



February

STREAMER

Willow Creek Church of Argyle
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011
815-885-3455
February 2022

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

I wish there was a way to know how many people drive by our church each day and find comfort in the familiar building and our beautiful Rose Window. My hope is that as our church comes into view, they are transported to times and places in their lives when they experienced sanctuary: peace, safety, connection, holiness.

I don't know how many people feel these things, but I do know this:

- A couple of months ago, someone sent a message through our website describing how much they love driving by our beautiful church at night, and are grateful that we have it lit up. What a reminder that we are, indeed, a beacon of light!
- A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of officiating a small wedding in our sanctuary for a couple who simply loved the way our church looked as they drove by. They had never set foot inside before. They said the Rose Window especially drew their attention as they wanted to get married in a beautiful place where they could feel God's presence.

Thank you all for the ways you gave and designated memorial funds to the restoration of the Rose Window. It matters - not just to those of us who worship in this sanctuary, but to the wider community.

And a *huge* thank you to our tireless Building and Grounds Committee! These guys work hard year round to keep our church beautiful and functional. They're the ones who identified the repair need, did all of the research, found a company to do the work, and made it happen. They're also the ones who make sure the lights are on at night so people can find comfort when they drive by our beacon of light. Furthermore, they're the ones who make sure the heater is working, snow is cleared, and so many other things! I couldn't list all that they do, but I am going to list their names so we can all thank them: John Reid, Steve Picken, Curt Greenlee, Don Greenlee, Gary Greenlee, Gene Wheeler. I would also like to mention that Jim Ralston served on that committee for many years and we remain grateful for his hard work and expertise.

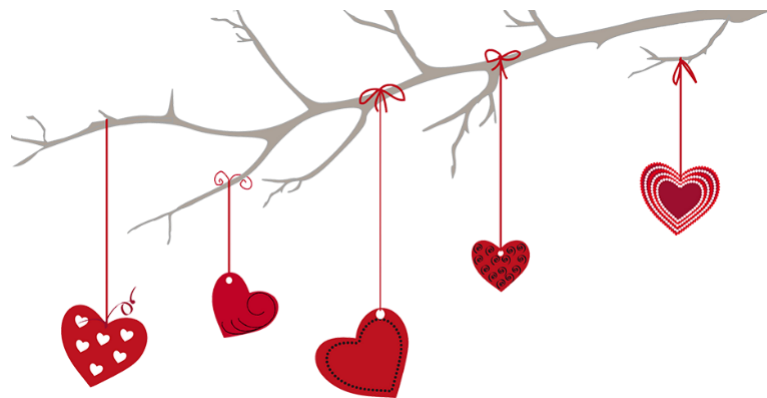
I was pleasantly surprised when these folks shared their experiences of our physical building with me - I *hoped* people felt that way as they drove past, but I didn't know. I'm so grateful they were willing to name something that they appreciated about us and I want to try to do the same! What's something you appreciate about someone or someplace, who might benefit from knowing the positive impact they have?

And, what a lovely reminder that we don't know the full impact of our own actions on others. As we wonder how to continue shining as beacons of light, we can also take comfort in knowing that God is already using what we offer in ways we can't begin to imagine!

Finally, I invite all of us to continue to pray about and work toward shining as beacons of light in this community. Who needs the light and warmth this place offers and how do we invite them in?

In Christ,

Pastor Lauren



Dear Willow Creek Friends,

I am sitting here feeling very grateful that our church is able to keep worshiping in person in the midst of this surge. It is such a lift for me to come to Worship on Sunday and see folks.

I am also grateful that I can keep finding people to share their musical gifts with Willow Creek.

Our February line up is as follows:

February 6....Sacred Lullaby by Johannes Brahms with Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto; Bill Zartman, viola; Deborah Dunnavan, piano. This piece was scheduled for January 9, but bad weather interfered. Let us all keep our fingers crossed this time.

February 13...Willow Creek Handbell Choir directed by Dianne Londo

February 20...Lucas Greenlee and his wonderful pipes.

February 27...partially TBA....piano and vocal music

Stay warm. Groundhog's day is just around the corner. We'll see what he has to say.

See you in church,

Elizabeth



Thank You

Thank you to all who brought gifts for our Birthday Party for Jesus. All gifts were added to the Baby Angel Closet and very much appreciated!

Thank you - Christmas Card Tree

If you did not receive a Christmas card from the following, it is because rather than mailing one, they made a contribution to WCPC as part of the Kemmerer Village Project:

The Betzel Family

David and Janet Ensminger

Don and Barb Greenlee

Jack and Jean Greenlee

Jim and Delores Hall

Carol Norem

Blackhawk Presbytery & Stronghold Camp

Kemmerer Village

Lee Pickett

April, Ed, and Sara Rottman

JoAnne Reid

John and Kim Reid

Gene and Carolyn Wheeler



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

gracious and faithful support of our mission efforts. On December 3, 2021, we received \$211.05 for Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Your contribution changes lives for the sake of the gospel around the world. Thank you once again for your support, dedication, and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. You are a valued partner.

As always, please let me know how I can support you in your mission efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Chris Roseland
Presbyterian Mission, Mission Engagement & Support

Annual Meeting

The Session calls the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle, to be held on Sunday, February 20, 2022, following the worship service, for the purpose of receiving the 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Budget and to approve the co-financial secretary position.

Session Summary

At our January Session Meeting, we welcomed the new slate of elders and bade good bye to those going off. Thank you for the time and

energy you put into serving Willow Creek, Jeff Cummings and Maren Reid! Looking ahead into 2022 Session, we will focus on developing a plan for ways we can give back to our community through our missions. We also called for the Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 20, 2022 following worship.



Please Remember - Get your 2021 Annual Report in by Friday, February 4, 2022!



December was the best end to a year that Willow Creek Presbyterian Church as had in a long time. Overall your giving has put Willow Creek in the black almost \$36,000.00 for 2021. Thank you for providing a financial light for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church to spread joy and hope to our community.

WCPC Operating Statistics

	December 2021	Year-to-Date
Income	36,737.47	202,646.62
Expenses	<u>9,836.33</u>	<u>166,864.22</u>
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ 26,901.14	\$ 35,782.40

Per Capita

Every church in our denomination pays a set amount of money per member to the PC(USA). This money supports the functions and missions of the larger church, including funding salaries for folks who work at the Presbytery. Willow Creek especially experienced the support of those Presbytery staff members when we were seeking a new pastor. These funds provide support and training for our pastor and countless resources for the whole denomination.

This set amount of money is called *per capita*. If you use the giving envelopes, you may have noticed this on the sticker: "Per capita \$40.00 per member." That's the amount that has been set this year. For the past few years, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church has not been able to meet its per capita responsibilities to Blackhawk Presbytery.

Our Session has decided that this year, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church will make quarterly payments of our church's per capita responsibility to Blackhawk Presbytery. Our per capita responsibility as a congregation is \$4,440.00 for 2022, based on the number of members from 2020. If you wish to contribute to the church's per capita payment by paying your part (\$40 per member), you can mail to the church office or place it in the collection plate labeled as per capita. Once we receive your contribution we will send it to Blackhawk Presbytery.

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, February 6th, 13th, & 20th @ 10:30 a.m.
We will meet in person and children can go down to Sunday School after Children's Moment

***All Church Calendar
February 2022***

Tues., 2/1	6:30 PM	Session Meeting
Wed., 2/2	5:00 PM &/OR 6:00 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Individual work 5-6 PM)
Fri., 2/4	Today Deadline Today	Annual Report due to Caryn Notify Maren of Attendance for Snow Park at Alpine Hills
Sun., 2/6	10:00 AM 10:30 AM 11:15 AM	Worship - Communion Children's Sunday School Christian Education Committee Meeting
Mon., 2/7	6:30 PM	Media Committee Meeting
Wed., 2/9	10:30 AM 5:00 PM &/OR 6:00 PM	Men's Coffee Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Individual work 5-6 PM)
Sun., 2/13	10:00 AM 10:30 AM 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Worship – <i>"Change for Change Sunday"</i> <i>Handbell Choir</i> Children's Sunday School Youth Group - Make Lunch for WCPC Membership Class <i>WCPC Membership Class (& Lunch)</i>
Sun. 2/20	10:00 AM 10:30 AM After Church	Worship Children's Sunday School <i>Annual Meeting</i>
Wed., 2/23	10:30 AM	Men's Coffee
Sun., 2/27	10:00 AM 2:00 – 3:30 PM	Worship <i>Youth Group (& All) – Adventure to:</i>

All families are invited to join us, WCPC Youth Group, for mountains of fun at Rockford Park District's Snow Park. Be ready for some adventures tubing and taking the lift (\$8 per person)! Please contact Maren, via text/call or email, by **Friday, February 4th** if you would like more information and/or if you want to attend, as tickets are reserved. Can't wait!



Contact Maren - Call ^O_R Text: (815) 978-5307 ^O_R E-mail: Mereid500@gmail.com

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class begins on **Wednesday, March 9th**. Confirmation is an opportunity for youth to explore their faith and consider the possibility of joining the church. Contact Pastor Lauren for more info.

Looking Ahead – Wednesdays in Lent!

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on **March 2nd**. Be on the lookout for the time and details for Ash Wednesday worship!

Then, join us on Wednesdays @ 5:30 PM for Lenten Soup & Study where we will explore spiritual disciplines like solitude, scripture, and prayer. We'll learn about the history, biblical basis, and practice of each discipline. Then we'll observe the discipline in the coming week, and discuss our experiences together at the next gathering. You do not have to come each week – choose which disciplines are most interesting to you, or come when your schedule allows! Mark your calendars for:

Lenten Soup & Study – Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 2022 @ 5:30 PM



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