

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 16TH, 2026 | TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | 10:00AM



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

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 STAND.

PRELUDE

GRACE ALONE
Tom Andrew, Organ

JEFF NELSON, & SCOTT WESLEY BROWN

WELCOME & SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

| CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 67

MARY BETH GRATZ

May God be gracious to us and bless us. May God's face shine upon us.

So that we may make you known upon the earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the people praise you, O God; let all your children praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

For you judge with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the nations praise you, O God; let all of your children praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere the Lord our God!

Come, let us worship God!

| HYMN #14

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

FOLLIOTT SANDFORD PIERPOINT, 1864

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have not been patient enough. We've barely been patient at all. We have our own little plans that we dream up, and we get so frustrated - with you, and your children - when things don't unfold accordingly. We get irritated with people who get in our way, slow us down, and ask something of us that we'd rather not give - even when that something is simply time, attention, and energy. We get angry with you, though we confess we rarely admit it, when it becomes clear that our plan is not your plan - your ways are not our ways. Will you return us to faith once again? Help us to find trust in your love and wisdom, and grace for others as well as ourselves when life is a little harder and a lot less predictable than we think it should be.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON FROM JOHN 3:16 - 17

For God so loved the world that God gave the one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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.**

INVITATION TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RUTH 1:1 - 10

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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SPECIAL MUSIC

WAYFARING STRANGER

TRADITIONAL

Jim Burright, Voice & Guitar

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

RUTH 1:11 - 18

Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

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SERMON

"YOUR PEOPLE, MY PEOPLE"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – AN EXCERPT FROM THE BELHAR CONFESSION

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe: that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith and one hope.

Together, we come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ.

Together, we are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;

Together, we know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

YOUR FEET MUST BE WET

BY JAMES BRECHLIN

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 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 glory forever. Amen.

I HYMN #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

JOHN FAWCETT, 1782

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN

DAVID EVANS

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER: SHANNON REAGAN

LITURGIST: MARY BETH GRATZ | USHERS: ED & APRIL ROTTMAN

*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 recordings.*

CHECK OUT OUR WORSHIP LIBRARY! Worshipers of all ages are welcome to check out the items at the landing at the top of the south stairs. You can fill a worship bag with anything that interests you, and at the end of worship simply hang the bag on the stand next to the “library” shelf.

You do not have to empty the bags. If you have any questions or any ideas for things you’d like to see added to the library, let Pastor Lauren or Rebekah Landi know!

We always welcome the sounds of children of all ages in worship.

And, if a caregiver needs a break, our **nursery** is also available for the entire worship service.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Every Sunday, we join our voices together to ***affirm what we believe*** using the Book of Confessions or words from Scripture. Rather than figuring out our beliefs as individuals each Sunday morning, we turn to faithful followers of Christ throughout time and around the world to see how they answered the question: *What does it mean to follow Christ here and now?*

The **Confession of Belhar** is rooted in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. It was first drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church as a protest against a heretical theological stance that used the Bible to justify harsh systems of race-based injustice. It was approved by the PCUSA as part of our Book of Confessions at the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

LANGUAGE USED DURING WORSHIP In Scripture, hymns and liturgy, “**Israel**” can mean the collective name of the twelve tribes descended from Jacob, the nation of Israel as a whole, or during the period of the divided Monarchy, the name of the Northern Kingdom.

When we use “Israel” in worship, we are not referring to the modern political state.

As we seek to be faithful interpreters of Scripture, we pray for the day of peace and justice for all.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES *For the Love of...everything you ever hoped there wouldn’t be a sermon about?* 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.

LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP will resume on Wednesday, September 9th at 1:00 pm.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 16th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Monday 17th	5:30p	Pickleball
Tuesday 18th	8a	Building & Grounds Meeting, 5:30p Worship & Music Meeting, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 19th	8a	Men’s Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting
Thursday 20	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 23rd	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a Media Meeting & Confirmation Class

“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, please reach out to the Office.

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