



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle  
7300 Belvidere Road  
Caledonia, Illinois 61011  
815-885-3455  
**MARCH 2023**

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

## March Streamer

Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

I love the season of Lent - full of promise, fully rooted in the reality of a spring that is emerging. It's *almost* here, but not quite. In the words of one of mine and Liz's favorite hymns, *Hymn of Promise*:

*In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree,  
in cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

These words capture the wonder of Lent's promise, witnessed in the natural beauty of spring.

The thing I love about these promises is that there is beauty before fulfillment. The bulb is a wonder all its own, even before the flower unfurls. The seed that later becomes an apple tree enjoys many, many seasons of growth and goodness before the first fruit. Cocoons are divine mysteries tucked away in common bushes and trees - how does such a fragile thing provide protection? And even as we weary of cold and ice, we can't deny the peace of a hushed world covered in blankets of snow. The invitation of Lent is to experience the messy inbetween of what *is*, even while looking ahead with hope to what *will be*. This Lent, one of the ways we'll explore that messy inbetween is with Scripture about bread.

*Jesus said: I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never go hungry...* (John 6:35). We claim this strange statement to be true, and we claim something about the broken body of Christ when we break the bread of Communion, and bread shows up again and again as a reminder of God's love, provision and promise throughout the Bible. For the next several weeks we will study some of these stories, holding the question brought up by *Hymn of Promise*: what are we waiting on, and what beauty is present while we wait? What does this tiny piece of bread represent, and how does it connect to the whole loaf? What encouragement do I find at the Communion table, and how does it shape my life of faith?

Throughout Lent, we will continue our tradition of meeting for our weekly Soup Study where we share a simple meal and have Bible study. This year's topic will be the previous Sunday's "bread story". Here is our (tentative) schedule of "Bread Stories" for the season of Lent:

Sunday, March 5th & Wednesday March 8th - **Exodus 16:1-36** - *Manna in the Wilderness*  
Sunday, March 12th & Wednesday March 15th - **1 Kings 17:2-24** - *the Widow of Zarephath*  
Sunday, March 19th & Wednesday, March 22nd - **John 6:1-15** - *Feeding the Multitude*  
Sunday, March 26th & Wednesday, March 29th - **Exodus 12:1-14** - *Festival of Unleavened Bread*  
Sunday, April 2nd (Palm Sunday) - **Matthew 21:1-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66** - *Palms & Passion*  
Thursday, April 6th (Maundy Thursday) - **Genesis 18:1-8, John 13:1-17, 31b-35** - *Last Supper*  
Sunday, April 9th (Easter) - **Luke 24:1-49** - *On the Road to Emmaus*

Join us for Bread Stories this Lent!  
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!

**MISSION CLOSET UPDATE!**

This spring, our **Young Adults** (Sara Rottman, Hailey Monroe, Katie Monroe, Kylie Monroe and Riley Rankin) are leading our next **Mission Closet Drive**. They have decided to focus on basic items that many of us take for granted, but many folks in our community and across the world desperately need: **toiletries**. This drive will kick off on **Sunday, March 5th**. Be on the lookout for specific items to bring in and who we are collecting those items for.



**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT!**

The Studio - a Rockford based theater company - is putting on "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" this spring. We have purchased a group of tickets for the matinee performance on Sunday, March 12th at 2pm. If you would like to purchase a ticket and go as a group, let Lauren or Shannon ([office@WillowCreekPC.org](mailto:office@WillowCreekPC.org)) know! Tickets are \$11 each (for all ages). We will sell our group tickets on a first come/first serve basis, but if we run out, you may be able to purchase your own through their website. Or, if you're interested in the show but can't join us on Sunday, March 12th, check out the other show times that weekend (<https://tickets.thestudiorockford.com>). I hope you can join us for this fun afternoon of fellowship!

**WINTER 2023 WILLOW CREEK YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE**

Date	Time	Activity	Location
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	

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER 2023 SCHEDULE**

March 12th, 19th & 26th	April 2nd, 16th, 23rd
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## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP & TREATS

Can you sign up to **bring treats** for Fellowship & Coffee one Sunday? There's 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-Email or Call the church office 815-885-3455 [Office@WillowCreekPC.org](mailto:Office@WillowCreekPC.org)

## MARCH CALENDAR

Wednesday 3/1	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 3/2	11:30a 6p	Ladies Meet and Eat at Sophia's Family Restaurant Bell Choir
Sunday 3/5	9a 10a 10:30a 11a 11:30a	Mission Closet for Toiletries Start! Adult Sunday School Worship - Communion (Modified Intinction) Children's Sunday School Fellowship & Coffee Deacons Meeting
Tuesday 3/7	6:30p	Session Meeting
Wednesday 3/8	5:30p-7p	Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 3/9	6p	Bell Choir
Sunday 3/12	9a 10a 10:30a 11a 11:30a  2p	<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins!</i> Adult Sunday School Worship - Communion (Modified Intinction) Children's Sunday School Fellowship and Coffee Youth Group Media Committee <b>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</b> at The Studio
Tuesday 3/14	6p 7p	Pipe Band and Drumming CoRPB
Wednesday 3/15	9a 5:30p-7p	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 3/16	6p	Bell Choir
Friday 3/17		<i>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</i>
Sunday 3/19	9a 10a 10:30a 11a	Adult Sunday School Worship - Communion (Modified Intinction) Children's Sunday School Fellowship and Coffee F/P/E Committee

Tuesday 3/21                      8a                      Building and Grounds Meeting  
    Pipe Band and Drumming  
    CoRPB

Wednesday 3/22                      *Streamer Articles Due!*  
    Argyle Preschool Committee  
    Lenten Soup Study

Thursday 3/23                      6p                      Bell Choir

Friday 3/24                      *Easter Flower Orders Due!*

Sunday 3/26                      9a                      Adult Sunday School  
    10a                      Worship - Communion (Modified Intinction)  
    10:30a                      Children's Sunday School  
    11a                      Fellowship and Coffee

Monday 3/27                      Argyle Preschool Spring Break starts through the 31st

Tuesday 3/28                      6p                      Pipe Band and Drumming  
    Worship and Music Meeting  
    7p                      CoRPB

Thursday 3/30                      6p                      Bell Choir



## **HOLY WEEK NOTES**

**Palm Sunday** - Sunday school Stations of the Cross (will be up for all of Holy Week),  
 Worship Sunday, April 2nd at 10am - Handbells, Palm Processional and Pastor Tanya preaching

**Maundy Thursday** April 6th @ 6pm - Plan to join us for a potluck and simple communion service on Maundy Thursday (April 6<sup>th</sup>) at 6:00 p.m.

**Good Friday** April 7th - all are invited to join the youth as we participate in Rockford Urban Ministries' Annual Stations of the Cross Walk through Rockford. We will meet around 8:30a to carpool into Rockford - reach out to Lauren for more info and to let her know you're attending!

**Easter Sunday** April 9th - 8am Sunrise Service at the Chapel (led by the youth)  
 Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (provided by Session)  
 Easter Egg Hunt for the little ones!  
 10am Worship - Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

***Lenten devotionals are available at church.***

Save the date! On **Friday, May 19th**, **Dan Holmes** will give a **concert** at our church (in the back parking lot if the weather is nice!). Dan is traveling to **Scotland** in May and will visit our **sister church** in Campbeltown (formerly called Lorne & Lowland Church, but it has merged and changed names). Then, he will return to us and share his experience in Scotland with us through songs and stories. Stay tuned for more details!





## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

During the season of Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with "those who have least" — that's how Matthew 25 puts it — and that's what *One Great Hour of Sharing* is all about. Connecting.

Our gifts provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

We will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday (April 2nd). There will be info in your bulletins on how to give to this special offering.

## **SESSION SUMMARY**

Session met on Tuesday, February 1st for our regularly scheduled monthly discussion. A great deal of time was spent outlining our goals and our approach for mission (giving). To ensure focused execution on these goals, a sub-committee was formed and will meet quarterly to plan and prioritize our work.

Session also discussed Per Capita and agreed WCPC funds will not be used to cover our member Per Capita obligations to the Presbytery. As a result the February Streamer required correction, noting we would distribute Per Capita donations quarterly based on donations that have voluntarily been provided by the members.

## **WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS**

JANUARY 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE

January was an above average month for giving. Our Expenses were above average for the month of January. We expect snow removal and heating costs to be the largest expenses for the church over the next few months. We were in the red on the month/year about \$2,500.00. Giving is trending upward compared to previous years. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	2023	Year-to-Date
Income	\$14,431.48	\$14,431.48
Expenses	\$16,893.74	\$16,893.74
Excess/(Deficit)	<hr/> \$(2,462.26)	<hr/> \$(2,462.26)



### **A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY**

Hello Willow Creek Friends.

The Season of Lent is upon us. Here is the outline for special music this Lent:

March 5....Joyce Zartman, bells, and Bill Zartman, violin

March 12...Lucas Greenlee, pipes

March 19...Willow Creek Choir

March 26....Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto

Choir will rehearse on March 12, rehearse and sing on March 19 and possibly rehearse on March 26. Mark your calendars! We will sing the processional on Palm Sunday and also sing for the Easter Service. Then we will get a break and plan our future activities.

All for now.

Liz



### **ARGYLE PRESCHOOL 2022-2023**

This month at Argyle Preschool, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and Read Across America Week! Did you know that many of the skills we learn at Argyle Preschool will help our students become great readers?

We will end the month with our dinosaur unit. How many preschoolers can we fit in a t-rex footprint?

Registration for our 2023-2024 school year is underway for current families and will be open until Friday March 10th. Registration for former families and church members will begin Monday March 13th. New family enrollment will begin March 20th. If you would like to make an appointment to register or schedule a tour, please call the church office during regular business hours. Tours will be available by appointment only Sunday March 12th and Sunday March 19th 2pm to 5pm.

Students enrolling for the 2023-2024 year need to be 3 years old by September 1st and must be potty trained. We would appreciate it if you share this information with your family and friends. Informational fliers will be available in the Fellowship Hall. Thank You! - Ms. Rachel

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

### MISSION CLOSET UPDATE

One of the most wonderful things about our church is a generous spirit and desire to serve!

Our **Mission Steering Committee** is made up of Pastor Lauren, Pastor Tanya, April Rottman (Elder), Mary Beth Gratz (Deacon) and Sandy Bell (congregation at large). (We would love to add one more member of the congregation to this Steering Committee - let Pastor Lauren know if you're interested!) This Committee oversees the work of our Mission Closet and brings suggestions to Session for service projects and giving opportunities. At our February Session meeting, the following suggestions from the Mission Steering Committee were approved:

- Continue to participate in the following PCUSA Special Offerings: *One Great Hour of Sharing* (Palm Sunday, April 2nd), *Pentecost* (May 28th) (40% remains in congregation), *Peace & Global Witness* (October 1) (25% remains with congregation), *Christmas Joy* (during Advent)
- Service Projects:
  - Casseroles for Capron - February
  - Bed Build - **Saturday, June 10th**
  - Respite Tent at the Boone County Fair - **August 8th - 13th**
  - Rise Against Hunger - **Sunday, Nov 19th**
- Mission Closet - **our Young Adults are leading our spring Mission Drive to collect much needed toiletry items!**

*Mark these dates on your calendars and be on the lookout for more details for each of these opportunities!*



#### Update from Gene Wheeler:

Gene is recovering from his heart valve replacement. The procedure went perfectly and recovery is going well so far. He is grateful for everyone's prayers and concern, and is eager to get back to church as soon as he can. Thank you so much for continuing to pray and reach out with encouragement.

#### Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

We are so grateful for your kindness and understanding when we lost our beloved dog, Henry. He was part of my life for 14 years (including a career change, a couple of cross-country moves, and the transition from single to married to baby!). He was the most faithful friend and I am grateful for so many years and wonderful memories with him. He loved being the manse dog (and occasionally the office dog!) here, and I treasure those peaceful memories from his last few years. It meant so much to us that y'all sent cards and offered kind words and understanding. Thank you for being such a wonderful church family.

- Pastor Lauren, Scott & Emmett



### **EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM**

Would you like to order an Easter Flower in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person?  
 Easter Flowers will be \$11.85 each. You may donate or take your flower(s) home on Easter Sunday. Please fill out this form and turn it into the office or mail it in to the church.

***The deadline to order is March 24th, 2023.***

Daffodil, Hyacinth, Lily and/or Tulip \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_

*\*NOTE: Please write anything below as you wish to appear in the bulletin.*

In Loving Memory of

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In Honor of

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Donor name(s):

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Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church and on the memo line, put "Easter Flower".

Thank you! =)



