



7300 BELVIDERE ROAD | CALEDONIA, IL. 61011 | 815/885-3455

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

SEPTEMBER 2025 STREAMER

A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN And just like that, it's fall. One moment, I wonder what on earth happened to summer. In the next moment, I remember that my summer was a whirlwind of traveling and funerals. It is the strangest combination of hazy moments lost to Atlanta's humidity, and crisp, sweet moments with loved ones as we shared memories and tears.

One moment, I find myself wanting to apologize to many - including many of you - for how grief has taken time and capacity. In the next moment, I want to refuse to ever apologize for what grief does, because as we remember at every funeral: grief is love transformed, but love persists.

I find reluctance as we turn the calendar's page, because each day, each week, each month that passes moves us further from the last moment we shared with our lost loved ones, right? That's the kind of thing grief nudges us to remember, and while at times I am tempted to apologize for the things grief does, it is actually a gift - and I don't think we should apologize for those.

So instead of apologizing, I want to thank you. I thank you for your patience with me, with anyone who is grieving - and there are plenty of us grieving in our Old Brick Church.

And yet, we do not grieve without hope; we do not grieve alone. Our faith allows us to ask: *O death, where is your sting?* Where does the sting of death reside today? And what memory might it give me, what hope, what gratitude might I find alongside that sting?

We will end August worshiping and celebrating Communion outside at Scottish Argyle Cemetery. This was a new idea last year that we loved, and so we return to break bread among the tombstones, to celebrate the promise of Christ's return in the midst of the dearly departed. We will sing: *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.* We will sing the alleluias because even at the grave, in Christ, because of Christ, we make our song.

WORSHIP OUTSIDE AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY THIS SUNDAY 8/31 AT 10AM We will worship outside and celebrate Communion. Please bring a chair. 8901 Picken Rd. Caledonia

BED BUILD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH 9AM - 1PM Can you imagine not having your own bed to sleep in each night? This is a reality for far too many children and youth. This year we're once again partnering with St. Joseph's in Libertyville to build **thirty** beds for families in need. There will be jobs for all ages and ability levels. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to church to partner with us in serving our community. Lunch will be provided...can you help? There's a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to sign up to bring ingredients like a loaf of bread. Join us on the sixth in the parking lot! Financial donations are also gladly accepted for this mission.

BOONE COUNTY FAIR RESPITE TENT THANK YOU We had another wonderful year in the Respite Tent! **580 visitors** came through our tent and many expressed gratitude for our hospitality. **35 volunteers** from our church provided that hospitality. Thank you everyone!

STEWARDSHIP SEASON will be in October this year. Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness in giving to the worship and ministry of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025 KIRKIN' WORSHIP SERVICE & POTLUCK Join us for our annual Kirkin' worship service including bagpipes and Blessing o' the Tartans! All are invited to bring a tartan. Remember, we are not all of Scottish descent - we celebrate all backgrounds! There are instructions on how to make a tartan in the Fellowship Hall, outside the Church Office door, or reach out to Lindsey in the Office for more information. There will be a **potluck** following the service. Each household is asked to bring a dish to pass. Drinks and place settings will be provided.

BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY NEWS Our Presbytery has entered a "Season of Discernment" to consider our name. A team has been at work since the fall of 2023 seeking knowledge and awareness of the pre-colonial history of the land encompassed by the presbytery, and of the past and present significance of the person whose name we have been using, the Sac leader, Black Hawk. At the May 13th Presbytery meeting, April Holder, a member of Black Hawk's tribe, the Sac and Fox Nation, and a seventh generation descendant of Black Hawk shared the impact Black Hawk's legacy still holds with his people today. Most impactful was her sharing of her native name, the names of her ancestors and the immense spiritual gravity inherent in the practice and traditions of naming in her community. The Presbytery Assembly learned a lot from April, and we continue to discern whether or not our current name achieves the intent of honoring Black Hawk. Our Session will explore this question more in depth at our September meeting, and the question will go before the Presbytery Assembly on September 9th. There are several resources available through the Presbytery regarding this topic. Please reach out to Pastor Lauren if you would like those resources or have any questions about the name discernment process.

BIBLE STUDY Can't get enough of the prophet Jermeiah? Join us **Thursdays at Noon** throughout September. We'll discuss the previous Sunday's sermon, and read a few more passages from this fascinating and challenging prophet. Feel free to bring a lunch with you. Beginning **September 4th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall**.

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on August 12, 2025 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30pm with prayer and devotions. In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel (Moderator), Karli Rankin, Katherine Ralston, Rebekah Landi (Clerk), Tom Andrew, Lon Clark, Molly Shipton, and Cindy Nelson. Pat Nortch and Jeff Cummings were excused. A quorum was declared.

The following actions were taken:

1. Consent agenda was received and approved as stated.
2. A motion was made and seconded to pull funds for the memorial garden from the following memorials: Wayne Ashburn (\$35), Herb Greenlee (\$100), Carolyn Miller (\$180), Lee Picket (\$168). The motion passed.
3. A motion was made and seconded to approve memorial funds to be used for the plant stand from Jeanne Shallenburder (\$33) and Lourita Rottman (\$90) memorials. The motion passed.

A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY Here is the line up for this month's Special Music! 🎵Liz

- **September 7th**: Kathy Clark and Steven Clark, Vocalists
- **September 14th**: Tom Andrew, Keyboard
- **September 21th**: Kirkin, Bagpipes and Bells
- **September 28nd**: Elizabeth O'Leary, Keyboard

LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP Join us on **Wednesday, October 8th at 1pm** for our next meeting of the **Living with Grief** Group. No matter how long you've been grieving, or who or what you carry grief for, you are welcome.

PER CAPITA Every church in our denomination pays per capita to support the functions and missions of the larger church as well as support for our congregation. Per Capita for 2025 is \$44.00 per member. Please note on your envelope or check memo that your funds are intended for per capita.

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS July was a below average month for giving. We are seeing a general improved giving trend over the course of the year, compared to previous years. Our expenses were average for a summer month. Currently we are in the red for the year \$19,317.72. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	July, 2025	Year-to-Date
Income	\$7,998.02	\$93,471.62
Expenses	\$13,569.95	\$112,789.34
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ (5,571.93)	\$ (19,317.72)

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Monday 1 st		<i>Labor Day - Church Office Closed</i>
Tuesday 2 nd	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals, 6:30p Session
Wednesday 3 rd	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
	8:30a - 11a	1 st Day of Argyle Preschool - Welcome Class of 2026
Thursday 4 th	11:30a	Ladies Lunch at Boone County Family Restaurant, 12p Bible Study, 6p Bell Rehearsal
Saturday 6 th	9a	Bed Build
Sunday 7 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a Deacons Meeting, 11:30 Youth Group Kickoff
Tuesday 9 th	6p	Pipe Band & Drumming: Lessons & Rehearsals
Thursday 11 th	12p	Bible Study, 6p Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 14 th	10a	Worship, 10:30 Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 16 th	8a	Building & Grounds Meeting, 5:30p Worship & Music Meeting, 6p Pipe Band & Drumming: Lessons & Rehearsals
Wednesday 17 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 18 th	12p	Bible Study, 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 19 th		October Streamer Articles Due!
Sunday 21 st	10a	Kirkin' o' the Tartans with Potluck to Follow
Tuesday 23 rd	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Thursday 25 th	12p	Bible Study, 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6p Bell Choir
Sunday 28 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E Meeting
Tuesday 30 th	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL All Preschool through 5th graders are welcome to join us after the Children's Moment on Sundays around 10:30a. Please mark these dates on your calendars! See Rebekah, Karli, or Molly if you have any questions.

September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025
7 th , 14 th & 28 th	12 th , 19 th & 26 th	9 th , 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th	No Children's Sunday School Will Resume in <i>January 2025</i>

YOUTH GROUP All 6th - 12th graders are welcome to join us at 11:30am for lunch, fellowship and fun. Our fall kick-off is **Sunday, September 7th**. We will continue to meet about every other Sunday throughout the Fall. Dates will be sent out soon. See Maren, Lucas or Lauren if you have any questions. **Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you can provide a meal for the Youth Group this Fall.**

JEREMIAH SERMON SERIES This fall, we are making our way through the **book of Jeremiah and the Confession of 1967**. This book of prophecy and affirmation of faith explore similar themes of social turmoil and a longing for change - a longing for reconciliation. As we explore the ancient text and confess what we believe using the modern one, may we boldly ask what turning points are being revealed in our own lives. Where is God's call to reconciliation becoming ever more clear, and what steps might grace empower us to take as we seek a better world? May we be encouraged by the confessions of those who have gone before us - the prophet, the ones prophesied to, and the souls who paused in the midst of war and strife to declare what it meant to follow Jesus in this country in 1967.

Welcome Ms. Sarah (Argyle Preschool Director/Teacher) and new and returning students & families for the 2025 - 2026 school year!

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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