

~AUGUST 2026 STREAMER~



A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN This past week, I had the wonderful opportunity to hang out with our confirmands at “Confirmation Camp”. Every now and then, I encounter a headline, a social media post, or a conversation with someone who is really worried about the future of the church. There are many who remember days past when pews were fuller and the church was the center of their community. There’s a longing for a return to those good ole days, and a fear that the future will not be as sweet as the past. One of the passages the confirmation class studied this week was Jeremiah 29:11 “*For I know the plans I have for you,*” declares the Lord, “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*” This is from the prophet’s letter to the exiles, and is a powerful reminder that while it is true that our future never looks like our past, God is still sovereign and good and creating a hope and a future for us to faithfully walk into.

I wish all of you could have spent the week with the confirmands, because these young ladies - and really, all of the youth of our church - will certainly encourage any heart that’s worried about the future. Not only do they carry an already strong faith, they have an impressive love for the church and its roots. They are bright, curious and courageous. They are not only our future, they are the best of our present. If you ever find yourself worrying about our church’s future, give me a call. And don’t be surprised if I encourage you to take one of our youth out for lunch or ice cream, so you can hear from them some reasons to be excited about a future that will not look like our past, but is nonetheless in the hands of a God who loves us and the church more than we can imagine. ~Pastor Lauren

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.

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. **Regular Church Office hours** will resume on Wednesday, September 9th. Our office will be open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30a - 1p.

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

- AUGUST 30TH CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
- SEPTEMBER 6TH 10AM WORSHIP OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY
- SEPTEMBER 13TH Kirkin’ Sunday!

MISSION CLOSET DRIVE Our mission closet hasn’t been very active this summer. Are there any needs in our community that you’re aware of that you’d like to invite your church family to help meet? Let Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya know.

A NOTE FROM LIZ O’LEARY Here is the line up for this month’s Special Music! 🎵 Liz

- **Aug 2nd:** Elizabeth O’Leary, Contralto
- **Aug 9th:** Bill and Joyce Zartman, Violin and Bells
- **Aug 16th:** Jim Burrright, Voice and Guitar
- **Aug 23rd:** Natalie Wooden, Vocalist
- **Aug 30th:** Elizabeth O’Leary, Piano

SESSION SUMMARY The Session traditionally takes the month of July off, so there is no summary for this Streamer. Check back next month for updates on what your Elders have been up to!

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS June was below average for giving at Willow Creek. We are seeing a leveling off of giving compared to last year. Our expenses were a little above average for a Summer month. Currently we are in the red for the year \$19,816.73. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	<u>June, 2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income	10,777.99	79,424.99
Expenses	15,076.26	99,241.72
Excess/(Deficit)	(4,298.27)	(19,816.73)

MID-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be mailed soon. As noted above in our operating statistics, and in the mid-year letter, as of the end of June we are in the red nearly \$20,000. It's important to keep in mind that this does not mean we are running a deficit in our church checking account. While this is a bit more of a deficit than usual at this point in the year, our leadership remains encouraged by our faithful stewardship of the church's resources and the continued generosity of the congregation.

Of course, all of us would prefer to never be in the red. Your Pastor, Church Office, Finance Committee and Session are keeping an eye on operating costs and being as frugal as faithfully possible. This current deficit is largely due to rising costs.

For those curious about our finances, our Treasurer Mike Landi is happy to schedule a time to walk through the budget, or you can join the FPE Committee (meets once each month on Sundays after worship). FPE can always use a new member or two!

SAVE THE DATE! Ag Day in Argyle Saturday September 26th 5:30pm - 7:30pm

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday 2 nd	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Monday 3 rd	5:30p	Pickleball
Tuesday 4 th	6p	Pipe Band, 6p Session
Wednesday 5 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting
Thursday 6 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Friday 7 th	1p	Preschool Board Meeting
Sunday 9 th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Monday 10 th		Boone County Fair Set Up, 5:30p Pickleball
Tuesday 11 th	6p	Pipe Band
		1st Day of the Boone County Fair
Wednesday 12 th	5:30	AA Meeting
Thursday 13 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 16 th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Monday 17 th	5:30p	Pickleball
Tuesday 18 th	8a	Building & Grounds Meeting, 5:30p Worship & Music Meeting, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 19 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting
Thursday 20	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 23 rd	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Media Meeting
Monday 24 th	5:30p	Pickleball
Tuesday 25 th	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 26 th	5:30	AA Meeting
Thursday 27 th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 30 th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a F/P/E Meeting
Monday 31 st	4-6p	Argyle Preschool Open House & Supply Drop - Off, 5:30p Pickleball

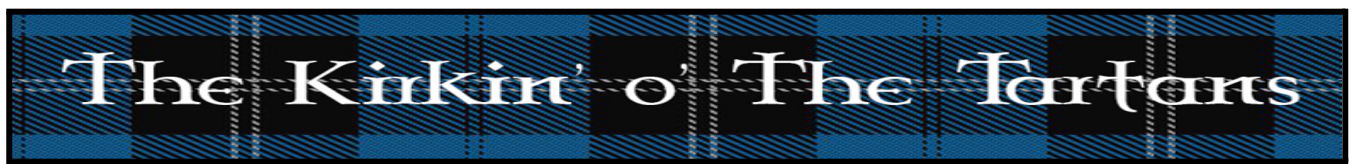
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will resume regularly (3 Sundays each month) after Labor Day. We plan to split into two classes this fall: Toddlers through Kindergarten & 1st - 6th grade. Check the September Streamer for precise dates.

COMMUNION SERVICE AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 10AM

Worshipping outside at the Cemetery on Labor Day weekend has become a meaningful tradition that we will continue this year. *Please bring a chair* as we celebrate the past, present and future of our church.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES TO BE PRINTED! The Church Office will print current Church Directories on **Friday, August 28th, 2026**. The directories will be available for pick up at church or by mail if you let Lindsey know. ***If you do not want your contact information shared in the directory, please let Lindsey know by Friday, August 21st, 2026 via office@willowcreekpc.org.***

YOUTH GROUP plans and dates for fall kick-off and more will be in the September Streamer!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026 SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE & POTLUCK Remember, we are not all of Scottish descent - we celebrate any and all backgrounds! The dowel for the flag/banner will be provided. Banner Instructions for the Kirkin' will be available on the following page, as well as hard copies available in the Fellowship Hall, Argyle Room & outside the Church Office door. *Kathy Clark and Shannon Reagan are both willing to help folks make their tartans as well.*

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. One remaining **book club meeting** is 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.

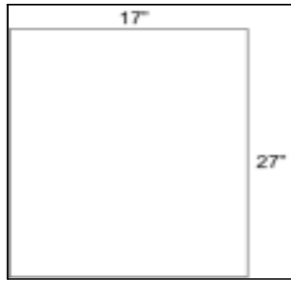
Thursday, July 30th at 1pm at Stronghold to discuss What Kind of Christianity

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

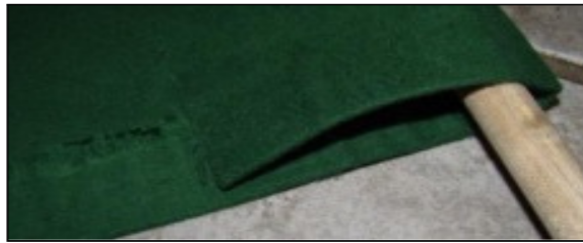
While the hope is that participants can complete the books before the meetings, all are welcome to the discussion. Please see Pastor Lauren if you'd like her to order copies of the books for you. *If you are interested in discussing one or both titles, but can't make the meetings, please let Pastor Lauren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

BANNER TUTORIAL FOR KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

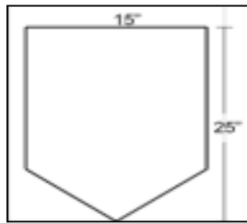
1. Procure solid or tartan fabric. You will need roughly 17"x27". Three sides of a brown paper shopping bag can be used as a rough template.



2. Fold both sides in approximately 1" to obtain a finished width of 15". Sew sides or use iron-on hem tape.
3. Fold top down approximately 2" to obtain finished height of 25". Sew or use iron-on hem tape. The dowel rod used to hang the banner will fit through this slot.



4. Fold in triangles at bottom till they meet. Sew or use iron-on hem tape.



5. Add family crest, family name, family photo, or any other appropriate decoration to individualize your banner.



Please call the Church Office at 815-885-3455 or email office@willowcreekPC.org with questions.

"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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