



WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road, New Boston, Michigan 48164
Reverend Brad Lewis, Pastor

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

THE COMMUNICATOR



APRIL 2017

A note from Pastor Brad:

There are times when we tend to overlook important details in our daily lives. Like the Saturday morning I got up late to travel to an important meeting. The travel time to the meeting location was well over an hour. I rushed to get dressed and eat breakfast hoping to make up for lost time. I gathered my meeting materials and jumped into my car in the garage and proceeded to back out of the garage without opening the garage door. It took some extra time to force the garage door open and I eventually made it to the meeting. Indeed, sometimes we get in such a hurry to get things done we skip the details.

Yet, when it comes to our faith in Jesus Christ as our risen Savior, there is one detail we must never overlook.

A harried father, trying to meet a work deadline, was forced to take his 5-year old son to the office with him one Saturday. Eventually, the boy tired of all the toys and amusements they'd packed and started pestering his dad for something to do. The father grabbed a magazine that had a large foldout map of the world, used scissors to cut it into pieces and spread the pieces on a table. "See if you can put all these pieces together, and when you get finished, it'll be time to go."

The boy settled down and started matching pieces and the father, thinking he had at least a half-hour before another meltdown, went back into his office. A few minutes later, the boy was back. "I put all the pieces together," he announced.

Amazed, the father went to look and sure enough, there was the world, every continent in place. "How did you do that so quickly?" he asked his son, marveling. "It was simple," the boy replied. "On the back of the world was a picture of a man. When I put the man together, the whole world fell into place!"

At Easter, the empty tomb is the detail that leads us to the Risen Christ who holds the world together. Easter is a reminder that no one's life is in so many pieces that Jesus Christ can't put it together again.

May the joy of Easter fill your life every day.
Pastor Brad





Bears for Kids

The Willow Church Women's group is sponsoring a new outreach program called "**TEDDY BEARS FOR KIDS.**" The Huron Township Police Department receives new Teddy Bears donated by the congregation of Willow Church. The Teddy Bears are kept in police cars, and when an officer encounters a child who has been traumatized due to tragedy or victimization, the child is given a bear. The child is comforted by the bear in an unfortunate or unfamiliar surrounding.

If you would like to donate a teddy bear...please feel free to do so.

The teddy bears must be **NEW and be able to fit in a 2 gallon storage bag. Any size that will fit is welcome, small, medium and just right!** If you can, please bring the bear to church and the women's group teddy bear committee will collect them and when we have the proper amount, see that the police officers have them.



Were you here?

When Pastor Brad assured us that "God's grace is offered freely to everyone?"

When we heard again that "The word of God has power within each of us?"

When several Christians gather for bible study on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM?

When we were asked to follow these suggestions for taking criticism: 1. listen to it 2. learn from it 3. keep moving and 4. keep connected to God

When we remember that when working together with ONE HEART FOR ONE PURPOSE we will succeed?

When the volunteers of God Work's again prepared dinner for those in need and served it in our fellowship hall?

When the congregation of Willow Church felt the awesomeness of the coming of the Easter Season?

When on a windy Wednesday many gathered to enjoy our first Chicken Dinner of the season?

EASTER EVENTS of WILLOW CHURCH

April 2: Children's Easter Program during service.

Palm Sunday: April 9th: Easter Cantata. 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: Thursday, April 13th: Soup and Bread supper 6:00 pm, Service 7:00 pm. Also known as Holy Thursday, this day focuses on the last supper Jesus had with his disciples, before he was arrested.

Good Friday: Friday, April 14th: Also known as Black Friday, this day commemorates the crucifixion and Jesus' death. Services held at Carleton United Methodist Church 1:00 PM

Easter Sunday: April 16th: All Church breakfast 8:00 am in fellowship hall. 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.



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 is 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 6:30 p.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.

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. Orders and payments are required 2 weeks prior to date. Please contact Bridgett Gering.

**MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN
"THE GOD WORKS COMMUNITY SUPPER."**

God is good, all the time.

VOLUTEERS NEEDED: Please 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.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

From the Upper Room...March 2017 written by Lauri Ricker

Where I live, March is a transition month. Spring wants to pop through, but winter isn't quite finished with us. I get antsy during the month of March. My hands itch to dig in the dirt. I see tiny shoots of green in my garden. Birds are chirping again, and the sun seems a little brighter each

day.

So I begin preparing for spring and summer planting. I clean pots, sharpen my tools, prep the soil, and earmark seed catalogs that have new ideas for my gardens.

But then I remember my spiritual garden. Am I sharpening the tools of meditation, scripture reading, and prayer? Am I taking inventory of the new ways I can share God with the world around me? Am I preparing the soil of my life for new and exciting challenges for personal growth?

During the month of March and the season of Lent, I see the promise of new life in my garden, and I remember the promise of new life in Christ. By preparing for God's new creation during the season of Lent, we can experience new life sprouting within us—life that can bring us new joy and give hope to those around us.



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. **PLEASE PASS THE WORD OF THIS SPECIAL OUTREACH.**



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



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

Phone 734 654-9020

7th Annual Women's Luncheon

Date: Sunday April 30th

Time: 11:00am

Place: Willow Methodist Fellowship Hall

All ladies are welcome to join us for a fun luncheon. Complete with guest speaker, a craft, delicious food, and fun fellowship!

Invite your friends and family to join us as well.

Tickets: Adult - \$8, Children - \$5

April 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



2 Holy Communion Children's Easter Program Women's Mtg.	3	4 Rotary 6:30 pm	5 AA 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	6 Bible Study 7:00 PM at Willow Church Richard Maxwell	7 Deborah & Brad Lewis	8 Amy Harrison
9 Palm Sunday Easter Cantata No Coffee Hour 	10	11 Rotary 6:30 pm	12 Chicken Supper Carry outs 4:30 Serving begins 5:00 PM	13 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 6:00 PM Service 7:00 PM	14  Venessa & Robert Lenz	15
16 Easter Sunday Children's Church All Church Breakfast 8:00 am	17 Pastor Brad on Vacation this week 	18 Rotary 6:30 pm	19 AA 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	20 NO Bible Study	21 Calvin Haydamacker	22 FREE STYLE 10—3:00
23 Children's Church Advisory Board Mtg. Laura Haydamacker		25 Rotary 6:30 pm	26 AA 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	27 God Work's Community Supper Haley & Lilly Johnson	28	29
30 WOMEN'S LUMCHEON 11:00 am Edna Moore 	1	2 Rotary 6:30 pm	3 AA 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	4 Bible Study 7:00 PM at Willow Church	5	6

Willow United Methodist Church

March Administration Board Meeting March 19, 2017

Meeting opened with prayer at 10:49 a.m. Mark

ATTENDANCE: Jan Holland, Donna Lee Hornyak, Pastor Lewis, Mark Buttignoli, Martha Molar, Amy Harrison, Jim & Kathy Farr, Katherine Buck, R.P and Helena Lilly, and Debbie Carter.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD: February minutes were read. Jim motioned to accept. Mark supported. Motion carried.

PASTORS REPORT: Pastor asked if there were any graduates this year. He will put an announcement in the bulletin. We will recognize them during in a future worship service. Lego camp would like to use our church for the Lego Camp this summer. Donna Lee motioned that we let them use our church fellowship hall and waive the fees to do so. R.P. supported. Motion carried. There will be a need for someone to be here during the hours that they are here.

TRUSTEES: Since there are no lights in the garage, R.P. suggested putting a window in the side where the tractor is kept. He has a window that we can have. It was suggested placing a battery light w motion detector, instead. This will be investigated. A new railing will be installed on the stairway going downstairs and up to the Narthex.

FINANCIAL: February financial report — Motioned by Mark to accept the report. Debbie supported. Motion carried.

WOMEN'S GROUP: They are working on community meals. It was brought to the board that that the women's group would like to gather new teddy bears to put them in a no bigger than 2 gallon zip lock bags and present them to the Huron Twp. police department. The idea is that the police carry these bears in their cruisers to give to little children for comfort when they are in a situation.

Donna Lee motioned for Mark Buttignoli be added to the CPL list. Martha supported.

CHURCH USE: No requests

ADJOURNMENT: Katherine motioned to adjourn. Debbie supported.

Meeting adjourned 11 :37 am.

Recording Secretary — Janet Holland