

WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE COMMUNICATOR

February 2012

A Word From Pastor Marianne



February is the month we associate with love.

Remember Valentine's Day cards in grade school? I just loved receiving the cards with heart candies in them with the messages on them – i.e. “UR MINE,” “KISS ME,” “BE MINE.” If I happened to get some of those heart message candies in a card from a boy that I kinda liked, I would really check out what was printed on them – just in case he might be trying to hint that he may have similar feelings for me.

Addressing Valentine's Day cards? Oh my word that was challenging!

I didn't want any of the boys to think I liked them, but the one I thought was cute?

Well, I couldn't come across too strong with my messages on the card or the candies. But then again I also really wanted him to get the hint that I did kinda like him. (It took about 20 years of marriage to realize that for a man to “get the hint” - just ain't gonna happen.) Such mind games!

"Thankfully God does not play mind games like that with us."

God is Love.

I John 3:1 says in the Message translation, “What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it – we're called children of God! That's who we really are!”

You are a dearly loved child of God – beloved.

May you not forget that.

May we not forget that when we encounter people who seem to make life difficult for us. They too, are children of God – beloved.

O God, may we love one another by your power. Keep us from mind games. Thank you for your great and perfect love for all people. Amen.

Happy Valentine's month, beloved of God!

My love to you all,

Pastor Marianne



Sermons for February

February 5 – The Rhythm of Life Series: Balancing Worship, Work, Rest and Play:

Part 4: “Free to Play”

February 12 – “Primary Lessons”

I Corinthians 9:24-27

February 19 – Sermon by Mark Buttignoli, Certified Lay Speaker from Willow UMC

February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service

Meditation: “The Acknowledgement of Sin”

Psalm 51:3

February 26 – First Sunday of Lent

24 Hours That Changed the World Series: “The Last Supper”

Mark 14:12, 22-25



From the Willow Church Mouse: What's coming up at Willow Church

Feb. 5 – New members class after worship

Feb. 11 – 6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner and Jim Farr Concert

Feb. 12 – All Church Breakfast served by the men of the church after worship

Feb. 22 – 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 24 – 6:00 p.m. Women's Social at Jan Holland's home

Feb. 26 – First Sunday of Lent

Children's Church

Administrative Board after worship

March 24: Willow Church Free Sale (free clothing, etc.)

May 5: Mother/Daughter Luncheon

24 Hours That Changed the World – Lenten Series



You are invited on a 40 day spiritual journey during the season of Lent in which we will explore the final day in the life of Jesus. We will begin the first sermon in the series on February 26, the first Sunday of Lent, and conclude on April 8, Easter Sunday, with the Resurrection story. If you would like to dig deeper than is possible in a Sunday morning sermon, you are invited to attend the Bible Study on Monday nights where we will view a video teaching each evening by Adam Hamilton, pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. Rev. Hamilton is very knowledgeable and able to share his insights in relevant and interesting ways that help us to understand these last 24 hours of Jesus' life here on earth. After viewing the video, there will be a time of reflection and discussion led by Pastor Marianne.

If Monday evenings are not a good time to meet, but you would really like to be a part of a discussion group, please let the pastor know. We can set up an additional group meeting time for your convenience.

"I was a part of 2 different discussion groups in 2 different churches using this series last year and I learned so much. The videos are well done – taped at the historical sites where Jesus was those last 24 hours. Hamilton is an excellent teacher. This series brought out some things about what Jesus experienced that I had never considered before and it caused me to enter into the Lenten season in a deeper way." Pastor Marianne

Confirmation Class

If you are 11 years or older, please let Pastor Marianne know if you are interested in joining a confirmation class to begin in the month of March.

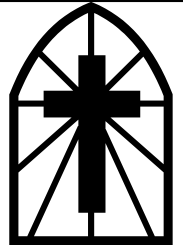
APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT (ASP)

Willow UMC has been invited by the Milford UMC to be a part of their yearly mission trip to the Appalachia Mountains. They will leave July 14, 2012 and return July 21, 2012. You must be 14 years old (or older) before that date to participate. ASP is a week of spiritual growth and work helping those less fortunate than we are. No experience is necessary since ASP fits the work to the teams' skill level.

The Milford UMC leaders have been on this mission for at least a decade. Their passion for mission is contagious. Please think about this opportunity and pray about your possible participation. If you have any questions or would like to explore this some more, please contact me.

Pastor Marianne

Ministries of Willow Church



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 Mondays at 7:00. All are welcome.

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 spiritual program to help those suffering the effects of alcohol addiction. Meetings are held Wednesdays 6:00 pm here at the church.

Music Ministry

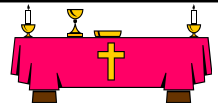
Choir and worship opportunities through music participation. Practice is every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Children's Ministry

Christian education during worship service is offered weekly to foster and guide our children in their faith.

Children's Church the fourth Sunday of the month.

Altar Flowers



Altar flowers can be displayed as a memorial or in honor of someone or something or a special event.

Cost per vase if only 1 vase is purchased for the same week is \$15.00. Cost if 2 vases are purchased for the same week is \$12.50 each. Make all checks payable to Darlene's Flowers. If interested in donating altar flowers please contact **Vanessa Lenz** at 734-731-9611. **Please get your flower order and payment to Vanessa 2 weeks ahead of time or your order may be canceled.**



Ethel's Food Pantry

Ethel's Food Pantry is an outreach of our church and community as we strive to help those who are in need of food assistance. All food is donated. If you would like to donate at any time, please see Helena, contributions are always needed.

Each month in the newsletter, we will be asking for a needed item. BUT...please remember, misc. items are needed all the time.

This month's item: **Peanut Butter and Jelly**

Scrip Program



Our church benefits from the purchase of Scrip gift cards. Every time you purchase a card we receive a percentage of the purchase price. Use the cards not only to give as gifts, but also consider buying them for your own personal use, i.e. dining out, home improvements, gas, personal items. If you would like an updated list of retailers, please see Martha.

Thank you for your continued support.

This newsletter is compiled by Donna Lee Hornyak. A special thanks to Gail Sobecki and all who submit articles for our newsletter. If you would like to add to "The Communicator" please email me at:

dhornyak2@gmail.com

(Donna Lee Hornyak)

"To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own."

Abraham Lincoln



Christmas Eve Service at Willow Church



Meet Our Members

JAN HOLLAND....written by her daughter Laura Haydamacker

In case you don't know my mom, Janet Holland, she's the permanent fixture in the second pew every Sunday.

Although Willow Church isn't the church she grew up in, she certainly doesn't call it "church", she regards it as her family.

It was around 1980 I believe, when I remember her driving up to the church and trying to look into the window of the door for a sign stating worship times. The church seemed rather new and didn't have any signs indicating times for services. She jumped back into the car somewhat disappointed and said we wouldn't be going to church that weekend because she didn't know what time it started. I wondered what the big deal was all about, I think she tried to explain, but being about eight it really didn't sink in.

The next thing I remember, we were walking into the church and down the aisle. It felt very cozy and as we were looking for a place to sit, my dad asked Anne which pew we should sit in she exclaimed "The front one!" He whispered how about the one behind it? From that day on, that was "our" seat.

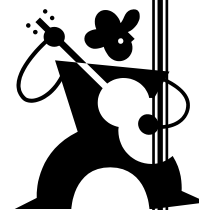
My mom began teaching Sunday school, volunteering, helping out at chicken dinners, attending bible study and Women of Faith retreats. She became very involved in the church. Whether she was talking about church or sitting in that second pew, she always seemed really happy and energized about it.

It is obvious to me now what she was trying to explain to that eight year old. She was looking for a part of her family that day, not just a church. She found more than she probably realized that day. She is so grateful for all the support her church family has given her over the years. She says she has always felt included and accepted at Willow Church. She appreciates all of the gestures big and small that have been provided to her- especially when my dad died. They continue to this day and she is grateful for every single one. She describes church to me as another word for family.



Jim Farr in Concert

Willow UMC is delighted to host an evening of music performed by one of our favorite entertainers – the one and only Jim Farr!



We will kick off the evening at 6:00 p.m. with a good old - fashioned pot luck dinner in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite dish to share. Table service and beverages will be provided. After feasting together we will move to the sanctuary where Jim Farr will present a concert, featuring some of your favorite classic oldies.

This is the perfect event to invite a neighbor, friend, co-worker, relative. Who is it that you know that could use a night with new friends, (perhaps old friends that haven't been with us for awhile), good food and just a fun time together? Why not invite someone – bring them with you!



Were you here?

When the congregation sang from the new Christmas Song Books made by Karen Struble?

When we congratulated Ed and Jean Miller on celebrating **70 years of marriage**?

When Pastor Marianne explained to the children that we are all God's adopted family?

When we heard from the pulpit that we too have been adopted and that we are all A Child of God?

When so many came together on the Eve of Christmas to celebrate His birth?

When we learned: In **WORSHIP** we find hope and rest.

When we asked ourselves: What if we viewed our relationship with **WORK** as our calling?

When the children heard that the Lord knows their name and they should listen closely for His word.

When we learned Gods' commandment tell us: on the 7th day you shall **REST**.

Free Style:Take Two - March 24th,

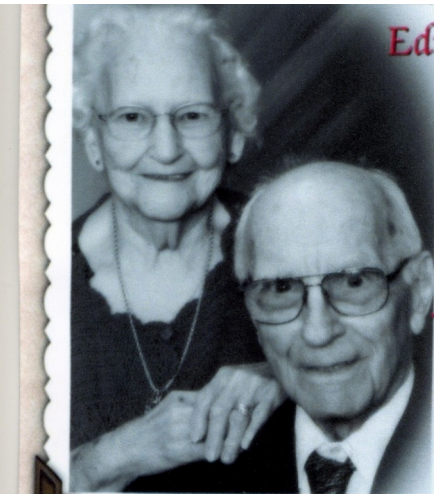
10:00 AM-3:00 PM



Willow Church loves sales so we're again hosting **A FREE SALE!** You read that correctly....**FREE** clothes! We recognize within our communities there are many needs. One of those needs is clothing; professional, school, casual. We are hosting a free (*gently used*) clothing event with some extra items such as shoes, and household items to benefit anyone struggling to afford these items. Just show up, take what is needed, and pass it on...! No questions asked!

If you or anyone you know of has clothing that you would like to donate, we will be taking donations through March 10th. We are asking if you are able, that you please have your gently used donation(s) **washed** to help us save time. Contact our Church and leave a message, or email farmerwilson@gmail.com for any questions you may have.





Meet Our Members

Ed and Jean Miller celebrated 70 years of marriage on January 3rd of this year. God has blessed them with many years together.

Edward and Jean Miller ..by Sandra's children

Our grandmother (Nana) was born on August 6, 1923, on the Herrmann Homestead. The farm was on Bell Road in Huron Township. She was the youngest child of John and Addie.

Our grandfather was born in Gibsonburg, Ohio, on George Washington's birthday, February 22, 1920. He will tell you, "I came in with the roaring 20's." His family moved to Waltz when he was six. He was one of four children. He attended the one room school house that is now in Waltz.

I'm not sure how they met but they have been together for 70 years. That is really something for this day and age. They have set a great example for all of us. Our mother told us, "I never heard them argue or yell at each other in all my 19 years of living at home."

Grandpa came home on leave from the Army, and they went to Napoleon, Ohio to get married. That was on January 3, 1942. When he came home they lived in Flat Rock for awhile. Then they moved to New Boston, and have lived in that area for over 60 years. They had 4 children (2 girls and 2 boys), giving them 5 grandchildren (4 girls and one boy), many great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. All of us grandchildren were baptized at Willow Church, and some of our children, too.

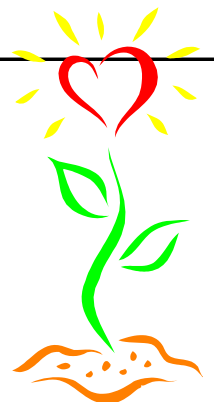
Thanks to all who came to the "Open House" and joined in their great day. It was nice to see so many there--they had fun talking to everyone.

Submitted by
Sandra's Children

A Suitable Helper:

The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him."

GENESIS 2:18



Willow United Methodist Church Children's Ministry Opportunities:

- * Children's Time with Jeanne Lochner Every Sunday during Worship
- * Children's Church on the Last Sunday of Every Month: after the Children's Time in worship, children are invited to the Fellowship Hall with Jen Johnson for Bible Stories and activities.
- * Children's "Activity in a Bag" available Every Sunday: Children may pick up bags which are located next to the bulletins in back of the sanctuary to be used during worship. Please return them to the basket after worship so they can be refilled for the following Sunday. Enjoy!



God Is My Rock

He alone is my rock

and my salvation

my fortress where

I will never be shaken

PSALM 62:2 NLT

WORD SEARCH: Each month we'll have a word search...try to find it in the newsletter!!!

This month's word...**JELLY**

Church Bulletin Announcements

If you have announcements that you would like to share in the bulletin on a Sunday morning, please get them to Pastor Marianne by the Wednesday before you would like it printed in the bulletin.

Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164

Rev. Marianne McMunn, Pastor

E-mail: marianнемcmunn@sbcglobal.net

Winter Office Hours at the church on Mondays and Tuesdays

734-654-9020

Sunday Service

9:30 AM

Web site

www.willowchurch.org

Jeanne Lochner, Children's Ministry

Anne Mathews, Choir Director

Karen Struble, Sunday Worship Director

Willow United Methodist Church
January Administration Board Meeting
January 22, 2012

Meeting opened with prayer at 10:55 a.m. by Pastor Marianne McMunn Janet Holland, Pastor Marianne McMunn, R. P. & Helena Lilly, Jim & Katherine Buck, Debbie Carter, Linda Kemp, Amy Harrison, Tina Szalek, Kathy Farr, Mary VanMeer, Mark and Theresa Buttignoli Martha Molnar, Mary Lou Kennedy, John Tarr, & David Lochner.

ATTENDANCE:

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD: November minutes were read. Debbie motioned to accept the minutes as read. Martha supported. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

We were invited to participate in an Appalachian Mountain mission trip with Milford Church. Anyone interested should contact Rev Marianne. Membership classes begin after church January 29th. Jim Farr will be performing Sat. Feb. 11th. It is to start with a pot luck at 6:00 p.m. Rev Marianne will be participating in the "Walk to Emmaus" March 22-25th. The attendance pad is serving to update the church's records. Rev Marianne suggested that a Gospel Ensemble perform a concert for us on Palm Sunday. After discussion, Helena motioned to have them perform during regular service with a pot luck afterwards and give them \$50 travel expense and a \$50 donation. Debbie supported. Motion carried.

TRUSTEES:

John Tarr reported they replaced an outside bulb. They are researching a way to heat the basement better. He motioned to transfer \$8,000 from the trustee account to the general fund. R. P supported. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL:

The November Financial Report was reviewed. Debbie motioned to accept the report. David supported. Motion carried.
The December Financial Report was reviewed. R.P motioned to accept the report. Martha supported. Motion carried.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Ways to reduce the budget were discussed. Rev Marianne informed us the area of Education can be reduced since she is not a full time student. Salaries were another possibility. David will meet with.

CHURCH USE:

Another "Free Style" will be held Saturday, March 24th more details to follow. Pastor Parish regarding this matter

NEW BUSINESS:

The next Ad Board Meeting will be Sunday, February 26, 2012. Linda motioned that she and her sisters would like to purchase banners to go on the upper front of the church where we have been putting wreaths. The money would come out of Harold Jenkins memorial money. R.P. supported. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

David motioned to adjourn. John supported. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Financial Report:

Total received for the month of November - \$6,853.48
Total expenses for the month of November - \$7,115.54
Total received for the month of December - \$6,517.80
Total expenses for the month of December - \$9,103.23

I Pray You Enough

Submitted by Martha Molner

I overheard a mother and daughter in their last moments together at the airport. They had announced the departure. Standing near the security gate, they hugged, and the mother said, 'I love you, and I pray you enough.'

The daughter replied, 'Mom, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I pray you enough, too, Mom.'

They kissed, and the daughter left. The mother walked over to the window where I was seated. Standing there, I could see she wanted and needed to cry. I tried not to intrude on her privacy, but she welcomed me in by asking, 'Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be forever?' Yes, I have,' I replied. 'Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever good-bye?'

'Well...I'm not as young as I once was, she lives so far away & has her own busy life. I have some challenges ahead, and the reality is - her next trip back will be for my funeral,' she said.

'When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, 'I pray you enough.' May I ask what that means?' She began to smile. 'That's a prayer that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone.' She paused a moment and looked up as if trying to remember it in detail, and she smiled even more. 'When we said, 'I pray you enough,' we wanted the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them.'



Then, turning toward me, she shared the following as if she were reciting it from memory.

I pray you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear..

I pray you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.

I pray you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.

I pray you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.

I pray you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I pray you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I pray you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.

Then, she began to cry, and walked away.

February 2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1Choir Practice 7:00 AA 6:00 Rachael Hogan Cora Vandecar</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Michael Dayne</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Communion New member class</p>	<p>6 Bible Study 7:00 Deb Zender</p>	<p>7 Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>8 Choir Practice 7:00 AA 6:00</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Karen Wilson</p>	<p>11 6:00 PM Potluck followed by “Jim Farr in Concert”</p>
<p>12 All church Breakfast served by the men of the church</p>	<p>13 Bible Study 7:00 Jeff Hill Mackenzie O'Connor</p>	<p>14 Rotary 6:30 Ed & Hollie Morrison</p>	<p>15Choir Practice 7:00 AA 6:00 Mark Zender</p>	<p>16 Jack & Carol Nobles Heather Hus- ton</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Jan Holland Tessa Bailey</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 Bible Study 7:00</p>	<p>21 Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>22Choir Practice 7:00 AA 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 Ed Miller</p>	<p>23 Mark & Deb Zender</p>	<p>24 Woman’s Social at Jan Holland’s 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 First Sunday of Lent Children’s Church Ad. Bd. Meets Fay Cannon Tammy Banas</p>	<p>27 Bible Study 7:00</p>	<p>28 Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>29 Choir Practice 7:00 AA 6:00</p>			