

# WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Reverend Brad Lewis, Pastor

## OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

AUGUST 2016



In the summer of 2005, thieves spent three months tunneling under a busy city boulevard in the city of Fortaleza, Brazil. Their goal was the Central Bank vault. The tunnel — whose ceiling was just 28 inches high — stretched 262 feet, beginning from a nearby house the burglars had rented. It had wooden panels and plastic sheeting lining the walls, and also electric lighting.

The tunnel ended 13 feet beneath the bank vault. The thieves used an electric saw and a blowtorch to cut through the vault's 3 1/2-foot-thick steel-reinforced concrete floor.

Their take? \$67.8 million. It was one of the largest bank robberies in history.

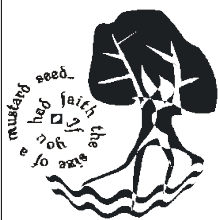
Yes, the thieves went to a lot of trouble, devoting over three months of hard, manual labor to the theft and exposing themselves to the ever-present risk of cave-ins. Yet, the vast treasure beckoned them on.

Most of us can easily identify our earthly prizes, whether they be becoming a millionaire or achieving sales goals, losing weight or gaining an advanced degree. But heavenly prizes? These are a bit more difficult to visualize. Still, give it a try. *Commit yourself to starting each day with prayer, treating your neighbor as you would like to be treated, or serving Jesus Christ by serving the hungry, the homeless, or anyone in need of a helping hand.*

Each is a worthwhile goal, and each requires determination, desire and a sense of mission. Each will challenge you, reward you and turn you ever-so-slowly into a better person. The stakes are high when you pick a prize and pursue it. Every choice is going to have consequences.

*The good news is that we don't have to be a millionaire or achieve some other personal performance goal to live a life that is pleasing to God.*

In Matthew 13:31-33 Jesus says: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."



*The point is that small acts can lead to great results. Small acts of love and faithfulness can transform the world around us, changing both ourselves and our communities for the better.*

Find your place to do God's work and you will feel more connected, more grounded, more aware of your place in God's creation.

May God's goodness and presence fill your life everyday,

Pastor Brad

## 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. **WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER**

**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.

**Will resume in September.**

**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 [dhornyak2@gmail.com](mailto:dhornyak2@gmail.com).

**Thought for the Day: New life in Christ means new commitment.**

**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.

## Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road  
New Boston, MI 48164

Rev. Brad Lewis, Pastor

Email address: [bklewis2105@gmail.com](mailto: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

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO COORDINATE ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS. PLEASE SEE PASTOR BRAD IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THIS MINISTRY.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SISTER CHURCH**

**WHITE PIGEON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**In White Pigeon, Michigan.**



**BOOK to read!**

Have you read a good Christian Book lately...one that you would recommend to others? The following has been recommended for your pleasure:

**"What's in a Word" by Richard Rohr**

## Were You Here???

When Pastor Brad blessed us with “May we in our darkest of hours find God’s strength.”

When we were encouraged to Be a Good Samaritan and love our neighbor.

When we were asked “How well are we serving others?”

When we were told, “It’s time to take a seat at Jesus’ feet” and focus on God’s word.

When we gathered for a fun afternoon at Ash Park for Willow Church’s annual picnic.



When Willow Church’s Pastor Brad “blessed the animals” at a Sunday Service.

## COUNTRY FAIR at Willow Church

Plans for this year’s Willow Church **COUNTRY FAIR** are progressing. **Saturday, September 17th. Time 11:00—3:00**

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. Plans are being made to gather ingredients for soups and crafts...why not come join us!



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.

*Country Fair*

## MICHIGAN WORKS

Michigan Works offers many community programs that may be of interest to those in our congregation. The Southgate Service Center on Northline Road (734-362-7070) is the contact. Some of the offered programs are:

**Employment Services, Veterans Assistance, Resource Center and Library, W.I.O.A.-Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Youth Programs, Job Search Assistance and much more.**

Willow United Methodist Church  
July Administrative Board Meeting  
July 17, 2016

Meeting opened with prayer at 10:32 a.m. Mark Buttignoli

**ATTENDANCE:** Jan Holland, Pastor Brad Lewis, Katherine Buck, John Tarr, Donna Lee Hornyak, R.P & Helena Lilly, Jim & Kathy Farr, Mark Buttignoli,, Amy Harrison, Richard Maxwell, Martha Molnar and Debbie Carter.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD:** June Ad Board minutes were read. Jim motioned to accept. R.P. supported. Motion carried.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Brad Nominating committee will be meeting soon to nominate for financial head and Christian education and other. Our Charge Conference is Thursday, October 13. Pastor Parish Committee will meet at 6:30 pm. The Conference starts at 7:00 pm. The Flat Rock United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Crop Walk October 16, 2016. See Pastor Brad for more information. Pastor Brad inquired if we had a tent for next week's animal blessing. After discussion we should look into purchasing a tent for outside events. For next week, several congregation members will provide individual tents.

**TRUSTEES:** John hasn't heard any news regarding the drains. He is working on getting the Pare Brothers regarding the additional monitor. The parking lot needs and will be sealed and repaired.

**WOMEN'S GROUP:** Helena reported that the Women's Group will be having a Country Fair, Saturday, September 17, 2016. There will be White Elephant Items, Crafts, Fresh Vegetables, Baked Goods, and Soup in a jar for purchasing. Lunch, consisting of Hot Roast Beef Sandwiches and Sloppy Joes, may also be purchased

**FNANCIAL:** June financial report was reviewed. Debbie motioned to accept the report. Martha supported. Motion carried.

**BUDGET:**Budget is behind by \$1,001.02.

**CHICKEN SUPPER:** A chicken supper meeting was held Sunday, July 10 with Julie as chairperson. Discussion of whether to purchase new fry pans or purchase chicken already cooked. After discussion at this meeting, Helena will price cooked chicken at Jonnas to see if it is feasible. An industrial type electric fry pan was considered that is at Cabela's. Karen Struble has one. Donna Lee will check with her to see if it is what we would want.

**ADJOURNMENT:**Jim motioned to adjourn. Mark supported. Meeting adjourned 11 : 13 am.

Recording Secretary — Janet Holland



Enjoy a dog day afternoon  
with district friends!



Ann Arbor District

# PICNIC

Tecumseh UMC

**Saturday, August 13th**  
**Noon - 3 pm**

Rev. Spaw is cooking  
hotdogs. Please bring  
a dish to pass if you can.

Live music.

Meet the new  
pastors on  
our district.

No agenda,  
just fun.



#### COMING TO WILLOW CHURCH

Chicken suppers begin in September

Harvest Festival: September 17th

Church Conference....Thursday, October 13  
7:00 pm     PPRC meets at 6:30

#### Bigger Than Life

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no  
mind has imagined what God has prepared  
for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

The Lego Camp called Bricks for kids was held from 9-12 AM m-f July 18-22. Gene Blair was the coordinator and teacher. There were 7 elementary school age kids in attendance every day. The focus of Bricks for Kids is technology and engineering and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) The kids learned special reasoning, critical thinking and teamwork as well. There was a lower turnout this year, next year there is interest to use our church again, with the hopes of working more closely with the church and PTO from Miller/ Brown to create more awareness along with a lower price point.

The kids really enjoyed themselves and wanted to come back again at the end of every session. There were many connections made with parents and we may possibly see a few new faces in the near future!



# August 2016

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1	2 Rotary 6:30	3 AA 6:00	4 	5	6 Fellowship Hall reserved.
7 Holy Communion  Children's Church Women's Group Meets	8	9 Rotary 6:30  Donna Lee Hornyak Bridgette Gering	10 AA 6:00	11  Emmalyn Green	12	13 Fellowship Hall reserved.
14  Children's Church Coffee Hour	15	16 Rotary 6:30  Jason Dent	17 AA 6:00	18  Tina Szalek	19 	20
21 Children's Church Ad Bd. Mtg. Mary Krzeminski Carolyn McDaniel	22	23 Rotary 6:30	24 AA 6:00  Helena Lilly	25  Brad Lewis	26  Tyler Johnson	27
28  Children's Church	29	30 Rotary 6:30	31 AA 6:00	1 	2	3