



7300 BELVIDERE ROAD I CALEDONIA, IL. 61011 I 815/885-3455

"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the Love of Christ"

SEPTEMBER 2026 STREAMER

A NOTE FROM PASTOR LAUREN I'm writing this just a few days after Dolly Parton passed away. One of the many podcasts I've listened to since had this to say: "She lived a good life, and she died a good death." From all accounts, this is true: she died after a brief battle with cancer, peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones. I also saw someone on the internet say: "Excuse me but I actually thought she would never die," and echoing this, 80 years feels far too short. And yet, she certainly packed a great deal of joy and kindness into those 8 decades.

When a celebrity death has such an impact, we have the opportunity to brush it aside and say: *What do I care? I didn't know them.*

Or, we can notice *why* the loss of this individual seems to have a nearly universal effect. It is exceedingly rare for someone to be so beloved. Dolly would be the first to tell you she wasn't perfect, like in this expression, one of my favorite quotes from her: "I ain't that good a Christian to think that I am so good that I can judge people. That's God's job, not mine." And that was just it - she didn't cling to a semblance of perfection, but a humility and love for others that made her profoundly lovable.

Watching the outpouring of grief from around the world, from across generations - for that matter, across any imaginable divide from political to theological to any kind of ideological - it's worth pausing to look for what it was she offered that the world clearly needed.

The world longs for the values Dolly lived: a love for her roots, a love of family, a love of God, and a love of any human she happened to encounter.

Perfect? Well, if you ask me, she was pretty close. When she was asked, she replied with characteristic humor and humbleness. Perfection wasn't the point for her. The point was something more like love, grace and joy.

Dolly famously loved butterflies, which brings to mind 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*" There's such joy in this verse, joy that Dolly was known for, the joy of spiritual transformation, a joy that is now complete in her death, which we hold alongside every grief in the hope of resurrection. May we find joy in the many ways her life is being celebrated, and may we be inspired to offer joy to others, reminded all over again how much the world longs for the joy we know as resurrection people.

To quote Dolly's character from *Steel Magnolias*, Truvy: "I wish I had some words of wisdom, but I don't, so let's just focus on the joy of the situation." Amen, Truvy! Amen.

WORSHIP AT SCOTTISH ARGYLE CEMETERY NEXT SUNDAY 9/6 AT 10AM We will worship outside and celebrate Communion. Please bring a chair. 8901 Picken Rd. Caledonia

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026 KIRKIN' WORSHIP SERVICE & POTLUCK Join us for our annual Kirkin' worship service including bagpipes and Blessin' o' the Tartans! All are invited to bring a tartan. Remember, we are not all of Scottish descent - we celebrate all backgrounds! There are instructions on how to make a tartan in the Fellowship Hall, outside the Church Office door, or reach out to Lindsey in the Office for more information. There will be a **potluck** following the service, and games after that. Each household is asked to bring a dish to pass. Drinks and place settings will be provided.

BOONE COUNTY FAIR RESPITE TENT THANK YOU We had another wonderful year in the Respite Tent! **433 visitors** came through our tent and many expressed gratitude for our hospitality. **31 volunteers** from our church provided that hospitality. Thank you everyone!

FALL SERMON SERIES Inspired by *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. You do not have to read the book, but if you were planning on it, this is a good time to do so. Beginning September 13th each Sunday will be focused on a different chapter, beginning with *Origin Stories* at the Kirkin’.

SESSION SUMMARY The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on August 12, 2025 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:30pm with prayer and devotions. In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel (Moderator), Karli Rankin, Katherine Ralston, Rebekah Landi (Clerk), Tom Andrew, Lon Clark, Molly Shipton, and Cindy Nelson. Pat Nortch and Jeff Cummings were excused. 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 pull funds for the memorial garden from the following memorials: Wayne Ashburn (\$35), Herb Greenlee (\$100), Carolyn Miller (\$180), Lee Picket (\$168). The motion passed.
3. A motion was made and seconded to approve memorial funds to be used for the plant stand from Jeanne Shallenburder (\$33) and Lourita Rottman (\$90) memorials. The motion passed.

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

- **Sept 6th:** TBA
- **September 13th:** Kirkin
- **Sept 20th:** Elizabeth O’Leary, Contralto
- **Sept 27th:** Tom Andrew, Keyboard

LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP Join us on **Wednesday, September 9th at 1pm** for our next meeting of the **Living with Grief** Group. No matter how long you’ve been grieving, or who or what you carry grief for, you are welcome.

PER CAPITA Every church in our denomination pays per capita to support the functions and missions of the larger church as well as support for our congregation. Per Capita for 2026 is \$46.00 per member. Please note *per capita* on your envelope or check memo.

WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS July was below average for giving at Willow Creek. We are seeing a decline in giving compared to last year. Our expenses were above average for a Summer month. Currently we are in the red for the year \$29,420.23. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

	July, 2026	Year-to-Date
Income	\$8,473.11	\$87,898.10
Expenses	\$18,076.61	\$117,318.33
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ (9,603.50)	\$ (29,420.23)

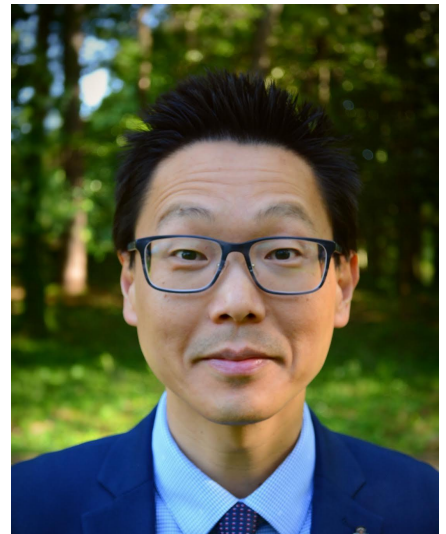
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday 1 st	6p	Session, 6p Pipe Band
Wednesday 2 nd	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting
Thursday 3 rd	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 6 th	10a	Worship at the Cemetery, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:30a F/P/E Meeting
Monday 7 th		Labor Day ~ Church Office Closed
Tuesday 8 th	6p	Pipe Band
Wednesday 9 th	1p	Grief Group, 5:30p AA Meeting
		First Day of Argyle Preschool 2026 - 2027!
Thursday 10 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 13 th	10a	Kirkin' o' the Tartans with Potluck to Follow, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11:30a Youth Group Kick - Off
Monday 14 th	6:30p	4H Meeting
Tuesday 15 th	8a	Building & Grounds Meeting, 4:15p Music Planning Meeting, 5:30p Worship & Music Meeting
Wednesday 16 th	8a	Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting
Thursday 17 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 20 th	10a	Worship, 11a Fellowship
Wednesday 23 rd	5:30p	AA Meeting
Thursday 24 th	6p	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 26 th	2p	Ag Day in Argyle (2pm - 4pm)
Sunday 27 th	10a	Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS We will return to regular office hours (**MWF 8:30am - 12:30pm**) on **Wednesday, September 9th**. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Church Office.

NOVEMBER GUEST PREACHER AND BOOK CLUB OPPORTUNITIES We will welcome the Rev. Dr. William Yoo as a guest preacher and presenter at the Presbytery Assembly meeting (at Willow Creek) 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.*

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL All Preschool through 5th graders are welcome to join us after the Children's Moment on Sundays around 10:30a. Please mark these dates on your calendars! See Rebekah, Karli, or Molly if you have any questions.

September 2026	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
13 th & 27 th	11 th , 18 th & 25 th	8 th , 1 st , 22 nd & 29 th	No Children's Sunday School. Will Resume in January 2027

YOUTH GROUP All 6th - 12th graders are welcome to join us at 11:30am for lunch, fellowship and fun. Our fall kick-off is **Sunday, September 13th** with Kirkin' games. We will continue to meet about every other Sunday throughout the Fall. Dates will be sent out soon. See Maren or Lauren if you have any questions. **Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you can provide a meal for the Youth Group this Fall.**

ARGYLE PRESCHOOL We are so excited to begin another year of fun and learning at Argyle Preschool! You have had the chance to get to know our wonderful Director/Teacher, Natalie Wooden, when she occasionally provides special music during worship. Keep Ms. Natalie, Ms. Lindsey (Office Administrator and Preschool Support Staff!) and all the kids and their grown-ups in prayer as they kick-off a great year on Wednesday, September 9th!



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, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30a - 12:30p. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the Church Office.

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