All Saints’ Day & Communion Special Music by Elizabeth O’Leary
	10:30 am	Children’s Sunday School
	11:30 am	Youth Group
Mon 11/08	10:00 am	Deacon Meeting
Thurs 11/11	<i>VETERANS’ DAY</i>	<i>Thank you!</i>
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sun 11/14	10:00 am	Worship – Ed Rottman Preaching & Pledge Sunday Special Music by Tom Andrew
	10:30 am	Children’s Sunday School
	11:30 am	Youth Group & Christmas Decorating
Mon 11/15	6:30 pm	Media Committee Meeting
Tues 11/16	8:00 am	B & G Committee Meeting
	6:00 pm	M & W Committee Meeting
Thurs 11/18	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sun 11/21	10:00 am	Worship Congregational Meeting & Ham Balls Special Music by Joyce and Bill Zartman
	10:30 am	Children’s Sunday School
Tues 11/23	---	Streamer articles due to office
	11:00 am or 6:30 pm	WCPC Book Club
Thurs 11/25		<i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</i>
Sun 11/28	10:00 am	Worship – 1 st Sunday of Advent Special Music by Dan Holmes
	10:30 am	Children’s Sunday School
	11:15 am	F/P/E Committee Meeting



Poinsettia Order Form

Would you like to order a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? The cost is \$10.00 each, and they are available in white, pink or red. You may take your poinsettia home, or donate it for the Deacons to deliver to the elderly and infirm. Please fill out this form and mail it to the church with your payment.

The deadline to order is Tuesday, November 23.



Color _____ Number _____

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor Name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin: _____

Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, with memo: Poinsettia

Flowers not picked up prior to Wednesday, December 29th will be delivered by the Church Deacons to the elderly and infirm.

A promotional banner for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle. It features a central landscape photo of a church building with a rainbow in the sky. On the left is the Facebook logo and the text 'Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle @willowcreekpc'. On the right is the Instagram logo and the text '@willowcreekpcargyle'. Below the photo, it says 'Check out the latest photos and events on our Facebook and Instagram pages!' followed by the URLs 'https://www.facebook.com/willowcreekpc' and 'https://www.instagram.com/willowcreekpcargyle/'.

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/>

A promotional banner for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle's YouTube channel. It features the YouTube logo and the text 'Miss a Worship service? Check out recordings on Willow Creek's new YouTube channel!'. Below this, it says 'Come Learn, Worship and Share with us every Sunday'. There are three video thumbnails labeled 'Adult Sunday School 9:00am', 'Worship 10:00am', and 'Children's 11:00am'. A 'SUBSCRIBE' button is on the right. At the bottom, it says 'search: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle'.

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

YouTube

Come Learn, Worship and Share
with us every Sunday

Adult Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:00am
Children's 11:00am

search: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle