

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 9TH, 2026 | ELEVENTH 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.

I IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO STAND.

PRELUDE

CHILDREN OF CREATION
Joyce Zartman, Bells & Bill Zartman, Violin

ARR. BRACKEN AND GEUENHAUSER

WELCOME & SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

I CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 85

RON MUZZARELLI

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people - to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Surely the salvation of the Lord is at hand for those who fear the Lord.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before God and will make a path for the Lord's steps - a path for us to follow. Come, let us worship God!

I HYMN #664

MORNING HAS BROKEN

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER, 1848

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, will you give us your eyes to see and your ears to hear your children? When people are too needy, we find impatience instead of grace. We worry we might give too much, and not have enough left over for ourselves. We have an easier time loving folks who are more like us, and we struggle to understand those far away. But, we have the hardest time loving those who are most like us - because they challenge us to confront parts of ourselves that are difficult to love, and that is altogether uncomfortable. Do we really require that much grace from you, and from those who love us? We'd rather not be needy of grace, or even of love. We enjoy receiving those things, but we confess we do not enjoy admitting that we need them. Remind us that it is not sinful to need love, and since we are loved and forgiven by you, we are free to confess.

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

FIRST READING
Holy wisdom, **holy Word.**

GENESIS 2:4 - 17

PAGES 3 - 4

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOD IS ALWAYS NEAR

INDONESIAN FOLK MELODY; ARR. KEMP/HAUTS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

GENESIS 2:18 - 25

PASTOR TANYA MUZZARELLI
PAGES 4- 5

SERMON

"IT IS NOT GOOD"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – AN EXCERPT FROM THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR

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.

I HYMN #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

JOHN FAWCETT, 1782

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

BY BRADBURY

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 #23

GOD, YOU SPIN THE WHIRLING PLANETS

JANE PARKER HUBER, 1978

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD

ISAAC WATTS

Tom Andrew, Organ

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY! GREETER: BARB GREENLEE
LITURGIST: RON MUZZARELLI | USHERS: KATHERINE RALSTON AND MATTHEW RALSTON

*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.*

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.

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!

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** has its roots 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 and the Confessions to justify harsh systems of race-based injustice. The PCUSA approved Belhar as part of our Book of Confessions at the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

BOOKS AVAILABLE We have been cleaning out our library to make space for a second children’s Sunday School class! Feel free to take any of the books in the Fellowship Hall home. Any books still at church after today will be donated.

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 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 9th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Monday 10th		Boone County Fair Set Up, 5:30p Pickleball
Tuesday 11th	6p	Pipe Band 1st Day of the Boone County Fair
Wednesday 12th	5:30	AA Meeting
Thursday 13th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Sunday 16th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship

“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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