



A NOTE FROM MARY BETH GRATZ Hello July! How did you get here so quickly? It's hard to believe we are halfway through 2025 already, but here we are. The first six months have seen some wins and sadly, some losses, some challenges and an unexpected detour here and there. That rings true of life. No matter what you've experienced thus far, it's nice to know that God has been with each of us every step of the way. Now might be a great time to take a moment to reflect on how you've seen or felt God's presence in your life recently. Take a deep breath and listen for His voice. It's in the silence that we hear the best.

As surprising as it is that we're mid year, it's certainly not the finish line. It's nothing more than a mile marker on our journey. As we look ahead towards the coming months, our church calendar shows plenty of activities scheduled. This month we will celebrate our nation's Independence Day, we'll Worship in the Park and toward month end, we will prayerfully send our group to this year's Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Before we know it the sign up sheets will be up for manning our Respite Tent at the Boone County Fair. This fall we will have another bed build in conjunction with St. Joseph's (stay tuned for more details as we get closer) and of course our beloved Kirkin'. We are blessed with several ways to celebrate our church and our family here at Willow Creek. I'm grateful for all of the ways that you make such an impact in each other's lives both in our congregation and in our community. This is an amazing church to be a part of. Thank you for sharing it with me. Mary Beth, Chairperson of the Deacons

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Our Church Office will be open **Monday, Wednesday & Thursday from 8:30a - 12p**. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Church Office.

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

- JULY 13TH WORSHIP IN THE PARK 10am @ Aberdeen Park
- AUGUST 3RD The youth who go to **Triennium** will lead worship.
- AUGUST 10TH SUMMER HYMN SING
- AUGUST 31ST 10AM WORSHIP OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY **bring a chair**
- SEPTEMBER 21ST Kirkin' Sunday!

YOUTH GROUP TRIENNIUM: 7/28-7/31 in Louisville ~ Thanks to your wonderful support, we have a great group of youth attending this wonderful event, along with chaperones Maren Reid and Pastor Lauren! Your prayers are appreciated for our delegation as we open our hearts to what God is doing in the lives of youth throughout our denomination. We look forward to reporting back to you at a special worship service led by the Triennium team on Sunday, August 3rd.

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL FIRST ANNUAL AG DAY IN ARGYLE! Friday, June 29th was a great night at Willow Creek! We welcomed visitors from all over our community. Kids of all ages enjoyed the animals, horse and wagon rides, tractors, and more! Thank you to the planning team: Brienne Ambrose, Rebekah Landi, Molly Shipton, Karli Rankin, and Pastor Lauren. Thank you also to our amazing partners! The Beaver Valley Clippers 4H Club, Paulson's Agriculture Museum & the Beaver Valley Grange.

A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY Special Music Schedule~

- July 6th: Monroe Family Singers
- July 13th: Dan Holmes, Vocalist
- July 20th: Ron Muzzarelli, Vocalist
- July 27th: Elizabeth O'Leary, Piano

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on June 3, 2025 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30pm with prayer and devotions. In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzels (Moderator), Karli Rankin, Katherine Ralston, Rebekah Landi (Clerk), Tom Andrew, Lon Clark, Molly Shipton, Jeff Cummings, Cindy Nelson, and Pat Nortch. A quorum was declared.

The following actions were taken:

- Consent agenda was received and approved as stated.
- A motion was made that we welcome Bryan Ambrose to Willow Creek by transfer of letter and Brianne Ambrose by reaffirmation of faith. The motion was seconded and approved.
- A motion was made to begin a contract with Dimax to lease or purchase a new copy machine, pending Diane VanFleet's approval. Motion was seconded and approved.
- A motion was made to allow Heath Tibbetts to be pulpit supply sometime this summer. The motion was seconded and approved.
- A motion was made to move our August session meeting to 8/12/25. The motion was seconded and approved.

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS All of our committees are on a summer meeting schedule. The update from the Treasurer and FPE will be in the next Streamer.

JULY CALENDAR

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| Tuesday 1st | 6p | Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals |
| Wednesday 2 nd | 8a | Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant |
| Thursday 3 rd | 11:30a | Ladies Luncheon at Boone County Family Restaurant |
| Friday 4 th | | <i>Happy 4th of July!</i> |
| Sunday 6 th | 10a | Worship - Communion with Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E Meeting in Library |
| Tuesday 8 th | 6p | Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals |
| Wednesday 9 th | 1p | Living with Grief Group |
| Sunday 13 th | 10a | Worship in the Park, 11a Cookout Potluck Lunch |
| Tuesday 15 th | 8a | Building & Grounds Meeting, 6p Worship & Music Meeting, 6p Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals |
| Wednesday 16 th | 8a | Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant |
| Sunday 20 th | 10a | Worship, 11a Fellowship |
| Tuesday 22 nd | 6p | Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals |
| Sunday 27 th | 10a | Worship, 11a Fellowship |
| Tuesday 29 th | 6p | Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals |

BOONE COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 5TH - 10TH RESPITE TENT Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for a time to volunteer at our Respite Tent! See Pastor Lauren or Mike Landi if you have any questions. This is one of our favorite ways to serve as a church family and let our wider community know what a caring congregation Willow Creek is.

COME WORSHIP WITH US SURROUNDED BY THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S GREAT EARTH! Table service and drinks will be provided. Grills will be fired up after the worship service. Please bring your own meat to grill, a dish to share and lawn chairs if you'd like. A wheelchair will be available for anyone who needs assistance getting from the parking lot to the shelter. **Sunday, July 13th, 2025 at 10a Aberdeen Park at 1343 Orth Rd., Belvidere, IL. 61008** ***There is currently construction at Aberdeen Park, that is scheduled to be completed before July 13th. The Worship Committee will decide early the previous week whether to have worship at Aberdeen or in the Parking Lot at Willow Creek. Be on the lookout for an email for any location changes!***

LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY JULY 9TH After a hiatus through Advent and Lent, our Grief Group (facilitated by Pastor Tanya) will resume meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 1pm. All are welcome - please feel free to invite anyone who is living with grief.

COMMUNION MEMORIAL SERVICE AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST AT 10AM Last year, our church family found the *Memorial Service over Labor Day weekend* at the cemetery chapel very meaningful, and so the Session and Worship & Music Committee felt compelled to plan a similar service this year. Join us for this special Sunday where we will worship outside (*please bring a chair*) and celebrate the past, present and future of our church.

JULY SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF AMOS This summer, we will spend some time with the prophet Amos. Some of the words from this prophet will be incredibly familiar, like "may justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream". Some of the words will be far less familiar, and all of the words will be challenging. The prophets - sometimes boldly, sometimes reluctantly - spoke truth to power. How does their faithful witness inform our modern faith?

GUEST PREACHER HEATH TIBBETS FROM ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN On Sunday, July 20th, we welcome Heath Tibbetts to our pulpit! Heath has served in vocational ministry since 2000, becoming the Head of Spiritual Life at Rockford Christian School in 2023 after serving churches in MO, AR, PA, and IL. He's been married to Nikki for 25 years and they have three grown children. Heath spends his spare time reading, running, and going on Saturdays with Nikki anywhere they can find coffee and a riverwalk. Heath is a colleague of Lucas Greenlee, and spends summer Sundays preaching at local churches. We look forward to having him lead worship for us on July 20th.

PASTOR LAUREN WILL BE AWAY on vacation and bereavement leave from **Sunday, June 29th through Thursday, July 10th**. For any pastoral care emergencies, please reach out to Pastor Tanya, Clerk of Session Rebekah Landi, or Deacon Chair Mary Beth Gratz. Pastor Tanya will lead worship on Sunday, July 6th.

BED BUILD - SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH 9a - 2p Please join us for this important service project! We will build 30 beds for children in our community who are currently sleeping on the floor or couches. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers (if you'd like to donate lunch, let Pastor Lauren or Mary Beth know!) Details to come on a bedding drive to provide sheets, etc to go with the beds. Let others know of this great opportunity to serve our community!



Vacation Bible School Class of 2025

A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers who made this week magical for the kids! Thanks to our fearless Director Rebekah Landi, and everyone who helped decorate, plan, teach, play and prepare snacks: Brianne Ambrose, JoAnn Buffington, Joe Cuppini, Lynnette Danzel-Tauer, Ron and Tanya Muzarelli, Katherine Ralston, Maren Reid, Kathy Rose, April Rottman and Shelly Williams.

“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.

Our Summer hours for the Church Office are Tuesday - Thursday from 10am - 2pm.

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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