



WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Kelly Vergowven, Pastor

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

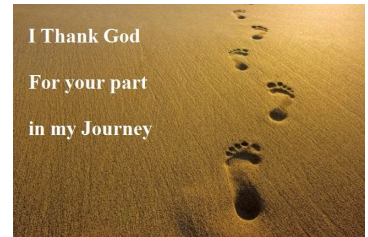
THE COMMUNICATOR JULY 2017



A NOTE FROM PASTOR KELLY:

"Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new. In faith we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new."

I Thank God
For your part
in my Journey



Do these words sound familiar to you? If they do, it's probably because you've heard them sung during a worship service on Sunday. They can be found in the UM Hymnal on page 383 titled "This Is a Day of New Beginnings".

Over the last few weeks, I have been preparing myself for the new and exciting changes that God has brought to me and my family through my appointment with the Willow UMC. As I was thinking about what I would say in this month's Communicator, I was looking for inspiration to lead me to just the right words, when it occurred to me that every time I contemplated the article, I began humming a familiar tune....what a wonderful sign from God that as we all make this transition into ministry together, we can be assured of God's holy presence in our daily lives.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you and to the many new beginnings we will have on this ministry journey together!

God's peace and blessings to you all!

Pastor Kelly

May the coming year be a time
when your faith in the Lord
Grows Stronger...
your love for the Lord
Grows Deeper...
and your fellowship with the Lord
Grows Sweeter!

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: God gives us different abilities so we can meet the needs of the world.



Altar Flowers: Altar flowers can be displayed as a memorial or in honor of someone or something or a special event. Please contact Bridgette Gering or sign the flower form on the bulletin board.



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

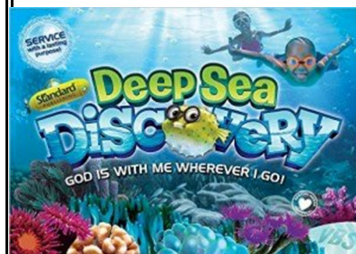
Sunday Service 9:30 AM

Jeanne Lochner: Children's Ministry Director

Karen Struble Organist and Music Director

FOOD PANTRY 24/7 734-753-4320

Thank you Jeanne Lochner and Crew for another WONDERFUL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



This year's theme was DEEP SEA DISCOVERY

The children were blessed with fun activities, great leadership, snacks and dove into exploring how God is with them wherever they go.

Thanks, Mrs. Lochner and Crew!



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 familiar 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.



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.

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 and pocket versions are available.



Dear Friends,

Debbie and I have been deeply touched by your love and friendship while at Willow UMC. We have enjoyed getting to know you and share in life's journey with you during the last seventeen months.

During our last Sunday at the church all of you made us feel very loved and cared for. It was a wonderful time of worship, celebration and a luncheon that was awesome. Thank you for the generous gift that I was informed should be used to enlarge my vinyl record collection.

May the Lord continue to bless each of you. God loves you and so do we!

Pastor Brad & Debbie



ALL CHURCH PICNIC.

Sunday, July 23rd. ASH PARK..POT LUCK...12:00 noon



Bring a chair or blanket ...and table cover...the church is providing the meat...all are asked to bring a dish to pass, beverage and your table service.



COUNTRY FAIR at Willow Church

Years in the past Willow Church hosted at **COUNTRY FAIR**. Everyone was invited, everyone helped and everyone had fun. So the women's group decided to host the second annual COUNTRY FAIR this year.

Saturday, August 26th. Time 10:00—2:00.

Several booths will hold baked goods, produce, crafts and gently used items, etc. And of course the kitchen will serve up some delicious food. Some have already volunteered to chair a booth, help where needed and are attending preliminary meetings. We're reaching out to all our congregation to help, add ideas, and busy themselves making items for sale.

Each month, the newsletter will provide an update on the progress of the plans...we need HELP so please volunteer. If you're interested in helping or have some ideas to guide us, please let Karen Struble know.

Willow Church's Annual BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!

Willow Church invites our friends and neighbors to join us on July 30th for a Blessing of the Animals service. Come out and bring your family friendly pet(s) and enjoy with us, the joy and chaos of Willow's Blessing of the Animals service!

Please be sure your animal is:



Socialized

Free of contagious illnesses

Up to date on all shots

Leashed (or in an animal carrier)

FRIENDLY! (All breeds welcome but we ask that both big and small dogs be...FRIENDLY!)



WERE YOU HERE???

When Pastor Brad reminded us that Christ's empty tomb reminds us that there is hope?

When Jeanne Lochner, our representative to the annual conference gave her report?

When we heard that we must not be a sitter but a doer and pass the word of the Lord?

When we were assured that through the eyes of faith we see God and God's promise of blessings even when they seem impossible or absurd?

When so many children of Willow and the community enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School?

When we gathered to hear Jim Farr sing tributes to Pastor Brad and Debbie and wish them well?

When we sent Pastor Brad and Debbie into retirement with love and thanks and blessings?

When Pastor Brad and Debbie sang "More than wonderful?"

When Pastor Brad explained how Willow Church is a "Holy Community" and a good place to come and worship our Lord?



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**VBS WITH MRS. JEANNE
"DEEP SEA DISCOVERY"**



JAN HOLLAND SINGS MO TOWN!!!



JIM FARR FARWELL CONCERT FOR PASTOR BRAD AND DEBBIE

July 2017

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 Welcome Pastor Kelly Holy Communion Children's Church Coffee Hour Laura & John Haydamacker	3	4 	5 AA 6:00	6 Vanessa Lenz	7 Jack Nobles	8
9 Children's Church Coffee Hour Women's Mtg.	10	11 Rotary 6:30	12 AA 6:00	13	14	15
16 Children's Church Ad. Board Mtg.	17	18 Rotary 6:30	19 AA 6:00	20	21	22
23 Children's Church All Church Picnic Ash Park	24 Stephanie Baker	25 Rotary 6:30	26 AA 6:00 Kathy Farr	27 God Works Free Community Meal	28	29
30 Blessing of the Animals Children's Church	31	1 Rotary 6:30	2 AA 6:00	3	4 	5