

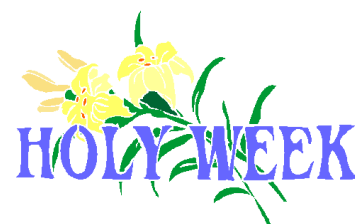
WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Kelly Vergowven, Pastor

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

THE COMMUNICATOR MARCH 2018



What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

This Lent, I encourage you to reflect on the forty words below and think about what God may be saying to you through the word of the day.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1.Dust | 11. Abba | 21. Peace | 31. Body |
| 2.Return | 12. Bread | 22. Rest | 32. Temptation |
| 3.Choose | 13. Water | 23. Wept | 33. Pray |
| 4.Fast | 14. Time | 24. But | 34. Will |
| 5.Still | 15. Peacemaker | 25. Way | 35. Judge |
| 6.Love | 16. World | 26. Free | 36. Stranger |
| 7.Light | 17. Treasure | 27. Sin | 37. Betray |
| 8.See | 18. Listen | 28. Enemies | 38. Prune |
| 9.Ask | 19. Poor | 29. Serve | 39. Gethsemane |
| 10.Words | 20. Forgiven | 30. Money | 40. Die |

I am grateful for this beautiful season of Lent 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 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.

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: For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.
COLOSSIANS 1:27

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

Without God, our week is

Mournday

Tearsday

Wasteday

Thirstday

Fightday

Shatterday

Sinday

So allow HIM to be with you everyday!



GOD is
SO GOOD!



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter, believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples. Most notably, that Passover meal was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. He then commanded them to do the same for each other. Christ's "mandate" is commemorated on Maundy Thursday--- "maundy" being a shortened form of mandatum (Latin), which means "command." It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said these words to his disciples:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" ([John 13:34](#)).

MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 29th AT WILLOW CHURCH. SUPPER AT 6:00 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT 7:00 PM

BRING YOUR OWN BOWL.

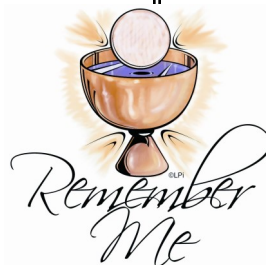


Love one another as I have loved you



**BE AN ORGAN
DONOR—GIVE
JESUS YOUR HEART!**

**GOD IS IN HEAVEN AND ALL IS
RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.**



COMMUNION CONSIDERATION:

That communion is a time to turn our hearts to God. It is a time to pray silently for forgiveness, listen to the music and reflect of one's own life; of realizing that we are partaking with Jesus at the last supper and that he died for you so that your sins can be forgiven. So as we approach the elements and as we walk away, (some of our members kneel at the communion rail to pray) let's be considerate, as a congregation, to be silent at this time of communion.



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WERE YOU HERE?

When Pastor Kelly reminded us that “It’s God’s strength we need most” - open our hearts and minds to Him?

When we heard that Our Lord is an everlasting God—He never gets weary?

When we gathered on Ash Wednesday as we began the season of Lent?

When many of the women’s group gathered for a fun “soup swap?”

When our sermon reminded us that we need to open our hearts so we can see the transfiguration of Jesus?

When Pastor Kelly told us that when we follow Jesus , we can expect to see the glory of the Lord?

EASTER CANTATA



Come witness our choir as they present the EASTER CANTATA (on Palm Sunday, March 25th).

This year’s cantata is called “OUR REDEMPTION is a GIFT”; it’s something only Christ can offer to us. In this musical we will sing about His power to heal us physically, emotionally and most of all spiritually.

We will sing old and new songs to celebrate the redeeming power of Jesus and what He has done for His people.



EASTER EVENTS AT WILLOW CHURCH

Palm Sunday: March 25th

Easter Cantata: March 25th

Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Supper: March 29th 6:00 PM

Maundy Thursday Service: March 29th 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service: March 30th 1:00 Carleton UMC

Easter Sunday Service: Sunday, April 1



Holy Week

Prayer Chain

Willow Church offers a “Prayer Chain.” This ministry is for those in need of extra prayers. Please notify Pastor Kelly with your requests and she will pass the need along to a phone and email chain of prayer warriors.

If you would like to participate in the prayer chain, please let Pastor Kelly know, you will be asked to call the next prayer warrior on the list and ask them to also pray for those who have requested prayer.

Thank you

Free-style!

Willow Church is again hosting our **FREE** (but *gently used*) clothing event to benefit anyone in the community struggling to afford these items. This year’s date is April 21, 2018.

Time to begin gathering those clothing items you and your friends would like to donate. More information coming in next month’s newsletter.



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Layman's Ten Commandments

Someone has written these beautiful words. The piece is a must read.
Try to understand the deep meaning of it. They are like the Ten Commandments to follow in life all of the time!

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.

2. So why is a car's WINDSHIELD so large and the Rear View Mirror so small?

Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.

3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.

4. All things in life are temporary. If they're going well, enjoy them... they will not last forever. If they're going wrong, don't worry... they can't last long either.

5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of gold!

6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, friend, it's just a bend, not the end!"

7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"

9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES... it takes away today's PEACE.



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ALL CHURCH GAME FUN!! Join us for a fun time as our families play games, enjoy snacks and each other...RIGHT AFTER CHURCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. Sunday: March 11th...bring a snack to share!! Play or watch...just come!!!



March 2018

Sun

Mon

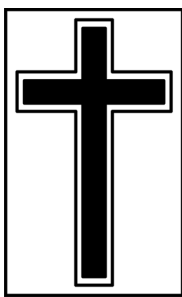





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				<p>1</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 PM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Women's Mtg.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Rotary 6:30 PM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>AA 6:00 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 PM</p> <p>Gail Sobecki</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Children's Church</p> <p>COFFEE HOUR</p> <p>Ad Board Mtg.</p> <p>Kathy Holland</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Rotary 6:30 PM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>CHICKEN SUPPER</p> <p>Carry outs 4:30</p> <p>Serving begins at 5:00 PM</p> <p>Martha Molnar</p> <p>Lauren Tilley</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 PM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Family Game Night at Willow 5:00 PM</p> <p><i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i></p> 
<p>18</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>All church family game time after church Kyle Buttignoli</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Rotary 6:30 PM</p> <p><i>Happy Spring!</i></p> 	<p>21</p> <p>AA 6:00 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM</p>	<p>22</p> <p>GOD WORKS</p> <p>Community Meal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>  <p>EASTER CANTATA</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Woman's Mtg.</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>Holy Week</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Rotary 6:30 PM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>AA 6:00 PM</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM</p> <p>Danielle Mathews</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 6:00 PM</p> <p>Service 7:00 PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p>	<p>31</p> <p>R.P. Lilley</p>