



December Streamer

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

DECEMBER 2022

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

Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

I was overjoyed on Sunday, November 20th, at our annual hamball potluck. It's worth remembering that we kept this tradition going *even* during Covid, thanks to some creative leaders who figured out how to make hamballs happen as a drive through! If ever there was a beloved tradition, it's this potluck.

Even so, you were willing to try something new which changed our experience of a favorite tradition. The Session discussed at length whether or not we should mess with the potluck, however there wasn't another good date for the Rise Against Hunger service project (think of how full our December Sundays get!) and we decided this congregation would feel that serving others is a worthy enough reason to let a tradition evolve.

I say you were willing, but I guess I don't know that for sure. Maybe you were hesitant to jump in on the meal packing. Maybe you were irritated, even a little hangry, having to work before enjoying one of your favorite meals of the year. All of those feelings are more than ok! Most of us do not find change, especially change to a beloved tradition, easy. But regardless of how you actually felt, you got to work! Side by side, we scooped, packed, weighed and sealed 10,584 meals! These meals will be sent around the world to folks suffering hunger for any number of reasons (famine, natural disaster, war, poverty) and enabling parents to feed their children, children to attend school, and families to feel nurtured and full.

My heart remains full of gratitude for all that we did together on the 20th. That day really symbolizes who Willow Creek is:

- *Ready to serve*: As soon as we walked downstairs from worship, you put on gloves and hair nets and got to work! Certainly this is who you are, following the light of Christ out of the sanctuary and into the world, and seeking opportunities to be the light of Christ for others.
- *Committed to our traditions*: we love our hymns, our liturgy, our beautiful and historic sanctuary, our favorite organ and handbell pieces, our familiar rhythm of doing things from worship to marking the seasons.
- *Willing to try something new*: but we do not love our traditions so much that we are trapped by them. You are willing to follow where the Spirit of God is leading and try new things

I'm grateful we were willing to try something new, and I've loved hearing how meaningful this experience was. Sometimes, the Spirit leads us to try new things that stick - and, sometimes, we learn that there are

other opportunities ahead of us to try next time. I'm always eager to hear what a new experience was like for you, so we can learn together as we listen to where God is leading us. Much like our Mission Closet, trying something new while remaining rooted in tradition is a posture of making ourselves available to where the Spirit of God may lead us.

In this Advent season of anticipation, we open ourselves to where the Spirit of God is leading, by walking the traditional, familiar path of beloved stories, carols and traditions. But we walk that path expecting it to feel different this year, expecting to meet God in a new and different way at the same old manger under the same old star.

Pastor Lauren



ADVENT 2022
SEASON OF
ETERNAL HOPE
**"COME, LET
US
WALK
IN THE
LIGHT
OF THE
LORD."**

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY, NOV. 27TH | 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT * COMMUNION |
| SUNDAY, DEC. 4TH | CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM |
| SUNDAY, DEC. 11TH | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT & COOKIE WALK |
| SUNDAY, DEC. 18TH | LESSONS & CAROLS |
| SATURDAY, DEC. 24TH | 5PM COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT |
| SUNDAY, DEC. 25TH | 10AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP & CAROLS |
| SUNDAY, JAN. 1ST | EPIPHANY * COMMUNION |

FALL 2022 WILLOW CREEK YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will meet on December 18th, 2022 at 11:15a for lunch & caroling.

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 678-230-7549 or Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org

Per Capita Please submit your Per Capita prior to December 1, 2022 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" tab 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

OCTOBER, 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE

October was an above average month for giving. Our expenses were average for the month and we are in the black for the first time this year. We are in the black just under \$200. Winter is coming and church expenses are going to rise. We expect snow removal and heating costs to be the largest expenses. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

| | 2022 | Year-to-Date |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$21,257.91 | \$142,828.68 |
| Expenses | \$12,396.02 | \$142,653.76 |
| Excess/(Deficit) | <hr/> \$8,861.89 | <hr/> \$174.92 |

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Our Annual Cookie Walk is Sunday, December 11th following worship! Bring your homemade baked goods to church on Friday, December 9th (between 8:30am and 3:30pm) (or bring them with you on Sunday morning). After worship on the 11th, you'll have the opportunity to put together your cookie box of items to go!

if you need to drop off your cookies at a different time, simply reach out to Pastor Lauren or Shannon to set up a time



All proceeds go to the *Families In Need* fund. This fund exists for any needs that arise for anyone in our church family. If you have or know of a need, let Pastor Lauren know.



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 at office@willowcreekpc.org or call, 815-885-3455 know!

DECEMBER CALENDAR

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Thursday 12/1 | 11:30a 6p | Ladies' Eat & Meet Sophia's Restaurant Bell Choir |
| Friday 12/2 | | <i>Poinsettia Orders Due!</i> |
| Sunday 12/4 | 9a 10a 11a | Adult Sunday School - Ruth with Pastor Tanya Worship: Children's Christmas Pageant Fellowship & Coffee |
| Tuesday 12/6 | 7p | CoRPB |
| Wednesday 12/7 | 9a | Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant |
| Thursday 12/8 | 6p | Bell Choir |
| Sunday 12/11 | 9a 10a 11a 11:15a | Adult Sunday School - Bathsheba with Pastor Lauren Worship - Third Sunday of Advent Fellowship & Cookie Walk B & G and Media Committee |
| Monday 12/12 | 10a | Deacon's Meeting |
| Tuesday 12/13 | 6p 7p | Pipe Band & Drumming CoRPB |
| Thursday 12/15 | 6p | Bell Choir |
| Sunday 12/18 | 9a 10a 11a 11:15a | Adult Sunday School - Tamar with Pastor Lauren Worship - Lessons & Carols Fellowship & Coffee Youth Group - Caroling |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| Monday 12/19 | 8a | Buildings & Grounds Argyle Preschool Winter Break 12/19-12/30 |
| Tuesday 12/20 | 6p 7p | Pipe Band CoRPB |
| Wednesday 12/21 | 9a | Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant |
| Saturday 12/24 | 5p | Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion with Willow Creek Ringers |
| Sunday 12/25 | 10a | Worship - Christmas Carols & Stories |



ARGYLE PRESCHOOL 2022-2023

December is an exciting time for all young children and it's no different at Argyle Preschool! The students will be traveling around the world to learn about holiday celebrations and traditions. Students will learn new games and songs and stamp their passports as we go. Our classroom dramatic play area will be turned into a gingerbread house, cookie factory and winter wonderland. As the month comes to a close we will have a small winter concert and celebrate the holiday season with our family friends.

As this year of learning comes to an end, all the staff and students of Argyle Preschool want to thank Willow Creek Presbyterian Church for their support of our program and activities.

Happiest holiday wishes to all and Happy New Year 2023!

GRATITUDE BAGS

Please write a note of thanks for each staff member and place it in their Gratitude Bag in the Fellowship Hall! The bags will be out each Sunday in December and given to the staff after December 26th, 2022.

Thank you!

- Finance/Personnel Committee



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 and Rise Against Hunger service projects.



A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY

Dear Willow Creek Friends,

Wow! December already...that's hard to believe. Here is the music for the Christmas Season:

Dec 4....Children's Christmas Program

Dec 11....Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto

Dec 18....Lessons and Carols, featuring bells, choir, and many fine Willow Creek Musicians

Dec 24....Christmas Eve, 5:00 special music by Willow Creek Musicians. Tom will play the organ.

Dec 25....Christmas Morning. I will play the piano.....some of your favorites.

All for now.

Liz



MITTEN TREE

Place your handmade or purchased hats, mittens, gloves and scarves on the Mitten Tree!

CHRISTMAS CARD TREE

Place a card for your church family on the tree located on the stairs going up to the Sanctuary!
Money you would have spent on postage is placed in the collection tin below the tree to be donated to Kemmerer Village.

Let's go play in the Snow!

Hello Again Willow Creek Friends & Family!

As of right now, Monday morning, November 28th, 2022 we have more than 18 items. There was another amazing donation over the weekend and I can't wait to dive in! Keep an eye on the Mission Closet door. The more snowflakes that are added, the more items we have.

I also started researching homemade hot chocolate in all different varieties! I can't wait!

Let's get these kids to play in the snow! ❄❄❄❄❄

Thank you! =) - Shannon

Sunday, January 8th
plan to stay after worship to help
undecorate the church



and enjoy our first
chili cook off

all are welcome to bring a chili to share
or just help with undecorating and
enjoy what others bring!

Stay tuned for what the prize will be - at *least* bragging rights!
In addition to a variety of delicious chilis, you'll have the opportunity to taste the meals we
packed for **Rise Against Hunger**.



Poinsettia Flowers not picked up prior to SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2022 will be delivered by the
church Deacons to the elderly & infirm.



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/>

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