



**A NOTE FROM PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI** It is always wonderful and a little bit amazing at how quickly things seem to move in church life. Yet we know that God is in charge of it all. October is shaping up to be another wonderful ministry filled month and we hope that whether it is in Bible Study, mission projects, Youth Group, and of course Sunday worship that you will be a part of it all.

There is a seasonal aspect to life that closely mirrors the seasons of the year. We are in the middle of a wonderful season of busyness here at the church, but just because we are busy, we do not need to be burdened. Jesus says many wonderful things, and one of my favorite Jesus sayings is: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30 NRSV)

Growing up I had a tendency to think this meant Jesus wanted us to take it easy, or to live a life of leisure. I always wondered why that never seemed to manifest itself. Of course, that is not what Jesus is saying at all. Jesus is telling us in this moment that if we're grounded in the work we do, whether for our church, families or community, in God we will find not a life of ease but a life of joyful work.

We are not called to live easy lives; we are called to faithful living. That faithful living includes not only going to church and being involved in the life of Willow Creek but also recognizing that all we have and all we are is God's to begin with. Faithful living includes giving thanks to God at the end of a busy day for the places where you saw his grace shining through. Jesus reminds us in this passage from Matthew that there will be work to do but you need not be overwhelmed by it because Jesus is with us every step of the way. Jesus will always be faithful to us! ~ In Christ, Pastor Tanya

### **STEWARDSHIP SEASON | HERITAGE OF FAITH**

*The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; indeed, my **heritage** is beautiful to me. ~Psalm 16:6*

**October 5th - October 19th**

With gratitude for our rich Heritage of Faith here at Willow Creek, the Session and Finance Committee are asking everyone to **prayerfully consider pledging** how you might give your time, energy and resources in 2026. Stewardship letters, pledge cards, and giving records for 2025 will be mailed at the beginning of October. This year, we are also offering resources on how to include the church with **legacy giving**. Stewardship Season will end on Sunday, October 19th with Maren Reid and Molly Shipton preaching. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our wonderful church.

**Lunch for Parents/Guardians of Young Worshipers** Do you bring little ones (babies through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) to worship with you? Then please join us next **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** after church (11:30am - 12:30pm) for a lunch where we will learn about opportunities for kids at Willow Creek, and where we can ask questions and build community around the unique experience of seeking inner peace while sharing the pew with a wriggly, joyful little soul. **Lunch and childcare are provided!**

**ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY** will be observed during worship on **Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. If there is a name you would like to have honored, let Pastor Lauren or the Church Office know by **Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**.

## DIANNE'S OCTOBER 2025 HYMN OF THE MONTH NOTE I Sing a Song of the Saints of God #730

What fun I've had researching this wonderful little hymn! The first article I pulled up was headed, "A Quirky Episcopal Hymn". Written in England in the 1920's by Lesbia Scott for her children, this hymn is loaded with references to the great sainted leaders of the faith and many more largely unknown saints. Mrs. Scott wrote pedagogically for her children's instruction and enjoyment. And some modern Christians label this hymn as 'just plain fun to sing'! She's very specific about some saints.

"One was a doctor" St. Luke, a physician wrote the gospels of Luke and Acts. He was an early investigative reporter who researched everything he could find from everyone he could interview concerning the life and teachings of Jesus and of the early church.

"One was a queen" Tenth century Margaret of Scotland ruled with justice and peace at a very difficult time. She also sponsored the restoration of the monastery at Iona, known today as an ecumenical Christian community.

"One was a shepherdess on the green" It was Joan of Arc, who went from being a shepherdess to putting on armor and fighting to save France.

"One was a soldier" Martin of Tours was born (mid 300's) in Hungary and was forced to serve in the Roman army. He was an early 'conscientious objector' refusing to use his sword to kill due to his faith.

"One was a priest" John Donne was Anglican priest at St. Paul's Cathedral. We know him for his poetry

"No man is an island, entire of itself,"

"One was killed by a fierce wild beast" Ignatius of Antioch from the first century preached the gospel before it was at all common to do so. Being arrested for not honoring the Roman gods, he was put in the Colosseum with lions for the entertainment of the Roman crowds.

Then there are you and I. What makes a saint? Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest answers the question this way. "Extravagance. Excessive love, flagrant mercy, radical affection, exorbitant charity, immoderate faith, intemperate hope, in ordinate love." Who could imagine all that history and challenge packed into a children's song? As Pastor Lauren preaches on "Our Heritage of Faith" this month, I realize the "great cloud of witnesses" that surrounds us every day, and I pray the Holy Spirit can use me in some small way, as he has used them, to further the kingdom!

**SESSION SUMMARY** The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on September 2, 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, Pat Nortch, and Jeff Cummings. Cindy Nelson 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 have Lon Clark attend the presbytery meeting on 9/9/25 as a voting elder. The motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to have Molly be the session representative on the Nominating Committee. The motion passed.

**A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY** Hi Willow Creek Friends! We have a good line up for Special Music in October. ♪ Liz

- **October 5<sup>th</sup>**: Nicolai Janitzky, Baritone
- **October 12<sup>th</sup>**: Ron Muzzarelli, Vocalist
- **October 19<sup>th</sup>**: Monroe Family Singers
- **October 26<sup>th</sup>**: Tom Andrew, Keyboard

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** is All Saints' Day. I am putting together a **choir** for that day. All are welcome. We will rehearse several times beforehand. Details will be in the bulletins prior.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** All Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join us after the Children's Moment on Sundays around 10:30a. This month we will meet on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. Please mark these dates on your calendars! See Rebekah, Karli or Molly if you have any questions.

**YOUTH GROUP** All 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join us at 11:30a for lunch, fellowship and fun at church. We will continue to meet about every other Sunday throughout the Fall. This month we will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. Please mark these dates on your calendars! See Maren, Lucas or Lauren if you have any questions. ***There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to provide lunch for the Youth Group.***

**LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP** Join us on **Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm** for our **Living with Grief** Group. No matter how long you've been grieving, or who or what you carry grief for, you are welcome. At this meeting, Ron Muzzarelli will share his story on loved ones who have passed away and how they offer lessons for the present and future. There will be time for conversation and fellowship. All are welcome - please consider inviting those who are grieving who are not yet connected to our church.

**WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS** August 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 above 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.

	<b>August, 2024</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Income	\$11,786.14	\$105,257.76
Expenses	\$15,699.18	\$128,488.52
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Excess/(Deficit)	<b>\$(3,913.04)</b>	<b>\$(23,230.76)</b>

**OCTOBER CALENDAR**

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11:30a	Ladies Luncheon, 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship - 🌍 World Communion, 11:15a Deacon's Meeting, 11:30a Youth Group
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band, 6:30p Session Meeting
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	1p	Living with Grief Group, 6p Bible Study
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Indigenous People Day! - No Argyle Preschool, Church Office Closed</b>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:30p	Worship & Music Meeting, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 6p Bible Study
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11:30a	Argyle Preschool Board Meeting
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Youth Group
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	8a	Buildings & Grounds Meeting, 5pm - 10pm CPR Class, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6p	Bible Study
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>		<b>November Streamer Articles Due!</b> 🍁
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bible Study - <i>Theology &amp; Technology: Imago Dei &amp; AI</i>
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>		🎃 <b>Happy Halloween!</b> - <b>Argyle Preschool Halloween Party</b>

**BIBLE STUDY** for adults will be **6pm - 7pm on Wednesdays in October** (starting **10/8**). For the first few weeks, we will do a "Replay" and look back at the "Deep Cuts & B-Sides" sermon series of lesser known stories of Scripture. Then, on **Wednesday 10/29**, Pastor Lauren will lead a session on **Theology & Technology: Imago Dei & AI**. Have you been hearing more headlines lately about Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models? Do you use ChatGPT or something like it? Do you have questions about what our faith has to say about emerging technologies - especially technologies that have the capacity to shape our lives. Join us on the 29th to explore these questions and more! **If you need childcare, please let Pastor Lauren know.**

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS IN OCTOBER** Pastor Lauren will be out of the office to teach a class for Rock Valley College's Center for Learning in Retirement.

**CPR CLASS** On Tuesday, October 21st from 5pm - 10pm our church is providing CPR/First Aid training for our Argyle Preschool Staff and Sunday Nursery attendants. There are a few more spots open in the class if any of you are interested. The cost is \$20 per participant plus about \$5 to cover the cost of dinner.

**THANK YOU FROM THE BABY BANK!** Thank you for your generous support in our summer mission drive benefiting the Baby Bank of Belvidere. A wonderful thank you note from the Baby Bank is posted on the bulletin board - please take a moment to read about their amazing work in our community!

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS** Clocks will “fall back” one hour at 2am on **Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**.



Thank you all for another wonderful Kirkin' O' the Tartans service and potluck!  
Feel free to take your tartans home, but ***please leave the dowels for next 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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