



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

**APRIL 2023**

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

Dear Willow Creek Church Family,

Last night at our Lenten Soup Study, we went around the table and each person shared their own description of what happens when we celebrate Communion. This question came from our study of John 6:1-14, when Jesus feeds the multitude with five small barley loaves and two small fish. Just before Jesus distributes the bread, he gives thanks for it, and giving thanks is something we always do when we celebrate the Sacrament of Communion.

These are some of the descriptions of what happens at the communion table folks gave last night: fresh start, ritual, community, sacrifice, broken, poured out, feeding, celebration, salvation, remembering that Christ died.

We agreed that no one answer is sufficient - that we need all of these ideas to try to make sense of what's happening at the Communion table. The sacraments are a divine mystery. They're an opportunity for us to touch something very "earthy", very common: water in Baptism, bread and cup in Communion. But the common thing is always set apart in the sacrament for a holy use. St. Augustine wrote that the sacraments are "visible signs of invisible grace." I love this quote not only because it centers us on grace, but also because it reveals that even a great, prolific theologian struggled to make sense of what happens at the table and the font.

So much of our lives of faith are played out in this very space: where we are holding something common and suddenly become aware that it represents something holy. Whether it is the elements of the sacraments in our hands or something else - a tool we use for our work, a hand of a loved one that we hold, an instrument that you make music with, a book that connects you with another's way of thinking, a vegetable that is being transformed into a meal, a leaf that promises spring. The ritual of our sacraments reminds us that every common thing can become sacred and that divinity is present in each one of us.

Each week of Lent we have explored a different "bread story" - a different moment in scripture when a common food became the message of divine presence and provision. My hope as we complete our lenten journey and turn our hearts toward the season of Easter is that we can carry this "sacramental" way of seeing, touching and tasting with us. Where might we experience God when we remember to give thanks for the common things that we touch?

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!

**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 - Community Worship Service at Old Stone Church (101 E. Union Street  
Rockton)

**Easter Sunday** April 9th - 8am Sunrise Service at the Chapel (led by the Young Adults)  
Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (provided by Session)

Easter Egg Hunt for the little ones!

10am Worship - Alleluia! Christ is Risen!



**SAVE THE DATE!** - Vacation Bible School will be June 19-22 from 9:00a-12:00p at Willow Creek. The  
registration fee is \$10 for the week with a \$30 family maximum. We welcome any Preschool  
through 6th graders to join us for a **WILD** adventure!

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

April 2nd, 16th, 23rd

**WINTER 2023 WILLOW CREEK YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE**

Date	Time	Activity	Location
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	

## APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday 4/2	10a	Worship - Palm Processional (Pastor Tanya preaching)
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship and Coffee
	11:30a	Deacon's Meeting
Monday 4/3		<i>Welcome back Argyle Preschool!</i>
Wednesday 4/5	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 4/6		<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
	11:30a	Ladies Meet and Eat at Sophia's Restaurant
	6p	Potluck and Simple Communion Service
Friday 4/7		<i>Good Friday</i>
	3:00pm	Community Worship Service at Old Stone Church (101 E. Union Street Rockton)
Saturday 4/8		<i>Holy Saturday</i>
		Chapel at Argyle Cemetery Open for Prayer and Contemplation
Sunday 4/9		<i>Easter Sunday</i>
	8a	Sunrise Service at Chapel
		Breakfast in Fellowship Hall provided by Session
		Easter Egg Hunt
	10a	Worship
Thursday 4/13	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 4/16	9a	Adult Sunday School
	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship and Coffee
Tuesday 4/18	8a	Buildings and Grounds Meeting
	6p	Pipe Band & Drumming
	6p	Worship and Music Committee
	7p	CoRPB
Wednesday 4/19	9a	Men's Coffee at Sophia's Family Restaurant
Thursday 4/20	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 4/23	9a	Adult Sunday School
	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship and Coffee
	11:30a	Youth Group
Tuesday 4/25		<i>Pastor Lauren on Vacation - Friday, May 12th, 2023</i>
	6p	Pipe Band and Drumming

	7p	CoRPB
Thursday 4/27	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 4/30	9a	Adult Sunday School
	10a	Worship (Pastor Tanya preaching)
	11a	Fellowship and Coffee

Pastor Lauren will be on **vacation** from Tuesday, April 25th - Friday, May 12th. For any pastoral care emergencies, please reach out to Pastor Tanya, our Clerk of Session April Rottman, or Deacon Chair Mary Beth Gratz. Pastor Tanya will lead worship on April 30th and May 7th.

Pastor Tanya Cell: 815-509-3887 or email: [hoperref@yahoo.com](mailto:hoperref@yahoo.com)

April Rottman Cell: 815-978-6504 or email: [e\\_rottman@yahoo.com](mailto:e_rottman@yahoo.com)

Mary Beth Gratz Cell: 815-575-0818 or email: [mbgratz@gmail.com](mailto:mbgratz@gmail.com)



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

Summary of the regular meeting of the Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle on March 7th, 2023. The meeting opened at 6:30pm with a devotion and prayer. A quorum was declared.

The consent agenda was approved as stated. Moved, seconded and approved to use Memorial Funds from Sue & Dick Brick, and/or, Marge Abels for the Communion Table Pad Extender. Pastor Lauren will discuss this with the interested parties.

Moved, seconded and approved to remove Nicole & Jonathan Kenney from the rolls per their request.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:33pm.

### WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS

#### 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE

February was an average month for giving. Our Expenses were slightly above average for the month. 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 year about \$3,900.00. Giving is trending upward compared to previous years. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church!

	2023	Year-to-Date
Income	\$12,706.87	\$27,138.35
Expenses	\$14,129.26	\$31,023.00
Excess/(Deficit)	<u>\$(1,422.39)</u>	<u>\$(3,884.65)</u>

### **DAN HOLMES CONCERT!**

Our friend Dan Holmes is traveling to Scotland this spring! He will visit our sister church there. Then we will host a "homecoming" concert for him the evening of Friday, May 19th!

Be on the lookout for more details!



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

Hello Willow Creek Friends!

I saw my first robin of the spring hopping along yesterday. Easter is almost here and there is some wonderful music lined up:

**April 2nd**-Palm Sunday: Willow Creek Bell Choir with special assistance by Willow Creek Sanctuary Choir. Piano and Organ duet by Dianne Londo and Tom Andrew.

**April 9th**-Easter Sunday: Willow Creek Sanctuary Choir with special assistance by Bell Choir and Mandy Nelson, flute. Tom Andrew at the Organ.

**April 16th**-Tom Andrew on the keyboard.

**April 23rd**-Elizabeth O'Leary, contralto.

**April 30th**-Elizabeth O'Leary on the keyboard.

*Spring is here! He is risen! Alleluia! -Liz*



### **ARGYLE PRESCHOOL**

It's hard to believe we have 2 months left in our school year! We start the month of April learning about spring and weather. We will finish the month learning about community helpers and having visits from police, fire, doctors and dentists. For the remainder of the school year we will be celebrating with an ABC countdown. We will review our letters while having a fun activity and complete a handprint alphabet book as a keepsake. We have had so much fun playing in the snow but are ready for spring! In the coming weeks check out our outdoor play area as we have new things and make some improvements. Thanks as always for your support of Argyle Preschool and we hope you enjoy the sunshine as much as we do!



### **MISSION CLOSET UPDATE!**

Our spring **Mission Closet Drive** (led by the Young Adults) is to collect basic items that many of us take for granted, but many folks in our community and across the world desperately need: **toiletries**. More information on what is needed and our progress is available in the Fellowship Hall. We will be collecting these items until Easter (April 9th).



### **EGGS-CITING EASTER EGG HUNT**

Easter Morning at 9:30 a.m. – Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for our Eggs-citing Easter Egg Hunt, which is geared for children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. and then hop outside for an eggs-cellent time hunting for eggs (if it's bad weather, we'll hunt inside). We have baskets to collect eggs, but feel free to bring your own!



On behalf of the family of Barb Muzzarelli, we would like to express our gratitude to Pastor Lauren for providing a wonderful memorial service. Thanks to all who gave of their time, talents, prayers and cards during our time of grief. Our family was overwhelmed by your support and prayers.

Your kindness at our time of need will always be treasured by our family. We thank God for allowing us to be members of this church.

-Ron and Tanya Muzzarelli

### **MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

For more information about our staff and volunteers, visit our website.

The Church Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30am - 3pm. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the church office.

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