

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 5TH 2026 | 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 10:00AM

Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing and pray and participate in liturgy.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

WELCOME REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

CALL TO WORSHIP MARY BETH GRATZ

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous ones.

The earth is full of God's unfailing love.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made.
By the breath of God, the stars were born.

God gathers the waters of the sea into jars and puts the oceans into storehouses.

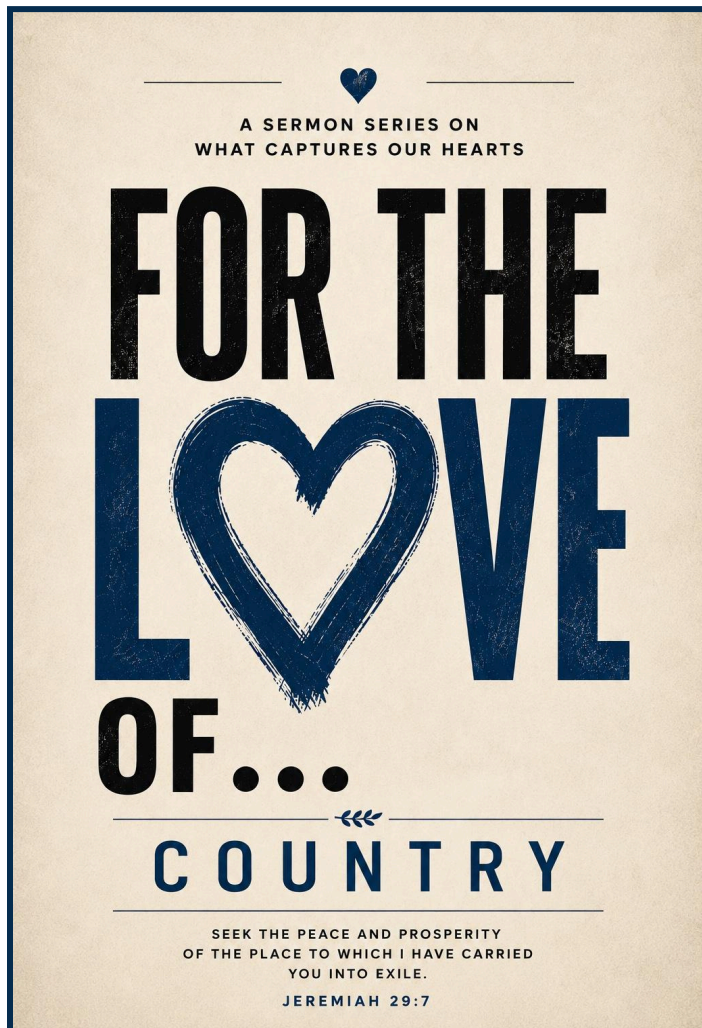
Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere the Lord.

The Lord foils the plans of the nations and thwarts their purposes.

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever.

No king is saved by his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. We wait in hope for the Lord; God is our help and our shield. In God our hearts rejoice, for we trust in God's

holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord! Come, let us worship God!



HYMN #338

O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES

KATHARINE LEE BATES, 1893

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LUCAS GREENLEE

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM ROMANS 8

DAVID PEREZ-FERNANDEZ

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

I GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

I PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ARR. CARSTEN GERLITZ

INTRODUCTION & PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

WHAT IS THE CHURCH FOR?

MATTHEW 16:13 - 18

PAGE 1524

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

PAGE 1829

RENDER UNTO CAESAR...

ROMANS 13:1 - 7

PAGE 1764 - 1765

MATTHEW 22:15 - 22

PAGE 1535

WHEN CHRISTIANS MUST RESIST

ACTS 5:27 - 32

PAGE 1699

MICAH 6:8

PAGE 1447

I HYMN #337

MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE

SAMUEL FRANCIS SMITH, 1831

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

PUBLIC DOMAIN ARR. CHUCK MAROHNIC

Tom Andrew, Piano

I DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

I PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

MATTHEW 5:13a, 14 - 16

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION

You may choose to pull a piece from the common loaf or select a pre-cut piece of gluten free bread from the tray on the communion table. You may dip your bread into the common cup or choose an individual cup from the tray on the communion table. If you need communion brought to you, we will gladly do so.

HYMN #301

LET US BUILD A HOUSE

MARTY HAUGEN, 1994

¹ Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

² Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

³ Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

⁴ Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

⁵ Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven, give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

¶ LITANY: RING THE BELLS

Ring the Bells for Freedom! Ring for hope, for joy; ring for the dream of our forbearers and the liberation of our children.

Ring the bells for those that have fallen in the name of the dream. Those who held the candle on the shore, inviting more; the city on the hill built to demonstrate the Way.

Ring the bells for those who came, and those who come, seeking the dream: The tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

Ring the bells for dreams deferred, placed asunder and left to wander. Ring the bells for when freedom has been distant. Ring to witness the stoney road, the bitter rod, the moments where hope couldn't be. Ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Ring the bells for those who were here before the colonies.

Ring the bells for the neighbors who were not asked, not invited, not included in the dream. Ring the bells until the dream is wide enough to hold them.

Ring for those who do not know freedom today. Those incarcerated, in internment camps, or confined without consent. Ring for the hope that there will be a day when all people are free!

Ring for those who fought and continue to fight for our freedom. Ring for those who paid a price beyond comparison for the lives we lead today. Ring the bells in honor and witness!
Ring the bells for those who love this country enough to tell the truth about it. Those who fight for the dignity of all, the future of who we can be, with liberty and justice for all, where all may be free. Ring the bells that we may hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
Ring the bells, that we may join together, because of our faith, to work for liberation, in the footsteps of those that came before, holding the wide welcome, loving our neighbors, and following Jesus Christ in the best way that we know how. Ring the Bells for Freedom!

I HYMN #354

MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY

JULIA W. HOWE, 1861

I CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

HARRY DIXON LOES

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY!

GREETER: SHANNON REAGAN | USHERS: STEVE & DAYLE PAULSON | ACOLYTE: EMMA LANDI
LITURGISTS: MARY BETH GRATZ, LUCAS GREENLEE AND DAVID PEREZ-FERNANDEZ

**The service is being live-streamed and archived through our social media channels.
While this videography focuses on worship leaders, participants may appear in the service.**

PRELUDE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL Tom Andrew, Piano Katharine Lee Bates & Samuel Augustus Ward

This service is based on a sermon series from the Rev. Dr. Tony Sundermeier of FPC Atlanta.
The "Ring the Bells" litany was written by the Rev. Dr. Chris Davies and includes quotes from: "The New Colossus," Emma Lazarus, 1883, "Harlem," Langston Hughes, 1951 "Lift Every Voice and Sing," James Weldon Johnson, 1900, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Declaration of Independence, 1776. Today's Call to Worship is from Psalm 33.

Join us next Sunday July 12th at 10am for **Worship in the Park** at Aberdeen Park (1343 Orth Road) followed by a cookout potluck! Table service and drinks will be provided.

Please bring your own protein 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.

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.

The **Church Office** will be **closed** Monday 7/6 - Thursday 7/9.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB Inspired by Rachel Held Evans 7/9 (discuss chapters 2 - 5) and 7/23 at 10:30am

PICKLEBALL Mondays all Summer 5:30pm until dark in the back parking lot.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 5th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 7th	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 8th	5:30p	AA Meeting (Women Only)
Thursday 9th	10:30a	Summer Book Club, 6p Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 12th	10a	Worship in the Park - Pastor Tanya Muzzarelli, 11a Cookout Potluck

"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 is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9a - 12p. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren, 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/wpcargyle>