

# WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE

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*"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the Love of Christ"*



## MARCH 2024 STREAMER

**A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN** There is an old Lenten tradition of “burying the hallelujah”. Hallelujah (or alleluia) is a proclamation or praise that *Christ is Risen!* We save this shout for Easter morning, and through the season of Lent, we commit to not say or sing *hallelujah* - but instead to focus on *hosanna*, the cry before *hallelujah*, the cry of: *God save me!*

I try to honor this practice. It's like observing Holy Saturday during Holy Week. On that somber day, we are invited to sit with the reality of Christ's death. We contemplate our God's experience of death - as the One who died on the cross, and also as the Ones who grieved because the Beloved was crucified. However, if ever there was a place where rules and traditions must give, it is in the presence of grief. After all, grief does not follow any rules. So I break the tradition of “burying the hallelujah” at the graveside, where our liturgy includes these words: “Yet even at the grave we make our song: *alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*” I also break this rule when I announce a death in church and recite a verse from the hymn *For All the Saints*: “O blest communion, fellowship divine, we feebly struggle, while they in glory shine, yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine, *Alleluia, Alleluia.*”

Each death is an Easter celebration - all of the grief, as well as all of the hope in Resurrection. Death still stings. We still grieve. And yet, we have hope in a God who knows the sting of death, and has undone it. With gratitude for this hope, we continue our Lenten journey to the cross.

**CHANGE FOR CHANGE** Every **second** Sunday, we invite you to participate in this special offering. When we all put our left over dollars and loose change together, the amount really adds up! *Change for Change* goes to our *Family In Need Fund*, which helps folks in our church family and wider community in need of assistance.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** Congratulations to our confirmands Argyle Greenlee, Will Monroe and Charlie Shipton! They completed all of the requirements of the confirmation class which met from November 2023 until February of 2024. It was a joyous day at Willow Creek when we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Will, and welcomed Argyle, Will and Charlie as new members.

**YOUTH GROUP** We will meet at church after worship for games and fellowship on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. We will also help lead the Easter Sunrise Service at Scottish Argyle Cemetery on 3/31. **We have a few spring dates when we need lunch for the youth group - could you help? Check the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.**

**A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY** Dear Willow Creek Friends - Easter is early this year and March is very busy with 5 Sundays. Here is what is happening for special music:

- March 10<sup>th</sup>: Dianne Londo, Piano
- March 17<sup>th</sup>: Lucas Greenlee, Pipes
- March 24<sup>th</sup>: **Palm Sunday** - Willow Creek Ringers
- March 31<sup>st</sup>: **Easter** - TBD as we're still working out the details.

It will be interesting to see what Mother Nature has in store for us this spring. I don't believe winter is over, but hopefully, at least Easter Sunday will be nice. All for now! 🎵 Liz

**SESSION SUMMARY** The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30pm with prayer and devotions. In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel (Moderator), Jeff Cummings, Rebekah Landi, Katherine Ralston, Lon Clark, Molly Shipton, April Rottman and Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli (Guest). A quorum was declared. The following actions were taken:

1. The Consent agenda was approved as stated.
2. A report of an Evote held 1/16/2024 was given. This approved the call for the Annual Meeting on 2/4/24 for the purpose of receiving the 2023 Annual Report and the 2024 budget.
3. Motion and second to approve a Building Use Request from Maren Reid March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am - 1pm for a Farm Bureau painting party. Motion carried.
4. Motion and second to approve Communion dates with the modification to remove Palm Sunday from the list. Motion carried
5. Motion and second to approve the baptism of William Colten James Monroe February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion carried.
6. Motion and second to approve participation in the following denominational offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness and Christmas Joy. Discussion. Motion carried.
7. Motion and second to approve the Change for Change collection going to the **Family in Need** fund. Motion carried.

Pastor Tanya provided a pastoral care report to the Session. The Session and Pastor Lauren expressed their deepest gratitude to Pastor Tanya (& Ron) for all she has done in this area! Announcements of upcoming services and events were given. Motion and second to adjourn, motion carried. Continued prayers are asked for the family of Carolyn Miller and others in our congregation who are dealing with loss, illness, and the difficulties of life.

**WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS** January was a below average month for giving. Our expenses were slightly above average for the month. We are in the red to start off the year at \$4,664.51. Cold weather is here, heating and snow removal become larger expenses for the church during these winter months. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	January, 2024	Year-to-Date
Income	\$9,868.25	\$9,838.25
Expenses	\$14,502.76	\$14,502.76
Excess/(Deficit)	(\$4,664.51)	(\$4,664.51)

### **MARCH CALENDAR**

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30p	Session
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
	5:30p	Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:45a	Ladies Walk at Willow Creek
	11:30a	Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's Restaurant
	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:15a	Adult Sunday School
Change for Change	10a	Worship - Communion by Intinction
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship
	11:30a	Youth Group
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:30p	Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>		Happy St. Patrick's Day! 🍀
	9:15a	Adult Sunday School
	10a	Worship - 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - Communion by Intinction
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8a	Buildings & Grounds

Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals, Worship & Music
	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:30p	Lenten Soup Study
	11:30a	Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's Restaurant
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6p	Bell Rehearsal
		<i>Streamer Articles Due!</i>
		<i>Argyle Preschool Spring Break 3/22 - 4/1</i>
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9a - 11a	Farm Bureau Painting Party
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship - Pastor Tanya Preaching
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Maundy Thursday - Potluck & Communion
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Good Friday</i>
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Holy Saturday - Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery Open</i>
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	8:00a	Sunrise Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery
<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	9:00a	Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt
	10a	Worship - Communion
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship

#### LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK:

**Palm Sunday** - March 24<sup>th</sup>: Handbell Choir, Palm Processional, Pastor Tanya preaching

**Maundy Thursday** - March 28<sup>th</sup> - **Potluck & Communion Service** - Fellowship Hall at 6pm

**Good Friday** - March 29<sup>th</sup>

**Holy Saturday** - Chapel open at Scottish Argyle Cemetery

**Easter Sunday** - March 31<sup>st</sup> Sunrise Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery 8am

Pancake Breakfast & Egg Hunt at Willow Creek 9am

Worship in the Sanctuary 10am

This year's **Lenten theme** is "**More Than Twelve**". Each week we will read a story about Jesus interacting with someone other than the Twelve Disciples. Each story will teach us something about how Jesus lived, served and loved during his time on earth. We will celebrate Communion by Intinction on every Sunday of Lent except Palm Sunday. On Easter, we will celebrate Traditional Communion.

**Lenten devotionals are available at church.**

**THE YOUTH GROUP** will be helping with the **Easter Egg Hunt** on **Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 9:30am.**

Would you like to donate candy? Must be individually wrapped and be able to fit inside a plastic egg.

**Candy is due here at Willow Creek by March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024** for the Youth. Thank you so much for your support! Any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Church Office.

**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 (Attn: 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.

**GARY & JOYCE GRAEFF** Gary and I would like to thank everyone for their cards but **MOST** of all, for their prayers. This has been a wonderful journey and it makes us realize **HE** is in charge. Again thank you for your prayers, we could not have made it this far without them. Blessings to our Willow Creek Family!

Stay tuned for details on our Spring **Mission Closet** Drive to help community families with babies.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** Join us on Sundays at 9:15am in the Library. We are studying the Lenten Devotional on 3/10, 3/17. Sunday school will not meet on 3/24, 3/31 or 4/7.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of this month.

**FARM BUREAU PAINTING** Paint Party with a Purpose! Join your friends as local artist Angie Scordato, provides instruction on how to create your own 12"x16" spring themed canvas while you enjoy snacks and help support Agriculture Education. All supplies, snacks & drinks included. **\$40.00 per person. Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am - 11am here at Willow Creek. RSVP by March 20<sup>th</sup>.** Any questions, feel free to reach out to the Church Office.

**LENTEN SOUP STUDY** Each Wednesday, we will dig a little deeper into the characters of Sunday's story at our **Lenten Soup Study** where we'll share a simple meal, fellowship and study. You do not have to come each week – come when your schedule allows! We will meet on **Wednesdays 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 from 5:30pm - 7pm.** There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to pick a day to bring soup.



#### **EASTER LILY ORDER FORM**

Would you like to order an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? Easter Lilies and bulbs will be \$12.00 each. You may donate or take your flower(s) and or bulbs home on Easter Sunday. Please fill out this form and turn it into the office or mail it into the church. The deadline to order is March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. **\*NOTE:** Please write anything below as you wish to appear in the bulletin. Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church and on the memo line, put "Easter Lily".

Plants - How many? \_\_\_\_\_  
Bulbs - How many? \_\_\_\_\_

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In Loving Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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Donor name(s):

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#### **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.

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