



A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN I wonder if I am the only one who feels that 2024 is flying by. This year opened with a season of grief, as we have lost many friends from our congregation. And then, suddenly, it was Lent, and the season of contemplating our mortality and God's mercy fit all too well with the many losses we have endured. Then, we turned the page to Eastertide - a season of resurrection, renewal and hope. What is giving you hope this season? Where are you finding evidence of God's kingdom of grace and goodness breaking in?

As we seek the kingdom of God on earth even while awaiting Christ's return, and as we prepare for Pentecost, the day where we particularly notice the movement of the Holy Spirit, I feel God calling Willow Creek to a *Season of Invitation*. We are invited to tune in to all that God's Spirit is doing in us. We are invited to notice where God's Spirit is moving in our community. And we are invited to invite - who do we know that longs for the belonging we have all found here? What might God do if every person in our church invited one other person to join us here as we seek and serve God at the Old Brick Church in Argyle?

UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES: Mark these special Sundays on your calendars!

- MAY 19TH Pentecost wear *red, yellow, or orange* to church
- MAY 26TH MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - PASTOR TANYA LEADING WORSHIP
 - 8am Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery
 - 9ish Continental Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall provided by Worship & Music Committee
 - 10am Worship in the Sanctuary
- JUNE 2ND YOUTH & CHILDREN RECOGNITION SUNDAY
- JUNE 16TH WORSHIP IN THE PARKING LOT 10am *bring a chair*
- JUNE 23RD VBS SUNDAY 10am in the Sanctuary
- JULY 14TH WORSHIP IN THE PARK 10am @ Aberdeen Park
 - Bring something to grill and a side to share for lunch following worship!
- SEPTEMBER 1ST 10AM WORSHIP OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY
 - Bring a chair and join us for this special worship service where we will remember those we lost during and since the pandemic who we were not able to have funerals for. If there is anyone you would like honored, please let Pastor Lauren know.
- SEPTEMBER 22ND Kirkin' Sunday!

YOUTH GROUP will meet after worship for games, fellowship & lunch on **May 12th from 11:30am - 1:30pm.**

A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY Hello Willow Creek Friends! Here is the Special Music Lineup for May. We'll have more information on the Memorial Day services soon. All for now! 🎵 Liz

- May 5th: Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto
- May 12th: Monroe Family Singers
- May 19th: Willow Creek Bell Ringers
- May 26th: Memorial Day Services

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us **Sunday, May 5th & 12th at 9:15am** in the Library as we study Spiritual Disciplines.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will be **May 5th, 19th & the 26th.** These are the last 3 classes until fall.

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on April 2, 2024 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30 pm with prayer and devotions. In attendance were Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel (Moderator), April Rottman (Clerk), Rebekah Landi, Karli Rankin, and Lucas Greenlee Katherine Ralston, Lon Clark, Molly Shipton. Abby Guthrie and Jeff Cummings were excused. A quorum was declared. The following actions were taken:

1. The Consent agenda was approved as stated.

A special note: The Session expressed their appreciation for all that Loren Buffington did to put the church on a sound financial footing. His expertise and dedication have been invaluable and will be remembered. He will be greatly missed.

Motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and Pastor Lauren closed the meeting with prayer at 7:50pm.

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS March was an average month for giving. Our expenses were above average. We are in the red so far this year at \$11,603.35. Cool weather is still here and heating will still be a larger expense for the church during these early Spring months. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	April, 2024	Year-to-Date
Income	\$14,054.28	\$35,985.39
Expenses	\$18,988.13	\$47,588.74
Excess/(Deficit)	<u>(\$4,933.85)</u>	<u>(\$11,603.35)</u>

PER CAPITA HELPS OUR CHURCHES 2024

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Per capita is how Presbyterians share equally, responsibly, and interdependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (USA). Per capita is:

- *The major funding source for the Presbytery*
- *Requested from every congregation*
- *Based on total active membership of each church*
- *Paid by the Presbytery to the Synod of Lincoln Trails & General Assembly regardless of what we actually collect*

WHAT DOES PER CAPITA PROVIDE?

As a connectional church Presbyterian congregations worship, serve, and govern together. Per capita contributions fund the shared governing responsibilities for the whole church.

Presbyterian ministers and elected elders serve as representatives to each governing body. Their main purpose is to prayerfully and obediently seek to discern the will of Jesus Christ together. Per capita contributions support ministries such as:

- *The Presbytery of Blackhawk Commission on Ministry & Committee on Preparation for Ministry*
- *All other committees and commissions such as Mission, Personnel, and Finance and Property*
- *The work of our staff and various committees*
- *Official meetings of the presbytery assembly, Synod and General Assembly*

HOW DO WE CALCULATE EACH CHURCH'S SHARE OF PER CAPITA?

The Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly each set per capita based on their annual budgets and the number of active members in the churches of each organization.

It is important for churches to accurately report their membership annually. Each church's share of per capita is calculated with the membership figures reported by the Session. The rate for 2024 is based on the total number of active members reported at the end of 2022.

Each church is encouraged to give its full requested share of per capita, regardless of how it collects the funds through per capita, the Presbytery of Blackhawk is able to:

- *Help congregations with pastoral transitions*
- *Train and support interim ministers*
- *Resolve congregational conflicts*
- *Care for ministers, pastors, and their families*
- *Help prepare people for service as ordained ministers and commissioned pastors*
- *Organize and run presbytery assembly meetings*
- *Provide staff to support congregations*

SPRING MISSION CLOSET DRIVE: The Haven Network - The totals are in! Thank you all for your faithful support of WCPC & its due diligence to help our community! This little old brick church in Argyle and its congregants are truly amazing! ♥

<u>Travel Sizes</u>		<u>Full Sizes</u>	<u>Kits</u>
23 toothpastes	31 floss	5 deodorants	5 full travel kits
6 deodorants	1 Flossers	4 floss	6 toothbrush kits
21 body washes	4 Wet Ones wipes	11 bars of soap	
11 shampoos	5 face creams	2 packages of Flossers	<u>Gift Cards</u>
9 conditioners	2 hair sprays	4 chapsticks	1 - \$25 Olive Garden
16 lotions	4 dry shampoos	6 packages of hair ties	1 - \$25 Texas Roadhouse
5 Mouthwashes	2 hand sanitizer	1 toothpaste	
28 toothbrushes	2 face washes	6 packages of make up remover wipes	

MAY CALENDAR

Wednesday 1 st	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 2 nd	10:30a	Ladies Walk at Willow Creek
	11:30a	Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's Restaurant
	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 5 th	9:15a	Adult Sunday School
	10a	Worship - Traditional Communion
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship
	11:30a	Diaconate
Tuesday 7 th	6:30p	Session
Thursday 9 th	10:30a	Ladies Walk at Willow Creek
	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 12th		<i>Mother's Day</i>
<i>Change for Change</i>	9:15a	Adult Sunday School
	10a	Worship
	11a	Fellowship
	11:30a	Youth Group
Tuesday 14 th	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Wednesday 15 th	9a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 16 th	10:30a	Ladies Walk at Willow Creek
	11:30a	Ladies Meet & Eat at Sophia's Restaurant
	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 19 th	10a	Worship - Pentecost - <i>Wear Red, Yellow or Orange</i>
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship, Media Committee
Tuesday 21 st	8a	Buildings & Grounds
	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals, Worship & Music
Thursday 23 rd	10:30a	Ladies Walk at Willow Creek
Friday 24 th		<i>Streamer Articles Due!</i>
	9a	Argyle Preschool Celebration in the Fellowship Hall
		Last Day of Argyle Preschool Class of 2023/2024
Sunday 26 th		<i>Pastor Tanya Preaching for both 8am & 10am Services</i>
	8a	Early Memorial Service at Scottish Argyle Cemetery
	9a-ish	Continental Breakfast Provided By: Worship & Music
	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship
Monday 27 th		<i>Memorial Day: Church Office Closed</i>
Tuesday 28 th	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Thursday 30 th	10:30a	Ladies Walk at Willow Creek

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL *Save the Dates!* Join us for VBS on **June 17th - 20th (Monday - Thursday) 9am - 12pm!** 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. We welcome any Preschool through 6th grade to join us for an adventure!

A NOTE OF THANKS: Dear Willow Creek Family - I would like to thank you for all the lovely cards we have received, phone calls, visits from Deacons and Pastor Lauren. These last few months have been a trying time but we know we have been in your thoughts and prayers.
Love - David & Janet Ensminger ♥

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.

WILLOW CREEK OFFERING QR CODE You can donate by using this QR code for a donation through your smartphone. Or, you can donate electronically through the Willow Creek Website www.willowcreekpc.org look for the "Give Now" (pictured below) button in the "Giving" Tab. Online Giving is just another way of giving to Willow Creek Church. You may also continue to give through the offertory plates each Sunday, mailing your donation to the church, or direct deposit to the church.



PASTOR LAUREN WILL BE ON VACATION from **Wednesday, May 22nd through Saturday, June 1st**. 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 the 8am & 10am services on Sunday, May 26th.

- † Pastor Tanya Cell: 815-509-3887 or Email: [hoperef@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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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