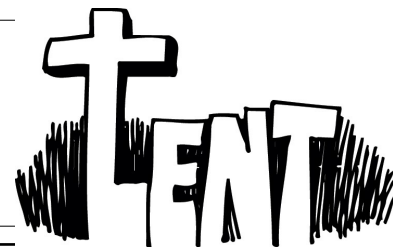


WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE COMMUNICATOR

MARCH 2015



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARIANNE:

In years past, like many folks, I gave up something for Lent. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Lenten season, I would decide to make the sacrifice and give up something that I enjoyed, but didn't need to survive, as a way of exercising self-denial. It was usually a favorite goodie – some kind of food, or dessert or pop. (But, never coffee, I confess.) That is all well and good, but I have tried to look at the Lenten season in a little different way in the last few years. Instead of giving up something, I have added something to my regular spiritual practices. One of the things I have practiced during Lent is the "Wesley Fast." This is a fast from food that the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, practiced each Friday during most of his life. My practice of this fast is to eat nothing after supper on Thursday nights and then break the fast at "tea time," as Wesley called it – 4:30pm on Fridays. This practice allows me to use the time I would normally spend preparing and eating breakfast and lunch, and spend some extra time reading a devotional book of my choice. And, every time my stomach growls during the day? Well, it reminds me that just as my body hungers for food and needs its nourishment – so my soul hungers for God and needs "soul food" to maintain life and spiritual health.

This year, Doug and I are also committing to having a daily devotional time together as a couple. I look forward to that practice as I know we Christians need one another as we journey together. We learn from one another and we inspire one another in Christ.

I encourage you to give up something or add some spiritual practice, or both! Consider joining the Lenten Bible Study Series for the season. We meet every Thursday evening at Wanda Young's home from 7:00 – 8:30pm. The series is a total of 7 lessons/weeks. Please read the article, "Give Up Something Bad for Lent," for details on the study itself.

May God richly bless each and every one of you as we make this "Journey to the Cross."

Love and prayers,
Pastor Marianne

Sermon Titles and Texts for March:

March 1: Journey to the Cross: Jesus and the Hemorrhaging Woman

Mark 5:21-43

March 8: Journey to the Cross: Jesus and the Extravagant Woman

Mark 14:1-9

March 15: Journey to the Cross: Jesus and Judas

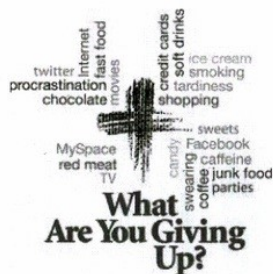
Mark 14:43-51

March 22: Journey to the Cross: Jesus and Simon Peter

Mark 14:66-72

March 29: Easter Cantata





"Give Up Something Bad for Lent"

During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often it is something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday they can once again enjoy what they have given up. James Moore, author of "Give Up Something Bad for Lent," challenges readers to take it further—to give up something spiritually that they would be better off not doing. He invites all to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking, how much better life would be.

You are invited to join in this Bible Study beginning February 27. Study group will meet at the home of Wanda Young, 19070 Otto Court, New Boston (734-753-4172) at 7:00pm. We dismiss at 8:30pm. You may order a Study Book from Pastor Marianne at \$8.00 a copy.



Irish Dinner Milford United Methodist Church

1200 Atlantic Street, Milford

March 7, 2015 4 - 7 pm

Adults \$11 Seniors \$9 Children 5-12 years \$6 under 5 free

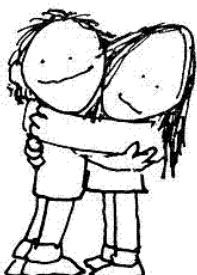
Menu includes: corned beef & cabbage, redskin potatoes, carrots

jello salad & bread beverages & desserts

Tickets at the door or in advance from the Church Office 248-684-2798

CROCK POT!!!

The church kitchen is in need of a large crock pot /slow cooker to use at the chicken suppers. If you have one you would like to donate, please bring it to the church kitchen. THANKS!!



THE ADVANTAGES OF HUGGING

Submitted by Judy Buttignoli

Hugging is Healthy: It helps the body's immune system; it keeps you healthier; it cures depression; it reduces stress; it induces sleep; it's invigorating; it's rejuvenating; it has no unpleasant side effects; and hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.

Hugging is all natural: it is organic, naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients and 100 percent wholesome.

Hugging is practically perfect: there are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic checkups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation-proof, nontaxable, nonpolluting and, of course, fully returnable.

HAVE YOU HAD A HUG TODAY? HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY HUGS AWAY?

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF A HUG!

Welcome to our New Member, Gail Gray!

On February 8, sponsor Mary VanMeer introduced Gail Gray to Willow United Methodist Church (UMC) for membership by transfer from the Ypsilanti UMC.

Gail grew up in up-state New York and is a life-long United Methodist, being baptized and confirmed in the UMC. Her family (mother, step father, siblings) remain in New York and she makes frequent trips there to be with them. One of her favorite spots is the cottage on the lake that has been in her family for years. She shares many happy memories in this place.

Gail moved to Michigan in 1987 to be closer to her sister who lived here at the time. Her sister has since moved out of Michigan and Gail remains here after meeting and marrying Ed. Ed and Gail have been married for 10 "blissful years." They share their home with 10 year old, Ziggy and 8 month old, Calvin - their precious puppies! She and Ed enjoy estate sales and auctions. Ed is retired and now sells radio vacuum tubes on E-Bay. (Gail says they have 10,000 of these tubes in their basement.)

Gail is employed at U of M as an administrative assistant/project assistant for MICHHR (Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research). She has been there 6 years and enjoys her work.

When asked how she chose Willow UMC she said that she had been looking for a church in the area after moving here. She went online to find what churches were available. After finding Willow UMC online - she drove here to check out the church and after some time passed came to worship for the first time in June of 2014. She said she found the people very personable and that she liked the smaller size of the congregation.



We are so glad you are here, Gail.

We look forward to our years of ministry together and pray that you will be blessed in many ways through the fellowship.

God bless you, Gail!



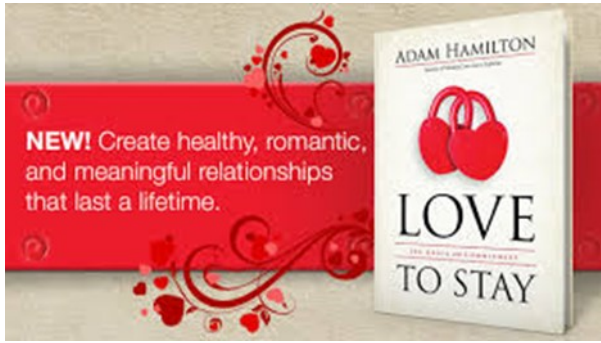
Ministry Visioning at Willow United Methodist Church

Willow UMC is just beginning an exciting process of Ministry Visioning! The goal of Ministry Visioning is to grow in our health and effectiveness as a congregation; to empower and encourage us to dream big dreams as we reach out in the name of Christ within our congregation and to our community at large, through our various ministry areas.

Lay Leader, Mark Buttignoli, Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) Chair, Donna Lee Hornyak, and Pastor Marianne have been meeting to formulate the process so as to engage ministry leaders in conversation about their hopes and dreams within their particular ministry focus. As we engage in these conversations, we hope that short term and long term goals may be set in order to be even more effective in our ministries at Willow UMC.

Our first Ministry Visioning meeting was with our PPRC Chair. We started our meeting with prayer. We shared with Donna Lee our gratitude for her service in this role and verbalized the strengths that we see her utilizing in her current ministry role. We asked her questions in regard to what she would like to see the PPRC accomplish in the coming year, her hopes and dreams for relationships within the church and how the PPR committee could enhance those relationships. We asked her what she needed from her pastor and from the church to enable her to fulfill her ministry. (The pastor left with some "homework.") Donna Lee was then asked to think about and write down a couple of goals for herself and her committee. When we concluded our Ministry Visioning conversation we felt quite energized.

We look forward to setting up similar Ministry Visioning sessions with the leadership of our various ministry areas over the next several months. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Buttignoli, Donna Lee Hornyak, or Pastor Marianne.



"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!

Health worker Kadie E. Koroma (right), part of a team with The United Methodist Church's Imagine No Malaria campaign, processes a voucher that will provide mosquito nets for the family of Gbassay Foday (seated at left) for use in her home in Baoma village, near Bo, Sierra Leone. Photo: Mike DuBose/UMNS
by Denise Honeycutt



For 75 years, UMCOR has been in ministry with the most vulnerable—being present with and offering relief to those who have been displaced by war, other conflicts, or natural disasters. That's who we are as UMCOR—the globally connected United Methodist family. For 75 years, United Methodists have been journeying with communities on the long road to recovery and development, responding to the spiritual and emotional needs of those who find their lives turned upside down by disasters, and compelled by Christ to offer hope and healing to a hurting world. That's the community of faith that sends UMCOR out into the world.

As the global humanitarian relief and development arm of the church, UMCOR is called by Christ to work with the poor—with all those on the margins.

It lives out this mission in relationship with the communities it serves. As Christians, we believe that all persons are created in the image of God and have the right to a full and abundant life. Through the work of UMCOR, lives are being transformed and communities, strengthened. Out of the tragedy of natural or human-made disaster, healing and hope take root.



An Evening With the Gaither Vocal Band

Friday, March 27 at 7:00pm at the Stranahan Theater in Toledo, Ohio.

If you are interested in coordinating a group to attend this concert, please notify Pastor Marianne. Tickets are varied in price – \$25.50 up to \$39.50. Coordinator would be responsible for sign up, ordering tickets, scheduling, car-pooling if needed, etc.

OIL CANDLES

The Advisory Board voted to purchase oil candles for the altar to replace the wax candles that have been in use for some time. If you are interested in **purchasing a candle in memory or honor of a loved one**, please contact Jan Holland or Donna Lee Hornyak. Cost per candle is \$75.00... 16 candles have been purchased to replace the ones that are presently on the altar,



Were You Here???

When we were told that Jesus said: "What fills the heart comes out of the mouth."

When Pastor Marianne asked us "Is our FAITH life free to enjoy God's love?"

When our message from the pulpit was: "Our words give GRACE to all who hear."

When Pastor Doug McMunn asked us: "The Power of our words, are they hurtful or life giving?"

When our lay leader Mark Buttignoli asked us "Who do we think Jesus is? Are we listening to what He is saying? There is no other way to God but through Jesus."

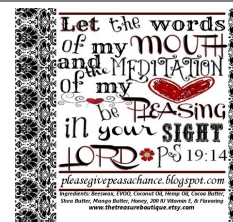
When Gail Gray entered into membership of Willow Church?

When Judy Buttignoli served as Acolyte?

When the ladies of Willow Church hosted coffee hour?

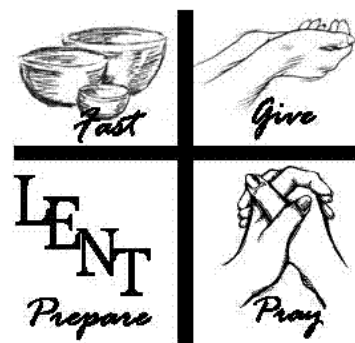
When Jeanne Lochner held a Valentines Party for the Willow Children?

When we gathered on Ash Wednesday and were told to examine ourselves and to grow our relationship with Christ?



Lenten Schedule

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Lenten Bible Study: | Every Thursday during Lent at 7:00pm (See insert for details) |
| Children's Easter Program: | Sunday, March 22 during Worship |
| Easter Cantata: | Sunday, March 29 during Worship |
| Maundy Thursday: | Thursday, April 2 at 5:30pm Soup and Bread Supper at 7:00pm Service |
| Good Friday Services: | Friday, April 3 at 1:00pm - Carleton UMC at 7:00pm - Willow UMC |
| Easter Sunday: | Sunday, April 5 at 8:30am Breakfast at 9:30am Easter Worship Service |



Willow United Methodist Church
36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164

Rev. Marianne McMunn, Pastor

Email address: marianнемcmunn@sbcglobal.net

Pastor Cell Phone Number: 248-875-3783

Office Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays

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

THE POWER OF WORDS:

Ephesians 4:29

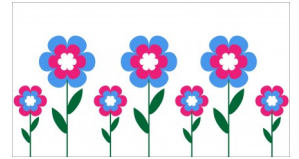
DO NOT LET ANY UNWHOLESOME TALK COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTHS, BUT ONLY WHAT IS HELPFUL FOR BUILDING OTHERS UP ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS, THAT IT MAY BENEFIT THOSE WHO LISTEN.

PRAYER:

LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART BE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU, O LORD, MY ROCK AND MY REDEEMER.

AMEN

March 2015



Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1 Holy Communion Children's Church Women's Meeting  | 2 | 3 Rotary 6:30 | 4 AA 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM | 5 Bible Study at Wanda Young's Home 7:00 PM | 6 | 7 9:30 a.m. Women's Group Church Clean Up |
| 8 SPRING FORWARD Daylight Savings Time Coffee Hour Membership Class Gail Sobecki | 9 | 10 Chicken Supper Prep 8:30 Rotary 6:30 Marianne & Doug McMunn | 11 Chicken Supper Kathy Holland | 12 Bible Study at Wanda Young's Home 7:00 PM | 13 | 14 Bridal Shower at Church Martha Molnar Lauren Tilley |
| 15 One Great Hour of Sharing Children's Church Ad. Board Mtg. Sharon Dagenais | 16 Dallas Kennedy | 17 Rotary 6:30 | 18 AA 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Kyle Buttignoli | 19 Bible Study at Wanda Young's Home 7:00 PM | 20  | 21 Church Pot Luck and Game Night |
| 22 Children's Easter Program Marriage Study | 23 | 24 Rotary 6:30 | 25 AA 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Carol Nobles | 26 Bible Study at Wanda Young's Home 7:00 PM | 27 | 28 Nathan Adkins |
| 29 PALM SUNDAY  | 30 | 31 Rotary 6:30 | 1 AA 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM | 2 Maundy Thursday Soup & Bread/Service 5:30 Supper 7:00 Service | 3 GOOD FRIDAY Carleton UMC 1:00 Willow UMC 7:00 | 4  |

Willow United Methodist Church
February Administration Board Meeting
February 15, 2015

Katherine Buck called the meeting to order at 10:56 a.m.
Meeting opened at with prayer by Mark Buttignoli.

- ATTENDANCE:** Janet Holland, Mark Buttignoli, Donna Lee Hornyak, Amy Harrison, Tina Szalek, John Tarr, Jim and Katherine Buck, Karen Wilson, and Jim & Kathy Farr.
- ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD:** January Minutes were read. Mark motioned to accept the minutes. Amy supported. Motion carried.
- PASTORS REPORT:** Mark presented Pastor Marianne's report.
1. Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday 2/18 7 pm.
 2. Talent Show Saturday, February 21. Potluck 5:30 pm show at 7 pm.
 3. Marriage Study February 22. 1st class went well. All are welcome to attend starting at 11:00 am.
 4. Lenten Schedule: Lenten Bible Study "Give up Something Bad for Lent" Article will be in the newsletter. Books are \$8. Please order from the pastor.
 5. March 29 – Palm Sunday – Easter Cantata.
 6. Maundy Thursday April 2 Soup & Bread at 5:30 p.m. Service at 7pm.
 7. Good Friday – April 3 1pm service at Carleton UMC 7pm at Willow. Pastor Taek Kim & Pastor Marianne are each recruiting readers for the 1p.m. service.
 8. Easter Sunday April 5 8:30 am breakfast.
- The Ministry Visioning Team has begun meeting with church leaders in conversations. The goal of this process is to empower one another for ministry and to dream about how we can enhance the variety of ministries that Willow is engaged in. Any questions please see Pastor Marianne, Mark Buttignoli or Donna Lee Hornyak.
- TRUSTEES:** John Tarr reported snow plowing and salt have been done. They are still in the process of obtaining the new locks.
- FINANCIAL:** November Financial Report was review. Jim Farr motioned to accept the report. John Tarr supported. Motion carried. December Financial Report was reviewed. Jim Farr motioned to accept the report. John Tarr supported. Motion carried. The January Financial Report was reviewed. Jim Farr motioned to accept the report. Jan supported. Motion carried. Apportionments have been paid 100%.
- BUDGET:** Jim Buck reported the budget was met for 2014. The 2015 budget was reviewed. John Tarr motioned that \$7,000 be transferred from the general fund back into the trustee account for payment back to the trustees. There was some discussion. Kathy Farr supported. 10 yeas 1 obtained. Motion carried.
- ADJOURNMENT:** John motioned to adjourn. Jim Farr supported. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

Recording Secretary – Janet Holland

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTION IN THE WILLOW
CHURCH DIRECTORY:

Tina Szalek email address is: precioustina1@gmail.com





THE PENNY

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the home of her husband's employer.

My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. Her husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant one evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure.

How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it," he said. "Read what it says." She read the words, "United States of America .."

"No, not that. Read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And?. . ."

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to

trust Him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray. I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

