

# WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Reverend Brad Lewis, Pastor



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

**THE COMMUNICATOR**

**JANUARY 2017**

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD:

James 1:2-4 (NRSV)

<sup>2</sup> My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; <sup>4</sup> and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

Former President Jimmy Carter writes:

In 1966, I ran for governor of Georgia and lost to avowed segregationist Lester Maddox. [My sister] Ruth drove to Plains and listened while I deplored the poor judgment and racist tendencies of my fellow Georgians and vented my anger toward God. Then Ruth quoted James 1:2.

I said, "Ruth, my political life is over! It's not my goal just to grow peanuts, sell fertilizer, gin cotton, and build up a bank account. God has rejected me through the people's vote." Ruth replied, "Jimmy, you have to believe that out of this defeat can come a greater life." I responded bitterly, "There is no way I can build on such an embarrassing defeat."

Patience, Ruth explained what James was saying. When we face trials with courage, we learn to endure and pray for wisdom. Wisdom leads us to depend on things made available to all through God's love. Christ gives us courage to take a chance on something new. Ruth advised me to do something totally unrelated to my business or politics. Shortly afterward I was asked by the Baptist Brotherhood to go as a lay witness on a mission in Pennsylvania. I did, and it changed my life. [*Jimmy Carter, Living Faith*]

Our outlook determines outcome, and our attitude determines action. From Genesis to Revelation God tells us to *expect trials*. It is not "*if* you fall into various testings," but "*when* you fall into various testings." The believer who expects their Christian life to be easy is in for a shock. Warren W. Wiersbe notes, "Because we are God's 'scattered people' and not God's 'sheltered people,' we must experience trials. We cannot always expect everything to go our way."

The only way the Lord can develop patience and character in our lives is through trials. Endurance cannot be attained by reading a book, listening to a sermon, or even praying a prayer. We must go through the difficulties of life, trust God, and obey Him. The result will be patience and character.

We don't know what trials and testing we might encounter in 2017, but we can be certain that God will help us endure and find new ways to live each day faithfully.

Because God is good all the time you can trust God to provide the wisdom and strength you need to endure all things in 2017.

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 email [dhornyak2@gmail.com](mailto:dhornyak2@gmail.com).

**Thought for the Month: WE NEED TO APPRECIATE THE PRESENT MOMENT.**

**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

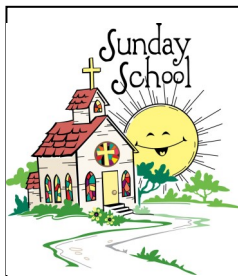
Sunday Service 9:30 AM

Jeanne Lochner: Children's Ministry Director

Karen Struble Organist and Music Director

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

**MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN  
"THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHRISTMAS  
SEASON"...WILLOW CHURCH HAD A BLESSED  
CHRISTMAS!!**



Contact Jeanne Lochner if you would like to volunteer as a teacher for our Sunday School program. It's a great way to experience this wonderful ministry.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SISTER CHURCH  
WHITE PIGEON UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**In White Pigeon, Michigan.**

## Were you here??

When we were told that Jesus calls us to be AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES.

When we were also told that we must let our light shine before others.

When we were reminded that we need to turn away from sin and turn toward Jesus.

When so many baked, sold, and bought cookies at our annual cookie walk.

When four families lit the ADVENT CANDLES.

When the children of Willow Church performed a wonderful Christmas Pageant.

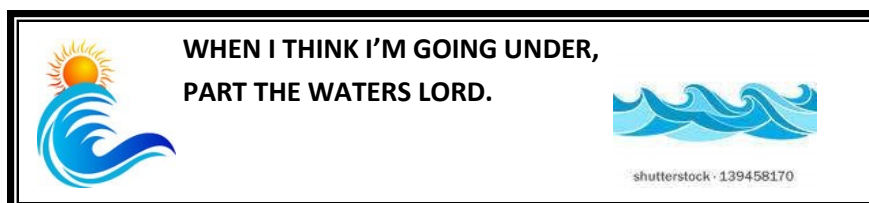
When the choir of WILLOW CHURCH serenaded us with a blessed CHRISTMAS CONCERT, "Then Came the Light."

When many from Willow Church and the community gathered for the annual Candle Light Service on Christmas Eve.

When at the Christmas Day service our hearts sang as we celebrated THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR.



### CHRISTMAS AT WILLOW CHURCH



The Willow Church monthly newsletter is available electronically. If are not now receiving the newsletter via email and would like an e-copy please let Donna Lee Hornyak know at [dhornyak2@gmail.com](mailto:dhornyak2@gmail.com).

## JESUS SAVES

**Willow Church on Facebook...CHECK US OUT!**

This is a wonderful way of connecting and listing our activities.



John Wesley, father of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, put it this way:

Do all the good you can

By all the means you can

In all the ways you can

In all the places you can

To all the people you can

As long as ever you can.

Willow United Methodist Church

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## Welcome all, to our Willow Community Dinners!

Starting January 26<sup>th</sup>, Willow will offer free Community Dinners the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month from 6:00 – 6:30PM. Please join us for dinner in our Fellowship Hall.

*Contact info, location, and further directions found here: [www.willowchurch.org](http://www.willowchurch.org)*

### Dinner dates for the 2017 year are as follows:

2/23/2017	8/24/2017
3/23/2017	9/28/2017
4/27/2017	10/26/2017
5/25/2017	11/23/2017
6/22/2017	12/28/2017
7/27/2017	

God Works is a coalition of people with a common goal of serving food to the homeless and working poor. God Works is non-denominational and currently includes representatives from dozens of churches and secular groups and continues to welcome new members. Everyone in the God Works group believes that hungry people deserve to eat.

# 2017 WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

### Administrative Board

Chairperson	Katherine Buck
Secretary	Jan Holland
Church Treasurer	Amy Harrison
Financial Secretary	Jan Holland
Asst. Financial Secretary	Kathy Farr
Music Director	Karen Struble
Lay Leader	Mark Buttignoli
Membership Coordinator	Martha Molnar
Christian Education	Jennifer Johnson
Children's Ministries	Jeanne Lochner
Chairperson of Finances	Tyler Johnson
Chairperson of Trustees	R.P. Lilly / Jim Farr
Chairperson of Pastor Parish Relations	Donna Lee Hornyak
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Jeanne Lochner
Alternate Lay Member for Conference	Julie Struble
Communications	Donna Lee Hornyak
Webmaster	Karen Wilson

### Administrative Board Members at Large

Linda Kemp      Sheryl Karls      David Lochner      Jim Farr      Mary Krzeminski

### Board of Trustees

<u>Co-Chairpersons</u>	2017	2018	2019
R.P. Lilly & Jim Farr	Jim Farr	Mark Buttignoli	RP Lilly
<u>Treasurer</u>	Martha Molnar	Mary Krzeminski	Jim Buck
Martha Molnar	Kevin Burke	Greg Gering	

### Pastor Parish Relations Committee

<u>Chairperson</u>	2017	2018	2019
Donna Lee Hornyak	John Haydamacker	Donna Lee Hornyak	Fay Cannon
	Jack Nobles	Tessa Bailey	

In Addition per Discipline: Mark Buttignoli and Jeanne Lochner

### Nominating Committee

<u>Chairperson</u>	2017	2018	2019
Pastor Brad Lewis	Raeann Burkhart	Sheryl Karls	Julie Struble
		Hollie Morrison	Mary Buttignoli
			Debra Carter

In Addition per Discipline: Mark Buttignoli

### Finance Committee

<u>Chairperson</u>	2017	2018	2019
Tyler Johnson	Jan Holland	Laura Haydamacker	David Lochner
	Amy Harrison	Gail Sobecki	

Addition per Discipline: Mark Buttignoli and Jeanne Lochner

### Communion Stewards

<u>Chairperson</u>		
Pastor Brad Lewis	Debra Carter	Helena Lilly
	Jeanne Lochner	Julie Struble

### Worship Committee

<u>Chairperson</u>		
Pastor Brad Lewis	Jan Holland	Vanessa Lenz



# January 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017</b> Holy Communion Women's Mtg.	2  Gail Gray	3  Rotary 6:30 pm	4  AA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm  Whitney Baker	5  Bible Sturdy 7:00 pm Donna Lee Hornyak's home	6	7  Mark Buttignoli
8 Children's Church Coffee Hour hosted by the children of Willow Church Debby Carter	9	10  Rotary 6:30 pm	11  AA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	12  Bible Sturdy 7:00 pm Donna Lee Hornyak's home	13	14  
15 Children's Church  Administrative Board Mtg. Mary Van Meer	16	17  Rotary 6:30 pm  Michelle Simon	18  AA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	19  Bible Sturdy 7:00 pm Donna Lee Hornyak's home	20	21
22 Children's Church  PPRC Mtg.	23  Raeann Burkhart	24  Rotary 6:30 pm	25  AA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	26  <b>GOD WORKS Community Dinner 6— 6:30</b> Connie Burke	27  Judy McDaniel	28  Hollie Morrison
29 Children's Church	30	31  Rotary 6:30 pm	1  AA 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	2  Bible Sturdy 7:00 pm Donna Lee Hornyak's home	3	4