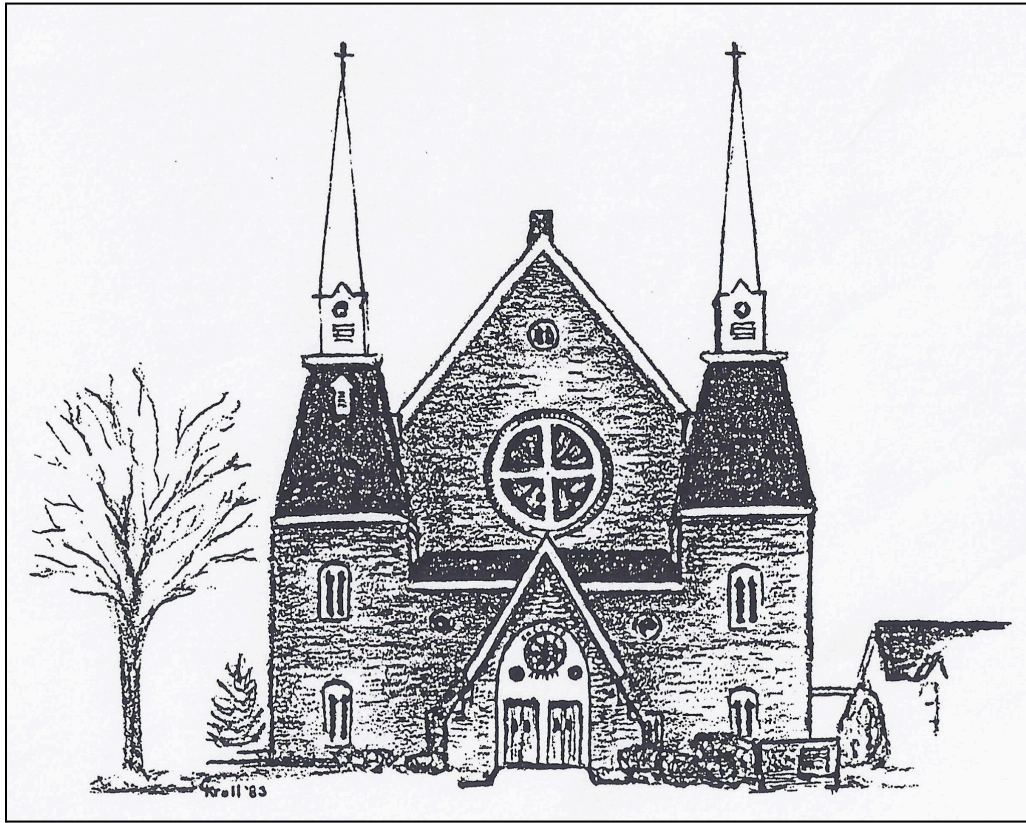


WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 28TH, 2024 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 10:00AM



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing and pray and participate in liturgy.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO STAND.

PRELUDE

HE TOUCHED ME
Elizabeth O'Leary, Piano

WILLIAM GAITHER

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

IF CALL TO WORSHIP FROM ACTS 17

MAREN REID

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

The God who made the world and everything in it is not served by human hands, as if in need of anything. Rather, God alone gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

From one human God made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and God marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

God did this so that they would seek God and perhaps reach out for God and find God, though God is not far from any one of us. 'For in God we live and move and have our being.' Come, let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Righteous God, we read about the faith of those in Scripture and worry that we do not risk enough in our faithfulness to you. Forgive us for forgetting our greatest risk is being outside of your will. Give us courage to stand firm and speak up when that is what is required. Give us clarity as we seek your will. Forgive us for worrying about what others might think of us. Forgive us for worrying more about how loved we are than how much we love. Forgive us for our failures, including our failure to believe in your grace.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM I JOHN 1

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, our just and faithful God will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

I GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

I PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ACTS 17:1 - 8

PAGES 1722 - 1723

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS

GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1 - 10

PAGES 1837 - 1838

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

SERMON

"A SPIRITUALLY SYNCRETIC ERA"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

I HYMN #246

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

WREN, 1995 & MUSICA SARCA, C. 1778

I AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - AN EXCERPT FROM THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe

that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

POOR WAYFARING STRANGER

SOUTHERN AMERICAN FOLK SONG

I DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

I PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven, give us this day our daily bread, and forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.

I HYMN #275

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

LUTHER, 1529 & HEDGE, 1852

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SONG PERMISSIONS CCLI COPYRIGHT LICENSE 1207686, SIZE A/ONELICENSE A-725962.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! LITURGIST: MAREN REID
USHERS: BRENDA BENNING, CURT GREENLEE, DON GREENLEE AND JACK GREENLEE

The **Confession of Belhar** has its roots in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. It was first drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church as a protest against a heretical theological stance that used the Bible and the Confessions to justify harsh and unjust systems. The PCUSA approved Belhar as part of our Book of Confessions at the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

SPRING MISSION CLOSET DRIVE for **The Haven Network!** Today is our last day of collecting items to make kits for moms.

What is Needed: **Travel Sizes of Women's** body wash, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, hair ties, makeup wipes, chapstick and \$25.00 gift cards for Rockford Area Chain Restaurants (Chili's, Red Lobster, etc.). Contact Marisa O'Dell, David Perez-Fernandez or the Church Office at 815-885-3455 with any questions.

Join us today **Sunday, April 28th and May 5th & 12th at 9:15am in the Library for Adult Sunday School!** We will be studying *Spiritual Disciplines*.

For Eastertide (the season from Easter to Pentecost) we will learn about the faith and ministry of the early church through a sermon series on the book of Acts.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 28th	9:15a	Adult Sunday School, 10a Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E
Tuesday 30th	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Wednesday 1st	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 2nd	10:30a	Ladies Walk at WCPC, 11:30a Ladies Lunch at Sophia's, 6p Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 5th	9:15a	Adult Sunday School, 10a Worship - Communion, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Deacons

If you feel moved to give to WCPC, the QR Code can be used.



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

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 office.

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Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wcpcargyle>