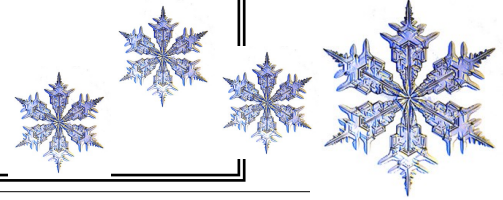


WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE COMMUNICATOR

February 2015



This month begins the season of Lent starting with the Ash Wednesday Service on February 18. Although the middle of February is typically reserved for feelings of love and romance, around that time this year the church is preparing to consider her unfaithfulness. We contemplate how we have not loved God and obeyed God's will as we ought. We reflect on our mortality—"from dust you came to dust you shall return." We reflect on the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf.

We don't do this because we are morbid people. We do this so that our reflections on mortality and Christ's suffering and death prepare us to receive the life that God has for us in Christ, and to receive it to its full meaning.

And so during the time called Lent, we embark upon our forty day pilgrimage – our "Journey to the Cross."

The word Lent comes from the old English word for "spring." The season has been kept as a time for devotion and self-denial which leads us to a life of hope. Beginning in the 4th century the observance of Lent originally became connected with a forty day fast prior to Easter. This tradition continues today as some Christians give up meat or surrender a vice like chocolate, coffee, or television. While a fast of any kind is not necessary, it is a beneficial spiritual practice – a way to discipline the body and the mind, helping us to focus on the things of God and the sacrifice of Christ.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During our Ash Wednesday service, ashes are rubbed onto the worshipers' heads in the sign of the cross. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

This year, on the Sundays in Lent, we will focus on the theme of "Journey to the Cross" as Jesus encounters a variety of people in his life and travels toward Jerusalem.

May the Lord bless your contemplation on this special time in the church year while you reflect on God's great love for you through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My love to you, Pastor Marianne

Sermon Titles and Texts for February:

February 1	The Power of Words Series: In the Beginning Was the Word Exodus 20:7, Psalm 19:14 and John 1:1, 14
February 8	Chains of Love II Corinthians 3:12-4:2
February 15	Mark Buttignoli preaching
February 22	Lenten Series – Journey to the Cross Jesus and the Demon Possessed Man Mark 5:1-20





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.

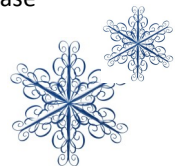
Children's Ministry: Christian education during worship service is offered weekly to foster and guide our children in their faith. Under the direction of Jeanne Lochner. Children's Church is the first and third Sunday of the month coordinated by Jennifer Johnson.

Altar Flowers: Alter 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 is \$12.50. Make all checks to Darlene's Flowers. Please contact Vanessa Lenz at 734-731-9611. Orders and payments are required 2 weeks prior to date.

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.

"Truly my soul finds rest in God."
Psalm 62:1

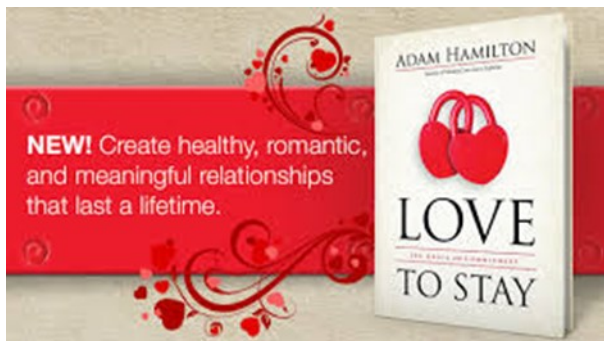


ASH	PASTOR
CALVARY	PRAY
CHILDREN	PSALM
CHURCH	TRUST
FORGIVE	WILLOW
GRACE	
JESUS	
LESSON	
LOVE	
MISSION	



WILLOW CHURCH WORD SEARCH

Y	R	K	H	G	T	G	N	F	U	G	P	L
X	U	L	H	D	M	Y	O	V	B	R	F	E
C	O	W	C	N	A	O	I	J	B	O	O	S
A	H	R	I	R	H	C	S	M	C	T	R	S
A	X	I	P	H	A	J	S	L	G	S	G	O
C	U	M	L	L	H	O	I	A	J	A	I	N
Y	E	R	V	D	C	T	M	S	E	P	V	F
E	R	A	E	A	R	A	H	P	S	I	E	S
Z	R	H	D	U	U	E	E	O	U	F	C	C
Y	H	E	S	P	H	U	N	C	S	Z	C	Z
X	S	T	V	T	C	K	E	Y	A	U	Y	B



Coffee Hour

Our church hosts a coffee hour following services the second Sunday of each month. If you would like to volunteer/sponsor a Sunday, please contact Donna Lee Hornyak.

Our thanks to Karen and Julie Struble and Richard Maxwell for providing a breakfast in January.



Marriage Study

"Falling in love is easy, but staying in love takes courage, hard work and lots of grace."

Are you engaged to be married, married for several months or for 30 plus years? Then this study is for you! Willow UMC is offering a marriage study once a month.

"Love to Stay: Sex, Grace, and Commitment" is the title of the study written by Rev. Adam Hamilton lead pastor at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Hamilton is a nationally known speaker and author and leader in the United Methodist Church. In this study "Hamilton explores the ups and downs and how to's of marriage and how, with God's help, we can make love last."

This **6 week study**, facilitated by Pastor Marianne (married over 30 years to husband, Doug) meets on the 4th Sunday of each month. The **class begins at 11:00am** with gathering time and snacks. Study time **concludes at 12:30pm**. We meet in the home of John and Laura Haydamacker at 24340 Waltz, New Boston. If you have any questions about the class or location, please contact Pastor Marianne, marriage study facilitator (248-875-3783), Jennifer Johnson, co-coordinator (734-625-5750). Hope to see you there!

United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) In Mission to Detroit, Michigan, 2014

KAY DeMOSS

Senior Editor-Writer, Michigan Area

It has been said that when disaster strikes, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is first to arrive and last to leave. That kind of staying power is made possible by cooperation with those on the scene. While the August flooding in Detroit is "yesterday's news," the needs of those touched by the storm remain on the hearts and in the hands of United Methodists who care.

It's been five months since record rainfall on August 11 put three-counties in southeastern Michigan underwater. Within hours the Governor had issued a state of emergency and the United Methodist Committee on Relief sent 500 cleaning buckets to Detroit Metropolitan UMC for distribution across the stricken area. In September the President declared a national disaster. Recovery and clean-up moved forward as the story moved off the front page. Then last month UMCOR returned to Metropolitan UMC because ... the job was not over.

Volunteers working in homes across Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties continued to find water-filled basements and furnaces that failed to turn on because of flood-related damage in summer undetected until temps turned cold. Seventeen churches in the Renaissance District were still engaged in repair and restoration.

Announcement was made at the meeting that UMCOR has approved a bridge grant request to support the project in the amount of \$100,000. In March a second request will be made for funds to support what is expected to be a two-year effort.

The bridge grant will enable the Renaissance District, under the leadership of the Rev. Becky Wilson, to provide intensive disaster case management for 50 households in the northwest part of the city. Funds will be used to support the salary of the Project Coordinator (Wilson), hire persons to canvas neighborhoods, and provide direct assistance such as building supplies and furnaces.

The Rev. Paul Perez, Detroit Conference Director for Mission and Justice Engagement and Leadership Recruitment, rejoices in the partnership. "This represents the 'connection' at its best," he says. "Combining the expertise and financial resources of UMCOR with on-the-ground grass roots leadership in the City of Detroit will allow the United Methodist Church to be in meaningful mission."

Women's group January 4, 2015

Vanessa - Opens with a gratitude reading ask for membership to consider bringing once per month. Kathy-Feb, Donna Lee-March, Jan-April. Holly brought beautiful Friendship Kit- Thanks Holly

Reviewed the Mission statement-To support the ministries of our church our community and our church family.
Primary focus- community service, church support, education, fellowship, fundraising.

Items in the Jar- AED, Scripts, Christmas Potluck, Meal support, 40 lbs of cookies, Game Nights, Funeral Dinners, Xmas Tree, Movie Nights, Mother/Daughter Lunch.

New ideas for 2015.

What would you like to lead? Look over the list and step-up. - Try to come to the next meeting with something you want to be the leader of!!

1. Gardening day in the Spring with Picnic lunch.
2. Inside deep cleaning day Spring all church cleaning day.
3. More community outreach
4. Kitchen Shower in June 2015
5. February- Sponsor coffee day. Valentine Day
6. Cooking Demonstration in a home
7. Simple yard clean-up for elder members
8. Start a fund to put up a new steeple
9. Minutes in the news letter to bring in new members.

Please review the complete list and decide what you would like to lead.

Karen Strubel- Pie Making night at her house to be set up. February 20, 2015 at 6 pm \$15.00 per person.

Sign up sheet for 2015.

January

February 8th, 2015 we will all bring something. Valentine Day Party/Coffee hour

Vanessa, Cheryl, Wanda and Karen, will bring dessert, Kathy -Milk and Orange Juice.

Women's social at Karen Struble's home.

March Game night Vanessa may Sponsor. (Pictionary)/Church Clean up Day.

April

May-Mother daughter banquet May 2, 2015.

June

July

August

September

October

November

December-Mitten tree, cookie walk \$8 per lb, Christmas Potluck, North Ridge church Christmas pageant.

Chicken Suppers start in March- Need a list of items that will be needed although this is an ad-board item the Women's group needs to be apprised of the situation.

Can we spruce up the kitchen prior to the startup of the Chicken Supper. Saturday March 7, 2015 @ 9:30 Meet at the church to start cleaning the kitchen and upstairs. Draw a job out of the hat.

Balance of funds is \$1247.00 How to allocate funds for the group in 2015. We need money for funeral dinners/ \$600.00 set aside. Group discussion on the needs for a funeral dinner. The remainder of the money should be used for community outreach. 50% to church improvements and activities-remaining 25% local community and 25% to further outreach. All vote for the above equation.

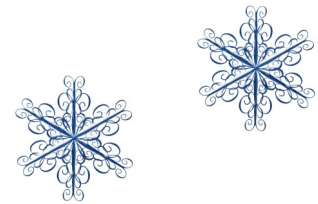
Free Style March or April potentially followed up with a Mom-to-Mom sale.

Vanessa would like to donate \$50.00 to animal outreach dogs. Wanda would like to donate to people. Group discussion. Toby and friends donate \$50.00 \$50.00 to Heartbeat in Monroe Donna Lee motions Holly seconds.

Closing homework- be grateful and look at the list of items and decide what you would like to lead for the women's group.

Jennifer will head up the March cleaning project. Cleaning date set for 3/7 @ 9:30am. Will have lists of items to be completed and a sign up sheet to go around the church.

Connie Hall-Burke; recording secretary





OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Believe it....Willow Church has set the dates for our summer outdoor movie nights! It's a time for us to reach out to the community and offer a free family night...but at a cost. If you would like to sponsor one or more of these evening's as a ministry, please contact Pastor Marianne. Perhaps two or three families could join together or you may know of a business that may be interested. Our license for each movie is \$150.00. The Tarr family provides hotdogs, popcorn and beverages...what a wonderful way to support our church and our community. Let's all make this church mission even better by sponsorship.

Were you here???

When we read aloud together: Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

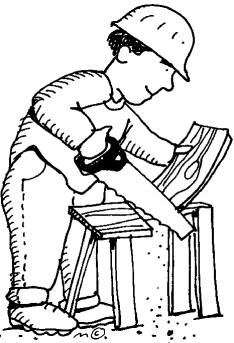
When we were asked: "Do you Know Your Name?"...We are all beloved by our Lord.

When we heard from one of the children during Time with Children that her new years resolution was "To Pray every night."

When it was suggested that our new years resolution might be: to be followers and imitators of God.

Whose Am I?

Jesus said, "If you really know me, you will know my Father as well." John 14:7



One of our neighbors recently spent three months hammering away making a playhouse. His four year old son joined him in this building project, and the two hammered with gusto. Like father, like son!

As I think of the way this son imitates his father, I wonder if my actions, habits, and preferences reflect my heavenly Father. I ask myself if people who know me can recognize something of God in me: *Do my words and actions show the influence of the Holy Spirit in my life? Does my life reflect the teachings of Jesus? Am I faithful, patient, and loving...not just on a good day, but every day?*

If my Christianity is "real," I will reflect my Father to the people around me. That's a pretty awesome challenge—and responsibility—for each of us.

Who's Got Talent?

Willow United Methodist Church – that's who!

Saturday, February 21

Potluck at 5:30pm

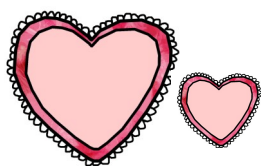
Talent Show at 7:00pm



The goal of this event is to have some fun together! You are invited to share your serious talents or something that will give the crowd a chuckle. In order to make our Talent Show a reality (and success), we need your involvement! Willow UMC has talented folks of all ages. We've seen some of your talents - dancing, crafting, flannel board story-telling, karaoke, playing piano or guitar, singing, just to name a few.

And we know there are other "hidden talents" lying dormant, just ready to be shared! Can you juggle, sing, play an instrument or do you play in an "air" band? Is there a poem, a story, a joke, some riddles you could share? What about a skit that is funny or thought provoking. The sky is the limit!

Contact Pastor Marianne with questions, ideas, and most important, your entry. "This is gonna be so much fun!!" It's time to pull out all the stops and let the world know your hidden talents!



February 2015

Sun

Mon


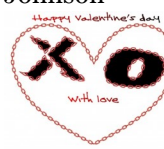
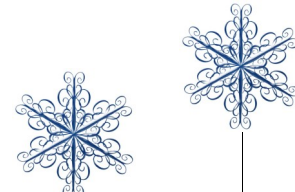
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Holy Communion Children's Church Women's Mtg. Rachael Hogan	2 Judy Reynolds	3 Rotary 6:30	4 AA 6:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	5 Bible Study at Wanda Young's Home 7:00 PM	6	7 
8 Coffee Hour/Valentine Party for Children	9	10 Rotary 6:30 Karen Wilson	11 AA 6:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	12 No Bible Study	13	14 Holly & Ed Morrison Zachery Johnson 
15 Children's Church Advisory Board Mtg. 	16 Carol & Jack Nobles	17 Rotary 6:30	18 AA 6:00PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Tessa Bailey Jan Holland	19 Bible Study at Wanda Young's Home 7:00 PM	20	21 5:30 Potluck and Willow Church Talent Show
22 Marriage Study Ed Miller	23 Kitty Harrison	24 Rotary 6:30	25 AA 6:00PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	26 Bible Study at Wanda Young's Home 7:00 PM Fay Cannon	27	28 