



**Willow Creek Presbyterian Church
Of Argyle**

7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011
815-885-3455

MAY 2023

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

You never know who is going to come through our church doors.

A few weeks ago, a car pulled up and a gentleman we didn't recognize got out and came to the door holding an envelope. Shannon greeted him, and he launched into this story:

“I grew up nearby, and one summer morning, a friend and I rode our bikes over, and were just fooling around, being kids. Just for fun, we decided to check the doors, and as luck would have it, they were unlocked. It felt like an adventure to just come in and have a look around. No one was here and we had a great time exploring, half scared to death thinking we would get caught. Well, we found some stamps and quarters by the office. We took them. I don't know why, it was just something dumb for a couple of bored kids to do. Felt thrilling then, but it's bothered me all these years. Anyway, I was just back in the area, and I've been wanting to make this right, so, here.”

He handed her the envelope, which was full of stamps and quarters. She thanked him and he left.

I love that one long-ago summer day our church was open for a couple of kids to find an adventure. I love that they had the chance to make a mistake here - a small one, I doubt that anyone ever noticed those stamps and quarters were gone, and even if the loss was noticed, it would have been quickly, easily replaced. I wouldn't have wanted this man to be burdened with guilt over his childish impulsive choice all of these years, and still, I love that he felt the freedom to return here and make things right.

This encounter reminds me once again that this building represents something to people - to each of us, yes, and also to folks we may never meet. So many people use our church as a landmark - it represents a memory or marks the distance on a drive. Perhaps it reminds them of another church, somewhere. It evokes some notion of sacredness and divinity.

This church is, of course, so much more than the physical building, and yet - I wonder what we can learn about our identity as Christ's church from the way people encounter these old brick walls. My hope is they sense some of God's holiness in the way we live our lives, and that they feel comforted by the way we offer grace - in the same way holiness is felt in the shadow of the soaring steeples and comfort is found in the quiet grace of our sanctuary.

Grateful with you for our wonderful church,

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!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 2023 SCHEDULE

May 7th

WINTER 2023 WILLOW CREEK YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Activity	Location
5/7	11:30-1:30	Games & Lesson	Church
5/21		Youth Sunday Ice Cream Sundae Fellowship	



SUNDAY MAY 28TH, 2023

8:00a Special Worship Service
Bagpipes played by Lucas Greenlee and
VFW Honor Guard at
The Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery
8791 Picken Road, Caledonia, IL 61011

Followed by 9:00a Continental Breakfast
and 10:00a Sunday Worship at
Willow Creek Presbyterian Church

**Please remember to bring your military
member's American Flag to the service if
you would like a blessing bestowed by Pastor
Lauren.*



Pastor Lauren will be on ***vacation*** until Friday,
May 12th.

For any pastoral care
emergencies, please reach out to Pastor Tanya,
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

April Rottman Cell: 815-978-6504 or email:
aprilimp68@gmail.com

Mary Beth Gratz Cell: 815-575-0818 or email:
mbgratz@gmail.com



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SPRING 2023

Sundays in May @ 9am | Library

Testimonies

COME HEAR STORIES
OF FAITH AND GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Do you feel led to share your story?
Let Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya know!

MAY CALENDAR

Tuesday 5/2	6:30p	Session
Wednesday 5/3	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 5/4	11:30a 6p	Ladies Meet and Eat at Sophia's Restaurant Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 5/5		<i>Construction in the Sanctuary Done</i>
Sunday 5/7	9a 10a 10:30a 11a 11:30a	Adult Sunday School Worship - Pastor Tanya Preaching - Communion Children's Sunday School Fellowship and Coffee Youth Group Deacon Meeting
Monday 5/8		<i>Staining the media platform begins in the Sanctuary</i>
Tuesday 5/9	6p 7p	Pipe Band & Drumming CoRPB
Thursday 5/11	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 5/14	9a 10a 11a	<i>Happy Mother's Day</i> Adult Sunday School Worship - Pastor Lauren Preaching Fellowship and Coffee
Tuesday 5/16	8a 6p 6p 7p	Buildings and Grounds Meeting Pipe Band & Drumming Worship and Music Committee CoRPB
Wednesday 5/17	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 5/18	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 5/19	6:30p	Dan Holmes Homecoming Concert
Sunday 5/21	9a 10a 10:30a 11a 11:30a	Adult Sunday School Worship Children's Sunday School Fellowship and Coffee Youth Group
Monday 5/22		<i>Streamer Information Due</i>
Tuesday 5/23	6p 7p	Pipe Band and Drumming CoRPB

Friday 5/26

Last Day of Argyle Preschool 2022-2023

Sunday 5/28

8a

Memorial Day Service at The Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery

9a

Continental Breakfast

10a

Worship at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church - Pentecost Sunday

11a

Fellowship and Coffee

Monday 5/29

Memorial Day - Church Office Closed

Tuesday 5/30

6p

Pipe Band and Drumming

7p

CoRPP

SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on April 4th, 2023 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:36p with prayer and devotions by Lucas Greenlee. A quorum was declared. The following actions were taken:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the proposal from Tom Shattuck to construct the media platform. The congregation is invited to donate, or direct a family member's memorial funds to pay for the project. The remainder of the funds will come from the capital improvement line.

The Consent agenda was approved as stated.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to host ECHO (bell concert) Sunday, December 3rd, 2023 at

3. Amended... as long as we are covered by liability insurance

The meeting closed in prayer at 7:30 pm

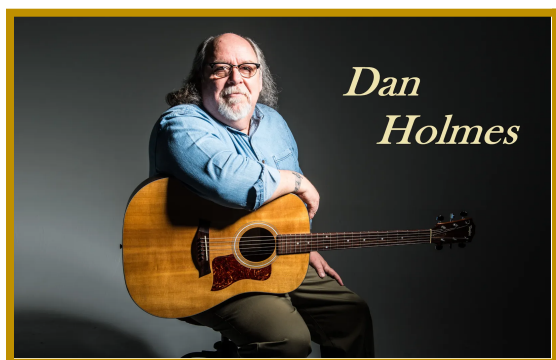
WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS

2023 YEAR-TO-DATE

March was an average month for giving. Our expenses were slightly above average for the month. Spring is here and projects with the church will begin. Be on the lookout for changes around the church. We were in the red on the year about \$5,500 so far and \$1,600 for the month of March. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	2023	Year-to-Date
Income	\$13,987.08	\$41,125.43
Expenses	\$15,678.10	\$46,701.10
Excess/(Deficit)	<u>\$(1,691.02)</u>	<u>\$(5,575.67)</u>

DAN HOLMES CONCERT!



Our friend Dan Holmes traveled to Scotland this spring! He visited our sister church there.

We will host a "homecoming" concert for him the evening of Friday, May 19th at 6:30p.



A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY

First of all, I would like to thank all of the musicians who filled our Easter Season with such wonderful music. I was so proud!!

Here is the line up for special music for May:

May 7.....Marilyn Cade, pianist

May 14.....Monroe Family Singers

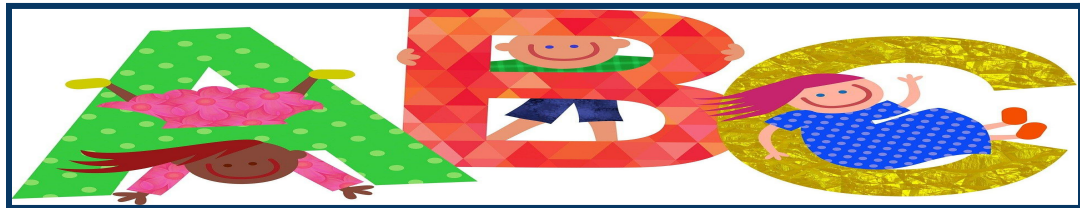
May 21.....Youth Sunday

May 28....Memorial Day Services; Lucas Greenlee, Pipes

The Willow Creek Choir will sing again on June 11. Mark your calendars and I will be in touch about rehearsals.

Happy Spring!!!

-Liz



ARGYLE PRESCHOOL

It's hard to believe that we are in our last month of school at Argyle Preschool. We have been counting down the days with our ABC countdown. Everyday we review a couple letters and do a fun activity. We just finished up our spring unit and enjoyed learning about plants, caterpillars and the season of spring. The students made their own bean sprouts and mini gardens. They are also patiently waiting for our caterpillars, who are now in their chrysalis, to come out.

This month we also have our Wonderful Women and Marvelous Men event and will end our year with a graduation celebration and family picnic.

We hope our families have a summer full of sun, fun and friends. Best wishes to our students who are on their way to Kindergarten.

Our 2023-2024 year begins on Wednesday September 4!

I would like to thank Ms. Shannon, our Preschool Board Members, Building and Grounds Committee, and all other Willowcreek members and committees along with Pastor Lauren for their support of our program this year! It takes a village to help shape little minds and we were so fortunate to have you be part of our successful 2022-2023 school year.

WE PLAN TO WORSHIP IN THE PARK AGAIN THIS SUMMER!

Save the date for July 16th -

Details will follow.

Table service and drinks provided. Grills will be fired up after the worship service.

Please bring your own meat to grill, a dish to share, and lawn chairs if you'd like. A playground is close to the shelter. A wheelchair will also be available for anyone who needs assistance getting from the parking lot to the shelter.



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 Mothers Day (May 14).



**SAVE THE DATE! 2023 ANNUAL BED
BUILD**

Saturday, June 10th, 2023

Keep on the lookout for more details!



Vacation Bible School will be June 19th - 22nd, 2023 from 9:00a - 12:00p

The registration fee is \$10 for the week with a \$30 family maximum. We welcome any Preschool through 6th grade to join us for a **WILD** adventure!

Registration Form at the end of streamer

Construction on the new **Media Platform** in the back of the sanctuary is scheduled to begin on **Thursday, April 27th** and should be completed the first week of May. Staining the wood to match other parts of the sanctuary will begin on May 8th. This new platform will enable us to better serve everyone - those worshipping in the sanctuary, and those joining us online.

A history and ongoing habit of generosity and faithful stewardship enables our church to afford projects like this. That said, this is also a wonderful opportunity to give. **Please prayerfully consider offering a monetary gift** as a sign of support for the hard work of the Media Team and as an investment in the quality of our communal worship. Any monetary gift should be noted for the "Media Platform". If you want a loved one's **memorial funds** to be used for this project, please let Pastor Lauren, April Rottman (Clerk of Session), or the Church Office know.

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.

Phone: (815) 885-3455
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011



Email: office@willowcreekpc.org
Website: www.willowcreekpc.org
Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wcpcargyle>



There are Angels God puts on this Earth.
Who care for us and guide us.
You can feel their love and gentleness
as they walk through life beside us.

They do great things for us every day
They whisper in our ears,
They even hold us in their hearts
When we are filled with all our fears.

They are always there to give a hug
And try to make us smile.
They treat us with respect and love,
They treat us like their child.

God blessed me with an Angel,
I'm proud to call my own.
She's been with me throughout my
Life, been with me as I've grown.

She's guided me the best she can,
She's taught me like no other
And I'm thankful I'm the lucky one
Who gets to call her... Mother

-Kathleen J. Shields - May 14th, 2006



Please join us for an exciting, fun-filled week at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, where children will experience God's Word through fun-filled activities. Each day children will participate in songs, a Bible lesson, crafts, games, and a mission project. A snack will also be provided.

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The registration fee is \$10 for the week with a \$30 family maximum. We welcome any Preschool through 6th grade to join us for a **WILD** adventure!

Registration forms can be turned into the church office. Please call Willow Creek Church (815-885-3455) or Rebekah Landi (815-978-4982) if you have any questions. Come, celebrate God's unconditional love with us!

Vacation Bible School - 2023 Registration Form

CHILD'S NAME _____ AGE _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS _____

PHONE(S) _____ EMAIL(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT

NAME _____ PHONE _____

RELATIONSHIP _____

ALLERGIES/MEDICAL INFORMATION _____
