


**A Presbytery Note from Chairperson of the Deacons Mary Beth Gratz** In a few short weeks, we will celebrate a very important milestone as Pastor Lauren is installed as the Moderator of the Illinois Prairie (formerly Blackhawk) Presbytery. A year ago, she was installed as Vice-Moderator, while my brother-in-law and friend of this church, Pastor Mike Engle, served as Moderator. It was interesting to learn from Mike what it means to be Moderator, what challenges there are, and also how those challenges become gifts, and the many joys along the way.

Pastor Lauren's appointment is quite an honor and provides an opportunity for service beyond the walls of this old brick church. She will still be our full time pastor here, she is simply also assuming additional responsibilities within the Presbytery. In her new role, Pastor Lauren will help lead the gathering of our Presbyterian congregations, pastors and elders as they discern and make decisions within the guidelines of our Book of Order. She will oversee and help the presbytery carry out its collective responsibilities faithfully, effectively and in accordance with our polity. As newly called Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Lay Pastors make their way to their respective congregations, Pastor Lauren will be part of their Installation services. In short, she will be in a unique position to support the unity and collaboration of our leadership and guide the presbytery in times of disagreements as well as times of celebration.

In the upcoming year, Illinois Prairie Presbytery's General Presbyter & Stated Clerk, the Rev. Eric Heinekamp, will be retiring. A PNC is being formed right now (which includes our very own Maren Reid!) to find the next Executive Presbyter. As Presbytery Moderator, Pastor Lauren will have the opportunity to welcome new Presbytery leadership, and hold the work of the Presbytery steady through a season of transition.

Please keep her in your prayers as she assumes this role. The service will be held on Tuesday, November 10th as part of that day's Presbytery meeting, which Willow Creek is hosting. Greeters, Hosts, kitchen helpers and food will be needed as we will provide coffee and morning treats followed by a luncheon. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the credenza. Her installation will take place in the sanctuary during the worship service portion of the Presbytery meeting (9:45am - 10:30am), and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**All Saints' Sunday** will be observed during worship on ***Sunday, November 1st***.

**Church Phones Update** Thank you so much for your ongoing patience with the Church Phones. We switched phone services, and have been having service issues stemming from that switch. We are now looking for a new provider. Strangely enough, we do still receive voicemails. So if you call the Church Office, please leave a voicemail with either our Office Administrator, Lindsey, our Bookkeeper, Dianne, or Pastor Lauren. We also remain reachable via email (Office@WillowCreekPC.org / Bookkeeper@WillowCreekPC.org / Lauren@WillowCreekPC.org). Pastor Lauren is also reachable via texts or calls to her cell phone. If you do not have her cell phone number, please email her or ask her for it when you see her.

**Youth Group** Youth Group ***Lock-In*** will be ***November 6th-7th***. Youth will meet at ***11:30a November 15th*** for lunch, fellowship and fun at church***.*** *There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you can provide a meal for the Youth Group.*

**THANK YOU FOR FAITHFULLY GIVING** to the mission of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church! Stewardship letters should arrive in your email inbox or physical mail box in the next few days. ***Stewardship Sunday will be Sunday, November 15th***. That day in worship we will celebrate all that God is going in our church, and the exciting new year of ministry God is calling us into. Stewardship materials will be available at church on Sunday, November 15th. You do not have to bring anything from the mailing (or email) with you.

**LIVING WITH GRIEF GROUP** Join us on ***Thursday, November 12th at 1pm***. No matter how long you've been grieving, or who or what you carry grief for, you are welcome. All are welcome - please consider inviting those who are grieving who are not yet connected to our church.

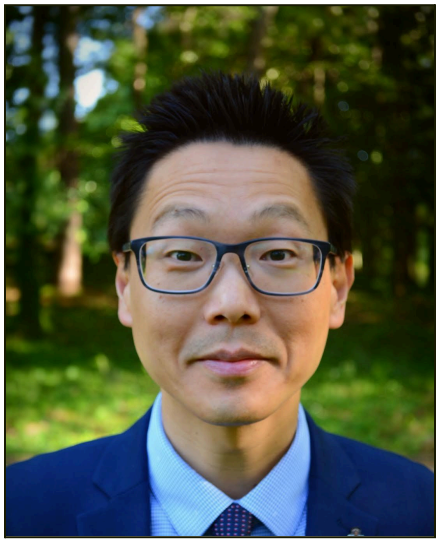
**A NOTE FROM LIZ O'LEARY** Hi Willow Creek Friends! We have a good line up for Special Music in November. Anyone that wants to perform Special Music, let me know and I'll fit you in. Thanks! 𝄞Liz

**1st:** *Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto* **8th:** *Willow Creek Bell Choir* **15th:** *tba*
**22nd:** *Dan Holmes* **29th:** *Dianne Londo, Keyboard*

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DEC. 7TH DURING WORSHIP** **Rehearsals** are during Sunday School (**10:30*am***) on ***Nov. 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th***.We will have a special visitor from the North Pole after the pageant!

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** All Preschool through 5th graders are welcome to join us after the Children's Moment on Sundays around 10:30a. We will meet ***November 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th***. See Rebekah, Karli, or Molly if you have any questions.

**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, November 5th** 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.*

**DECORATE THE CHURCH** Join us after worship on ***Sunday, November 15th*** to help decorate the church for Advent & Christmas! Many hands make light work - if several volunteers stay to help, we'll be done quickly. There will be jobs for all ages and ability levels. Thank you for joining us to make our church festive for this joyous season!

**SUMMARY FROM OCTOBER SESSION MEETING** The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle met on October 6, 2026 for the regularly stated meeting. The meeting opened at 6:00pm with prayer and devotions.
In attendance were: Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel (Moderator), Karli Rankin, Katherine Ralston, Rebekah Landi (Clerk), Tom Andrew, Lon Clark, Cindy Nelson, Molly Shipton, and Jeff Cummings. Pat Nortch was 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 approve a 3% raise for the pastor. The motion passed.
3. A motion was made and seconded to use $21.99 from Frank Lyford's Bible memorial account to pay the remaining balance for the youth Bibles. The motion passed.
4. A motion was made and seconded to pay $200 from Marcia Rankin's memorial fund and $239.40 from Carolyn Miller's memorial fund to cover the cost of the worship library shelf and the picnic table. The motion passed.
5. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2027 budget for Membership, Mission, and Session accounts. The motion passed.
6. A motion was made and seconded to call the Congregational Meeting following the worship service on Sunday 11/22/26 for the purpose of approving the slate of officers and approving Pastor Lauren's compensation package for 2027.
7. A motion was made and seconded to approve the use of mission money to pay $750 for 50 Thanksgiving meals. The motion passed.

**WCPC OPERATING STATISTICS** September was above average for giving at Willow Creek. We are seeing a general decline in giving compared to last year. Our expenses were below average for a Summer month. Currently we are in the red for the year $25,918.22. Thank you for your continued support of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

| | **September, 2026** | **Year-to-Date** |
|---|---|---|
| Income | $17,387.24 | $119,306.92 |
| Expenses | $14,760.28 | $145,225.14 |
| Excess/(Deficit) | $2,626.96 | $(25,918.22) |

**NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 1st | 10a | Worship & Communion - All Saints' Day, 11a Fellowship |
| | | ***Daylight Savings Time Ends*** |
| Tuesday 3rd | 6p | Session Meeting |
| Wednesday 4th | 8a | Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting |
| Thursday 5th | 6p | Bell Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday 6th | | ***Youth Group Lock-In 11/6 - 11/7*** |
| Sunday 8th | 10a | Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship |
| Monday 9th | 6:30p | Beaver Valley Clippers 4H Meeting |
| Tuesday 10 | 9a-2p | Illinois Prairie Presbyterian Meeting |
| Wednesday 11th | | ***Veterans Day!***, 5:30p AA Meeting |
| Thursday 12th | 1p | Grief Group, 6p Bell Rehearsal |
| Sunday 15th | 10a | Worship - Stewardship Sunday, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship while Decorating the Church 🎄11:30a Youth Group |
| Tuesday 17th | 8a | Buildings & Grounds, 5:30p Worship & Music |
| Wednesday 18th | 8a | Men's Coffee at Boone County Family Restaurant, 5:30p AA Meeting |
| Thursday 19th | 11:30p | Skiffers, 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday 22nd | 10a | Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Congregational Meeting followed by ***Hamball Dinner*** |
| Monday 23rd | | ***Argyle Preschool Thanksgiving Break 11/23 - 11/27*** |
| Wednesday 25th | 5:30p | AA Meeting |
| Thursday 26th | | ***Happy Thanksgiving! - Church Office Closed 11/26 & 11/27*** |
| Sunday 29th | 10a | Worship, 10:30a Children's Sunday School, 11a Fellowship, 11:15a F/P/E Meeting |

**Daylight Savings Time Ends** Clocks will "fall back" one hour at 2am on ***Sunday, November 1st***.

**Thanksgiving Turkey Meal Giveaway** Our church has the amazing opportunity to give away ***fifty*** Thanksgiving meals (turkey breasts + sides) to make a family's Thanksgiving Day wonderful. We will also collect a few more items to make these meals even better. Be on the lookout for a list of *perishable* items needed closer to Thanksgiving, and for now, please bring in: *aluminum roasting pans, rolls of aluminum foil, rolls of paper towels and packs of Thanksgiving napkins.* All donations must be brought by Sunday, November 22nd. *If you would like to give financially to help with this mission endeavor, a donation of $15 covers the costs of one meal!* **We will need help spreading the word that these meals are available. Be on the lookout for more details!**

**Advent** We hope you can join us for these beloved Advent Traditions:
***November 29th*** Advent 1 - Worship with Communion ***December 6th*** Advent 2 - Christmas Pageant
***December 13th*** Advent 3 - Worship & Cookie Walk ***December 20th*** Advent 4 - Lessons & Carols
***December 24th* 4pm** Christmas Eve - Communion & Candlelight ***December 27th*** Christmas Hymn Sing
***January 3rd*** Epiphany & Communion

***All Church Gingerbread Party*** Saturday, December 5th! Stay tuned for details.

**Congregational Meeting** The Session calls the Annual Congregational Meeting of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle to be held on ***Sunday, November 22nd, 2026*** following worship for the purpose of electing officers and approving Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel's contract for 2027. The meeting will be followed by our beloved ***Hamball Potluck*** (*printed copies of the hamball recipe are available*) in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a hamball or turkey main dish, side, salad or dessert. Drinks, cups and plates will be provided.

**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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