

# 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"*

## JANUARY 2024 STREAMER



**A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN** I am so thankful to celebrate another New Year with you, Willow Creek! And we have so much to celebrate. Of all the things that I am grateful for as I look back over 2023, I am simply amazed at the many ways we faithfully served our community this year. Through our mission closet, we collected: *snow gear* for the kids at Capron, *hygiene products* for the folks at Ms. Carly's in Rockford, *food and other items* for the Boone Co. Animal Shelter, *books* for Capron, and *snacks* for students. We built over 20 beds in June, and recently we were able to deliver two beds to a family in Winnebago County. We made Christmas merry and bright for a local family, helping out a couple of hard working caregivers and bringing big smiles to the face of a kindergartener. I am thankful for your generosity and willingness to give in so many different ways. I look forward to another year of serving our community with you. Our Mission Closet is open for ideas! What ways would you like to see us serve our community this year?

As I consider the many ways we gave outside of our church walls, I am also struck by your ongoing kindness and hospitality to those within our family of faith. Your prayers, care and concern for those who are sick, injured, grieving or otherwise facing hard times, are an encouragement to me and others. This is what it means to be the salt of the earth, to shine as a beacon of light and to reflect Christ. Thank you for doing so faithfully. I am grateful for you, and hopeful that others will continue to see the ways Christ is reflected here at Willow Creek, and find their church home here with us.

**THANK YOU NOTE FROM THE CHURCH STAFF** Your generosity in this year's gratitude bags was truly incredible! We deeply feel your gratitude, and ***we*** are so thankful for the opportunity to serve here at Willow Creek! Thank you for your encouraging notes, thoughtfulness, well wishes and Christmas joy!

A huge thank you from Your WCPC Staff: Tom Andrew, Stephanie Konen, Dianne Londo, Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli, Elizabeth O'Leary, Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel, Riley Rankin, Shannon Reagan, Diane Van Vleet & Katie Wolf.

**CHALKING OF THE DOORS** You are invited to take chalk home with you and join the ancient practice of chalking your doors for the New Year with CMB + 2024. The letters CMB stand for the names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) or the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this house). Here is a blessing as you chalk your doors:

*God of doors and homes, bless this home this year and every year. Bless all who come and go through this door, both those who live here and those who visit. May all who enter through this door come in peace and bring joy. May all who come to this door find welcome and love. May the love and joy in this home overflow and spread into the community and the world. And may Jesus Christ watch over us all. Amen.*

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** Will resume in a few weeks! Details coming soon!


**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 help with the coat check for the Burns Banquet on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ATTENTION STUDENTS \* THE FLORA MCEACHRAN SCHOLARSHIP** To apply, please submit a letter to the Clerk of Session (April Rottman). The letter should include a description of your plans following graduation. You may also wish to include information about yourself including activities, community service, etc. Please mail the letter to the church office (Clerk of Session, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, 7300 Belvidere Road, Caledonia, IL 61011) or email ([aprilimp68@gmail.com](mailto:aprilimp68@gmail.com)). Prior to the Scholarship disbursement, recipients chosen for the scholarship will need to show proof of enrollment in a course of basic study or training beyond high school. Eligibility: any student in or beyond their senior year of high school who has not previously received the scholarship.

**A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY** Dear Willow Creek Friends - Happy New Year to All! I wish to thank everyone who made music during the Christmas season. It was all so fine! Dianne and Tom - you are both wonderful. Thank you again. Our January lineup is this:

- Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: Joyce & Bill Zartman, Bells and Violin
- Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>: Dan Holmes, Voice and Guitar
- Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>: Tom Andrew, Keyboard
- Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>: Elizabeth O'Leary, Keyboard and Voice

I would like the choir to sing in February. I will be checking with all of you regarding your schedules and keep you posted via the bulletin and word of mouth, e-mail, etc. Please check your calendars. Lent is approaching fast and we have some very nice Lenten music in our library. Winter is here. It doesn't feel like it yet, but I'm sure it will anytime soon. All for now.  Liz

**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. The following actions were taken: ○ The consent agenda was approved as stated. ○ Evote approved (10/18) to call a Congregational Meeting on 11/19/23 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 12/10/23. ○ Motion made, seconded and Approved the A/V Committee's Budget be added to the church's budget beginning Jan 1st, 2024. ○ Motion made, Seconded and approved Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel's Terms of Call. The meeting closed with prayer at 8:05p.

**WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS** November was an amazing month for giving. Our expenses were above average for the month. We are in the black for the year about \$2,400.00. Cold weather is here, heating and snow removal become a larger expense for the church during these winter months. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	<b>November, 2023</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Income	\$20,436.03	\$165,377.33
Expenses	\$14,177.08	\$163,007.48
Excess/(Deficit)	\$6,258.95	\$2,369.85

**SERMON SERIES: THE EARLY LIFE OF JESUS** We will begin 2024 with sermons on the few stories we have about Jesus' life before his public ministry began.

- Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany - the story of three magi visiting Jesus shortly after his birth
- Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>: Mary and Joseph bring young Jesus to the temple
- Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>: Jesus in the temple once again - this time as a young adolescent teaching others
- Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>: Baptism of Jesus (Pastor Tanya preaching)
- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>: The Transfiguration

## JANUARY CALENDAR

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30p	Willow Creek Ringers gathering at the Londo Residence - Bring your calendars!
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship - Epiphany - Communion
	11a	Undecorate the Church and Chili cook-off
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>		Welcome back Argyle Preschool! 🚌
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band and Drums
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	5p	Confirmation
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>		Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No Argyle Preschool
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8a	Buildings and Grounds
	6p	Pipe Band and Drums
	6p	Worship and Music
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>		Youth Group - Burns Banquet Coat Check Service Project
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10a	Worship - Officer Installation
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship, Officer Training and Luncheon
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8a	Buildings and Grounds
	6p	Pipe Band and Drums, Worship & Music
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	5p	Confirmation
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Streamer Articles Due!</i>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship - Pastor Tanya Preaching
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship
	11:15a	F/P/E
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band and Drums
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	12p	Argyle Preschool Board

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!

**OFFICER ORDINATION, INSTALLATION & TRAINING** On Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, our new Elders and Deacons will be ordained and installed during our regular worship service at 10am. Make plans to join us in worship for this special occasion. Following worship on the 21<sup>st</sup>, all currently serving Elders and Deacons are invited to Officer Training. We will have lunch together and pray and plan for the upcoming year. We will meet from 11:30am until no later than 2pm. If you cannot attend, please let Pastor Lauren know ([Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org](mailto:Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org) / 678-203-7549).

**LENT** begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 worshippers are present!). **Ash Wednesday worship is at 6pm.** This service includes the imposition of ashes.

**LENTEN SOUP STUDY** Wednesday evenings during Lent we will meet at 5:30pm for a simple shared meal, fellowship and study. Come when your schedule allows! **We will meet on Wednesday 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13 and 3/20 from 5:30pm - 7pm.**

**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 8:30a - 3p. 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](mailto:office@willowcreekpc.org)  
Website: [www.willowcreekpc.org](http://www.willowcreekpc.org)  
Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wcpcargyle>