

WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

welcome
April

THE COMMUNICATOR

APRIL 2015



A Note from Pastor Marianne

Holy Week is here. Ash Wednesday we had ashes placed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross as we embarked on our Lenten Journey. Hopefully you were able to take advantage of this special time in the church year and reflect on Christ – his love and sacrifice – his example of dying to self.

During Lent, each Thursday, after supper through late afternoon on Friday I participated in a Fast. I have to tell you when that first Thursday of my Fast arrived, I didn't want to do it – but it was an intention I had made (and I think I wrote about it in the newsletter – so I had to!) I did not enjoy my Fast that first week– I felt grumpy and that hunger burning feeling was deep in the pit of my stomach. And, when it came time to eat – I ate way too much, too fast, and felt miserable cause I was too full!

So, why do I make myself do it? Probably for the same reason some of you gave up something for Lent - it is a practice that helps me to be more aware and reflect on Christ for a prolonged period of time each week. When I experience the discomfort of hunger, it really does make me turn my thoughts toward Christ in gratitude for his life and teachings, the trials he went through trying to share the good news of God's love for all people, and his ultimate sacrifice that embodied this great love he preached and lived.

As we engage in the approaching Holy Week – the heaviness of it somehow makes the celebration of Christ's resurrection even more delicious. As Christians we believe that Christ's death was not in vain. God's resurrection power was made known to us in Christ. Our sins are forgiven and fullness of life is available to each and every one of us!

Happy Easter – **He is Risen!!**

God loves you and so do I,
Pastor Marianne

Sermon Titles and Texts for April:

April 5 – Easter Sunday: "Journey to the Cross: Jesus and the Women at the Tomb"
Mark 16:1-8

April 12: "Life is Good"
Acts 4:32-35

April 19: Jeanne Lochner preaching

April 26: "Driving in the Valley of Death"
Psalm 23



WERE YOU HERE?????

When we learned that Jesus is teaching us that it's OK to be extravagant in our generosity and gratitude.

When we were asked "Have we missed UNSEIZED moments?" God provides us the opportunity to forgive ourselves for missing those unseized moments.

When so many of the congregation gathered to serve our community our first Chicken Supper of Spring?

When we laughed and celebrated a fun night of games?

When our Bible Study class was challenged to "Give up something BAD for Lent?"

When the "women's group" deep cleaned our church?

When Pastor Marianne reminded us that "Jesus' **GREATEST MIRACLES** are still happening!"



The prayer:

Father,
Thank You for each and every day You have blessed us here on earth.
Thank You for Your tender mercies.
Thank You for giving us friends and family to share joys and sorrows with.
I ask You to bless my friends, relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ
and those I care deeply for.
Where there is joy, give them continued joy.
Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy.
Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence.
Where there is need, fulfill their needs.
Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



TWO BOXES

I have in my hands two boxes, which God gave me to hold.
He said, 'Put all your sorrows in the black box, and all your joys in the gold.'



I heeded His words, and in the two boxes, both my joys and sorrows I stored,
but though the gold became heavier each day, the black was as light as before.

With curiosity, I opened the black, I wanted to find out why,
and I saw, in the base of the box, a hole, which my sorrows had fallen out by.

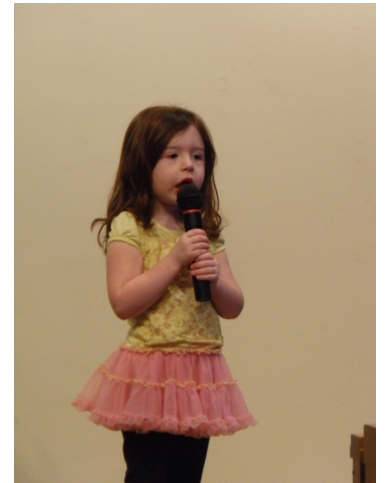


I showed the hole to God, and mused, 'I wonder where my sorrows could be!'
He smiled a gentle smile and said, "My child, they're all here with me..."

I asked God, why He gave me the boxes, why the gold and the black with the hole? 'My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings, the black is for you to let go'



**OH YES...WILLOW
METHODISTS DO HAVE
TALENT!!!!**



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.



ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES:

The Advisory Board Minutes are available upon request, please see Jan Holland, recording secretary or Pastor Marianne for a copy.

Holy Week Schedule

Mauudy Thursday: Thursday, April 2 at 5:30 pm Soup and Bread Supper
at 7:00 pm Service
Good Friday Services: Friday, April 3 at 1:00 pm - Carleton UMC
at 7:00 pm - Willow UMC
Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 5 at 8:00 am Breakfast
at 9:30 am Easter Worship Service

Daily Devotional Available

Did you know that Willow UMC offers free daily devotional materials each month? They are called "The Upper Room" and you may take one home for your use. The Upper Rooms are located in the back of the sanctuary – large print is available. Speak with Pastor Marianne if you have any questions.



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

ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST

....EASTER SUNDAY

Please join us for breakfast on
Easter Sunday...April 5th

8:00 AM...CHURCH FELLOWSHIP
HALL

Donations Welcome





Maundy Thursday Service and Soup and Bread Supper



Maundy
Thursday

April 2nd....(Supper 5:30....Service 7:00)

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is why services on this night generally include the washing of feet or other acts of physical care as an integral part of the celebration.

WILLOW CHURCH WILL BE HOSTING AN "EMPTY BOWLS" SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER BEFORE THE MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE. SUPPER WILL BE SERVED BEGINNING AT 5:30 FOLLOWED BY THE MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT 7:00 PM.

PLEASE JOIN US...Please bring your own bowl and spoon. (Bowls will be furnished for those who do not or cannot bring their own.)

Good Friday Service at Willow UMC to be a Tenebrae Service

You may ask, "What is a Tenebrae Service?" The word 'tenebrae' is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story, so this is not supposed to be a happy service, because the occasion is not happy.

The service has a long scripture narrative. We will share this special worship service in the Fellowship Hall of the church – by candlelight. There are as many candles as there are readings, plus a white Christ candle. One by one the candles will be extinguished until only the Christ candle remains. Then someone reads the first part of Psalm 22, which Jesus quoted on the cross. The Christ candle is put out and the congregation leaves silently in near total darkness. There is no benediction.

The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day.

Consider this, if you see only the happy ending of a movie, everyone who saw it from the start is elated, but you go away saying, "So why were they all hugging each other? Why all the excitement?" But if you see the beginning and the middle parts, with all the suspense and grief, you understand what the characters overcame, and the happy ending is all the happier.

We are asking? What Scripture guides your life and why?

E mail Donna Lee Hornyak @ dhornyak2@gmail.com and we will print your answer in the May newsletter.

A simple question ... Look up Donna Lee's...**Matthew 5:16**..."In the same way, your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."

When my daughter and husband became ill with cancer...I knew that God is always with me, holding my hand and crying along with me. I knew that my light must show folks that **God is GOOD!!!**





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.

"What is impossible for humans is possible for God"

Luke 18:27



Script 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.

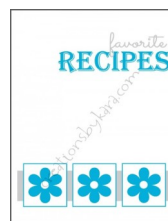
If you would like an updated list of retailers, please see Martha Molar.

Willow Church Cook Book

Please remember to bring in some of your favorite recipes to be included in the church cookbook. You can give them to Jennifer Johnson, Jan Holland, Holly Morrison or myself.

Your assistance in helping us to create the best cookbook ever is greatly appreciated.

Martha Molnar



MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET

Saturday, May 2nd

11:00 AM

Tickets go on sale: Sunday, April 12th

Adults: \$8.00

Kids under 12 \$5.00



Willow Church



Happily invites all to our 5th annual:

Free-style!

Willow Church is hosting our **FREE** (but *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 basement transformed into the Free Style boutique, grab a snack offered at "Nickster's Brew & Crew" "Free" snack bar! For any questions, please contact our Church or email: farmerwilson@gmail.com.

When?

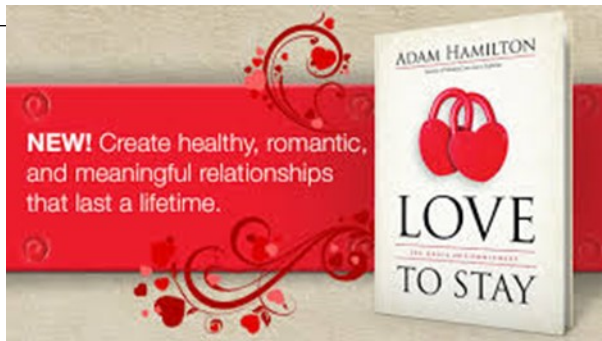
Please join us on **Saturday, April 18th, from 10-3** (or until all items are gone) in our Church basement and take home any clothing items available that you might need.

Where?

Willow United Methodist Church
36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164 www.willowchurch.org
Phone 734 654-9020

Clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, & purses (ONLY PLEASE) are being accepted from 3/8-4/5. Please understand **no items will be accepted** past these dates so that we are prepared for a nice, successful Free Style experience. Any items received afterward will be sent to another organization. We look forward to seeing you! Think spring!

Your friends at Willow Church



"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!

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.

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.

Milford United Methodist Hand bell Choir Performance

Sunday, April 12 – Sunday after Easter, the Milford UMC Hand bell Choir will share their gift of music with us in Worship. Those of you who have been here when Tom Gorton, member of this handbell choir, has performed for us, know what an absolute delight and blessing this genre of music is. And on April 12, we will have the whole choir – 13 ringers in all!! You do not want to miss this.



Coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall after the Worship Service will give us the opportunity to meet and greet and thank these wonderful folks for sharing their gift of music with us.

The Bead Connection



Pastor Marianne will be leading a Spiritual Growth Retreat for the Hutchinson and Salina Districts of the United Methodist Women in Kansas on April 18. The retreat's theme is using Prayer Beads as a tool in the practice of personal prayer and the title is "The Bead Connection." Please keep her in your thoughts as she leads this spiritual growth retreat for some great women. After the retreat, she and her husband, Doug will be taking vacation time with her parents to the Grand Canyon.



Mom-2-Mom & Bake Sale



Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road, New Boston Mi 48164

Saturday, April 25, 2015

9am-1pm

Entrance donation: 1 non-perishable food item or \$1

8:00 early bird donation: 2 non-perishable food items or \$2



**Shop for great deals on gently used clothes, toys,
books, games and more!**

Interested in selling your things?

(Limited space available!)

Email: willowumc@gmail.com

All proceeds go to the Willow Women's group Community Outreach Program.

For more information about Willow
United Methodist Church:
www.willowchurch.org or scan
the QR code



April 2015



Mon






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>March 29th</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>Easter Cantata</p> 			<p>1</p> <p>AA 6:30</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Maundy Thursday</p> <p>Soup & Bread Supper 5:30 PM</p> <p>Service 7:00 PM</p>	<p>3 GOOD FRIDAY Service</p> <p>Carleton UMC 1:00</p> <p>Willow UMC 7:00 PM</p>	<p>4</p> 
<p>5 EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>Breakfast 8:00 am</p> <p>Easter Worship 9:30</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Richard Maxwell</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Chicken Supper Prep 8:30 am</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Chicken Supper 4:30 Carry Out</p> <p>5:00 Seating</p> <p>Amy Harrison</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00 Held at Willow Church</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor Course of Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pastor Course of Study</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Milford UMC</p> <p>Hand bell Choir in Worship Service</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p> <p>Robert & Vanessa Lenz</p>	<p>15</p> <p>AA 6:30</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pastor on Vacation through April 25th.</p> <p>No Bible Study 7:00</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Free Style Set Up 6 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Free Style</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Advisory Board Mtg.</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p> <p>Calvin Haydamacker</p>	<p>22</p> <p>AA 6:30</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No Bible Study 7:00</p> <p>Laura Haydamacker</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Mom 2 Mom Sale Set Up</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Mom 2 Mom Sale</p>
<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>Haley & Lilly Johnson</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>29</p> <p>AA 6:30</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00</p> <p>Edna Moore</p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>MOTHER/ DAUGHTER LUNCHEON</p> <p>11:00 am</p>