



April

STREAMER

April Showers Bring May Flowers



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

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

Yesterday after worship, David Perez (one of the amazing team members who runs our sound and makes our online worship possible) remarked that it was strange - but good! – that we had a funeral on Friday and a baptism on Sunday. To have white paraments during Lent when they are usually purple is a reminder that even in the season of contemplating our mortality, Easter is our reality.

To go from a funeral on Friday to celebrate being united with Christ in death and resurrection in our baptism on Sunday is indeed something to consider - and, as luck or fate or the church calendar would have it, I did have the chance to reflect on it, during our first Silent Retreat on Saturday.

As we continue our Lenten journey, this past weekend certainly felt like a foreshadowing for the end of Holy Week:

- Good Friday – the day we face the cross and all that happened there
- Holy Saturday – the day when death feels permanent
- Easter Sunday – the day of resurrection and hallelujah!

No one better describes the paradoxes of these three days than the Rev. S.M. Lockridge. He preached an Easter sermon decades ago that has stood the test of time, repeating this phrase over and over again,  
*“It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!”*

*It’s Friday – Jesus is praying / Peter’s a sleeping / Judas is betraying / But Sunday’s comin’*

*It’s Friday – Pilate’s struggling / The council is conspiring / The crowd is vilifying / They don’t even know / That Sunday’s comin’*

*It’s Friday – The disciples are running / Like sheep without a shepherd / Mary’s crying / Peter is denying / But they don’t know / That Sunday’s a comin’*

It’s a powerful description of what things were like that first Holy Weekend (you can listen to this part of the sermon here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gx6\\_rGLz20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gx6_rGLz20) ).

Beyond what we find in Scripture his refrain, “It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!” also speaks to everything in our lives, in every season, where death seems persistent. What are the things we long to see changed:

Things within us – our own habits and sins?

Things within our relationships – our patterns of interaction?

Things in our world – financial stress, resistance to peace, countless fears and worries?

To all of these, the refrain speaks, *“It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!”*

Friday is true, but it's not the truest thing. Death occurs, but Easter carves space for the question, "Death, where is your sting?"

Even so, death does still sting! Whether that's a metaphorical death, a grief of unfulfilled dreams or unfulfilled expectations, or the all too real loss of a loved one, we do feel that sting.

That's the reality of Holy Saturday, a day of sealed tombs. While we do look with great hope and faith to Easter Sunday, it is no small thing that our loving God who walked this earth knew we would need a Holy Saturday. We can confess the refrain, "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!" while still honoring the day in-between, the Saturday that holds grief in a profound way.

Our Lenten journey arrives at a weekend that spans death and new life, just as this past weekend of white paraments did for us at Willow Creek. This is a mystery and a miracle, and we rejoice even while we wonder.



In Christ,

Pastor Lauren

Hello Willow Creek Friends,

April is our big Easter month. Easter is late this year, so hopefully we will have nice spring weather rather than the snow we have known in past years.

Our April music line up is as follows:

April 3 . . . Renee O'Dell, soprano

April 10 . . . Palm Sunday, Special music played and sung by the Willow Creek Music Staff

April 17 . . . Easter Sunday, Willow Creek Handbell Choir, directed by Dianne Londo

April 24 . . . Elizabeth O'Leary, piano

All for now,

Elizabeth

**Thank You!**

Dear Friends,

The Jack Spack Family wishes to thank all the Willow Creek members who helped with Jack's service. You all did a wonderful job. Also, thank you for all the donations, cards, and phone calls.

God Bless,

Jenine Spack and Family

Dear Willow Creek Church,

I can't believe it has been almost a year since my mom, Phyllis Cummings, passed away. I think of her and my dad daily as there are many reminders around me. We appreciated everyone's sympathies and Pastor Lauren speaking at her funeral. She would have been very happy with all the people who attended her visitation and how things were handled.

We would like to give the remaining Trust funds to the church. Jeff has told us the church is redoing the stained glass in the sanctuary. We would like the funds to be used towards this or the youth. Mom always loved children and would be happy to support them with their future needs. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Jodie Larson (& Family)

### ***Session Summary***

Session met on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> for the monthly discussion. In this very productive meeting, Session handled regular business; firmed up plans for 2022 missions; began sharing ideas for building our community, both inside and outside the walls of Willow Creek; and approved the baptism for Liam Sidney Benson, which took place on March 20, 2022. Session sends prayers, support, and love to each of you!

February was an average month for giving. We are on pace to have an amazing financial year. Our expenses in February were above normal, as the well pump had to be replaced at the Manse. We are in the red about \$3,500. due to the maintenance. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

### ***WCPC Operating Statistics***

	February 2022	Year-to-Date
Income	15,446.51	32,310.81
Expenses	<u>19,029.16</u>	<u>35,866.68</u>
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ (3,582.65)	\$ (3,555.87)



We hope your statement helps you track progress of goals and provide transparency on direct giving to the Mission Agency. Thank you!

### **IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

#### ***Mission Agency – Statement for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church***

	End of Year 2020	As of 12/31/2021
Christmas Joy Offering	0.00	440.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	590.00	390.00
Pentecost Offering	210.00	270.00
Peace & Global Witness Offering	213.57	211.05
<i>(includes Peacemaking Offering gifts)</i>		
Total Given by Individuals Giving Directly to Special Offerings (Presbyterian Giving Catalog, which includes Special Offerings Events)		240.00



*and*



## ***All Church Calendar - April 2022***

Sun., 4/3	10:00 <small>AM</small>	Worship
	10:30 <small>AM</small>	Children's Sunday School
Tues., 4/5	6:30 <small>PM</small>	Session Meeting
Wed., 4/6	10:30 <small>AM</small>	Men's Coffee Club
	6:00 <small>PM</small>	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Thurs., 4/7	11:30 <small>AM</small>	Ladies Meet & Eat @ Sophia's Restaurant in Roscoe
	5:30 – 7:00 <small>PM</small>	Lenten Soup & Study - <b><i>Discernment</i></b>
<b><i>Palm Sunday</i></b>		
Sun., 4/10	10:00 <small>AM</small>	Worship – <b><i>“Change for Change Sunday”</i></b> <b><i>One Great Hour of Sharing &amp; Palm Parade</i></b>
	10:30 <small>AM</small>	Children's Sunday School
	11:30 <small>AM</small> – 12:30 <small>PM</small>	Youth Group – Games & Lesson/Easter Eggs
Mon., 4/11	10:00 <small>AM</small>	Deacons' Meeting
Wed., 4/13	5:00 – 6:30 <small>PM</small>	Confirmation
	6:00 <small>PM</small>	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
<b><i>Maundy Thursday</i></b>		
Thurs., 4/ 14	6:00 <small>PM</small>	Potluck & Short Communion Service
<b><i>Good Friday</i></b>		
Fri., 4/15	8:20 a.m.	<b><i>Good Fri. Stations of the Cross</i></b> – Meet at WCPC
	Today	Streamer Articles due to Caryn
	3:00 p.m.	Stateline Service @ Rockton United Methodist Church
<b><i>Holy Saturday</i></b>		
Sat., 4/16	Today	<b><i>Chapel at Argyle Cemetery</i></b> open for Prayer & Contemplation Handbell Choir Rehearsal
<b><i>Easter Sunday</i></b>		
Sun., 4/17	8:00 <small>AM</small>	<b><i>Worship at the Chapel</i></b> <b>Breakfast</b> by Session @ WCPC
	9:30 <small>AM</small>	<b>Easter Egg Hunt @ WCPC</b>
	10:00 <small>AM</small>	<b><i>Worship in Sanctuary</i></b> Handbell Choir
	10:30 <small>AM</small>	Children's Sunday School
	3:00 <small>PM</small> – 5:00 <small>PM</small>	<b>Emmett's 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Party @ the Manse</b>
Tues., 4/19	8:00 <small>AM</small>	Building & Grounds Committee Meeting
	6:00 <small>PM</small>	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Wed. 4/20	10:30 <small>AM</small>	Men's Coffee Club
	6:00 <small>PM</small>	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Sun., 4/24	10:00 <small>AM</small>	Worship
	10:30 <small>AM</small>	Children's Sunday School
	11:30 <small>AM</small> – 12:30 <small>PM</small>	Youth Group – Games & Lesson
Wed., 4/27	5:00 – 6:30 <small>PM</small>	Confirmation
	6:00 <small>PM</small>	Handbell Choir Rehearsal

## these words appeared

- Palm Sunday - Worship with Palm Parade at 10am
- Maundy Thursday - Potluck With a Short Communion Service at 6pm
- Good Friday - Stations of the Cross
- Holy Saturday - the Chapel at Argyle Cemetery will be open for prayer and contemplation
- Easter Sunday:
  - 8am worship at the Chapel
  - Breakfast provided by Session
  - 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt!
  - 10am Worship In the Sanctuary with music from our Handbell Choir

Holy Week 2022



### Eggs-citing Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Morning @ 9:30 a.m. – Meet in the Fellowship Hall



Join us for our Eggs-citing Easter Egg Hunt, which is geared for children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. and then hop outside for an eggs-cellent time hunting for eggs (if it's bad weather, we'll hunt inside). We have baskets to collect eggs, but feel free to bring your own!

### Good Friday - Stations of the Cross Walk

We will meet at WCPC at 8:20 a.m. then carpool to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 412 N. Church St., Rockford, IL to participate in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Good Friday Walk. Rockford Urban Ministries leads the walk carrying a wooden cross, which starts at 9:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church and goes from their church parking lot to 14 stations (a/k/a "stops") with a prayer at each stop. Most of the stops, which includes stops at the Public Safety Building, Federal Building, and Rockford's Public Library, concern the city's outreach to the less fortunate and ending violence and crime. The final stop, Beattie Park, is only one block from the beginning. The walk takes a little over an hour and occurs rain or shine - come together and spread love in our community!

### Good Friday - Stateline Service

A few churches in our area are worshipping together on Good Friday at 3:00 p.m. @ Rockton United Methodist Church, 102 W. Chapel St., Rockton, IL 61072.



## ***Some Bunny is Turning 1!***



Y'all are invited to a 1st Birthday Party at the Manse!

Emmett turns 1 on April 17<sup>th</sup> and you are all invited to celebrate with us! We will have appetizers, drinks, and cupcakes to celebrate. Drop by anytime between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Please, no presents! If you just can't show up empty-handed, we invite you to donate diapers and wipes for the Baby Angel Closet.



Pastor Lauren & Scott



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church  
7300 Belvidere Road  
Caledonia, Illinois 61011-9608