



October Streamer

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

“A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ”

Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

Over the past several years, a core ministry of this church has been our Baby Angel Closet. You have faithfully and generously donated countless items as we partnered with One Body Collaborative in Rockford to meet the needs of families with young kids. We are especially grateful for the leadership, time and service Delores and Jim Hall have given to the Baby Angel Closet.

Recently, One Body Collaborative shifted its ministry model and we no longer receive referrals from them. The Session interpreted this pause in outreach as an opportunity to pray about how God is calling us to serve our neighbors here and now.

Our first goal was to donate the items in our closet to a group who is meeting the needs of local families. We found the Baby Bank in Belvidere to be the perfect partner. Then, we needed to figure out what to do with a now empty closet. We are deeply committed to this closet space continuing to represent our deep desire to serve others.

With that in mind, we decided to embark upon a “Year of Mission Exploration”. Approximately each quarter from now until the end of 2023, we will focus on a new need through our Mission Closet. For example, we can have a “Cold Weather Gear” drive and donate those items to local shelters and schools. Then, we will focus on food insecurity in our community, and collect food in our Mission Closet to stock the shelves of a local Food Pantry.

By changing our focus each quarter, we are able to focus on the current needs of our neighbors. This “Year of Mission Exploration” will be an opportunity for all of us to look around with the eyes of Christ, and see who has needs, and wonder how we might be able to help.

The work of the Mission Closet will be overseen by a Steering Committee which will be made up of one Elder, one Deacon, two members of the congregation, and me. This Committee will make sure things run smoothly and, at the end of 2023, they will provide a report to Session so we can decide what’s *next* for our church’s mission focus - will we focus on one community need going forward, or continue to shift our focus quarterly?

At the beginning of 2022, the Session agreed that Acts 1:8 would be a guiding principle as we discern mission opportunities for this congregation. That verse guides us in seeing the needs of our immediate community, then our wider region, and finally, the whole world. Our hope and intention is that God will guide us to perceive the needs of our neighbors near and far as we serve them in practical ways.

We are still putting the Steering Committee together! If you are particularly interested in this opportunity, please let me know. We will also be looking for individuals to be in charge of a quarterly Mission Closet Focus - if you have an idea that you want to lead, let me know that, too!



This invitation to consider how you might be involved in the future of our Mission Closet connects with our next big topic for October: Stewardship! This congregation continues to give faithfully and I am so grateful for that. It is because of your ongoing generosity that we are able to dream big about how we might impact our community through our service.

This Stewardship Season, our theme is *Built Together*, from Ephesians 2: *"You are no longer strangers, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. In Christ the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God."*

We are Christ's church - our building and our community are joined together in Christ and built together in and through Christ. This Stewardship season, prayerfully consider what God is building in you, and how that connects to what God is building here at Willow Creek. How are you being called to serve, to give? Perhaps you are being called to give your time and talent to helping to lead our Mission Closet through our Year of Exploration. Or perhaps you are being called to join a committee, or say yes to serving as an Elder or Deacon, or to singing in the choir. Whatever God's call on you for this season may be, give yourself time and space to pursue holy wisdom. Then, please share your intentions with us - when you pledge your financial contributions, it helps us budget effectively and steward well; when you let us know *how* you would like to serve, it allows me to understand how your gifts connect with our community's needs.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity, faithfulness and support. I am so thankful for all that God has already built here at Willow Creek, and so excited to see what will be *Built Together* as we collectively pursue God and serve our community.

In Christ,
Pastor Lauren

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS
AUGUST, 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE

August was a below average month for giving. Our Expenses were above average for the month of August. We had a deficit of about \$5,100.00 for the month of August. We are in the red about \$7,800.00 so far on the year. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

| | 2022 | Year-to-Date |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$8,910.92 | \$110,404.55 |
| Expenses | \$14,023.74 | \$118,270.67 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Excess/(Deficit) | \$(5,101.82) | \$(7,866.12) |

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30a-3p or contact the church office at 815-885-3455 or office@willowcreekpc.org. In case of an emergency, members should contact Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel at 1-678-230-7549 or, Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

October 9th, 16th & 23rd as well as; November 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th
We will gather downstairs or outside after the children's sermon until 11:00a.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP & TREATS

Can you sign up to bring treats for Fellowship & Coffee one Sunday?
When you bring treats, you **do not** have to make coffee! We have a team of coffee makers who are taking care of that - if you want to join the coffee making team, let Shannon know at office@willowcreekpc.org or call 815-885-3455!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|---|
| Thursday 10/6 | 11:30a | Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's Restaurant |
| | 6p | Bell Choir |
| Sunday 10/9 | 8:45a | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 9a | Adult Sunday School |
| | 10a | Worship - Baptism: Eleanor (Ellie) Reagan |
| | | Change for Change |
| | 10:30a | Children's Sunday School |
| | 11a | Coffee & Fellowship |
| | 11:30a | Youth Group |
| Monday 10/10 | 10a | Deacon's Meeting |
| | | Columbus Day No School for Argyle Preschool |
| | | & Church Office is Closed |
| Tuesday 10/11 | 6p-7p | Pipe Band & Drumming |
| | 7p-9p | CoRPB |
| Thursday 10/13 | 6p | Bell Choir |
| Sunday 10/16 | 9a | Adult Sunday School |
| | 10a | Worship - Pastor Tanya Preaching |
| | 10:30a | Children's Sunday School |
| | 11a | Coffee & Fellowship |
| Tuesday 10/18 | 8a | Building & Grounds Meeting |
| | 6p | Pipe Band & Drumming & Music & Worship Committee |
| | 7p | CoRPB |
| Wednesday 10/19 | 9a | Men's Coffee @ Boone County Family Restaurant |
| Thursday 10/20 | 6p | Bell Choir |
| Friday 10/21 | | Streamer Deadline!! |
| Sunday 10/23 | 9a | Adult Sunday School |
| | 10a | Worship - Stewardship Sunday! Bring your pledge cards! |
| | 10:30a | Children's Sunday School |
| | 11a | Coffee & Fellowship |
| | 11:30a | Youth Group |

| | | |
|----------------|-----|--|
| Tuesday 10/25 | 6p | Pipe Band & Drumming |
| | 7p | CoRPB |
| Thursday 10/27 | 6p | Bell Choir |
| Sunday 10/30 | 9a | Adult Sunday School |
| | 10a | Worship - Reformation Sunday! |
| | 11a | F/P/E - Library & Trunk or Treat in the Parking Lot! |
| Monday 10/31 | | Happy Halloween! |
| | | Argyle Preschool Halloween Party |

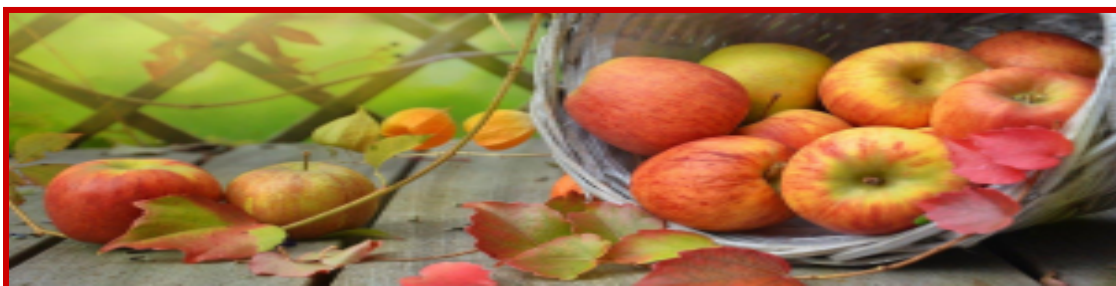


TRUNK OR TREAT!

- **IN THE PARKING LOT FOLLOWING WORSHIP**
- **BRING CANDY OR OTHER GOODIES TO GIVE OUT TO TRICK OR TREATERS!**
- **PRIZE* FOR BEST DECORATED TRUNK! (BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECORATE!)**
- **KIDS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO WEAR COSTUMES TO CHURCH, OR CHANGE AFTER WORSHIP**

Sunday, Oct. 30th 11am - 12pm

*PRIZE IS BRAGGING RIGHTS!



ARGYLE PRESCHOOL

Argyle Preschool has had a great start to our year. The students are enjoying our new theme about apples and fall. We will be having apple taste tests, exploring their size and even finding the magic star hidden in each apple. We have started our letter learning journey with our mascot letter lion and have started working on our number sense skills with measuring and counting. We are excited for Fall and have so much to explore!

FALL 2022 WILLOW CREEK YOUTH SCHEDULE

| Date | Time | Activity | Location |
|------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| 10/9 | 11:15- 2 | Lunch & Escape Room | TBD |

| | | | |
|-------|------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 10/23 | 11:30-1:30 | Lesson & Games | Church |
| 11/6 | 11:30-1:30 | Lesson & Games | Church |
| 11/20 | 11:15 | RAH / Hamball Dinner | Church |
| 12/18 | 11:15 - ? | Lunch & Caroling | Community |

Please consider supporting our Youth Group by signing up to **provide a simple lunch** for 10-15 people one Sunday. The Youth Leaders will take care of serving and clean-up. We will plan on eating around 11:30. The sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall, or contact the Church Office to see what dates are available (office@WillowCreekPC.Org). Thank you for your support!



ACOLYTES

Calling all 4th - 8th Graders! Would you consider serving as an Acolyte? Acolytes bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary at the beginning of the worship service, then lead the congregation out with the light of Christ at the end of the service. We will have Acolytes on the first Sunday of each month (starting in October). Please let Pastor Lauren know if you're interested! (Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org / 678-230-7549).

Hello Willow Creek Friends:

First of all, the October line up for special music is:

October 2: Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto

October 9: Tom Andrew

October 16: TBA

October 23: Renee O'Dell, soprano

October 30: Dan Holmes, voice and guitar. On October 9, I would like to meet with all those interested in singing in the choir. We will discuss schedules and practice. Let's meet at 8:45. If you can't make it but are still interested, let me know. Happy Autumn to all. Enjoy the beautiful weather. -Liz



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Plan to join us for Adult Sunday School this fall! We will gather to hear testimonies from others in our church family. This is an amazing opportunity to learn about others and hear how God has been faithful in their lives, and what they have learned about faith along the way. Join us at 9am on Sundays beginning September 25th! And if you would like to share one Sunday, let Pastor Lauren (Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org) or Pastor Tanya know.





“Whoever welcomes a child in My name, welcomes Me.”

- Luke 9:46-48.

Warmest wishes on your baptism and welcome to our community of faith, Coen & Kase

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church would like to welcome our new members!
Steve Bardell, Kathleen Clark, Lon Clark, Ron Muzzarelli & Tanya Muzzarelli, David Perez-Fernandez & Shannon Reagan!

Thank you all for your support, help, cooking & planning to make this an amazing Kirkin'! Special thank you to CoRPB for the beautiful pipes and drums!



On Sunday, November 6th we will observe **All Saints' Sunday** during worship. We will ring a bell for those who have passed away since last November - if there is a name you would like to have the bell rung for, please let Pastor Lauren know (or email the church office at Office@WillowCreekPC.org).

CHANGE FOR CHANGE We collect this special offering on the second Sunday of the month! Our Change for Change offering helped fund our Bed Build service project in June, and now this special offering is going toward our November service project of meal-packing with Rise Against Hunger.

Built Together

WE ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER BY GOD - HOW ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO BE A PART OF THIS HOLY DWELLING PLACE?

Fellowship

- Make coffee (once a month) for Fellowship after church
- Bring cookies/treats for Fellowship hour
- Participate in occasional opportunities like Silent Retreats
- Men's Coffee 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at Boone County Family Restaurant
- Women's Meet & Eat 1st Thursday at Sophia's Restaurant in Roscoe

Committees

- Worship & Music: 3rd Tue of each month @ 6pm
 - makes sure all parts of the Worship service are well planned and prepared (Communion, paraments, etc), decorates church for Advent, plans special worship services (Worship In the Park, etc)
- Buildings & Grounds: 3rd Tue of each month @ 8am
 - Cares for the church, manse, and grounds (yard work, painting, plumbing, etc)
- Christian Education: quarterly/as needed
 - Plans Sunday Sschool and other education opportunities for all ages
- Media: quarterly/as needed
 - Oversees the recording of the worship service and our church's Social Media presnce
- Finance/Personnel/Endowments: monthly, Sundays after worship
 - Receives monthly financial report, handles other financial decisions (such as use of endowment funds) and supports the Personnel of the church

Worship Leadership

- Liturgist - about once every other month
- Usher - about once per month
- Special Musician - a few times per year
- Choir - rehearse and sing once per month
- Handbell Choir - weekly rehearsals and occasional worship
- Acolytes - 4th - 8th graders, once per month

Nominated Opportunities

- Ordered Ministries:
 - Ruling Elder - Serve on the Session for a 3 year term, making decisions about the business and worship of the church
 - Deacon - serve a 3 year term, caring for the congregation and community
- Co-Financial Secretaries - count the offering and report and deposit It
- Bereavement Committee - coordinate receptions for funerals
- Nominating Committee - Invites folks to serve as Elders, Deacons, etc

Financial Pledge

- We build our budget off of your pledges - any amount you feel moved to give is a blessing to the church and to the wider community, as we seek to serve our neighbors.
- Giving as we are able to the church is an act of faith and discipleship. The amount you give is determined by prayer - a Biblical guideline is to tithe (10%), but some may be called to give more, and some may be called to give less.

Discipleship & Other Opportunities

- Adult Sunday School 9am
- Lenten Soup Study
- Book Clubs
- Vacation Bible School leader
- Sunday School teacher
- Help with youth group
- Mission Closet

"YOU ARE NO LONGER STRANGERS, BUT YOU ARE CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS AND ALSO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD, BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, WITH CHRIST JESUS AS THE CORNERSTONE. IN CHRIST THE WHOLE STRUCTURE IS JOINED TOGETHER AND GROWS INTO A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD; IN WHOM YOU ALSO ARE BUILT TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY INTO A DWELLING-PLACE FOR GOD." - EPH 2:19 - 22

**Please fill out and return to let us know how
you're interested in giving your time and talent
and your financial pledge for 2023:**

Name: _____

Preferred Contact Info: _____

How would you like to serve?

**Write any notes of ministries you're interested in
and how often you'd like to be involved
(weekly? monthly? occasionally?)**

**My financial commitment is \$ _____ per
week / month / year (circle one)**

----- **I would like info about Direct Deposit and
other electronic giving options**

----- **I will give my/our family's per capita
(\$42.00 per member for 2023)**