



WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Reverend Brad Lewis, Pastor

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS



THE COMMUNICATOR

MARCH 2017



A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD:

Lent: an opportunity to examine ourselves in relation to the mystery of what happened on the cross, and to look at ourselves in light of the grace God offers us through our baptism. Perhaps the following story will help you to consider your relationship with God and with those around you.

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart.

It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work," the man said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor; in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee, and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you to build me a fence — an 8-foot fence — so I won't need to see his place anymore. That'll show him."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger, and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day.

The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide. His jaw dropped.

There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge — a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all — and the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers met at the middle of the bridge, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have so many more bridges to build."

Lent is about bridges. Jesus died on a cross to bridge the separation our sin creates between you and me, and God. It's God's grace that then builds the bridge over that divide. Examine yourself. What separations have sin created in your life that the grace of God needs to bridge? Humble yourself and ask God for help, and God will build the bridge.

May the Lord's peace fill your life,

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.**

God Works Free Community Dinner: 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. Willow Church serves a free God Works Community Meal the 4th Thursday of each month from 6:00 pm to 6:30p.m.

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.

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

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 GOD WORKS COMMUNITY SUPPER."**

God is good, all the time.

Contact Jennifer Johnson 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 Pastor Brad announced his retirement to our congregation?

When Pastor Brad explained how the Lord desires GOOD in us and He has set the standard?

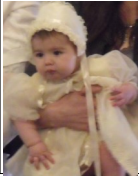
When the children of Willow Church sang "We're on a mission?"

When we all realized that there are two ways to lead our lives, God's way or the other way?

When our Sunday sermon reminded us that we have the ability to tell the world about God through the way we live our lives?

When our message was "God promises us to do His will here on earth?" Thus comes the saying: "Heaven on Earth"

When 7 of the congregation registered and attended the Ann Arbor District Workshop on Leadership in Northville?



When Blakely Lynn Todd was baptized?



When Brandon Banas played "Amazing Grace" for our congregation?



FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS:

In partnership with God Works! Willow Church is providing **FREE DINNERS** for the working poor, homeless and needy on the 4th Thursday of each month. This MISSION is part of Willow Church's outreach into the community.

Dinners are served from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM with beverage and time for social interaction beginning at 5:30 pm. If you might know of someone/family that would like to enjoy this meal, please pass the word along. All ages are welcome.

Informational flyers are available in the narthex. If you would like to financially support and/or donate food supplies to this mission, please contact Karen Wilson or Jennifer Johnson.

This meal welcomes all for an evening of fellowship and food. Families are welcome.



WILLOW CHURCH FREE STYLE

Our annual Free Style event has been scheduled for April 22, 2017. Please bring in your donated clothing, accessories, shoes & purses (ONLY THESE ITEMS PLEASE) between March 1st and April 1st. We are asking that all items be clean and ready for sale. If you can sort and label the boxes, bags, etc. that would make the process of sorting and arranging the Free Style items easier. **PLEASE NOTE: NO ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 1st.**

Free Style is a free clothing event to benefit anyone who is struggling to afford these items. Anyone can show up, take what is needed and pass it on...no questions asked. All the while browsing our fellowship hall that is transformed into a Free Style boutique, with a free snack bar and personal shopper helpers if needed. If you have any questions, please see Karen Wilson. Let's all work to make this event the best ever...serving our community by reaching out to all.

This event is a community outreach mission by the women of Willow Church.





Maundy Thursday, also known as “Holy Thursday,” is the Thursday of Passion Week, one day before Good Friday (the Friday before Easter). Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 13th...at WILLOW CHURCH. SUPPER AT 6:00 pm, SERVICE AT 7:00 pm BRING YOUR OWN BOWL



Willow church has so many to thank for all their kindness.

Whether you chair or participate in a committee, sponsor a coffee hour, host an event, “spiff up” our church, attend service and share your smile, we say Thank You for all you do. There are too many to list so please give yourself a **PAT ON THE BACK** and know we all notice.



CHICKEN SUPPER

It's that time again...our Spring Chicken suppers begin March 8th. Carry outs begin at 4:30, Supper is served at 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$10.00 per person, children 12 and under \$5.00 each.

Menu: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuits and gravy, cole slaw, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, milk.

Please have your donated items at the church by Sunday, March 5th...as usual, pies are always needed.

Join us for a delicious meal!!

Chicken dinners are scheduled for April 12th and May 10th.

COMING TO WILLOW CHURCH: A few of the planned events.

Easter and Christmas Cantata Farewell luncheon for Pastor Brad and Debbie Lewis

Maundy Thursday Service with Soup and Bread Supper

All Church Cleaning Work Day Fall Harvest Event

Special Christmas Events Men's All Church Breakfast

Coffee Hours Vacation Bible School

Lego Camp

Bible Study Women's Group Special Events

Easter Flowers Children's Church

Free Style Clothing Event Blessing of the Animals

Chicken Suppers

Mother, Daughter, Ladies Luncheon

Free “God Works!” Community Suppers to those in need.

Children hosting Coffee Hour Hanging of the Greens

Christmas Eve Services



THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present “Seven Wonders of the World.” Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes.

1. Egypt’s Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal
3. The Grand Canyon
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St. Peter’s Basilica
7. The Great Wall of China

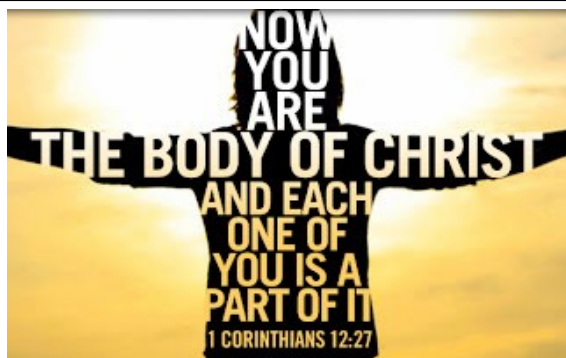
While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, “Yes a little, I couldn’t quite make up my mind because there were so many.”

The teacher said, “Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help.” The girl hesitated, then read, “I think the “Seven Wonders of the World” are:

1. To See
2. To Hear
3. To Touch
4. To Taste
5. To Feel
6. To Laugh
7. To love.”

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous!

A gentle reminder—that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.



In His Strength

For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Lent is a period of time between Ash Wednesday and Easter that is geared towards spiritual purification, meditation and penance. It lasts around 40 days, not including Sundays, drawing from the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert before starting his ministry.

The focus of the season is on spiritual growth. The focus is not supposed to be on one's self, but one's relationship with God. Oftentimes Christians choose to take on something during Lent, like reading more of the Bible or completing daily devotions.

What are the major days in Lent?

Ash Wednesday: Marks the beginning of the Lenten season.

Palm Sunday: The Sunday before Easter, Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. On that day the crowd put palm branches on the ground beneath the feet of the donkey Jesus was riding.

Maundy Thursday: Also known as Holy Thursday, this day focuses on the last supper Jesus had with his disciples, before he was arrested.

Good Friday: Also known as Black Friday, this day commemorates the crucifixion and Jesus' death.

Easter Sunday: This day recognizes the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is a triumphant day for Christians, serving as a reminder of Christ's conquering of death and the forgiveness of sins.



March 2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1</p> <p>AA 6:00 PM</p> <p>ASH</p> <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>SERVICE</p> <p>7:00 PM</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM at</p> <p>Willow Church</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Women's Mtg.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Rotary 6:30 PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Chicken Supper</p> <p>Carry outs 4:30</p> <p>Serving begins at 5:00</p> <p>Gail Sobecki</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM at</p> <p>Willow Church</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Kathy Holland</p>
<p>12</p> <p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Spring Forward!</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Rotary 6:30 PM</p> <p>Martha Molnar</p> <p>Lauren Tilley</p>	<p>15</p> <p>AA 6:00 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM at</p> <p>Willow Church</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Kyle Buttignoli</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Ad Board Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>First Day of Spring</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Rotary 6:30 PM</p>	<p>22</p> <p>AA 6:00 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>God Works Community Meal 6:00</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Children's Church</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Rotary 6:30 PM</p> <p>Danielle Mathews</p>	<p>29</p> <p>AA 6:00 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM at</p> <p>Willow Church</p>	<p>31</p> <p>R.P. Lilly</p>	

Willow Church



Happily invites all to our 7th annual:

Free-style 2017!

Willow Church is hosting our **FREE** (*gently used*) clothing event to benefit anyone in the communities struggling to afford these items. Just show up, take what is needed, and pass it on...no questions asked! While browsing our Fellowship hall transformed into the Free-Style boutique, grab a snack at "Nickster's Brew & Crew," "Free" snack bar! For any questions please contact our Church at (734) 654-9020 or email: farmerwilson@gmail.com.

When?

Please join us on **Saturday, April 22nd, from 10-3** (*or until all items are gone*) in our Church basement and take home any clothing items available that you might need.

Where?

Willow United Methodist Church
36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164 www.willowchurch.org

Clean clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, bedding, & purses (*ONLY PLEASE*) will be accepted from 3/1-4/1. Please understand **no items will be accepted** past these dates so that we are prepared for a nice, successful Free-Style experience. *Items received after specified dates will be sent to another organization.* We look forward to seeing you, think spring!

Y Your friends at Willow Church