

WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Kelly Vergowven, Pastor

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

THE COMMUNICATOR DECEMBER 2017



A NOTE FROM PASTOR KELLY

As we move into this season of Advent, let us take time to give thanks for all that God has done for us, in us, and through us this year. Willow UMC has certainly had a year filled with blessings. Our Godworks! Community Meals are growing each month, our church and outreach ministries have been fruitful in every way, and our church pews have been full of disciples who are filled with the light and love of Jesus Christ.

However, like many of us, the prophet Isaiah lived in a time when his people worried about their future, their families, and their relationship with God. In the midst of uncertainty and fear, Isaiah proclaimed hope, peace, love, and light. The four candles on the Advent wreath represent hope, peace, joy, and love. The fifth candle, placed in the center of the wreath, represents the light of Christ come into the world.

Sunday, December 3rd, we will begin our journey through the season of Advent. Advent, which comes from the Latin word adventus meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ.

I look forward to a beautiful Advent season with all of you, serving as disciples of Jesus Christ!

God's peace and blessings to you all!

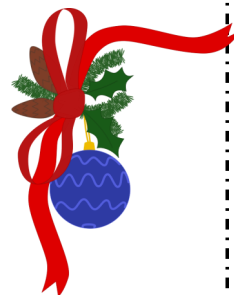
Pastor Kelly



PASTORAL VISITS



Pastor Kelly is available for pastoral visits! If you would like a visit or know of someone who would like a pastoral visit please let Pastor Kelly know via a phone call, text, email or a note on her desk to set up a date and time.



Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164

Kelly Vergowven, Pastor

Email address: kvergowven@hotmail.com

Pastor Cell Phone Number: 1-734-497-3560

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



Matthew 1:23

Behold, a virgin shall
be with child, and
shall bring forth a
son, and they shall
call his name
Emmanuel, which
being interpreted is,
God with us.



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 me at dhornyak2@gmail.com.

Thought for the Day: Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you

Belong to Christ Jesus 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17-18



**MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO
PARTICIPATED IN "THE
HANGING OF THE
GREENS" ...WILLOW CHURCH IS
READY FOR CHRISTMAS!!**

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. Sept.—May

Children's Ministry: Christian education during worship service is offered weekly to foster and guide our children in their faith under the direction of Jeanne Lochner. Children's Church is held each Sunday: coordinated by Jennifer Johnson.

WISHING YOU EVERY BLESSING AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

A dusty road, a weary woman with a worried man.....

A sleepy town, a simple stable where it all began....

An ordinary night transformed by light and angel song...

All leading to the tiny Babe who planned it all along



Advent Calendar

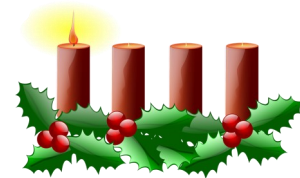
December 3rd, Sun.: First Sunday of Advent/Advent Friend begins

December 10th, Sun.: Second Sunday of Advent/Advent Friend- Children's Christmas Program/
Cookie Walk/Santa Shop Coffee after Worship

December 17th, Sun.: Third Sunday of Advent/Advent Friend
Choir Christmas Cantata, All Church Christmas Pot Luck 10:30

December 24th, Sun.: Fourth Sunday of Advent/Advent Friend

December 24, Sun.: 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service



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."

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.



ALL CHURCH POTLUCK

Again this year (in place of the progressive dinner) Willow Church will be hosting an ALL CHURCH POTLUCK on Sunday, December 17th, immediately following church. Please bring a dish to pass./share. The women's group will be providing the meat. Plan to stay after church on the 17th to join us....it's a time to gather together to celebrate Mary and Joseph's journey and the birth of Our Savior.

Merry Christmas



WERE YOU HERE?

When Pastor Kelly told us that God promises to be with us always and He is our anchor?

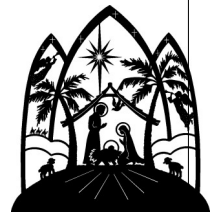
When Jeanne Lochner reminded us that our Veterans sacrificed so we can freely worship our God?

When we were told to live our lives THANKING God for all our blessings?

When we were asked to remember that we are blessed and not to forget God's benefits?

When we were encouraged to follow our Shepherd Jesus?

When our sermon reminded us that Christ calls us to be part of His fold. THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD.



God's Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes, which God gave me to hold.

He said, 'Put all your sorrows in the black box, and all your joys in the gold.'

I heeded His words, and in the two boxes, both my joys and sorrows I stored,
But though the gold became heavier each day, the black was as light as before.

With curiosity, I opened the black, I wanted to find out why,

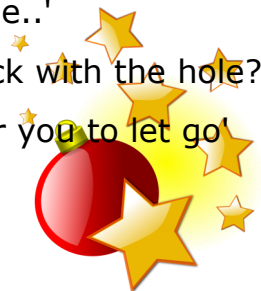
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole, which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God, and mused, 'I wonder where my sorrows could be!'

He smiled a gentle smile and said, "My child, they're all here with me.."

I asked God, why He gave me the boxes, why the gold and the black with the hole?

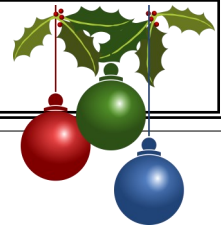
'My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings, the black is for you to let go'





*Sounds
of the
Season*

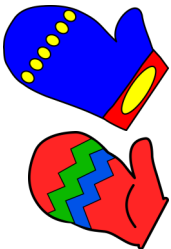
FUN PAGE



THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

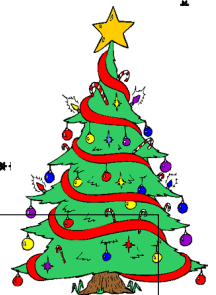
1. Who wrote "A White Christmas?" a. Irving Berlin b. Sammy Cahn & Julie Styne c. Bobby Helms
2. What song contains the line, "City Sidewalks busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style? A. Up on the Housetop? B Let it Snow! C. Silver Bells
3. What did the narrator's true love send on the eighth day of Christmas? A. Calling birds b. Drummers drumming c. Maids a milking
4. Who was sitting next to the narrator when the sleigh was upset in Jingle Bells? A. Miss Fanny Bright b. Miss Maud Reilly c. Miss Caroline Knowles
5. What does Alvin want for Christmas? A. A hula hoop b. Two front teeth c. A red, shiny whistle
6. What does "it" refer to in the lyrics, "Although , it's been said, many times, many ways? A. Merry Christmas to you b. Happy New Year to you c. Glad Tidings to you
7. What song does a caroler sing outside of Scrooge's office? A. Deck the Halls b. It's the most Wonderful time of the year c. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen
8. Why is the narrator of "Nutting for Christmas" in trouble? A. He broke his bat on Mitch's head b He made Sally eat a bug. c. He did a dance on Mommy's plants.
9. What was Brenda Lee doing around the Christmas tree: a. Rocking b. Eating pumpkin pie c. Caroling
10. What do the heavenly host sing in "Silent Night?" a. Glory to the Newborn King b. Alleluia, Christ the Savior is born c. Gloria, in Excelsis Deo
11. What holiday song did Richard Carpenter and Frank Pooler co-write in 1984? A. A baby Just like you b. Tennessee Christmas c. Merry Christmas Darling
12. Where did the narrator see Mommy tickle Santa Clause? A. Underneath his beard b. Behind his ear c. On his cheek

ANSWERS: 1) a 2) c 3) c 4:) a 5) a) a 7) c 8) c 9) a 10) b 11) c 12) a



MITTEN TREE

Each Christmas Season Willow Church creates a MITTEN TREE. Mittens, Hats, Scarves, Gloves are donated and placed on the tree in the narthex. In January, the ladies of the church remove the items and donate them to local schools to help those who need them during the cold winter months.



COOKIE WALK AND SANTA SHOP DECEMBER 10th

Join us for our Cookie Walk...Christmas cookies can be purchased to serve during the holidays . On the same Sunday, December 10th children may purchase a gift for mom, dad, siblings and friends for .25 ...wrapped and ready to give.

December 2017

Sun

Mon






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Holy Communion First Sunday of Advent Children's Church Advent Friend Women's Meeting		5 Rotary 6:30	6 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	7 Bible Study 7:00	8 Helen Koszykowski	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent Children's Program Advent Friend Cookie Walk, Santa Shop	11	12 Rotary 6:30 Celeste Mathews	13 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	14 Bible Study 7:00	15 Ella Mumford	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent Children's Church Willow Church Choir Christmas Cantata Final Advent Friend ALL CHURCH POT LUCK 10:30	18	19 Rotary 6:30 Krista Burkhart	20 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Greg Gering Blaire Simon	21 Bible Study 7:00	22 	23
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Children's Church Christmas Eve Candle light Service & Communion 7:00 PM	25 	26 Rotary 6:30	27 AA 6:00	28	29	30
31	1 	2 Rotary 6:30	3 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	4 Bible Study 7:00	5 	6