

**WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE**  
**7300 BELVIDERE ROAD I CALEDONIA, IL. 61011 I 815-885-3455**  
***"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the Love of Christ"***  
**DECEMBER 2023 STREAMER**



**A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN** This year, as I was preparing for Advent, I couldn't stop thinking about the phrase "good tidings". Maybe these words make you think of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*: "Good tidings we bring, to you and your kin, good tidings of Christmas and a Happy New Year!" This is a favorite song of carolers who actively bring the good tidings of the season to each home they visit. It's a carol of good cheer and perhaps a little nostalgia. Certainly it makes us think of warm cocoa and blazing fires and Christmas trees surrounded by gifts.

All of this is good - and yet, the tidings of this sacred season are even better! In the Gospel of Luke, we find: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy!" (Luke 2:10). The prophet Isaiah also declares: "Messengers of good tidings, raise your voices, proclaim: Here is your God!" (Isaiah 40:9). In Luke, the angel is the one bringing good tidings. In Isaiah, we are all called to be the bearers of the message: Here is your God! The true message of the holiday season is this: no matter how warm the hearth or happy the home, God is here. No matter how near or far peace may seem: God is here. No matter how possible or improbable the magic of the season feels: God is here! I hope you can join us throughout Advent as we remember and declare God's promises. Long ago, the shepherds watched and wondered and were met by angels declaring that the long-awaited One had arrived. We, too, watch and wonder, and our wait is shaped by God's faithfulness. Good tidings we bring! God is here. Christ has come, and Christ will come again!

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** starts at 9:15a in the Library. The Advent series on the devotional *The Light of Grace* will meet on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** Will resume January 2024 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**YOUTH GROUP** Will resume after the New Year! Stay tuned for future dates.

**ANNUAL COOKIE WALK** Our Annual Cookie Walk is Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> following worship! Bring your homemade baked goods to church on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (between 8:30a and 3:30p), or bring them with you on Sunday. After worship on the 10<sup>th</sup>, you'll have the opportunity to put together your cookie box of items to go! All proceeds go to the Families In Need fund. This fund exists for any needs that arise for anyone in our church family. If you have or know of a need, let Pastor Lauren know.

**MAKE A LOCAL FAMILY'S CHRISTMAS MERRY AND BRIGHT!** Our church has learned about a local family that needs some help this Christmas. Christmas wishes from Daisy, Alfonso and Itzae are on a tree in the Fellowship Hall by the Mission Drive Closet. Please choose an item or two to purchase and gift wrap and return to church by **Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you would prefer to give money to this cause, that's a big help, too! You can put it in the offering plate (please mark on the memo line of the check or an envelope: "Daisy's Family").

**REMEMBER THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREES** that help us celebrate and give as well: The *small tree on the landing* is for your Christmas cards for your church family, and you can put any money you may have used on postage in the can to benefit Kemmerer Village. The *tree in the Education Wing* is for hats and mittens to warm those in need. Thank you for the many ways you share and give throughout this season!

**GRATITUDE BAGS** Please write a note of thanks for each staff member and place it in their Gratitude Bag in the Fellowship Hall! The bags will be given to the staff after December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There are many folks in our church who are not on staff who give lots of time and energy to our congregation. Individual notes of thanks are always appreciated. Let the Church Office know if you need anyone's contact information.

**A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY** Hello Willow Creek Friends! It seems impossible that the Christmas season is already here. I have triple duty this year - picking out music for Willow Creek, Alpine Academy and myself for a special program I am giving. Luckily, my library at home and the library at church are filled with beautiful Christmas music, with hundreds of songs at my disposal. Growing up, the music of Christmas was so special to me. Singing in the choirs at church and school, memories of the excitement I felt on Christmas Eve, processing down the aisle with the choir, singing *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, remains with me. I am so fortunate to have grown up with such a vast musical experience. And here I am, at my age, still receiving such wonderful gifts from my musical involvement. I am so grateful! Here is the lineup for December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Children's Christmas Program, 10<sup>th</sup> Tom Andrew on Keyboard, 17<sup>th</sup> Lessons & Carols with many fine Willow Creek Musicians, 24<sup>th</sup> morning and evening services are being arranged with our musical folks at Willow Creek and the 31<sup>st</sup> will be the Hymn Sing which I will be playing as this is always a fun service for me. All for now! ~Liz

**MISSION CLOSET DRIVE** Thank you for your kindness and generosity! We collected so many needed items for our community, and many have been impacted by your giving. Thank you for helping with: snow gear for kids, hygiene products for folks at Ms. Carly's, food and other needed items for the Boone County Animal Shelter, books for Capron Elementary, and snacks for elementary kids in need. If you have any ideas for a Mission Drive for next year, please let Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya know.

**THANK YOU FOR FAITHFULLY GIVING** Even in uncertain economic times, this church remains incredibly blessed with a healthy budget because of your faithful giving. Thank you. This year, we are experimenting with not doing pledge cards for Stewardship. If you know there will be a significant change in your giving habits for the upcoming year, please feel free to let Diane ([Bookkeeper@WillowCreekPC.org](mailto:Bookkeeper@WillowCreekPC.org)) know. If there are new ways you would like to give your energy and talent, please let me know. I remain grateful to be serving God with you at this Old Brick Church in Argyle! ~Pastor Lauren

**SESSION SUMMARY** The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30p with prayer and devotions. A quorum was declared. The following actions were taken: ○The consent agenda was approved as stated. ○Evote approved on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to call a Congregational Meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the purpose of receiving the Slate of Officers from the Nominating Committee and accepting the Pastor's Compensation package for 2024. ○Motion made, seconded and approved to remove the listed names from the rolls. ○Motion made, seconded and approved the baptism of Lily Ann Benson on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. ○Motion made, seconded and approved the A/V Committee's budget be added to the church's

budget beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. ○ Motion made, seconded and approved Pastor Lauren's Terms of Call. ○ The meeting closed with prayer at 8:05p.

**WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS** October was an above average month for giving. Our Expenses were also average for the month. We were in the red on the year about \$3,900. Cold weather is coming and heating and snow removal become larger expenses for the church. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	<b>November 2023</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Income	\$14,494.07	\$144,941.30
Expenses	\$12,448.33	\$148,830.40
Excess/(Deficit)	<u>\$2,045.74</u>	<u>\$(3,889.10)</u>

Sunday, January 7th  
plan to stay after worship to help

## undecorate the church



and enjoy our annual

## chili cook off

all are welcome to bring a chili to share  
or just help with undecorating and  
enjoy what others bring!

**POINSETTIAS** orders are due no later than **Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. If you'd like to order a poinsettia, please call Shannon at the Church Office at 815-885-3455 or email [office@willowcreekpc.org](mailto:office@willowcreekpc.org) during office hours. Flowers not picked up prior to **Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024** will be delivered by the Deacons to shut-ins.

### **DECEMBER CALENDAR**

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	5p	Youth Group Lock In till noon on Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:15a	Adult Sunday School
	10a	Worship - Children's Christmas Pageant
	11a	Fellowship and Coffee
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Poinsettia Orders Due!</i>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30p	Elders and Deacons Holiday Party
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11:30a	Ladies Meet and Eat at Sophia's Restaurant
	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:15a	Adult Sunday School
	10a	Worship - Communion - Cookie Walk 🍪
	11a	Fellowship

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band and Drums - Lessons and Rehearsals
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	5p	Confirmation
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship - Lessons & Carols
	11a	Fellowship and Coffee
	11:15a	F/P/E
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8a	Buildings and Grounds
	6p	Pipe Band and Drums - Lessons and Rehearsals, Worship & Music
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11a	Ladies Meet and Eat at Sophia's Restaurant
	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		<i>Argyle Preschool Winter Party</i> 🧑‍🎄 <i>Streamer Articles Due!</i>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Christmas Eve</i> 🎄
	10a	Worship - Communion
	11a	Fellowship
	6p	Worship - Communion and Candlelight
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Merry Christmas!</i> ❄️ <i>Argyle Preschool Winter Break till Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></i>
		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band and Drums - Lessons and Rehearsals
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>		<i>New Years Eve</i>
	10a	Worship - Hymn Sing
	11a	Fellowship