



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

DECEMBER 2025

STREAMER

**A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN** Yesterday morning, just before our worship service, our Treasurer, Mike Landi, realized we had the wrong year's Terms of Call for the Congregational Meeting. We needed to print new copies in a hurry, but it was time for worship to start. Mike asked: "Can anyone else here run the copier?" I said: "No," and thankfully Maren quickly offered to do the announcements to get worship started while I hurried downstairs, calculating how much time I had. I thought: "They don't really need me until the sermon." And then I thought: "Honestly, someone else could read the sermon. The only thing that no one else here can do today is.... run the copier."

That's such a good reminder for me and for the church. As Presbyterians, we are especially committed to the belief that everyone is a minister in the body of Christ. Our polity and church governance structure - which we also celebrated yesterday with approving a full slate of officers for the upcoming year - reflects this non-hierarchical commitment.

Maybe "polity" and "governance structure" and "non-hierarchical commitment" are not phrases that usually spark joy in our hearts, but yesterday they did for me, especially as we prepare for Advent. This year our theme is *Immanuel: God Is With Us*. In addition to the promises we read from prophets about the Messiah, when I think about God's presence with us, I think about Matthew 18:20 "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*"

This truth is beautifully symbolized in our Advent image which uses John August Swanson's "Festival of Lights". Here we see what it looks like as people walk a common path, each carrying the light of Christ with them, each seeking the light of Christ.

We are indeed a community like this - we each carry the light God has given us, we offer that light to others when theirs grows dim, sometimes our own candles are the ones that need re-lighting, and we are surrounded by a community willing to do that. Some of us have particular roles that we think we're here to fulfill. But as I was reminded yesterday, God has a bigger plan. I'm not needed for the reasons I thought, and yet, we are each needed. When we all gather together, the light of Christ grows brighter, and the presence of God is even more undeniable.



**POINSETTIA ORDERS** are due no later than **Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. If you'd like to order a poinsettia, please fill out the order form located on the office door and credenza in Fellowship Hall or call Lindsey in the Church Office at 815-885-3455 or email [office@willowcreekpc.org](mailto:office@willowcreekpc.org). Flowers not picked up prior to **Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025** will be delivered by the Deacons to those in need of extra cheer.

**MAKE A LOCAL FAMILY'S CHRISTMAS MERRY & BRIGHT!** Our church will once again adopt a local family that needs some help to have a Merry Christmas. Please choose an item or two to purchase and gift wrap and return to church by **Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**. If you would prefer to give money to this cause, that's a big help, too! You can put it in the offering plate (please mark on the memo line of the check or an envelope: "Christmas Family"). Please reach out to Lindsey if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity & willingness to spread the joy of the season!

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** for December will be on **Wednesdays at 12pm Noon** on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**PRESBYTERY NOTE FROM MARY BETH GRATZ** On Tuesday, November 18, I made my way from Boone County to the First Presbyterian Church of DuPage in Bolingbrook for the Presbytery Assembly Meeting. If you've never attended an Assembly meeting, I'd encourage you to consider it. I had a purely selfish reason for attending as I was secretly going to watch my brother-in-law Pastor Mike Engle be installed as the Moderator for 2026. My plan was to surprise Mike, but I was equally surprised when I learned that Pastor Lauren was going to be installed as Vice Moderator! What an amazing honor and opportunity it is for them to represent us and lead our leaders for the next year. Pastor Lauren will be Vice Moderator for 2026 and then serve as Moderator in 2027. In addition to moderating Assembly Meetings, the Presbytery Moderator helps shape the Presbytery's priorities for the year, and offers support to the congregations within our Presbytery. If you have any questions for Pastor Lauren about her new role in the Presbytery, her door is always open!

**YOUTH** are invited to participate in the church celebrations of Advent like the All Church Gingerbread Party, Children's Christmas Pageant and the Cookie Walk. **Youth will go caroling after worship on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.** Youth dates for January and the rest of the Winter and Spring will be sent out soon!

**LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP** will not meet in December. Join us in January.

**DECORATE THE CHURCH** Thank you to all those who helped decorate our church for the Advent season!



**SUMMARY FROM NOVEMBER 4TH SESSION MEETING**

The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on November 4, 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, Pat Nortch, Jeff Cummings, and Cindy Nelson. 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 use the Martha Ruth dedicated account to fund Sunday morning coffee fellowship and church potluck coffee and paper product needs. The motion passed.
3. A motion was made and seconded to use Phyllis Cummings' memorial funds to pay the \$185.67 for memorial garden shrubs. The motion passed.
4. A motion was made and seconded to accept 50 turkeys from Marengo food pantry and distribute them through a reservation system. The motion passed.

**A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY** Dear WCPC Friends - Well, the holiday season is here. I have a nice lineup for December! Happy Christmas to All! ♪Liz

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Children's Christmas Pageant December 14<sup>th</sup> Bell Choir**

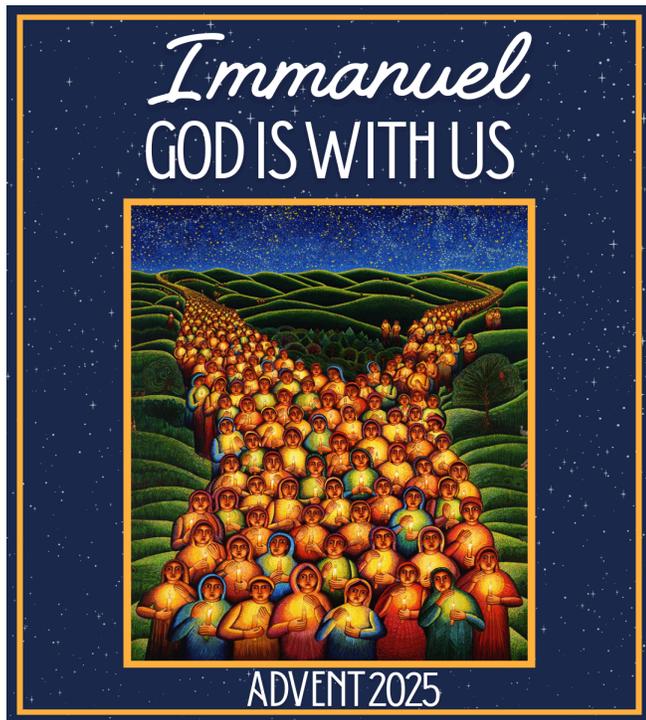
**December 21<sup>st</sup> Service of Lessons & Carols Featuring Willow Creek Musicians**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm Christmas Eve - Bell Choir and Willow Creek Soloists December 28<sup>th</sup> Hymn Sing**

**DECEMBER CALENDAR**

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6p	Pipe Band, <b>Poinsettia Orders Due</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 12p Bible Study
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10a	All Church Gingerbread Party
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship - Children's Christmas Pageant, 11a Fellowship

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	12p	Bible Study
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	8:30p-1p	Drop off cookies for Cookie Walk
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship & Cookie Walk, 11:15a Deacons, 11:30a Youth Lunch & Caroling
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 12p Bible Study
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>		<b>January Streamer Articles Due!</b> <b>Argyle Preschool Winter Party</b>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10a	Worship - Lessons & Carols, 11a Fellowship
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		👶 <b>Argyle Preschool Winter Break 12/22 - 1/4</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	4p	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion, <b>Church Office Closed 12/24 - 12/26</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Merry Christmas!</b> 🎄
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10a	Worship - Hymn Sing Sunday, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E



### ADVENT 2025: IMMANUEL - GOD IS WITH US

**We hope you can join us for these beloved Advent Traditions!**

**November 30<sup>th</sup>** Worship with Communion

**December 7<sup>th</sup>** Children's Christmas Pageant

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** Worship followed by Cookie Walk & Youth Caroling

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** Lessons & Carols

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm** Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight

**December 28<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Hymn Sing

**January 4<sup>th</sup>** Epiphany & Communion

### ANNUAL COOKIE WALK Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

following worship! Bring your homemade baked goods to church on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> (between 8:30am - 1pm), or bring them with you on Sunday. After worship on the 14<sup>th</sup>, you'll have the opportunity to put together your cookie box! All proceeds go to the **Family In Need** fund. This fund exists for any needs that arise for anyone in our church family.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will be on **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** during 10am worship. This service will **not** be live-streamed and will **not** be available later on Facebook or YouTube. The pageant will be recorded, and the link to the recording will be available for anyone who wants it. **If you would like to watch the pageant, please email Lindsey ([Office@WillowCreekPC.org](mailto:Office@WillowCreekPC.org)).** The link will be emailed out after the pageant.

ANNUAL OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the Fellowship Hall.

REMEMBER THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREES that help us celebrate and give as well: The *small tree on the landing* is for your Christmas cards for your church family, and you can put any money you may have used on postage in the can to benefit Kemmerer Village. The *tree in the Education Wing* is for hats and mittens to warm those in need. The *tree by the Mission Closet* has a wish list from a local family for us to fulfill. Thank you for the many ways you share and give throughout this season!

GRATITUDE BAGS are our annual opportunity to express appreciation for the hard-working church staff. The bags are located in the *Fellowship Hall until December 28<sup>th</sup>*. There are many folks in our church who are not on staff who give lots of time and energy to our congregation. Individual notes of thanks are always appreciated. Let the Church Office know if you need anyone's contact information.

**DIANNE'S HYMN OF THE MONTH #110 "LOVE HAS COME"** The tune for this modern day carol may be familiar to you. Written in the 14<sup>th</sup> century in France, it has been used for the carol "Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella" for many years. In that carol, young women are so excited at seeing the baby Jesus that they are much too loud. We hear the words 'Hush...Hush'. In 1996, Ken Bible, a prolific American writer of hymns, wrote new words to the Bring a Torch tune. "Love Has Come" features 'Love...Love' in place of Hush. Pastor Lauren's theme for this advent season is Emmanuel meaning God with Us. In 1 John 4:16, John wrote: *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.* So instead of singing 'Love has come', we could also substitute 'God has come,' Emmanuel. Mr. Bible speaks of Jesus as light, love, and Savior; and that He (Love) dwells within and among us. The dance-like feel of the tune relays the excitement of the original carol. It is a perfect tune for the excitement of the announcement "Love Has Come".

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
plan to stay after worship to help  
**Undecorate the Church**



and enjoy our annual  
**Chili Cook Off**

All are welcome to bring a chili to share  
or just help with undecorating  
and enjoy what others bring!

**Bring change to vote for your favorite chili!**  
Proceeds will go to the Family In Need Fund

**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 8:30am - 1:00pm.**

If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the Church Office.

Phone: (815) 885-3455

7300 Belvidere Rd. Caledonia, IL. 61011

Email: [office@willowcreekpc.org](mailto:office@willowcreekpc.org)

Website: [www.willowcreekpc.org](http://www.willowcreekpc.org)

Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/wcpcargyle>