

# WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Reverend Brad Lewis, Pastor

**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS**

**THE COMMUNICATOR**

**APRIL 2016**



## **A note from Pastor Brad:**

An uncomfortable issue challenges our wellbeing today. In the midst of a world that seems filled with more tension, stress, frustration and uncertainty many individuals are finding themselves addicted to destructive behaviors. In fact, the latest statistics indicate that approximately 1 out of every 8 Americans is living with some sort addiction. Addiction to drugs and/or alcohol is a problem for approximately 30 million people in the United

States alone.

Our culture, including Christians, is addicted. The top ten addictions today are: Alcohol, smoking, drugs, gambling, food addiction, video games, internet addiction, sex addiction, shopping, and work addiction. The list of addictive behaviors has never been longer. Yet, there is hope!

In Malachi 3:6 God says to the people who were hooked on the ways of the world and not on God's way, **"I the Lord do not change."**

If you have ever owned a piano, you know that it gets out of tune as time passes. Some notes go sharp, some flat. When a piano tuner tunes a piano he or she will often use a tuning fork. For example, a piano tuner will tap a middle C tuning fork on a hard surface and compare its sound to that of the piano's middle C. The tuner then adjusts the piano's string as needed to bring it in pitch with the tuning fork. The piano tuner knows the tone of the tuning fork will stay constant. It was middle C yesterday; it will be middle C tomorrow; it will be middle C a thousand years from now.

You and I need a middle C. Haven't you had enough stress, enough questions about changes in your health, finances, work, relationships and more? In the midst of all those changes and challenges it is easy to get trapped in destructive behaviors that seem to offer relief. At best, the relief is only temporary. God who ruled the earth last night is the same God who rules it today. Same convictions – God's love for you, God's willingness to help you will never end. Same plan – to do good for you as it says in Jeremiah 29:11, **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

May the living God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him.

Pastor Brad

## Sermons for April 2016



*\*Take  
home message*

April 3, 2016 Scripture: Revelation 1:4-8

Sermon Title: No Zombie Jesus

Theme: The good news of this glorious Easter season is that there are greater powers at work than any of us could ever imagine because Jesus is "the firstborn from the dead."

April 10, 2016 Scripture: Acts 9:1-20

Sermon Title: Saintly Sinners

Theme: The Lord makes beautiful pictures with the broken brushes and sloppy colors of our lives.

April 17, 2016 Scripture: Psalm 23

Sermon Title: The Shepherd and the Circle

Theme: Psalm 23 invites us to focus on a changeless God amid the many changes of life.

April 24, 2016 Scripture: Acts 11:1-18

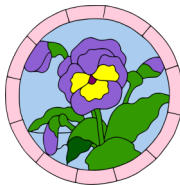
Sermon Title: Marching Off The Map

Theme: The advent of GPS and online directions is causing a sharp decline in the use of traditional paper maps. Ditching the map, though, sometimes means ditching the big picture!

Important  
Message

HE WAS DELIVERED OVER TO DEATH FOR  
OUR SINS AND WAS RAISED TO LIFE FOR  
OUR JUSTIFICATION      Romans 4:25

**WE CELEBRATE EASTER**



**Willow United Methodist Church**

**7th Annual**

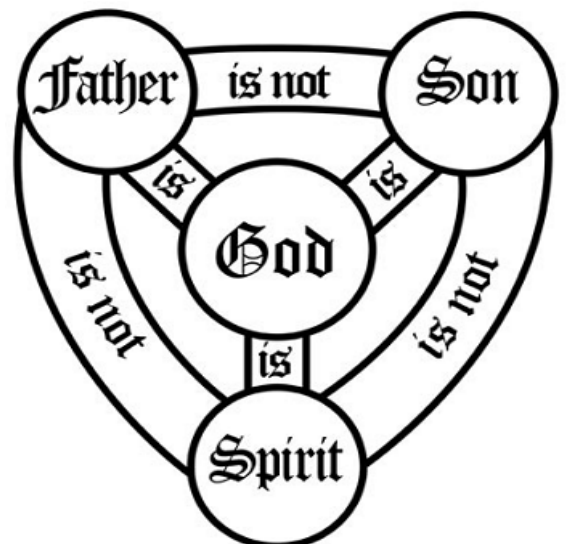
**Women's Luncheon**

**When: Saturday, April 30th**

**Time: 11:00 am**

**Place: Willow United  
Methodist Church**

**Tickets: \$8.00**



## 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 held each Sunday, coordinated by Jennifer Johnson.

This newsletter is compiled by Donna Lee Hornyak. A special thanks to Gail Sobbecki 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:** Today I will welcome changes that come from drawing close to Jesus.



### Willow Church Cook Books

We have a limited number of Willow Church Cook Books remaining for sale. Those interested please see Martha Molnar for purchase. \$10.00 each.

## 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

**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. Please contact Vanessa Lenz at 734-731-9611. Orders and payments are required 2 weeks prior to date.



### BOOK to read!

Have you read a good Christian Book lately...one that you would recommend to others? We will start now listing book titles submitted by our congregation that others might enjoy.

**"To Heaven and Back" by Mary C. Neal, MD**

A doctor's extraordinary account of her death, heaven, angels and life again. A true story.

## Were you here???

When our sermon explained that God will never cast us aside, He sees value in us and is all forgiving.

When Pastor Brad told us to “open ourselves to God given opportunities” for devotion to Jesus.

When we heard that we must live each day as a gift from God.

When the men of Willow Church served an “all church breakfast” on Easter Sunday.

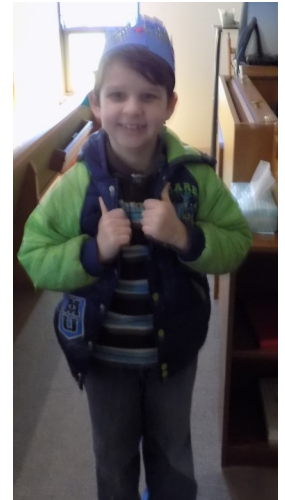


When the children of Willow Church honored us with their Easter Pageant.

When we attended Palm Sunday service and were FILLED WITH HOPE.

When we were lifted up when we realized that FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE are what Jesus gives us unconditionally.

When we gathered together for each HOLY WEEK service with our heads bowed.



## Prayer Chain

Willow Church offers a “Prayer Chain.” This ministry is for those in need of extra prayers. Please notify Pastor Brad with your requests and he will pass the need along to a phone chain of prayer warriors and to those on the email list. If you would like to participate in the prayer chain, please let Pastor Brad 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

Dear God,

Keep changing us. Renew our hearts and minds constantly. Help us to have openness and wisdom in the fact of every change.

Amen

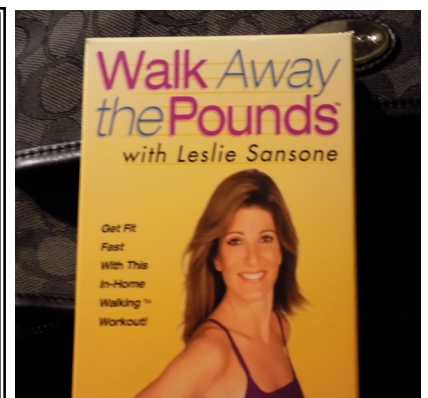


## BIBLE STUDY

Each Thursday at 7:00, Join us for a video series by Ray Vander Laan “Death & Resurrection of the Messiah” We meet at Donna Lee Hornyak’s home, Pastor Brad leads the class. Study books are available for you to borrow...Please feel free to join us! We would love to have you.

## JOIN US!

Each Tuesday morning we come together at 9:00 am at Vanessa Lenz’s home for a 30 minute work out. This “walk away the pounds” is a healthy, low impact workout that everyone can do. Please see Vanessa for information and directions to her home.



**CROSS THOUGHTS:** From “Let There Be Light”...**HE HAD A VISION** From the trek through the desert...**HE HAD A PLAN**. From the upper room...**HE KNEW THE WAY**...From the Cross which He died...**HE SAW YOU AND ME**.





# Willow Church



Happily invites all to our 6<sup>th</sup> 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 734-654-9020 or email: [farmerwilson@gmail.com](mailto:farmerwilson@gmail.com).

### When?

Please join us on **Saturday, April 23rd, from 10-3** (or until all items are gone) in our Church Fellowship Hall and take home any clothing items available that you might need.

### Where?

Willow United Methodist Church  
36925 Willow Road

**Clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, & purses (ONLY PLEASE) are being accepted from 4/1 –4/15** 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*



# Mom-2-Mom & Bake Sale



**Willow United Methodist Church**

36925 Willow Road, New Boston Mi 48164

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**

**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](mailto:willowumc@gmail.com)



For more information about Willow  
United Methodist Church:  
[www.willowchurch.org](http://www.willowchurch.org) or scan  
the QR code

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

Willow United Methodist Church  
March Administration Board Meeting  
March 20, 2016

Meeting opened with prayer at 10:43 a.m. by Donna Lee

- ATTENDANCE:** Jan Holland, Pastor Brad Lewis, Katherine Buck, Donna Lee Hornyak, Helena & R.P Lilly, Jim & Kathy Farr, Mark Buttignoli, Linda Kemp, and John Tarr.
- ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD:** February Ad Board minutes were read. Jim motioned to accept. Mark supported. Motion carried.
- PASTORS REPORT:** Pastor Brad reported that there was a request to add two more people allowed to carry a concealed pistol in church. R. P. motioned that an increase from one specific person (1) to a total of three (3) specific persons be allowed. Mark supported. Motion carried. Pastor Brad is developing a worship team. He enjoyed the chicken supper, but does have some concerns regarding proper health procedures. He will meet with Julie. He would like to discuss the possibility of having an additional TV monitor on the other side of the church. He also would like an usher committee.
- PASTOR PARISH:** Donna Lee reported that the Pastor Parish Committee met for an evaluation of the pastor position. It is recommended (with pastors approval) that we change our status of full time pastor to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. After discussion, Donna Lee motioned that Willow UMC change our Pastor full time position to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time pastor from July 1, 2016 forward. Mark supported. Motion carried.
- TRUSTEES:** The LED bulbs were installed. The trustees will discuss the possibility of installing an additional TV monitor in the sanctuary. John Tarr will look at the fry pan plugs to see if he can fix them.
- OTHER:** A chicken supper meeting will be held in the near future. A discussion of a chicken flyer to be placed in Benito's pizza boxes was tabled.
- FINANCIAL:** The February financial report was reviewed by all present. R.P. motioned to accept the report. Kathy supported. Motion carried.
- CHILDREN MINISTRY:** After VBS this summer, Jeanne Lochner will be stepping down as Children's Ministry Director. The nomination committee will be meeting to consider a new director.
- BUDGET:** 2016 Budget is falling behind \$1,345.24.
- CHURCH USE:** Holly is requesting the use of the fellowship hall on Sunday, August 7, 2016 after church for her baby shower. A women's meeting is scheduled, so approval is postponed. A wedding is to be held at the church on July 9, 2016 for a non-member church couple.
- ADJOURNMENT:** Jim motioned to adjourn. Donna Lee supported. Meeting adjourned 11:45 am.

Recording Secretary – Janet Holland

# April 2016

Sun

Mon


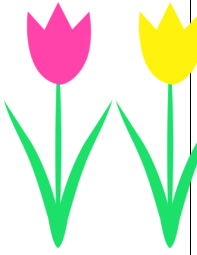
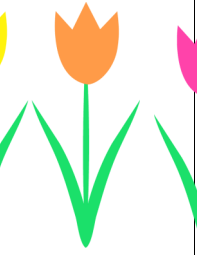
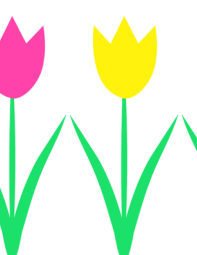
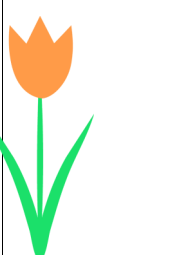
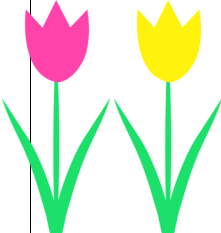

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 Women's Group Knitting & Crochet class  6:00 pm at the church	2
3 Holy Communion Children's Church Women's Mtg.	4	5 Rotary 6:30	6 AA 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Richard Maxwell	7 Bible Study 7:00	8  Amy Harrison	9
10  Children's Church Coffee Hour: Hosted by Irene Kovak and Gail Gray	11	12 Chicken Supper Prep 8:30 am Rotary 6:30	13 <b>Chicken Supper</b> Carry out 4:30 Seating 5:00	14 Bible Study 7:00  Vanessa & Robert Lenz	15	16 Mom 2 Mom Sale 9—1 pm
17  Children's Church Ad. Bd. Mtg.	18	19 Rotary 6:30	20 AA 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	21 Bible Study 7:00 Calvin Haydamacker	22 Free Style Set Up	23 FREE STYLE 10:00—3:00  Laura Haydamacker Sharon Lies
24  Children's Church	25 	26 Rotary 6:30 	27 AA 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Haley Johnson Lilly Johnson	28 Bible Study 7:00	29	30 Women's Luncheon 11:00 Edna Moore 