



A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN We read these verses from 1 Corinthians 12 as part of our ordination and installation liturgy in the PCUSA: *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.* This chapter goes on to call believers “the body of Christ”: *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.* These verses come to mind as we wrap up another wonderful VBS week with the body of Christ at work with some as planners, some as song leaders, some as skit actors, some as teachers, some as snack preparers and many as friends and encouragers of all of the kids who spent the week with us! It is such a delight to have the church building filled with laughter as the kids experience God’s love through the care and kindness of everyone who makes VBS possible.

This year, our VBS theme was *God’s Love is Out of this World*, and the memory verse came from Psalm 136: “God’s love endures forever.” This is a truth we want all of God’s children to know - and they do not learn it from the Bible verses, or from the songs, or from any of the fun activities the amazing VBS leader created for them. God’s children of every age learn about God’s love by experiencing it through the body of Christ. That’s why I love VBS so much. It’s a wonderful reminder of how big God’s love is. The kids are learning that God’s love endures because the volunteers keep showing up every day with smiles on their faces ready to sing and laugh and play and make sure they have a wonderful time. I am so thankful for the ways this church chooses to embody Christ by working together to share God’s love. ~ Pastor Lauren

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 9a - 12p.** If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Church Office.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE Our Office Administrator will be on vacation 7/6 - 7/9, at that time the church office will be closed. The church office will be open Friday 7/10 9a - 12p.

PASTOR LAUREN WILL BE ON VACATION from the evening of July 10th through July 22nd. Pastor Tanya will lead worship on July 12th and 19th. If a pastoral care emergency arises, please reach out to Pastor Tanya, Clerk of Session Rebekah Landi or Chairperson of the Deacons Mary Beth Gratz.

UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES: *Mark these special Sundays on your calendars!*

- JULY 12TH WORSHIP IN THE PARK 10am @ Aberdeen Park - Pastor Tanya Preaching
- JULY 26TH SUMMER HYMN SING
- SEPTEMBER 6TH 10AM WORSHIP OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY
- SEPTEMBER 13TH Kirkin’ Sunday!

CONFIRMATION CLASS FORMING! Confirmation is an opportunity for rising 8th and 9th graders to explore faith and consider joining the church. A class is forming that will meet July 27th - 30th from 10am - 2pm. There will be a couple of additional Sunday meetings as well. See Pastor Lauren for more info.

SAVE THE DATE! Ag Day in Argyle Saturday September 26th 5pm - 7pm

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PCUSA will finish their meeting in Milwaukee on July 2nd. Please be in prayer for all delegates and commissioners.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB Join us Thursdays 7/9 and 7/23 at 10:30am to discuss *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans, which explores the different “genres” within Scripture. **On 7/9 we will discuss through page 140.**

A NOTE FROM LIZ O’LEARY Special Music Schedule~

- July 5: Tom Andrew, Keyboard
- July 12: Church Picnic with Dan Holmes
- July 19: Elizabeth O’Leary, Contralto
- July 26: Hymn Sing

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on June 2, 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, Cindy Nelson, Molly Shipton, Jeff Cummings, Lon Clark, and Pat Nortch.

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 approve the building use request for an AA meeting on Wednesdays at 5:30. The motion passed.
3. A motion was made and seconded to use the \$300 per month of mission money from Jan-June 2026 for Rise Against Hunger. The motion passed
4. A motion was made and seconded to apply for the Cora J. Pope grant. The motion passed.
5. A motion was made and seconded to approve the musical variety show. The motion passed.
6. A motion was made and seconded to approve Steve Picken’s request to use the building on 6/1/26 for the Argyle Cemetery meeting. The motion passed.
7. A motion was made and seconded to allow Katherine to spend the \$171.50 on kitchen and fellowship supplies. The motion passed.

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS May was an average month for giving at Willow Creek. We are seeing a general improved giving compared to last year. Our expenses were a little above average for a Spring month. Currently, we are in the red for the year \$15,518.46. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	<u>May, 2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	14,052.24	68,647.00
Expenses	15,738.64	84,165.46
Excess/(Deficit)	(1,686.40)	(15,518.46)

JULY CALENDAR

Wednesday 1 st	8a	Men’s Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting (Women Only)
Thursday 2 nd	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Saturday 4 th		<i>Happy 4th of July!</i>
Sunday 5 th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 7 th	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 8 th	5:30p	AA Meeting (Women Only)
Thursday 9 th	10:30a	Summer Book Club, 6p Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 12 th	10a	Worship in the Park - Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli, 11a Cookout Potluck
Tuesday 14 th	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 15 th	8a	Men’s Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30pm AA Meeting (Women Only)
Thursday 16 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 19 th	10a	Worship with Pastor Tanya Preaching, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 21 st	8a	B&G Meeting, 5:30p W&M Meeting, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 22 nd	5:30p	AA Meeting (Women Only)
Thursday 23 rd	10:30a	Summer Book Club, 6p Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 26 th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 28 th	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 29 th	5:30p	AA Meeting (Women Only)
Thursday 30 th	10:30a	Summer Book Club, 6p Bell Rehearsal

BOONE COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 11TH - 16TH RESPITE TENT Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for a time to volunteer at our Respite Tent! See Pastor Lauren or Mike Landi if you have any questions. This is one of our favorite ways to serve as a church family and let our wider community know what a caring congregation Willow Creek is.

COME WORSHIP WITH US SURROUNDED BY THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S GREAT EARTH! Table service and drinks will be provided. Grills will be fired up after the worship service. Please bring your own meat to grill, a dish to share and lawn chairs if you'd like. A wheelchair will be available for anyone who needs assistance getting from the parking lot to the shelter. **Sunday, July 12th at 10a Aberdeen Park at 1343 Orth Rd., Belvidere, IL. 61008** weather permitting.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES *For the Love of...* everything you ever hoped there *wouldn't* be a sermon about? This series continues on July 5th with **For the Love of Country**, when we will turn to Scripture's guidance for what it means to love our country, our communities, and our neighbors as God has loved us. In August, we will spend a couple of weeks on **For the Love...** what does the Bible say about love, marriage and relationships? Plenty! But it may not be what we *think* it says.

PICKLEBALL We plan to continue having pickleball during good weather each Monday evening from 5:30PM until people give up or it gets dark. We have loaner paddles and plenty of balls. We now have one painted court and we will paint another if we need more space. We have two full sized nets and a half sized net for children. Please feel free to invite friends, relatives, and neighbors. I will give beginners lessons if necessary to get people started playing. I plan for this to continue Mondays this summer until the last Monday of August: 8/31/26. - Thanks, Stephen A. Clark

NOVEMBER GUEST PREACHER AND BOOK CLUB OPPORTUNITIES We will welcome Rev. Dr. William Yoo as a guest preacher and presenter at the Assembly meeting (at Willow Creek) for our Illinois Prairie Presbytery on Tuesday, November 10th, and as a guest preacher here at Willow Creek on November 8th. Dr. Yoo is a respected author, professor and public theologian who interprets the most challenging and urgent issues of racial justice with clarity, depth, honesty, and precision. His conviction is that deeper engagement with history aids us in more faithful and effective participation in our present ministries exhibiting God's love, justice, grace, and righteousness. When studying the development of Christianity in the United States, he is motivated to find both beautiful moments of awe-inspiring faith and ugly episodes where it is difficult to discern the divine presence. He is a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of Cherokee Presbytery (Northwest Georgia). He previously served on the Board of Directors for the Presbyterian Historical Society. William and his spouse, Sarah, a middle school educator in Atlanta Public Schools, reside in Decatur, Georgia with their two teenage children and two cats. **Two book club meetings** are scheduled as we prepare to welcome Dr. Yoo. These books are not necessarily the focus of what he will share with us in November but are opportunities to get to know the author and explore his area of expertise as the Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary.

Thursday, July 30th at 1pm at Stronghold to discuss "What Kind of Christianity"

Thursday, October 29th at 1pm at Stronghold to discuss "Reckoning with History"

While the hope is that participants can complete the books before the meetings, all are welcome to the discussion. Please see Pastor Lauren if you'd like her to order copies of the books for you. *If you are interested in discussing one or both titles, but can't make the meetings at Stronghold, please let Pastor Lauren know. If there's enough interest, additional book discussions will be scheduled.*

GARDEN THANKS Without the help of so many others, our garden bed project would never have come to be. As it grows, so does my appreciation for everyone who had a hand in making it a reality. Special thanks to Pastor Lauren, Session, Building and Grounds, Finance and Deacons for allowing us to have this opportunity. Thank you to Annie Picken for the wood, Steve Picken for building beds and dreaming with us, Jeff Cummings (and family) for wood chips, soil, tomato plants, to Brianne Ambrose for seedlings, to Ron, Pastor Tanya and Rowan for helping plant the beds and for praying over them, to Lucas and the pipers whose beautiful music floated over them that first night, serenading them and paying homage to our heritage at the same time, and to the many others who have helped in various ways. To Pat Nortch who dreamed with me, shopped with me and has put her heart and soul into this project, I am particularly grateful for your guidance, support, love and friendship. Thank you so much! ~Mary Beth



Vacation Bible School Class of 2026

**A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers who made this week magical for the kids!
Thanks to our fearless Director Rebekah Landi, and everyone who helped decorate, plan, teach, play and
prepare snacks: Brianne Ambrose, Brenda Benning, Stephanie Berg, JoAnn Buffington, Lynette
Danzl-Tauer, Ron and Tanya Muzzarelli, Katherine Ralston, Shannon Reagan,
Maren Reid, April Rottman, Carolyn Wheeler, Shelly Williams, Natalie Wooden, Kim Patrus,
Karli Rankin and Riley Rankin**

“A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ”

MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

For more information about our staff and volunteers, visit our website. The Church Office hours are Monday,
Tuesday & Thursday from 9a - 12p. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya,
please reach out to the Office.

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