

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



WORSHIP ✦ SHARE ✦ GROW ✦ SERVE



WELCOME, Visitors and Guests!
We pray for God's blessing for us all
as we worship together today.
Please silence your cell phones
and pass the peace of Christ.

†Please rise in body or spirit.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: The Lord is good to all and God's compassion is over all that God has made. The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

Leader: The eyes of all who look to you, God, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

People: The Lord is just in all God's ways, and kind in all God's doings. The Lord is near to all who call on the Lord, to all who call on the Lord in truth.

†OPENING SONG "I Will Call Upon The Lord"

I will call upon the Lord
Who is worthy to be praised
So shall I be saved from my enemies
I will call upon the Lord,

Chorus

The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock
And let the God of my salvation be exalted!
The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock
And let the God of my salvation be exalted!

- By Michael O'Shields

WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to confession not because we believe we are bad people, but because we know there are areas of our lives that stand in need of God's healing touch. And God, who is more ready to forgive that we are to confess, will hear us with a loving ear, ready to heal any brokenness within and between us...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus Christ. Everything we need to know about you has been shown. Your goodness, mercy, healing and renewal are on full display. But sometimes, we miss the miracle. We misunderstand you, and so we misunderstand the world. Forgive us, we pray. Restore to us the ability to see you as you reveal yourself. Review within us the capacity to perceive your way in the world, for this life, and in the life that is to come. We pray it in Jesus' name, and for his sake. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see: everything has become new.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to God through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Believe the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONSE

“Holy Spirit, Breathe on Me”

Holy Spirit, breathe on me
Holy Spirit, let me see,
all the things you are,
all the things you want me to be,
Holy Spirit breathe on me.

by Jeff Nelson and Eddie Smith

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

MESSAGE FOR YOUTH

Bread of Life

NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Lay Reader

This Week at Willow Grove

- *Join us for our weekly prayer meetings! The Zoom links are available on the church website.*

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm: Led by Judy and Paul.

Let’s come together in prayer and seek the presence of God as we lift up our hearts and intercede for one another. Everyone is welcome!

- *Join us in Ryno hall immediately following worship for food and fellowship.*
- *There will be an outdoor concert on Willow Grove’s lawn given by The Florian Schantz Jazz Combo on Friday, August 7th, at 7:00 pm! Come and enjoy, and bring a friend!*

What’s Ahead at Willow Grove

- *The service on August 9th will be at 5 pm, followed by a potluck dinner.*
- *There will be an informal calendar meeting for the Willow Grove congregation on Sunday, August 9th, after the worship service during the potluck dinner.*

- *If anyone has any pastoral care needs during Rev Park's vacation during the month of August, please speak with Judy Murphy, congregational life Elder.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 14:13-21

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Don’t Miss Your Miracle”

Rev. Gayle W. Griffin

†**SONG OF RESPONSE** Hymn no. 329 “Break Thou the Bread of Life”

WE FEAST AT THE LORD’S TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: ... Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Minister: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All: Dying, you destroyed our death;
rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

All: 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 us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

OFFERING

[Now let us bring our gifts to God through our offering.

Please stand or sit as the Spirit leads and join us as we sing our song of thanks.]

†RESPONSE

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. *Repeat*

And now, let the weak say I am strong,

Let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us. *Repeat*

Give thanks.

Words and Music: Henry Smith

†SONG OF DEPARTURE

“Keep The Feast”

Please see page 8 for words and music

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.



KEEP THE FEAST

D D/F# G D/F# G A G A

1. Joy - ful - ly we join You at Your ta - ble, plead - ing not our right - eous - ness.
 2. Who is fit to feast with such a Sav - ior? Who His san - dals could un - tie?
 3. Hap - py sign of friend - ship and re - un - ion with the bles - sed Three in One.

D D/F# G D/F# G A G A^{sus} D

By Your wealth of mer - cy, we are a - ble now to feast in con - fi - dence.
 Who are we that He would show us fa - vor? Gran - ting us this gift of life.
 Fore - taste of that glo - ri - ous com - mun - ion, Vi - sion of the world to come.

Chorus

F#m Bm D/A G A^{sus} A

Take this bread and eat. Take this cup and drink. Re -

Bm D/A G G A 1. D D/F#

mem - ber how He loved us; re - joice and keep the feast.

Prayers

Each week as we pray together, we pray for people whose names and stories we may not know. Yet we faithfully pray for them as we know God is aware of each and every need.

*Grateful prayers for the continued healing of
Mital, Ed, and Frank*

*Healing prayers for
Andy, August, Sandra, Irany, Olivia, Ed, Sue,
Gisela and Bonnie*

Guest Preacher

Rev. Dr. Gayle Griffin

Today's Worship Assistants

Aiden Velez - Lay Reader

Karen Wirth -Greeter

We thank all our volunteers who make our service welcoming.

Paul DiDario – Director of Music and Pianist

Rebecca Pacella – Song Leader

Doris Dias – Secretary

Office hours Mon-Thu 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Paul Whitehurst – Custodian

Rev. Se Hyuk Park – Pastor

Rev Park's office hours are:

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wed. and 12-3 p.m. on Thu.

Appointments during this time or at another time can be scheduled by emailing him at pastor@willowgrovechurch.org or contacting the church office

Gayle Griffin, Ph.D.

Gayle W. Griffin has been a member of Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, New Jersey, for more than 22 years, and is an Elder there. Prior to moving to New Jersey, she was a member of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, for 19 years. There, she was a Deacon for 7 years, including 5 years as Moderator of the Deacon Board, and 10 years as an Elder. She worked in several ministries in Grace Church. She also served as secretary of the church's non-profit foundation, Schenley Heights Community Development Corporation. At Roseville, she teaches the adult women's Sunday School Class and chairs the Worship and Music Committee, is an Elder, and serves on the Roseville Church non-profit foundation, Roseville Outreach Community Corporation. She has served on numerous church and presbytery committees and is currently serving on the Vision Board for the newly organized Presbytery of North East NJ.

In her professional life, Dr. Griffin is retired from her roles as Assistant Superintendent in Newark Public Schools and the East Orange School District. She served on the *Newark Public Library* Board of Trustees for 14 years. She has been an Executive School Performance Coach and served as Executive Director of the NJ Department of Education's Regional Achievement Center in Essex and Hudson County. She is currently a faculty member at Seton Hall University's Urban School Transformation, serving as an educational consultant in school districts in New Jersey.

Dr. Griffin is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at age 17 to attend college. She graduated from Chatham College, where she received her B.A. degree, and the University of Pittsburgh, where she received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. In Pittsburgh, she was a teacher and principal. She met and married her husband, who was a native of western Pennsylvania. She is a widow and the mother of one daughter, Dr. Flo Jaune Griffin-Cofer, an epidemiologist, who lives in Sacramento, CA.

More importantly, though, she is a born-again Christian. Mrs. Griffin believes, "A woman makes her plans, but the Lord orders her steps." Through prayer, this proverb has guided her daily actions.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S



7pm

FRI
AUG 7

OUTDOOR CONCERT

Rain date
SUN
AUG 9

Songs from Wicked, Lion King,
Frozen, Hamilton, Rent & many more



FLORIAN SCHANTZ
JAZZ COMBO

ON THE LAWN
AT WILLOW GROVE CHURCH
1961 Raritan Rd, Scotch Plains

Bring your own chair or blanket



Willow Grove Church



Free Ice-Cream while supply lasts,
donated by Urban Cone

www.willowgrovechurch.org

(908) 232 5678



Willow Grove Mission Statement

Reflecting God's love, we love and serve all neighbors

**Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
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908-232-5678 office@willowgrovechurch.org
willowgrovechurch.org**

*Willow Grove Presbyterian Church holds CCLI license #3219335
Willow Grove Presbyterian Church holds One License Permission #A-000000*

Cover Design by Frank Thorne

We'd Love to Connect

Thanks for worshiping with us today! Scan the QR code to complete our Connection Card so we can get to know you, share what's happening at the church, and support you however we can.

