



January Streamer

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

JANUARY 2023

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

Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

Happy New Year! A new year is, of course, an opportunity to make plans, make changes and make resolutions. This is a cultural practice that's difficult to resist. Commercials, displays at stores and social media ads all work together to convince us that we are flawed and in need of improvement.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to grow, change and learn. Indeed, we regularly confess that God is making all things new - even us. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

At a glance, this could be the bedrock of some New Year's Resolution-making. See? Everything... new!

But this verse does not say: “Everything *will* become new” or “Everything is *being* made new” or “Everything *would* be made new if you just worked a little harder.”

It says: “Everything **has become** new!” As in, it's all already done! There's nothing left to improve.

That is the fact of grace: in Christ, God sees us as wholly transformed. There is nothing left for us to change, improve or hide. It's simply *done*.

This fact of grace is often hard to believe. We are all too aware of areas of our lives we *wish* to improve - whether they fall into the categories of the most popular resolutions (some version of “be healthier” - work out more, eat less, restrict screen time, increase time outdoors, etc.) or not, we know dissatisfaction within our souls at what feels like a distance between the life of holiness we are called to and the life we are actually living.

So, yes, perhaps there are resolutions we could make that might help us become more aligned with who God has called us to be. But what if the motivation for those changes weren't so *that* we could become “good enough”, but because we have already been made new in Christ?

What if - instead of striving to be something more - we believe we're already good enough, because we're created in the image of a good God who has also chosen to make us new in Christ?

What if - instead of striving after some goal that is established by worldly measures - we “cease striving”, knowing that no matter what, God will be exalted (Psalm 46:10)?

What more do we long for, after all, than for God to be glorified - through our individual lives and through our church?

Happy New Year and resolve away! But always remember you have already been made new and are already beloved and accepted, just as you are. You have nothing to prove and nothing to improve - rather, we are called to simply *be*, to simply believe all that God has said - even about us - is true.

“Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted on the earth.”
- Psalm 46:10

Pastor Lauren

Thank you note from Church Staff

We want to thank everyone for your thoughtfulness, well wishes and Christmas joy! The wonderful gratitude bags with notes, cards, and gifts were so appreciated!

Thanks again!

Your WCPC Staff,

Tom Andrew, Stephanie Konen, Dianne Londo, Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli, Elizabeth O’Leary,
Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel, Riley Rankin, Shannon Reagan, Diane Van Vleet & Rachel Wolverton

Attention High School Seniors * The Flora McEachran Scholarship Fund -

If you are interested in applying for the Flora McEachran Scholarship, please submit a letter to the Clerk of Session (April Rottman). The letter should include a description of your plans following graduation. You may also wish to include information about yourself including activities, community service, etc. Please mail the letter to the church office (Clerk of Session, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, 7300 Belvidere Road, Caledonia, IL 61011) or email (aprilimp68@gmail.com). (Prior to the Scholarship disbursement, recipients chosen for the scholarship will need to show proof of enrollment in a course of basic study or training beyond high school.)

Chalking of the Doors

You are invited to take chalk home with you and join the ancient practice of chalking your doors for the New Year with CMB + 2023. The letters CMB stand for the names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) or the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this house). Here is a blessing as you chalk your doors:

God of doors and homes, bless this home this year and every year. Bless all who come and go through this door, both those who live here and those who visit. May all who enter through this door come in peace and bring joy. May all who come to this door find welcome and love. May the love and joy in this home overflow and spread into the community and the world. And may Jesus Christ watch over us all. Amen.

NEW OFFICER ORDINATION, INSTALLATION & TRAINING

On Sunday, January 29th, our new Elders and Deacons will be ordained and installed during our regular worship service at 10am. Make plans to join us in worship for this special occasion.

Following worship on the 29th, all currently serving Elders and Deacons are invited to Officer Training. We will have lunch together and pray and plan for the upcoming year. We will meet from 11:30am until no later than 2pm. If you cannot attend, please let Pastor Lauren know (Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org / 678-203-7549).

WINTER 2023 WILLOW CREEK YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Activity	Location
1/15	11:30-1:30	Board Games & Lesson (MLK) Lunch provided by Lee	Church
1/29	11:30-1:30	Movie (Rise) (Officer Training)	Church
2/12	11:30-1:30	Superbowl Theme	Church
2/24-25 2/26	5pm-5pm	"When Did We See You?" Youth & Young Adult Retreat; Lead worship Sunday	Stronghold
3/12	11:30-1:30	Games & Lesson	Church
4/7 (Good Friday)	8:30ish - ?	Stations of the Cross followed by breakfast	Downtown Rockford (meet at church)
4/23	11:30-1:30	Games & Lesson	Church
5/7	11:30-1:30	Games & Lesson	Church
5/21		Youth Sunday Ice Cream Sundae Fellowship	

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 (678-230-7549 or Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org).

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS

NOVEMBER, 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE

November was an above average month for giving. Our expenses were average for the month of November. We were in the black on the month about \$13,000. We are in the black for the year just under \$13,500.00. 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 our continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church!

	2022	Year-to-Date
Income	\$27,089.65	\$169,918.33
Expenses	\$13,794.32	\$156,448.08
Excess/(Deficit)	\$13,295.33	\$13,470.25



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!

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday 1/1		Happy New Year!!
	10a	Worship with Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli
	11a	Fellowship & Coffee
		Last day to pick up poinsettias!
Monday 1/2		Welcome Back Argyle Preschool!
Tuesday 1/3	6:30p	Session Meeting
Wednesday 1/4	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 1/5	11:30a	Ladies Meet and Eat at Sophia's Restaurant
	6p	Bell Choir
Sunday 1/8	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Undecorate the Church and Chili Cook Off
Wednesday 1/11	3:30p	Argyle Preschool Meeting

Thursday 1/12	6p	Bell Choir
Sunday 1/15	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship & Coffee
	11a	Media Committee Meeting
	11:15a	Youth Group
Monday 1/16		Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Church office closed <i>Argyle Preschool - No School</i>
Tuesday 1/17	8a	Building and Grounds Meeting
	6p	Music and Worship Meeting
	6p	Pipe Band
	7p	CoRPB
Wednesday 1/18	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 1/19	6p	Bell Choir
Sunday 1/22		<i>Streamer Article Information Due!</i>
	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship and Coffee
	11a	"Let's Go Play in the Snow!" with Nicole Difford as our guest & Hot Cocoa Bar
Tuesday 1/24	11a	F/P/E Meeting - Library
	6p	Pipe Band and Drumming
	7p	CoRPB
Thursday 1/26	6p	Bell Choir
Friday 1/27		<i>February Streamer sent out</i>
Sunday 1/29	10a	Worship
	11a	Coffee and Fellowship
	11:30a	Youth Group
	11:30a	New Officer Training
Tuesday 1/31	6p	Pipe Band & Drumming
	7p	CoRPB

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 in 2022, and will fund similar projects in 2023.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER 2023 SCHEDULE

January 8th, 15th & 22nd	February 12th, 19th & 26th
March 12th, 19th & 26th	April 2nd, 16th, 23rd



ARGYLE PRESCHOOL 2022-2023

Happy New Year! At Argyle Preschool we are excited to start learning about all things Winter. Snowman, snowflakes, ice skating, ice fishing and cookies with cocoa. To end this fun month of learning we will be having a Winter Warm Up celebration with game and activity stations centered around winter. Students are looking forward to trying snowman bowling, ice fishing and ice skating in our classroom. We will also be learning about animals who love winter and animals who hibernate.

Watch for the next newsletter for information about Argyle Preschool 2023-2024 School Year Registration. Current families will have a chance to register first. Students must be 3 years old and potty trained by September 1, 2023 to enroll.

For more information or if you have questions please email argylepreschool@willowcreekpc.org.



A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY

Hello Willow Creek Friends!

I wish to thank all of you who made music for our Christmas Services. It was beautiful. I was so PROUD of our church.

The line-up for special music in January is:

January 1: Elizabeth O'Leary, piano and voice
January 8: Tom Andrew, keyboard
January 13: Bryson O'Dell, tuba
January 22: Dan Holmes, voice and guitar
January 29: The Willow Creek Bell Choir

I would like our choir to sing two or three times between now and May. Watch the bulletin and Streamer for more information. We will have our first rehearsal sometime early in February. All interested singers are welcome.

Stay warm!

-Liz

Let's go
play in the
snow!



Hello Willow Creek Family!!

I sent out an invite to Nicole Difford, Principle of Capron Elementary, to see if she could come out personally to receive our collections. And she said yes!!

On January 22nd, 2023 for Fellowship and Coffee, she will be here, in person! This is also when we are going to do our hot cocoa bar. I just want to say thank you for your support in this Mission Closet. It will be open to donate gloves, boots, hats, scarves and snow pants. If last week didn't show us how cold it can get...

As I've said, I've seen this small church do some miraculous things, and we did! I'm so proud of our Church and its Church family!

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**.



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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