

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE | MARCH 2026 STREAMER



A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN This Lent we are focusing on cultivating virtues and uprooting vices, inspired by the faith of medieval Christians. This rhythm of nourishing and weeding brings to mind Ecclesiastes 3: *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to plant and a time to uproot; a time to tear down and a time to build.*

This was on my mind on Ash Wednesday as folks dropped by church to receive the imposition of ashes - the imposing reminder that we are mortal. We are finite, limited and temporal. And we are the beloved children of a God who is infinite, sovereign and eternal. There is something so centering about this ritual. Indeed, only half of the folks who stopped by to receive the ashes are from our congregation. Of the more than twenty visitors that day, over half were community members I had never met before. Each one expressed deep gratitude for the chance to pause and enter into the season with a shared, holy moment.

I was so struck by how many of our neighbors long for what we have here at our Old Brick Church: a traditional faith practiced in community.

In January, your Elders and Deacons met to plan for the year. In fact, they are the ones who suggested we make sure to put the “Drive Thru Ashes” on the sign well in advance, and that certainly seemed to have an impact, as we had more than twice as many visitors as previous years! We also set opportunities on our calendar that we think are great opportunities to invite others to (dates listed at the end of the Streamer). As you think about if there’s anyone in your life you could invite to Willow Creek, I invite you to consider how many people are already longing for a chance to stop, step into our sanctuary, take a deep breath, share a smile, and hear something true and good.

This Lenten Season as we embody the rhythm of cultivating and uprooting, as our “Fireside Room” continues to be torn down and rebuilt, may we consider that 2026 is a season of growth for all of us at Willow Creek. May our own roots of faith deepen, and may our branches spread a little further, to offer shelter to new folks who are eager to be invited in.

LENT: VIRTUES & VICICES In medieval times, much was written for Christians to guide their daily lives with particular attention to avoiding vices and cultivating virtues. Throughout Lent, we will learn more about the classic virtues and vices. Lent - traditionally a season for fasting and restriction as the faithful have made space within their souls for the light of Christ - is the perfect time for this topic. In pursuit of a whole and holy life, what virtues might we choose to cultivate, and what vices might we try to uproot? Each Sunday the sermon will explore a different virtue and vice pair.

3/1 Pride & Humility; 3/8 Love & Envy; 3/15 Sloth & Fortitude;

3/22 still being decided - do you have a favorite virtue or vice? Let Pastor Lauren know!

3/29 Palm Sunday

LENTEN SOUP STUDY *Wednesdays in March 5:30pm - 7pm* We will share a simple meal and dive deeper into our Lenten theme “Virtues & Vices”. If you would like to bring soup for the group, the sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. We will start meeting on Wednesday, **March 4th**.

SNACK DRIVE FOR CAPRON ELEMENTARY It's important for students to have plenty to eat throughout the schoolday, and some families need a little extra support in providing snacks. So we get to help! Please bring in **individually wrapped snacks** by **Sunday, March 16th**. The most requested items are: *Cheez-Its, bags of popcorn, single cereal packs, pretzels (plain or cheese filled), GoGo Squeez applesauce, fruit snacks, animal crackers, Goldfish and saltine crackers.* **Please avoid any peanut products.** Thank you to the Youth Group for leading this Mission Drive!

YOUTH GROUP Will meet 11:30am - 1:30pm at church on March 1st

LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP will not meet during Lent.

FIRESIDE ROOM The room off of the kitchen is painted! And the flooring is going in. Progress continues on our church "living room" where the Youth Group, Bible studies and committees can meet, and where families can gather for weddings and funerals. We are excited to soon offer more space where our church family can fellowship. A huge thank you to the hard working volunteers: Bryan Ambrose, Curt Greenlee, Ron Muzzarelli, John Reid and others. A special thanks to the guidance of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, and to the working group empowered by Session to make decisions about this room and other buildings projects: Pastor Lauren, Pat Nortch, Karli Rankin and John Reid.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL All Preschool through 5th graders are welcome to join us after the Children's Moment on Sundays around 10:30am. We will meet **March 8th, 15th & 22nd**. See Rebekah, Karli, Shannon or Riley if you have any questions.

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on February 3, 2026 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30pm with prayer and devotions. In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzler (Moderator), Karli Rankin, Katherine Ralston, Rebekah Landi (Clerk), Tom Andrew, Cindy Nelson, Molly Shipton, Pat Nortch, and Jeff Cummings. Lon Clark was excused. A quorum was declared.

The following actions were taken:

- A motion was made and seconded to elect Rebekah as the clerk of session. The motion passed.
- A motion was made and seconded to use Richard Nortch memorial funds to provide a portable dental suction device for the dental mission opportunity from Karli. Motion passed
- Consent agenda was received and approved as stated.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the communion dates as listed. The motion passed.
- A motion was made and seconded to host the November 10, 2026 Presbytery Assembly meeting.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve Natalie Wooden's request to use the building for music lessons, pending confirmation of insurance coverage. The motion passed.
- A motion was made and seconded to do a mission drive to buy snacks for Capron Elementary. The motion passed.
- Session approved the motion from FPE to move the earnings (\$1,220.66), from the CD, from our Gifts and Bequests account at RCB to the Church's checking account at SB to be used for church bills.
- A motion was made to allow the hardware audio and the hardware video accounts for Media Committee to start transferring into a dedicated account each month so that the money can build up over time to spread out the cost of equipment replacement.
- A motion was made and seconded that we participate in the 3 special offerings of PCUSA. The motion was approved.

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS December was well above average for giving at Willow Creek. 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 Winter month due to some Buildings and Grounds activity. Currently we are in the red for the year \$7,102.14. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	December 2025	Year-to-Date
Income	\$26,517.18	\$184,100.44
Expenses	\$23,350.85	\$191,202.58
Excess/(Deficit)	\$3,166.33	\$(7,102.14)

A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY

- **March 1 - Willow Creek Bell Choir**
- **March 8 - Mandy Nelson, Flute**
- **March 15 - Willow Creek Bell Choir**
- **March 22 - Elizabeth O'Leary, Piano**
- **March 29 - Palm Sunday: Dianne Londo, Piano; Tom Andrew, Organ; Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto**

YOUTH RETREAT Our Youth Group is headed to Stronghold! All 6th - 12th graders are invited to join us for an overnight retreat at the conference center in Oregon, IL Friday March 13th - Saturday March 14th. See Pastor Lauren or Maren Reid for more information.

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday 1 st	10a	Worship with Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Youth Group, 11:30a Deacon Meeting
Tuesday 3 rd	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 4 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 5 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 8 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15 F/P/E Meeting
Tuesday 10 th	6p	Session, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 11 th	5:30p	Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 12 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday 13 th		Youth Retreat 3/13 - 3/14
Sunday 15 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a, Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Monday 16 th		Snacks Due for Snack Drive
Tuesday 17 th	8a	Building & Grounds Meeting, 5:30p Music & Worship Meeting, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 18 th	8a	Saint Patrick's Day 🍀 Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 19 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 22 nd	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Monday 23 rd		Argyle Preschool Spring Break - No School 3/23 - 3/27
Tuesday 24 th	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 25 th	5:30p	Lenten Soup Study
Thursday 26 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 29 th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
		Palm Sunday 🌿

DIANNE'S HYMN OF THE MONTH: "WE CANNOT MEASURE HOW YOU HEAL"

We Cannot Measure How You Heal is a hymn written in 1989. Which, as far as hymnody goes, makes it quite new. The tune is familiar and the text is so very appropriate for the Lenten season when we are all trying to set things right in our lives. Maybe we're trying to eat more healthy, or trying to repair some damage our words have caused, or trying to trust more in the Lord for strength, or planning to put more scripture study into our routines. Lent is a time when we realize how broken we are and how we can turn to the Lord to help us heal our bodies, minds, relationships and broken spirits. This hymn gives us hope that through Christ we can bring love into difficult situations, we can find ways to make amends for things we've said or done, and we can trust in the Lord to help us and forgive us when we fail. And the ways the Lord accomplishes these things may surprise us!

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday March 29th Palm Processional & Willow Creek Sanctuary Choir
Maundy Thursday April 2nd **Potluck & Communion Service** Fellowship Hall at 6pm
Good Friday April 3rd **Holy Saturday** April 4th Chapel open at Scottish Argyle Cemetery
Easter Sunday April 5th **8am** Sunrise Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery
9am Pancake Breakfast* **9:15am** Egg Hunt at WCPC
10am Worship in the Sanctuary with Handbell Choir & Communion

**Breakfast is at Willow Creek in the Fellowship Hall and provided by the Session. All are welcome!*

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM Would you like to order an Easter flower in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? Easter Lilies, hyacinths, tulips and daffodils will be \$13.00 each. You may donate or take your flower(s) and/or bulbs home on Easter Sunday. Please fill out this form and turn it into the office or mail it into the church. The deadline to order is Sunday March 22nd, 2026. *Please write anything below as you wish to appear in the bulletin. Order forms are also available on the office door and on credenza in Fellowship Hall.* Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church and on the memo line, put "Easter flowers".

Lilies (how many) _____
Bulbs - Hyacinths (how many) _____
Bulbs - Tulips (how many) _____
Bulbs - Daffodils (how many) _____

In Loving Memory of:

In Honor of:

Donor name(s):

SAVE THE DATE! 4/26 Rise Against Hunger Simple Communion Worship and Service Project
6/21 Worship in the Parking Lot * 6/22 - 25 Vacation Bible School * 7/12 Worship in the Park
8/11 - 16 Respite Tent at the Boone County Fair * 9/6 Worship Outside at the Cemetery
9/13 Kirkin' o' the Tartans * 9/26 Ag Day in Argyle

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 - 1pm.** 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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