

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE



A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN The cross of Christ's crucifixion is central to our Christian faith. And yet, how would you describe what the cross means? My guess is there are as many different answers to that as there are people reading this! At first glance, it's somewhat simple: the cross tells us that God loves us. But how - and why - is this awful thing a symbol of God's love?

Some of our beloved hymns reveal the different approaches to understanding the cross. Is it an *old rugged* cross that we cling to? Or a *cross lifted high* triumphantly proclaiming the love of the victorious Lamb? We are invited to look at the cross from different perspectives, to see it in as many different ways as possible, in an attempt to seek a greater understanding of God's grace, mercy, love, justice and righteousness. Ultimately, we confess that somehow the cross is integral to atonement: God reconciling us so that we are one with God.

Often, after Easter Sunday, the lectionary (and the preacher!) turn quickly away from the cross and focus on how the early church was woven together by the Holy Spirit. Scottish theologian Thomas Smal wrote this: "There is no way to Pentecost, except by Calvary; the Spirit is given from the cross." We are on our way from Calvary to Pentecost - from Easter to the Birthday of the Church - and we are lingering in these hopeful weeks over the mystery of how God's great love came into the world, defeated death, and provided salvation. Join us the next few weeks for our **Wondrous Cross** sermon series as we remain beneath the Cross of Jesus.

MISSION DRIVE We are still collecting items for **Capron Elementary's** Faculty and Staff for Teacher Appreciation Week through the morning of Tuesday, May 6th! *small bags of chips, crackers, cookies, snack cakes, bottled water, flavored water, juice, soda, post-it notes, fun pens, colored paper clips, binder clips, and fun office supplies.* You are also welcome to bake **homemade treats** and drop them off May 4th, 5th or early on Tuesday, 6th. **All donations need to be dropped off by 9am on Tuesday, May 6th.**

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS Our Youth are raising money for this summer's **Presbyterian Youth Triennium**.


- **Hire-a-Youth:** Do you have work that needs to be done around the house - dusting, window cleaning, yard work? **Two of our youth** will come to your home for **two hours** to complete your chores for **\$100**. A list of dates that youth are available to hire is available in the Fellowship Hall or by contacting the Church Office. On the date that you select (unless otherwise arranged), you will take the two youth home from church, provide a simple lunch, then bring them back to church after their two hours of work. Please reach out to Pastor Lauren if you have any questions.
- **Pew Bench Silent Auction** Steve Picken has made one of our beloved pews into a beautiful bench that would be a wonderful addition to anyone's home! And he has graciously donated it to the purpose of raising funds for the Youth. It will go home with the highest bidder of our **Silent Auction** which will end on **Sunday, May 11th at 11:30am**. The auction form is with the Pew Bench on the landing. Please bid generously in support of the youth group!

DIRT! A huge **thank you** to the Beaver Valley Clippers 4H Club who worked really hard to beautify our grounds on Saturday, April 26th!

DUST! We are thankful for the Buildings & Grounds Committee's leadership as the room off the kitchen is being updated, and the Task Force appointed by Session will be making plans soon to ensure we are effectively using all of our wonderful space.

THE FLORA MCEACHRAN SCHOLARSHIP is available for any church member who is a student in or beyond their senior year of high school who has not previously received it. See Pastor Lauren or Rebekah Landi for more info.

A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY Dear Willow Creek friends, I would like to thank all the musicians who helped make our Easter Season Services so very beautiful. Thank you Bells, Cindy, Mandy, choir and of course, Tom. You are all very much appreciated. Our lineup for May is as follows:

- May 4th: Tom Andrew, keyboard
 - May 11th: Elizabeth O' Leary, contralto
 - May 18th: Monroe Family Singers
 - May 25th: Lucas Greenlee, pipes
- ~I do believe Spring is finally here! Enjoy! Liz

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will be **May 11th, 18th & the 25th**.

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on April 1, 2025 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30pm with prayer and devotions. In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel (Moderator), Tom Andrew, Jeff Cummings, Rebekah Landi (Clerk), Cindy Nelson, Pat Nortch, Katherine Ralston, Karli Rankin and Molly Shipton. Lon Clark was excused. A quorum was declared. The following actions were taken:

Consent agenda was received and approved as stated.

A motion was made and seconded to create and empower a task force to facilitate building updates to optimize the use of all available spaces. The motion passed. The task force will include Pastor Lauren, a Buildings and Grounds committee member, a Session member, and a Finance committee member.

A motion was made and seconded to hold 2 fundraisers for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, the silent auction for a pew and Hire-a-Youth. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Rebekah Landi, Clerk of Session

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS March was an average month for giving. We are seeing an improved giving trend compared to previous years. Our expenses were above average for the month, due to buildings and grounds projects. Currently we are in the red for the year \$7,852.66. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	April, 2024	Year-to-Date
Income	\$14,825.31	\$ 47,308.85
Expenses	\$17,452.33	\$55,161.51
Excess/(Deficit)	<u>(2,627.02)</u>	<u>(7,852.66)</u>

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, and paid by the Presbytery to the Synod of Lincoln Trails & General Assembly regardless of what we actually collect. As a connectional church, Presbyterian congregations worship, serve, and govern together. Per capita contributions fund the shared governing responsibilities for the whole church.

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. Each church is encouraged to give its full requested share of per capita so that the Presbytery of Blackhawk is able to support congregations and care for pastors. **For 2025, per capita is \$44.00 per church member. Please indicate "per capita" on your envelope or check memo.**

NEW TO WILLOW CREEK? Join us **Sunday, May 4th** at 11:30am to learn all about our wonderful church and how to get involved. We will discuss how to become a member, but this class is for anyone who simply wants to learn more about our church. We will be done by 1:30pm. **Childcare and lunch are provided.** **Please RSVP to Office@WillowCreekPC.org.**

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

- 5/25 MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY - Bagpipes played by Lucas Greenlee at both services
8am Worship at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery, Continental Breakfast following in the Willow Creek Fellowship Hall, **10am Worship** in the Sanctuary
- 6/1 ASCENSION OF THE LORD AND COMMUNION
- 6/8 PENTECOST

KIRKIN' & TARTANS! Our **Kirkin' O' the Tartans** will be **Sunday, September 21st**. This is a Sunday where we celebrate our church's Scottish heritage along with the diversity of backgrounds we all bring to the congregation. **Everyone is invited to make a Tartan!** Information on how to make your Tartan is available on the Church Office door. Crafting not your thing? **Kathy Clark** and **Shannon Reagan** have both graciously agreed to help others make their tartans - feel free to reach out to them! Sooner is better than later to leave enough time to find material and put everything together.

MAY CALENDAR

Thursday 1 st	11:30a	Ladies Lunch at Boone County Family Restaurant
	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 4 th	10a	Worship - Traditional Communion
	11a	Fellowship
	11:30a	Youth Group
Tuesday 6 th	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
	6:30p	Session
Wednesday 7 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 8 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 11 th		<i>Mother's Day</i>
<i>Change for Change</i>	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11a	Fellowship
Tuesday 13 th	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Thursday 15 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 18 th	10a	Worship
	10:30a	Children's Sunday School
	11:15a	Deacon Meeting
Tuesday 20 th	8a	Buildings & Grounds
	5:30p	Worship & Music Meeting
	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals, Worship & Music
Wednesday 21 st	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 22 nd	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Friday 23 rd		<i>Streamer Articles Due!</i>
	9a	Argyle Preschool Celebration in the Fellowship Hall
		Last Day of Argyle Preschool Class of 2024/2025
Sunday 25 th	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 26 th		<i>Memorial Day: Church Office Closed</i>
Tuesday 27 th	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Thursday 29 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL *Save the Dates!* Join us **June 23rd - 26th (Mon - Thurs) 9am - 12pm** 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. This year we're asking the question: *Is God a Farmer?* We welcome any Preschooler through 6th grader to join us for an adventure!

WCPC COOKBOOK The Deacons need your favorite recipes for this year's WCPC Cookbook! If you have a family favorite recipe or a special dish you like to bring to our potlucks, please bring us a copy or email it to recipes@willowcreekpc.org as soon as possible. Thank you!

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.



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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Email: office@willowcreekpc.org
Website: www.willowcreekpc.org
Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wcpcargyle>