



February Streamer

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

FEBRUARY 2023

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

Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

Over a year ago, our amazing media team (Mike Landi, Annie Picken and David Perez Fernandez) made a request for their workspace to be updated. As soon as they asked, we thought: of course changes should be made! Technology and our congregation's needs have changed drastically since the current sound table was installed. The team has grown - because the job has grown. More space is certainly needed.

The team brought their ideas to the Buildings and Grounds committee, and these two groups of hard-working, committed, talented people collaborated to come up with a plan for a new recording platform. This platform will allow the media team to have a better view of the whole sanctuary as well as ensure that they can be more comfortable while they do their important work. An expanded workspace will allow for more volunteers to become involved with this ministry, and will ensure that we can more easily upgrade our technology as needed.

Session agreed that this work was necessary, and to clear the way for the process, approved of the removal of up to two pews from the back of the sanctuary.

We plan for these pews to be removed sometime this spring to make space for the new platform. Things will look different when you walk in our beloved sanctuary. That might feel exciting - an average of 50 folks watch our service online each week (with the views increasing to more than 100 on special Sundays like Easter). Especially since most churches spent a portion of 2020 solely worshiping online, a lot of people continue to choose to worship in that way. Some of our online worshipers are folks who used to worship regularly in person, but health concerns have made that no longer possible. We are grateful for them faithfully tuning in each week and the reminder that God's church is never restricted to the sanctuary.

The changes in the sanctuary might feel something besides exciting - there might be sadness with those changes; there might be some annoyance. All of those feelings are ok. While I wish no one ever felt anything negative about changes we make as a church, that's simply not available. You're entitled to feel whatever it feels like when you walk in and see missing pews. I'm sure my own feelings about it will be mixed.

But these are the things I hold on to:

- Gratitude for being Presbyterian - in the Presbyterian church, big decisions are never made by one individual. This decision was made by not one but *two* committees bringing a proposal to Session, who then discussed it at length before voting. It wasn't an easy decision, but I trust the folks who made it because they are the ones God has called to lead our congregation at this time.

- The motivation for these changes is the ongoing commitment to make sure worship is accessible for all *and* to make sure the online worship experience is as excellent as possible. These are good concerns from the media committee. And then, the guys who work the hardest to ensure our church remains beautiful and functional - our Buildings and Grounds committee - are the ones who are overseeing this project. While we all love the beauty of our sanctuary, they are most invested in maintaining it. I trust the motivations and judgements of everyone on these two committees.
- God's church will always persist - no one loves the church more than God, and while our steps forward as we follow God's leading might feel uncomfortable at times, we place our trust in and are comforted by the One who has proved faithful in the past, is present with us now, and who knows our future.

We welcome any questions from the congregation about these positive changes to support our shared ministry. There will be a **Q&A** opportunity during **Fellowship Hour on Sunday, February 19th** in the back of the Sanctuary. Representatives from the Media Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee (David Perez Fernandez, Annie Picken and John Reid) will be present to describe the coming changes and answer any questions you may have.

Finally, we will need to find new homes for the pews that are removed. If you have any interest in a pew or any ideas of what can be done with them, please let me know!

Pastor Lauren

Attention High School Seniors * The Flora McEachran Scholarship Fund

It's not too late to apply! Let Pastor Lauren or April Rottman know if you want more info!

January 29th was a day of celebration as we welcomed our new officers and all of our Elders and Deacons met to plan the upcoming year of ministry.

Thank you to all who serve:

Session

Class of 2023: Janet Hyland, Steve Paulson, Karli Rankin

Class of 2024: Abby Guthrie, Lucas Greenlee, April Rottman (Clerk)

Class of 2025: Jeff Cummings, Rebekah Landi, Katherine Ralston

Diaconate

Class of 2023: Renee O'Dell, Nancy Peterson

Class of 2024: Gyneth Lamont, Carolyn J. Wheeler

Class of 2025: Mary Beth Gratz, David Perez Fernandez

ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2023

The Session calls the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle, to be held on Sunday, February 12th, 2023, following the worship service for the purpose of receiving the 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Budget and to approve the co-financial secretary position.

WINTER 2023 WILLOW CREEK YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Activity	Location
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	8:30ish - ?	Good Friday 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	



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP & TREATS

Can you sign up to **bring treats** for Fellowship & Coffee one Sunday? There are lots of openings this spring - please pick a Sunday to bring cookies or other goodies for after church.

Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or by emailing or calling the church office (Office@WillowCreekPC.org / 815-885-3455)

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).

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER 2023 SCHEDULE

February 12th, 19th & 26th	April 2nd, 16th, 23rd
March 12th, 19th & 26th	May Schedule coming soon.

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on February 22nd**. On Ash Wednesday, we will offer “**drive through**” **ashes** in the parking lot from **9am - 9:30am and 5pm - 5:30pm**. The **sanctuary will be open all day for contemplation and prayer**. Stations will be set up throughout the sanctuary to invite worshippers into the season of Lent with activities that help us focus on God’s presence. These activities are designed for all ages (and so, it may not be a silent space if younger worshipers are present!).

Bread Stories



WCPC Lent 2023

Ash Wednesday worship is at 6pm. This is a simple service that includes an opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes.

**Ash Wednesday, February 22nd:
Drive-Thru Ashes 9am - 9:30am & 5pm - 5:30pm**

Sanctuary Open for Contemplation 9am - 5:30pm

Worship with Imposition of Ashes 6pm

During this holy season, we will focus on Scripture’s “**Bread Stories**”. We will walk toward the cross accompanied by stories of God providing sustenance for our journeys. The “bread story” that is preached on each Sunday will be the

focus of our discussion at our **Wednesday evening Lenten Soup (and Bread!) Study**. We meet at **5:30pm** for a simple shared meal, fellowship and study. You do not have to come each week – choose which stories are most interesting to you, or come when your schedule allows! We will meet on **Wednesdays in March (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th) from 5:30pm - 7pm**.

For **adult Sunday school during Lent** we will discuss the **Lenten devotional**. This year’s devotional is focused on the beloved hymn **Amazing Grace**, which is 250 years old this year! We meet on **Sundays at 9am** in the Library.

Looking ahead to Holy Week:

Palm Sunday - April 2nd: Worship with Handbell Choir, Palm Processional and Pastor Tanya preaching

Maundy Thursday - April 6th - **Potluck and Communion Service** in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm

Good Friday - April 7th - Stations of the Cross with Rockford Urban Ministries

Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery 8am

Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt at Willow Creek 9am

Worship in the Sanctuary 10am

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS

DECEMBER, 2022 YEAR-TO-DATE

December was an above average month for giving. Our Expenses were above average for the month of December. We were in the black on the month about \$8,000. We are in the black for the year just under \$21,500.00. Winter is here and church expenses are going to be high. 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	\$24,549.71	\$194,468.04
Expenses	\$16,565.95	\$173,014.03
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Excess/(Deficit)	\$7,983.76	\$21,454.01

ANOTHER CHANCE TO SUPPORT CAPRON ELEMENTARY!

We had such a wonderful time collecting snow gear for the kids at Capron, and now we have a chance to support the teachers! On **Thursday, February 16th** we get to **provide a meal** for the Capron Elementary staff. This is one of their Parent/Teacher conference days which means a very long work day for everyone, so a little TLC in the form of food will be much appreciated!

Be on the lookout for details if you want to help with this - we'll need folks to bring food to the church, and then a couple of drivers to help deliver it at 2:45 on Thursday, Feb. 16th.

Mark your calendars for 2/16 and stay tuned!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Wednesday 2/1	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 2/2	11:30a 6p	Ladies Meet and Eat at Sophia's Family Restaurant Bell Choir
Sunday 2/5	8:45a 9a 10a 10:30a 11a 11:30a	Choir Rehearsal Adult Sunday School Worship Children's Sunday School Fellowship & Coffee Deacons Meeting
Tuesday 2/7	5:30p 6:30p 7p	Presbytery Meeting on Zoom Session Meeting CoRPB
Thursday 2/9	6p	Bell Choir
Sunday 2/12	9a 10a 10:30a 11a 11:30a	Adult Sunday School Worship Children's Sunday School Fellowship and Coffee Annual Meeting Youth Group
Monday 2/13		Argyle Preschool Friendship Party
Tuesday 2/14		Happy Valentine's Day

	6p 7p	Pipe Band and Drumming CoRPB
Wednesday 2/15	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 2/16	2:45p 6p	Capron Elementary lunch delivery Bell Choir
Sunday 2/19	9a 10a 10:30a 11a	Adult Sunday School Worship Children's Sunday School Fellowship and Coffee; Q&A with Media and Buildings and Grounds Committees about the new platform (in the back of the sanctuary)
Tuesday 2/21	8a 6p 7p	Building and Grounds Meeting Worship and Music Meeting Pipe Band and Drumming CoRPB
Wednesday 2/22	9a-9:30a 9a-5:30a 5p-5:30p 6p	Drive Thru Ashes Sanctuary open for prayer and compilation Drive Thru Ashes Worship
Thursday 2/23	6p	Bell Choir
Friday 2/24	5p	No Argyle Preschool! Youth & Young Adult Retreat to Stronghold (through Saturday 2/25)
Sunday 2/26	9a 10a 10:30a 11a	Adult Sunday School Youth Group and Young Adults Lead Worship - First Sunday of Lent Children's Sunday School Fellowship and Coffee
Tuesday 2/28	6p 7p	Pipe Band and Drumming CoRPB






Easter is on its way! Be on the lookout for order forms for Easter Lilies!

Let's go play in the snow!

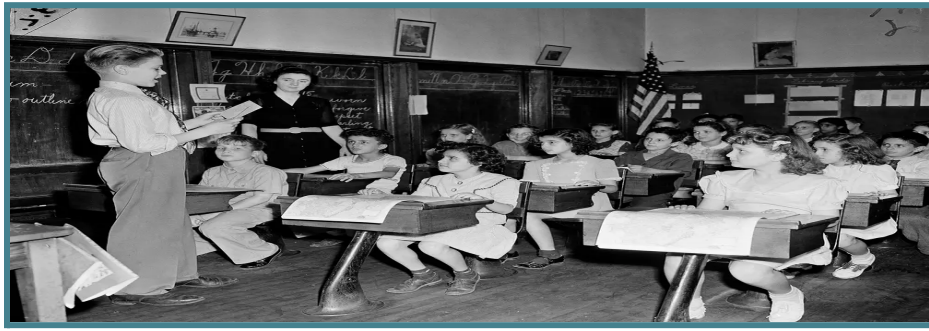
Hello Willow Creek Friends and Family!

I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for all their help and support for our very first Mission Closet Drive! Everyone kept coming up and thanking me for doing this, however the truth is, we all did this. Phil Jackson once said, "The strength of the team is each member. The strength of each member is the team." I think that can definitely be said about a church and its members! Thank you again! -Shannon

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle
@willowcreekpc

Check out the latest photos and events on our Facebook and Instagram pages!
<https://www.facebook.com/willowcreekpc>
<https://www.instagram.com/willowcreekpcargyle/>



ARGYLE PRESCHOOL 2022-2023

We have been enjoying learning about all things winter the past few weeks and we're so excited to finally have some snow to play in. February is a busy and exciting time in our school. We start the month off with an exciting Groundhog Day Celebration filled with art activities, songs, predictions and science experiments with shadows. Right after that we will be celebrating our 50th day of preschool with a sock hop event filled with fun throwbacks to the 1950's. Let's see what the students think a record player is? The rest of the month will be spent learning about kindness and what it means to be a great friend as well as how to be kind to our bodies. We have some special guests coming to our room to teach us how to keep our teeth and bodies healthy and strong.

Registration is right around the corner for next year! Current families will register the week of March 6th. Returning families and church members will have a chance to register the following week. Information can be found in the fellowship hall or by calling the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Office.



A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY

Hello Willow Creek Friends!

I wish to thank all who sent me greetings and gifts in my Christmas bag. They were all much appreciated. I feel so proud of the music we have here at Will Creek. Being Music Director here is a real blessing in my life.

Here we are in February...not my favorite month. However, we have been lucky with the weather so far, and the days are getting longer, which always makes me feel better.

Our special music for February is as follows:

February 5....Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto

February 12....Renee O'Dell, soprano

February 19....Mandy Nelson, flute, with Dianne Londo, piano

February 26...Guest organist Deborah Dunnavan

The choir will rehearse on February 5 at 8:45. At that rehearsal, we will discuss dates for following rehearsals.

Here are the Sundays we will be singing:

March 19, Worship

April 9, Palm Sunday (special processional only) more news on this later

April 16, Easter Sunday

One more Sunday in May most likely, TBA

If you can commit to any or all of these dates, please come to choir or let me know when you are available.

All for now! Stay warm! -Liz

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

Lon & Kathy Clark

Jim & Delores Hall

Steve & Dayle Paulson

Lee Pickett

John & Kim Reid

Ed & April Rottman

A NOTE FROM GENE WHEELER:

I am writing to inform everyone of my heart issues and what is pending. My doctors have given me a very thorough exam - they even went in and looked at all the bypasses I had done in 2001. The report is that all my previous surgeries are in good condition.

But, they are concerned that my heart murmur (which is a birth defect), is now my biggest problem. When the heart forces blood to my lungs, the valve does not function properly. A big percent of the blood returns back into my heart. The big risk is blood clots, and I need a procedure to fix it.

This operation will be done in Janesville. After a couple more consultations, the surgery will be scheduled. Until that happens, I need to stay healthy and not get Covid. This is why Carolyn and I must be careful, stay home as much as I can, and not see too many folks. But any calls are immensely appreciated

Thank you all for your concerns and prayers. I still need a few more. Not sure when my next post will be.

Love you all! -Gene Wheeler

DEAR CONGREGATION,

My family and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of your support, kindness and love during Barb's/GG 94th Birthday. We were filled with joy to see Mom/GG so happy at her Tea Party held at the church.



Indeed, you revealed the true foundation of this church!

May the grace of the Lord be with you all.

The Muzzarelli Family

