



NOTE FROM MARY BETH “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19 captures God’s promise of renewal which is so evident when the flowers begin to peek through the still cool ground. We are reminded that God is quietly powerful and always working, whether we see it while it’s happening or after the fact as in the budding trees and flowers. These changes and longer days testify to a season of new beginnings, restoring our hope. Spring invites us to pause and notice the “new things” God is cultivating, not only in the world around us but also within our own hearts. As the earth awakens after a long winter, we are also called to awaken, to embrace change and trust that God is always working in our lives. This month brings us the joy of Easter where we celebrate Christ’s resurrection. We are reminded that no matter how long or difficult a winter may feel, God’s promise of life, grace and transformation will always be near. May this April bring to all of us a fresh perspective, renewed faith and a deeper connection with God and with each other. ~ Mary Beth, Deacon Chairperson

HOLY WEEK

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
8901 Picken Rd. Caledonia
Easter Sunday April 5th **8am** Sunrise Service at Scottish Argyle Cemetery Chapel
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!*

Throughout this **Lent** we have followed in the footsteps of medieval Christians who thought of their souls as gardens, and intentionally cultivated virtues and uprooted vices, especially in this season as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection. If this theme interests you and you’d like to dig deeper into the topic, let Pastor Lauren know!

You can also check out the book *Ask of Old Paths* by Grace Hamman.

FLOWERING CROSS Please bring cut or artificial flowers to add to our cross outside of the sanctuary doors beginning at noon on Good Friday through Easter morning.

WELCOME TO ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PRESBYTERY! As of the March 13th meeting of the Lincoln Trails Synod, our Presbytery’s name is officially Illinois Prairie! Last September, after a few years of intentionally learning about our history and the history of the name “Black Hawk”, our Presbytery voted to no longer be called Blackhawk. This led to a season of discerning a new name, and then at our November meeting, the Presbytery Assembly voted to become Illinois Prairie. Bringing that vote to our Synod was the final step. If you would like to know any more about the history of our previous name, or the process through which the name was changed, let Pastor Lauren know.

YOUTH GROUP will meet after worship for a yardwork service project on Sunday, April 12th and for games, fellowship and lunch on Sunday, April 26th from 11:30am - 1:30pm. The Youth will also help lead the 8am Easter Sunrise Service at the Chapel (April 5th) and will help with the Easter Egg Hunt. We had a great time at our spring retreat to Stronghold March 13th & 14th! If you weren't able to join us for worship on March 15th which the youth led, check it out on our Facebook or YouTube page.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER On **Sunday, April 26th** we will gather for worship as usual in the sanctuary at 10am for a brief communion service, then head down to the Fellowship Hall to pack over 10,000 nutrient-dense, shelf-stable meals for those around the world suffering from hunger. We will finish around 12:30pm. There are jobs for every age and ability level. This is a great service opportunity to invite others to.

IMPORTANT CORRECTION FROM PASTOR LAUREN A mistake was made last November when the Memorial Acclamation was printed and read for All Saints' Day. Due to some unusual circumstances in the Church Office, names were inadvertently left off of the note. The Memorial Plaque and Memorial Book will correctly reflect how Memorial Funds were spent in 2025, and the Memorial Acclamation in 2026 will correct the error, to ensure the bell is rung in memory of these saints. I am so sorry this happened, and we have improved our systems so that it will not happen again. This is the note as it should have been printed and read in November 2025: *The Memorial Committee of Session would like to dedicate the gifts of the Engraving for the Memorial Plaque, Laptops for the Church Office and Argyle Preschool, Memorial Garden Plants, Sanctuary Plant Stand, Sandbox, and Red Carnations for Memorial Day to the memory of Shirley Ashburn, Wayne Ashburn, Gordon Bindenagel, Pat Bindenagel, Loren Buffington, Herb Greenlee, Carolyn Miller, Lee Pickett, Laurita Rottman and Jeane Shallenberger. The Memorial Committee of Session dedicates these gifts in memory of these saints as witness to the resurrection of Christ. Amen.*

A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY ♪ Hello Willow Creek Friends! Here is the special music lined up for April: **5th** Easter Sunday - Willow Creek Bell Choir; Tom Andrew, Organ; Dianne Londo, Piano
12th Kathy Clark and Steven Clark, Vocalists
19th Natalie Wooden, Vocalist **26th** Elizabeth O'Leary, Piano

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on March 10, 2026 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:00pm 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 Jeff Cummings. Pat Nortch and Cindy Nelson 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 begin fundraising from the congregation for building update projects. The motion passed.
3. A motion was made and seconded to accept the donation of a piano and to cover the expenses of moving and tuning it. The motion passed.
4. A motion was made and seconded to allow the Sunshine Society of Lucette Salon to use our building on April 10, 2026 for a Bingo night. The motion passed.

DIANNE'S HYMN OF THE MONTH: "HE LIVES!"

This hymn, #285 in Sing Joyfully, was written by Presbyterian minister and hymn writer Alfred H. Ackley in 1933. While nearly 100 years old, this hymn is filled with joy and energy and is still loved by congregations everywhere. Pastor Ackley wrote over 1500 hymns, but this one has endured. He wrote it in response to a couple of things: First he heard a radio show host (on Christian radio) say that whether or not Christ rose from the dead didn't matter; only that he led a good life! The other thing was a question posed to him asking: "Why should I worship a dead man?" Wanting to respond to these comments and questions, and knowing that Christ's resurrection is the heart of the Christian faith, Pastor Ackley began writing and the hymn, "He Lives" was born. The risen Lord, our personal relationship with Him, and the promise of His second coming are all brought out in this wonderful hymn. May we go into the season of Eastertide with full hearts knowing, "He Lives"!

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS February was below average for giving at Willow Creek. We are seeing a general improved giving compared to last year. Our expenses were above average for a Winter month due to a few Builds & Grounds projects around the church. Currently we are in the red for the year \$6,536.31. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	February, 2025	Year-to-Date
Income	15,667.29	30,336.77
Expenses	18,207.06	36,873.08
Excess/(Deficit)	(2,593.77)	(6,536.31)

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will be on the 12th & 19th of this month.

APRIL CALENDAR

Wednesday 1 st	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 2 nd	6p	Maundy Thursday - Potluck & Communion Service
Friday 3 rd		Good Friday
Saturday 4 th		Holy Saturday - Chapel Open at Scottish Argyle Cemetery
	8a	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 5 th	8a	Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at the Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery, 9a Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, 9:15a Egg Hunt at WCPC, 10a Worship in the Sanctuary with Handbell Choir & Communion, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 7 th	6p	Session Meeting & Pipe Band
Thursday 9 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 12 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Youth Group, 11:30a Deacon Meeting
Tuesday 14 th	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 15 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 16 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 19 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 21 st	8a	Buildings & Grounds, 5:30p Worship & Music, 6 Pipe Band
Thursday 23 rd	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 26 th	10a	Communion Service, 10:20am Rise Against Hunger
Tuesday 28 th	6p	Pipe Band
Thursday 30 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal

THE FLORA MCEACHRAN SCHOLARSHIP is available for any student in or beyond their senior year of high school who has not previously received it. See Pastor Lauren or Rebekah Landi for more info.

FIRESIDE ROOM & BUILDING UPDATES If you haven't yet, please take a moment to check out the progress made on the room off of the kitchen. Eventually, this will become a 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 folks who have put in the time and energy to make these updates: **Bryan Ambrose, Matt Dhamer, Curt Greenlee, Dianne Londo, Trace Johnson, Ron Muzzarelli and John Reid.**

We're excited to soon add furniture and finishing touches. Then, we will turn our attention to other underused spaces in our building, including the Library, the classroom across from the Church Office, and the hallway and Ladies Lounge area. Session empowered a small group to lead the way on making plans for these building updates - if you have any thoughts or questions please let one of us know: *Pat Nortch, Karli Rankin, John Reid and Pastor Lauren.* We are extraordinarily fortunate to have the opportunity to dream and plan for the future use of our beautiful church building, and we are grateful to be equipped to dream big because of generous giving and historical good stewardship. That said, these are exciting projects, and if you would like to give toward them or designate a loved one's Memorial Funds to be used for them, that is deeply appreciated. If you would like to do so, let Pastor Lauren or Diane Van Vleet (bookkeeper@willowcreekpc.org) know, or simply note a gift "Building Updates".

GARDEN PROJECT We are excited to announce that a small garden project will begin this spring at church! If anyone is interested in helping with planning, planting and getting some raised beds started, please reach out to Pastor Lauren or the church office. An informational meeting will be held mid April to kick off this project.

NEW PIANO IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL Please take a moment to notice the beautiful new piano in the Fellowship Hall. It belonged to a dear friend of Dianne Londo's who recently passed away. Sharon Mazurek is remembered by her loved ones as "a woman of profound faith and music", and her family is delighted to know her beloved piano has found a home here where its music will be enjoyed for years to come.

We want to honor her legacy by enjoying the instrument, and also by caring for it. While little ones are encouraged to explore music here at Willow Creek, we ask that any child use of the piano be supervised by an adult to ensure that hands are clean and the keys are played gently. Thank you for helping us care for this wonderful gift to our church!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL *Save the Dates!* Join us for an Outer Space themed VBS on **June 22nd - 26th (Mon - Thurs) 9am - 12pm!** (snack provided each day) We welcome any Preschool through 6th grade to join us for this cosmic adventure!

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 - 1p. 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 Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011

Email: office@willowcreekpc.org

Website: www.willowcreekpc.org

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

