



WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE COMMUNICATOR

OCTOBER 2014



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARIANNE:

By the time you read this, our Sunday sermon series will have focused on 2 of the 5 practices of fruitful congregations that Bishop Robert Schnase has written about in his book by the same title. Schnase says that by “practicing” 1)radical hospitality, 2)passionate worship, 3)intentional faith development, 4)risk-taking mission and service, and 5)extravagant generosity, congregations will be better able to fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Schnase says that these practices “capture the core process by which God uses congregations to make disciples – congregations offer the gracious invitation, welcome and hospitality of Christ so that people experience a sense of belonging; God shapes souls and changes minds through worship, creating a desire to grow closer to Christ; God’s Spirit nurtures people and matures faith through learning in community; with increased spiritual maturity, people discern God’s call to help others through mission and service; and God inspires people to give generously of themselves so that others can receive the grace they have known.” (pg 7, “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”)

I invite all of us to renew our determination to be all that we can be as followers of Christ. May this time of reflection on these practices inform us and inspire us to make the changes that need to be made to be a fruitful congregation and fruit bearing Christians in mission.

If you would like, you are invited to order the book written by Robert Schnase. Copies may be purchased from Amazon, or you may let me know and I will make the order for you. We will be using this book as our format for the Bible Study group that meets on Thursday evenings during the series weeks. Perhaps you may feel you cannot commit to an ongoing study, but I invite you to consider attending for the 5 week period of the series.

May God continue to guide us in our journey of faith and mission.

My love to you all, Pastor Marianne

Pastor: Marianne McMunn **Church Phone:** 734-654-9020 **Fax:** 734-654-9020 **Cell:** 248-875-3783

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday **Mariannemcmunn@global.net** **Food Pantry:** 24/7 734-753-4320

Children’s Ministry Director: Jeanne Lochner **Music Director:** Karen Struble **WEB Site:** www.willowchurch.org



Sermon Titles and Texts for October:

October 5: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Series:
"Intentional Faith Development"

Acts 2:42



October 12: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Series:
"Risk Taking Mission and Service"

Matthew 25:40

October 19: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Series:
"Extravagant Generosity"

II Corinthians 9:11

October 26: "Population 2"

Matthew 25:40

"What it's like to be a Christian."

A 10 year old girl was asked by another classmate, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The little girl replied, "It's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then God cuts open the top and scoops out all of the yucky stuff. God removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. and then God carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

Story contributed by Sheryl Karls



SIGN...???

How we all enjoy the new church sign...we are able to connect to not only our congregation but to our community. The old brick sign is still in place and waiting for a WONDERFUL IDEA on how we can use it.

If you or someone you know might have an idea, please contact a trustee or board member...this will help gather all suggestions for review.



CHICKEN SUPPER

Mark your calendar...tell your friends...spread the word. This month's Chicken Supper will be held on Wednesday, October 8th. The income we receive from our Chicken Suppers is added to our church budget each month, an important part of our financial health.

A special thank you to all who volunteer to make each of these suppers successful.

Daily Devotional Available

Did you know that Willow UMC offers free daily devotional materials each month? They are called "The Upper Room" and you may take one home for your use. The Upper Rooms are located next to the bulletins and hymnals today. Large print available.

Willow United Methodist Church Choir Wants You!

Rehearsals for Choir began September 3 at 7:00pm in the church sanctuary. The choir always welcomes any who want to lift their voices in praise to God through the choir ministry. Each choir member will receive music in sheet form and audible recordings to practice with. Plans are in the making for a Christmas or Easter Cantata. The choir rehearsals are for 1 hour each Wednesday evening. If unable to attend a rehearsal, one can practice with the recorded music. If you like to sing - Come and join us!

Bible Study Series

All are invited to join the study series each Thursday night - 7:00pm at the home of Wanda Young at 19070 Otto Court, New Boston. We are focusing our discussion and study on the 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations – our 5 week sermon series. Come and join this small group as we gather to discuss things of the Bible, our faith journey and share our prayer requests with one another. This has been a special time to relax, reflect, and renew as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have never been a part of a study, we invite you to try it out for a week or 2. Any questions? Please contact Pastor Marianne, facilitator.

United Methodist Women of Detroit Annual Conference will be having their annual meeting in Owosso, MI on Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 10am to 3pm. Bishop Deborah Kiesey will be the keynote speaker. Please contact Pastor Marianne if you are interested in attending this meeting. Registration fee of \$16, includes lunch, is due October 15.

Parenting Study**"Handling Anger in Your Home"**

Willow UMC offers a free parenting study for parents of children of all ages. The study utilizes a parenting series by Jim Williams who is a national parenting advocate and speaker and the director of STARS, a school based program helping students make healthy lifestyle choices.

We are finishing up a 4 week study helping parents learn new ways to manage their own feelings of anger and frustration.

Even if you were unable to attend the first session, you are welcome to come and join the remaining classes.

The group meets the 4th Sunday of each month. Join us October 26 after worship service. Gathering time is 11:00am. We enjoy snacks, teaching and discussion time and close with prayer at 12:00pm. The study is held in the home of John and Laura Haydamacker at 24340 Waltz Rd., New Boston. If you have any questions about the class or location, please contact Pastor Marianne, parenting study facilitator (248-875-3783), Jennifer Johnson, co-coordinator (734-625-5750).

Hope to see you there!

ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST: Sunday, October 12....following Sunday Service

Willow UMC Annual Church Charge Conference is Coming

“What is a Church Charge Conference?” you may ask.

This meeting is held once a year. The district superintendent, Rev. Mark Spaw presides over the meeting. We begin with a brief worship service. All members and constituents of the Willow UMC are invited to attend and speak, though only members are allowed to vote in the proceedings. We look over our ministry hopes and dreams and accomplishments, elect officers and set salaries for the coming year.

Our Church/Charge Conference will be held Sunday, October 26 at 3:00pm in the sanctuary of Willow UMC. Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet at 2:30pm with the District Superintendent in the church office. All members are highly encouraged to attend.

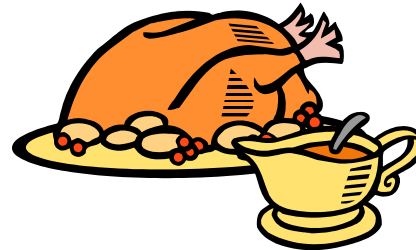


Milford United Methodist Church Harvest Dinner

November 8th from 4:00 pm to 7:00pm
Milford UMC on 1200 Atlantic St., Milford, Michigan
248-684-2798

Adults - \$11 Seniors - \$9 Children (5-12) - \$6

Menu: Turkey, stuffing, squash, homemade mashed potatoes, jello salad, green beans with almonds, and desserts.



Lay Servant Ministry Classes

held Saturday, October 18 and Saturday, November 1 at
Dexter UMC.

Basic Class: "What is a Lay Servant?" led by
Rev. King and Anne Marie Hanna

Advanced Classes: "Leading Worship" led by
Rev. Joy Barrett, Danna Segrest and Reeve Segret

"Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service" led by
Rev. Bob Miller and Scott Herald

"Learning with Adults" led by
Rev. Mike Clemmer and Richard Rothrock
Please speak with pastor Marianne for registration form.



If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

PSALM 37: 23-24

WHO MADE THE DIFFERENCE?



Read Galatians 6: 2-10

When I was a teenager our church had a weeklong revival meeting. The first evening I didn't find anywhere to fit in. I was too old for elementary programs and too young for the high-school kids. I remember sitting under the parsonage basement stairwell as someone was heading down to the high school group. When he saw me, he paused and stopped to talk with me. That night, without really knowing it, he changed my life.

Most of us have encountered someone who made a profound positive difference in our lives and in our walk with Christ, someone who took time with us at a pivotal point when no one else did. But how often do we think about doing the same for someone else?

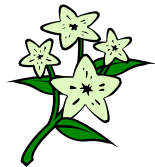
In our Christian faith, we need people who will take the time to guide and teach us. At the same time we have friends who hold us accountable and encourage us. Perhaps most importantly, we can bear one another's burdens and share our faith with others. That way, we all help each other grow in faith.

Prayer: Loving God, grant us wisdom and insight so that we can encourage someone today. Amen

From the Upper Room....September 2014

TRUSTING GOD

The journey through life leads us through many peaks and valleys. When we reach the mountaintops, we find it easy to praise God, to trust Him, and to give thanks. But, when we trudge through the dark valleys of bitterness and despair, trusting God is more difficult.



The next time you find your courage tested to the limit, lean upon God's promises. When you are worried, anxious, or afraid, call upon Him.

Remember that God rules both mountaintops and valleys—with limitless wisdom and love—now and forever.



A Prayer for Trusting God


Lord, when I trust in things of this earth, I will be disappointed. But, when I put my faith in You, I am secure. You are my rock and my shield. Upon Your firm foundation I will build my life. When I am worried, Lord, let me trust in You. You will love me and protect me, and You will share Your boundless grace today, tomorrow and forever.

Amen

October 2014



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	2	3 Theresa Buttignoli Karla Clark	4 Apple Fest Linda Kemp
5 World Communion Day Children's Church Women's Mtg. Apple Fest	6	7 Chicken Dinner Prep 8:30 Rotary 6:30	8 Chicken Dinner 4:30 Carry out.. 5:00 serving	9	10 Nick Wilson	11
12 ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST Sirena Mandelka	13 Ann Arbor District Annual Meeting	14 Rotary 6:30 David & Jeanne Lochner Tom Van Meer	15 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	16 Donna Dent	17	18 Hannah Seward Burkhart Wedding Lochner Renewal of Vows
19 Ad. Board Mtg.	20	21 Rotary 6:30	22 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	23 Anne Mathews	24 Ariel Dagenais	25 United Methodist Women's Annual Conference
26 Parent Study 2:30 PPRC mtg. 3:00 CHURCH CHARGE	27	28 Rotary 6:30	29 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Julie Struble	30	31 	1 