



A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN I feel like I get to say this a lot, but last Sunday was one of my favorite Sundays here at Willow Creek. Our Fellowship Hall was full and busy for a couple of hours after worship as we packed 10,584 meals with Rise Against Hunger! Several of you invited friends, and folks who have been a part of this community for just a few weeks served alongside those who have been at this church for decades.

In the Sanctuary, just before we came downstairs to work, we broke bread at the Communion table, recalling the story from Luke 24 of the friends on the Emmaus Road. Jesus walked with them, but they did not recognize Jesus - not when he asked them questions, not when he taught them about Scripture. He remained a stranger to them, but they invited him to share their bread at their table anyway. Their example is a good reminder to us to welcome the stranger, for in welcoming the stranger we are welcoming Christ.

It was not until they were at the table with Jesus and he took the bread, blessed and broke it that they recognized him.

This is a mysterious story that invites us to continue to wonder not only how they failed to see Jesus right in front of them, but also how our vision might not be perfect, either. And, this mystery encourages us to keep breaking bread with strangers. This is both something we can do literally, and a metaphor for how Christ has called us to walk with others: to invite them to our tables, just as we did last Sunday.

The work we did together on Sunday is also a literal example of how Christ has called us to walk with others: to invite friends to serve with us and to find ways to feed those who are hungry. Sunday's example is also an expansive metaphor that shapes our way of being in the world: who is hungry for the bread we share here at Willow Creek? Who is hungry to be a part of a community like this? Who is hungry for opportunities to respond to the needs of others? Who is hungry for the laughter we share while we work for this world to be a little more like heaven? Who around us is hungry, and how can we help them find their way to Christ's table?

RISE AGAINST HUNGER Thank you so much for your hard work last Sunday! We packed 10,584 meals in record time! It's not too late to donate: each meal costs about 40¢. A donation of **\$10 covers the cost of twenty-five meals** for folks in need.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN sees things a bit differently than Matthew, Mark and Luke. Those three are known as the "synoptic Gospels" - *synoptic* means "see together" or "take a common perspective". Matthew, Mark and Luke do that, often telling the same stories. But then, there's John. The Gospel of John offers a unique perspective on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. For the next few Sundays, we will follow the lectionary readings through the middle of John's Gospel. These passages are a step back chronologically during this Easter season - we know Jesus has risen from the dead, but we will explore the teachings and promises he gave his disciples prior to his death. How does knowing the rest of the story shape our understanding of these promises? Can we put ourselves in the shoes of Jesus' first followers, and find compassion for their struggle to believe such unbelievable things? Join us for a journey through John!

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

A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY

- May 3rd: Tom Andrew, Keyboard
- May 10th: Molly Shipton, Piano & Monroe Family Singers
- May 17th: Ron Muzzarelli, Vocalist
- May 24th: Bagpipes & Willow Creek Bell Choir
- May 31st: Dianne Londo, Piano

~Enjoy! Liz

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will be **May 10th, 17th & the 24th**.

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on April 7, 2026 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:00pm with prayer and devotions.

In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzler (Moderator), Karli Rankin, Katherine Ralston, Rebekah Landi (Clerk), Lon Clark, Cindy Nelson, Molly Shipton, Jeff Cummings, and Pat Nortch. Tom Andrew 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 set up Pickleball courts in the parking lot pending Buildings and Grounds approval and confirmation of insurance coverage. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve creating a few garden beds for a church garden. The motion passed.

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS March was below average for giving at Willow Creek. We are seeing a general improved giving compared to last year. Our expenses were average for a Spring month. Currently we are in the red for the year \$9,999.43. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	<u>March, 2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	11,689.25	41,772.39
Expenses	15,162.37	51,771.82
Excess/(Deficit)	(3,473.12)	(9,999.43)

PER CAPITA is how Presbyterians share equally, responsibly, and interdependently in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (USA). Per capita is the major funding source for the Presbytery, requested from every congregation, based on total active membership of each church, and paid by the Presbytery to the Synod of Lincoln Trails & General Assembly regardless of what we actually collect. As a connectional church, Presbyterian congregations worship, serve, and govern together. Per capita contributions fund the shared governing responsibilities for the whole church.

The Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly each set per capita based on their annual budgets and the number of active members in the churches of each organization. Each church is encouraged to give its full requested share of per capita so that the Presbytery of Blackhawk is able to support congregations and care for pastors. **For 2026, per capita is \$45.00 per church member. Please indicate "per capita" on your envelope or check memo.**

PENTECOST is Sunday, May 24th - please wear **red** to church as we particularly celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit and the history and presence of Christ's church on this special Sunday!

MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE at **8am** on **Sunday, May 24th** at the *Chapel at Scottish Argyle Cemetery* (8901 Picken Rd. Caledonia) with *Bagpipes and VFW*. There will be a **Continental Breakfast** following the early service in the Willow Creek Fellowship Hall. We will have **red carnations** at the cemetery to place on the graves of veterans.

KIRKIN' & TARTANS! Our **Kirkin' O' the Tartans** will be **Sunday, September 13th**. This is a Sunday where we celebrate our church's Scottish heritage along with the diversity of backgrounds we all bring to the congregation. **Everyone is invited to make a Tartan!** Information on how to make your Tartan is available on the Church Office door. Crafting not your thing? **Kathy Clark** and **Shannon Reagan** have both graciously agreed to help others make their tartans - feel free to reach out to them! Sooner is better than later to leave enough time to find material and put everything together.

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday 3 rd	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E Meeting
Tuesday 5 th	6p	Pipe Band, 6p Session
Wednesday 6 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 7 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 10 th		<i>Mother's Day</i>
	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 12 th	6p	Pipe Band
Thursday 14 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 17 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School
Tuesday 19 th	8a	Buildings & Grounds, 5:30p Worship & Music Meeting, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 20 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant
Thursday 21 st	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Friday 22 nd		Argyle Preschool End of Year Celebration
Sunday 24 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship
Monday 25 th		<i>Memorial Day: Argyle Preschool & Church Office Closed</i>
Tuesday 26 th	6p	Pipe Band
Thursday 28 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Friday 29 th		Last Day of Argyle Preschool
Sunday 31 st	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a Deacon Meeting

DIANNE'S HYMN OF THE MONTH: "I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED!" This month I chose an old gospel hymn that I have enjoyed since I was a girl: number 310 in Sing Joyfully. *I Know Whom I Have Believed* was written by Daniel W. Whittle. Living 1840-1901, his commitment to Christ happened during the end of his time in the Union Army during the Civil War. While he had attended church and Sunday school as a child, he didn't give his life to Christ until he was trying to help another dying soldier who asked that Daniel pray for him. It was then that it became clear that the spirit was moving him. He realized what a mystery faith is and many of his hymns reflect that. Though born in Massachusetts, he moved to Chicago where he became an evangelist, and developed a close relationship with Dwight L. Moody. As we move through the last weeks of Eastertide and on to Pentecost, it's a good time to wonder and contemplate the mystery of faith and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for an exciting week of learning about God's love through fun-filled activities including: music, a Bible lesson, crafts, science and games! A snack will also be provided each day. This year we're space explorers celebrating how "Out of this World" God's love is! We welcome any Preschooler* through 6th grader to join us for an adventure! The registration fee is \$10 for the week with a \$30 family maximum. *children must be potty-trained

Registration forms are available on the credenza in the Fellowship Hall and on the Church Office door.



KITCHEN CLEANOUT We have a lot of things in the church kitchen that we no longer regularly use, but we'd like to use the space they're taking up. A cleaning crew will be hard at work early this month to weed through what needs to stay and what needs to go, and on **Sunday, May 10th** there will be items from the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall that are free for anyone to take home. Anything not taken from the Fellowship Hall on May 10th will be donated. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers on the cleanout crew!

227TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 22 - JULY 2, 2026 Every two years, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) meets to do the worshipful work of guiding the denomination into the future. This year, from the end of June through the first week of July, Presbyterians from all over the country and territories will gather in Milwaukee, WI to discern together how God is calling the PCUSA to follow Christ here and now. The theme for this connectional work will be *Persevering Toward Wholeness*, based on Revelation 22:2: "...and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nation."

There are already 80 pieces of business on PC-Biz you can view at <https://www.pc-biz.org/search>. Highlights include a new confession for us to consider adopting; the Ordination Task Force report, which recommends a lot of things, including standardizing how we train CPs; an overture to reinstate the denomination's immigration attorney, a statement on AI, and a whole lot more!

Presbyteries, Theological Institutions and Eccumenical Partners send Commissioners and Delegates to GA to prayerfully discern where God is leading our denomination. Please begin praying now for those who will attend. And stay tuned for more info on an opportunity to visit GA just up the road in Milwaukee while the work is being done! The delegates from our Presbytery (Illinois Prairie) to keep in prayer are: *Rev. Rothea Kornelius, Elgin First Presbyterian Church | Rev. Katie Ricks, Sterling First Presbyterian Church*
Pastor Ray Lantz, RE & CP, Piper City First Presbyterian Church
Jeannette Sheehan, RE, Rockford Third Presbyterian Church

WILLOW CREEK OFFERING QR CODE You can donate by using this QR code for a donation through your smartphone. Or, you can donate electronically through the Willow Creek Website www.willowcreekpc.org look for the "Give Now" (pictured below) button in the "Giving" Tab. Online Giving is just another way of giving to Willow Creek Church. You may also continue to give through the offertory plates each Sunday, mailing your donation to the church, or direct deposit to the church.



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, please reach out to the Church Office.

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