



DIANNE'S HYMN OF THE MONTH: "GIVE THANKS" #647 in our Glory To God Hymnal

Although Thanksgiving is only one day of the month, November seems to be the season of thankfulness. In our hymnals there are a couple of stray hymns of thanks (#36 and #336), but the bulk of them are between #643 and #661. The section opens with "Now Thank We All Our God", written during the 30 years war (1618-1648) when up to 1/3 of the male population of some regions of Europe were killed. #645, also written in the 1600's, thanks God for his creation, power and mothering ways. #649 is the wonderful "Amazing Grace" thanking God for his faithful love and forgiveness. #651 thanks God for meeting us where we are. #645 is from the modern day French monastic community called Taizé and reminds us 'the Lord is near'. #653 describes many human maladies and then encourages us to thank God in as many ways as we suffer! #658 is about God's goodness and care. The last hymn "Why Should I Feel Discouraged?" (His Eye is on the Sparrow) reminds us that no matter what happens, God's got this! And all of them tell about God and His saving grace through Jesus.

So, after all my digging, I'm going with "Give Thanks" (#647). Give thanks because of what the Lord has done! Drawing from all the other hymns written; from Psalm 126:3 "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy"; and from I Thessalonians 5:18 which says, 'Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'. This simple praise hymn by Henry Smith from 1978 says it all. Just "Give Thanks".

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY will be observed during worship on **Sunday, November 2nd**.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Clocks will "fall back" one hour at 2am on **Sunday, November 2nd**.

THANK YOU FOR FAITHFULLY GIVING and thank you for pledging! We are prayerfully planning for another wonderful year of ministry thanks to your generosity and faithfulness.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY on the **Psalms** will be on **Mondays at Noon** during November. Join us!

LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP Join us on **Wednesday, November 19th at 1pm**. No matter how long you've been grieving, or who or what you carry grief for, you are welcome. All are welcome - please consider inviting those who are grieving who are not yet connected to our church.

A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY Hi Willow Creek Friends! We have a good line up for Special Music in November. Anyone that wants to perform Special Music, let me know and I'll fit you in. Thanks! ♪Liz

2nd: Sanctuary Choir and Lucas Greenlee, Pipes 9th: Dianne Londo, Piano
16th: Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto 23rd: Dan Holmes, Voice and Guitar 30th: TBA

YOUTH GROUP Youth will meet at **11:30a November 2nd & November 16th** for lunch, fellowship and fun at church. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you can provide a meal for the Youth Group.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (DEC. 7TH DURING WORSHIP) **rehearsals** are during Sunday School (**10:30am**) on **Nov. 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th**. We will have a special visitor from the North Pole after the pageant!

DECORATE THE CHURCH Join us after worship on **Sunday, November 16th** to help decorate the church for Advent & Christmas! Many hands make light work - if several volunteers stay to help, we'll be done quickly. There will be jobs for all ages and ability levels. Thank you for joining us to make our church festive for this joyous season!

NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN: WHAT'S IN A NAME? PRESBYTERY EDITION One of my favorite things about being Presbyterian is that we are a "connectional church". Connected to other congregations and our denomination, we work together to serve others, learn together and bring glory to God. One of the ways we practice being connectional is through our participation in Presbytery. Since its organization in 1972, our Presbytery has been named "Blackhawk". There isn't a clear record of why that name was chosen, though we assume it was to honor Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak, the Sauk leader we know in English as "Black Hawk" who led others in the fight to preserve their ancestral homeland. The Black Hawk War was fought in 1832, resulting in hundreds of deaths. The decisive defeat of Black Hawk and his followers resulted in the forced removal of the Sauk and Fox tribes from their lands and marked the end of major Native American resistance in the Midwest.

The churches in our Presbytery began to be organized just before the Black Hawk War, with the earliest congregation being chartered in 1829 in Galena. Willow Creek was organized about 15 years later, with our first Communion being celebrated in January 1845.

Over the last few years, a group from our Presbytery has been working on learning as much as possible about the history of the people who once occupied the land our churches now stand on. During this process, they were able to connect with a descendant of Black Hawk, April Holder. April joined our Presbytery meeting this past May, and shared with us that while they understand the intent to honor, descendants of Black Hawk prefer to let his name rest. For them, the name "Blackhawk" carries the painful connotation of the loss of life and land in 1832.

Having learned her perspective, our Presbytery entered a season of discernment of how we might best honor the legacy of those who have come before us. Over the summer, several "listening sessions" were offered to share with folks throughout the Presbytery about our history. The result of those listening sessions was a September Presbytery vote to no longer be named "Blackhawk".

Our Presbytery is now discerning a new name. Folks who receive the "Presbytery Connections" newsletter via email (if you would like to be added to that email list, please let Lindsey know!) were invited to submit name ideas, and then vote on potential names. The list of names has been narrowed down, and the current plan is for the Presbytery Assembly to vote on the final name at our meeting on November 18th.

I have learned a lot over the last few years from our Presbytery's "Land and Name Acknowledgement" group. They have worked really hard and I appreciate their desire to honor our history. And, honoring history is always a complex endeavor. I honestly remain unsure of the "best" way to honor Black Hawk and his people. My feeling is that if we are no longer called by this name, we might forget his bravery and the things that happened to the Indigenous people who once lived in this region. However, I confess I didn't know much about Black Hawk prior to the May Presbytery meeting - how honoring is it to carry a name whose history we don't really know? I am grateful for the gracious communication from his descendant, April Holder, and her insight that the best way in her culture to honor a name is to let it rest. And I am grateful the Presbyterian church is a connectional church where complicated decisions like "what's in a name?" are not left for me alone to decide. We had a rich conversation on this topic at our September Session meeting, and more insights were shared at the September Presbytery meeting. Any attempt to honor history will ultimately be imperfect, and collective decision making is also an imperfect process. Even so, I hope that no matter what our Presbytery is named, we can continue to be a place where imperfect people gather together to seek the will of a perfect God, knowing that what ultimately matters is not any particular decision we make, but the way we honor God by practicing humility and treating one another with kindness.

If you would like more information on the history the Presbytery's Land and Name Acknowledgement group has compiled, if you have questions, or if you would simply like to discuss this further, I would be delighted to talk more with you. ~ Pastor Lauren

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL All Preschool through 5th graders are welcome to join us after the Children's Moment on Sundays around 10:30a. We will meet **November 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th**. See Rebekah, Karli, or Molly if you have any questions.

SUMMARY FROM OCTOBER SESSION MEETING The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on October 7, 2025 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30pm with prayer and devotions. In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzal (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 give the CPR Trainer an honorarium of \$100 from the session endorsed line item (unless Lauren and Diane can find a better source). The motion passed.
3. A motion was made and seconded to call the Congregational Meeting following the worship service on Sunday 11/23/25 for the purpose of approving the slate of officers and approving Pastor Lauren's compensation package for 2026. The motion was passed.
4. A motion was made and seconded to use Carolyn Miller's memorial funds to pay for a sandbox (\$371.75). The motion passed.
5. A motion was made and seconded to allow the Haven Network to meet with families at Willow Creek. The motion passed.

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS September 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 Fall month. Currently we are in the red for the year \$25,571.87. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	September, 2025	Year-to-Date
Income	\$10,875.93	\$116,133.69
Expenses	\$13,217.04	\$141,705.56
Excess/(Deficit)	\$(2,341.11)	\$(25,571.87)

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday 2 nd	10a	Worship & Communion - All Saints' Day, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Youth Group Daylight Savings Time Ends
Monday 3 rd	12p	Bible Study
Tuesday 4 th	6p	Pipe Band, 6:30p Session
Wednesday 5 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 6 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 9 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a Deacons Meeting
Monday 10 th	12p	Bible Study, 6:30p Beaver Valley Clippers 4H Meeting
Tuesday 11 th	6p	Veterans Day! Pipe Band & Drumming: Lessons & Rehearsals
Thursday 13 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 16 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship while Decorating the Church 🌲 11:30a Youth Group
Monday 17 th	12p	Bible Study
Tuesday 18 th	8a	Buildings & Grounds, 5:30p Worship & Music, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 19 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 1p Grief Group
Thursday 20 th	6p	Argyle Preschool Teacher Conferences - No School
Friday 22 nd		Argyle Preschool Teacher Conferences Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 23 rd	10a	December Streamer Articles Due! Teacher Conferences - No School Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Congregational Meeting followed by Hamball Dinner
Monday 24 th		Argyle Preschool Thanksgiving Break 11/24 - 11/28
Tuesday 26 th	6p	Pipe Band
Thursday 27 th		Happy Thanksgiving! - Church Office Closed 11/28 & 11/29
Sunday 30 th	10a	Worship - Communion, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E Meeting

ADVENT God is with us! We hope you can join us for these beloved Advent Traditions:

November 30th Advent 1 - Worship with Communion **December 7th** Advent 2 - Christmas Pageant

December 14th Advent 3 - Worship & Cookie Walk **December 21st** Advent 4 - Lessons & Carols

December 24th 4pm Christmas Eve - Communion & Candlelight **December 28th** Christmas Hymn Sing

January 4th Epiphany & Communion with Pastor Tanya preaching

We will also have our **All Church Gingerbread Party** in December! Stay tuned for details on day and time.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The Session calls the Annual Congregational Meeting of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle to be held on **Sunday, November 23rd, 2025** following worship for the purpose of electing officers and approving Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzels contract for 2026. The meeting will be followed by our beloved **Hamball Potluck** (*printed copies of the hamball recipe are available*) in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a hamball or turkey main dish, side, salad or dessert. Drinks, cups and plates will be provided.

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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