



## WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Reverend Brad Lewis, Pastor

**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS**



**THE COMMUNICATOR**

**NOVEMBER 2016**

### A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD:

Author Bob Reccord writes:

As I write this book, I'm having to exercise the faith of dealing with the prison of pain. Unexpectedly, I suffered a severe cervical spinal injury. The pain was so excruciating, the hospital staff couldn't even get me into the MRI until they had significantly sedated me. The MRI showed significant damage at three major points in the cervical area. The orthopedic surgeon's assistant later told me, "Bob, your neck is a wreck." He said there was hardly any way I could avoid surgery.

Because of the swelling of injured nerve bundles, the only way I could relieve the pain was to use a strong, prescribed narcotic and to lie on bags of ice. Sleep, what little there was, came only by sitting in a reclining chair.

Approximately 48 hours from the onset of the injury, doctors estimated that I lost about 80 percent of the strength in my left arm. Three fingers on my left hand totally lost feeling. Even the slightest movements would send pain waves hurtling down my left side and shoulder. To add insult to injury, physicians said I had to step away completely from my work (which I love), and begin to wear a neck brace...24 hours a day for five weeks.

About halfway through that experience, I found myself sitting on the screened-in porch behind our home. The day was cold and blustery, but I was committed to being outside, just for a change of scenery. Suddenly a bird landed on the railing and began to sing. On that cold, rainy day, I couldn't believe any creature had a reason to sing. I wanted to shoot that bird! But he continued to warble, and I had no choice but to listen.

The next day found me on the porch again, but this time the atmosphere was bright, sunny, and warm. As I sat, being tempted to feel sorry for myself, suddenly the bird (at least it looked like the same one) returned. And he was singing again! Where was that shotgun?

Then an amazing truth hit me head on: the bird sang in the cold rain as well as the sunny warmth. His song was not altered by outward circumstances, but it was held constant by an internal condition. It was as though God quietly said to me, "You've got the same choice, Bob. You will either let external circumstances mold your attitude, or your attitude will rise above the external circumstances. You choose!"

*Bob Reccord, Forged by Fire: How God Shapes Those He Loves*

On my first trip to Liberia in 2005 I saw how war had torn the people and the country apart. There was overwhelming poverty, hunger, illness, and a lack of order and stability. Our friends in faith in Liberia could have felt sorry for themselves, but they didn't! Over and over they gave thanks to God for how good God has been to them. Despite their difficult circumstances they live out their faith believing the Lord Jesus is in their midst sustaining and helping them.

I am certain our circumstances are better than most Liberians, so as we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday choose to give thanks to the Lord for his great love given and shared with us through Jesus Christ despite the fact that we don't deserve it. It would be good if we chose to live according to Colossians 1:12-14:

<sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

May God's grace and peace richly bless you as you live giving thanks to the Lord.

Pastor Brad



## Willow Church Ministries

**Food Pantry:** Ethel's food pantry offers short term assistance for any in need. 1 bag of groceries at a time. The food pantry is open 24/7. Please call the church for information or to request assistance.

**Spiritual Growth and Bible Study:** A weekly study fellowship with emphasis on deepening personal spirituality with practical disciplines. Study group meets Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

**Prayer Ministry:** Our congregation offers, through prayer and meditation, intercessory prayer for any concern 24 hours a day. Please call the church office to leave your prayer requests.

**AA Ministry:** Utilize a 12 step program to help those suffering the effects of alcohol addiction. Meetings are held at the church Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

**Music Ministry:** Choir and worship opportunities through music participation. Practice every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

**Children's Ministry:** Christian education during worship service is offered weekly to foster and guide our children in their faith. Children's Church is held each Sunday, coordinated by Jennifer Johnson.

This newsletter is compiled by Donna Lee Hornyak. A special thanks to Gail Sobecki and all who submit articles. If you would like to add to "The Communicator", please e mail [dhornyak2@gmail.com](mailto:dhornyak2@gmail.com).

**Thought for the Month: THE BEST WAY TO HEAL A BROKEN HEART IS TO GIVE ALL THE PIECES TO GOD.**

**Altar Flowers:** Altar flowers can be displayed as a memorial or in honor of someone or something or a special event. Cost per bouquet: if only 1 bouquet is purchased for the same week is \$15.00. Cost if 2 vases are purchased is \$12.50 each. Make all checks to Darlene's Flowers. Orders and payments are required 2 weeks prior to date. Please contact Bridgett Gering.

## Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road  
New Boston, MI 48164

Rev. Brad Lewis, Pastor

Email address: [bklewis2105@gmail.com](mailto:bklewis2105@gmail.com)

Pastor Cell Phone Number: 1-989-906-5231

Office Hours Wednesdays and Thursdays

1:30—3:30 PM and upon request

Church phone: 734-654-9020

Fax: 734-654-9020

Sunday Service 9:30 AM

Jeanne Lochner: Children's Ministry Director

Karen Struble Organist and Music Director

**FOOD PANTRY 24/7 734-753-4320**



**MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO  
HELP MAKE OUR COFFEE  
HOUR SPECIAL**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SISTER CHURCH**

**WHITE PIGEON UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**In White Pigeon, Michigan.**

**BOOKS to read!**

**Have you read a good Christian Book lately...one that you would recommend to others? The following has been recommended for your pleasure:**

**"POWER THOUGHTS" by Joyce Meyter**


**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ORDERING A POINSETTIA TO DECORATE THE ALTAR OF WILLOW CHURCH, PLEASE COMPLETE A FORM BY NOVEMBER 20TH.**

Please pay when you order or as soon as possible. Do not forget to state who you would like to honor or memorialize. Please give your completed form to Donna Lee Hornyak or Gail Sobecki. (checks can be made to Donna Lee Hornyak)

**WILLOW CHURCH POINSETTIA ORDER FORM 2016**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory – Honor of: Please indicate \_\_\_\_\_

 Plant	Color: Red, White, or Pink	Number Ordered	Total Due	Paid
Mini: 1 plant – 3-5 blooms \$3.00 each				
Single: 1 plant – 5-7 blooms \$5.00 each				
Double: 2 plants – 8-14 blooms \$11.00 each				
Large: 3 or 4 plants – 12 -20 blooms \$15.00 each				
Large: Tri Color: 1 Red, 1 White and 1 Pink plant \$15.00 each				

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to: Donna Lee Hornyak



## Were you here?

When Jeanne Lochner spoke to us about the “Sweet Aroma of Christ”?

When Pastor Brad reminded us that Jesus purchased our freedom with His life?

When the Women’s Group and others gathered at Karen Struble’s home to hear Rev. Taek Kim of Carleton UMC share his faith story?

When our Sunday message explained to us “our faithfulness is a response to the faithfulness of Christ”?

When 23 of the Willow Congregation gathered for the Annual Charge Conference with Rev. Mark Spaw , our District Superintendent?



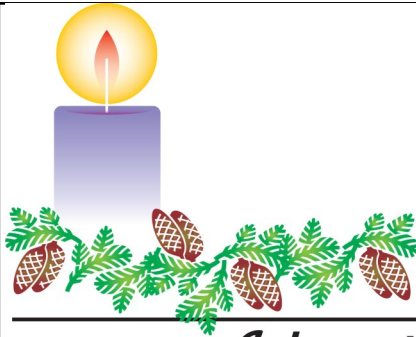
Rev. Taek Kim of Carleton UMC.

Faith testimony/story at Karen Struble’s home.



Rev. Mark Spaw, District Superintendent of the Ann Arbor District at Willow Church Annual Charge Conference.





## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**The Lord says, "I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more." Jeremiah 31:34**

The children leaned forward to see what the pastor was doing as she spoke of God's forgiveness. She wrote several words on a legal pad. "OOPS!" she said, "I've made a mistake." Then she turned the pencil over and erased the stray marks. "That's what God does when God forgives us," she said. "God erased our mistakes, our sins, completely, as if they had never happened."

FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

As I watched, I realized that God does more. God forgives and does not remember our sins, as if the paper were restored to its original state. No sign of pencil marks and eraser residue remaining. God gives us a clean slate!

In Jeremiah 31:31-34, the people of Israel were promised a new day, a new covenant even though they had disappointed God over and over again. The promise now extends to all who believe in the new covenant established by Jesus Christ. "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). WE ARE FORGIVEN.

## Advent Calendar

November 26, Sat.: 9:00 a.m. "Hanging of the Greens"

November 27, Sun.: First Sunday of Advent/Advent Friend begins

December 4, Sun.: Second Sunday of Advent/Advent Friend-all church pot luck 10:30

December 11, Sun.: Third Sunday of Advent/Advent Friend

Children's Christmas Program/Cookie Walk

Coffee after Worship

December 17, Sat.: Children's Christmas Party at Willow UMC

December 18, Sun.: Fourth Sunday of Advent/Advent Friend

Christmas Cantata by Willow UMC Choir

December 24, Sat.: 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service



## Advent Friend

**Would you like to be someone's Secret Advent Friend? Starting on November 27, the First Sunday of Advent, Secret Advent Friends will share small gifts with one another (maximum \$5 each gift for Nov. 27, Dec. 4, Dec. 11) and final gift on Dec. 18 with a cost of \$25-30. If you are interested, please speak with Laura Haydamacker (734-552-8172). Registration sheets are on the table in the entry at church. The gifts are great, but the most important thing is to remember to pray for your Secret Advent Friend during the season.**

Willow Church is participating in the Kroger Community Rewards program. Our church earns money from Kroger every time you shop and swipe your Kroger Plus Card. Register online at [krogercommunity/rewards.com](http://krogercommunity/rewards.com). Below are the instructions.

## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

### Willow United Methodist Church NPO number is 19002

- Register online at [krogercommunity/rewards.com](http://krogercommunity/rewards.com)  
Be sure to have your Kroger Plus Card handy and register your card with Willow United Methodist Church after you sign up.  
If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus Card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
  - Click on Sign In/Register
- If you are a new online customer, you must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the "New Customer?" box.  
Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.
  - You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.  
Click on MY ACCOUNT and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

### NEXT STEP OR IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A KROGER PLUS CARD:

- In your My Account, click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus Card number.
    - Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO number or name of organization's (Willow United Methodist Church) on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER purchases will not count until after you register your card.
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
  - You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Thanks for participating. The proceeds will help out our church.

Jan Holland





## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day  
We bow our hearts to You and pray.

We give You thanks for all You've done  
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.  
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see  
For joy and health, friends and family,  
For daily provision, Your mercy and care  
These are the blessings You graciously share.  
So today we offer this response of praise  
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

-Mary Fairchild-



## PUMPKIN PRAYER

### Cut off the top:

Lord, open my mind and fill me with your wisdom and guidance.

### Scoop out the yuckies:

Lord, take out all my fussies and frownies and fill me with your love.

### Carve out the eyes:

Lord, open my eyes to see all of the beautiful things You have made.

### Carve out the nose:

Lord, you help me to be a sweet fragrance for You.

### Carve out the mouth:

Lord, help me to always speak Your words of love and kindness.

### Place in a candle:

Lord, let me be a light to others For You have filled me with Your light.



## THE GERANIUM

The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord — Romans 6:23

Some months ago I was given a geranium plant with four large red-orange flower clusters. In time they faded away. For weeks I had only a plant with green leaves. I was disappointed because there were no blossoms. Then I thought, *I'll add some plant food to the water!* Soon I saw a short stem with buds; a few days later, I saw two more. In a few weeks there were 10 cluster of buds on six-inch-long stems. What a glorious display when all the buds were fully developed!

Then it occurred to me that our lives can be like that. When we follow Jesus' teachings and practice them, we absorb qualities that provide an added dimension to life. This is God's gift to us for a life more abundant and fulfilling than we could ever imagine.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:** We are made in the likeness of God with a potential for inner, spiritual growth.

From THE UPPER ROOM: September 2014

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

You are invited to join together in thanks and worship to God at Willow UMC  
for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service. 7:00 PM



# November 2016

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

		1 Rotary 6:30  Robert Lenz	2 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	3 Bible Study 7:00 PM	4	5 Time change tomorrow <b>FALL BACK</b>
<b>6 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b>  Holy Communion Children's Church	7	8 Rotary 6:30 	9 CHICKEN SUPPER Salute to our Veterans	10 Bible Study 7:00 PM  Jim Buck	11  <b>Veterans Day</b> Jennifer & Tyler Johnson Samantha Bailey	12
13 Coffee Hour  Children's Church	14	15 Rotary 6:30  Anne & Ryan Mathews	16 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Joyce & John Tarr	17 Bible Study 7:00 PM	18 Kevin Burke	19
20  Children's Church	21 	22 Rotary 6:30	23 AA 6:00 <b>Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 PM</b>	24 	25	26 Hanging of the Greens 9:00 am Cameron Buck
27 <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>  Children's Church Ad Board Mtg.	28	29 Rotary 6:30	30 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	1 December Bible Study 7:00 PM	2 	3