



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARIANNE

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." John 15:8

In September we will begin a sermon series on the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." I am excited for this series. It will be based on the book by the same title written by Robert Schnase, United Methodist Church Bishop of Missouri area. Bishop Schnase was one of the two speakers at the Michigan Area Pastors School that Doug and I attended last week in Lansing. He is a gifted, intelligent, spiritual man and I believe his book will guide our church into some great insights for becoming more fruitful in our ministry/mission at Willow UMC.

I challenge us as a body, to engage in this series and to really reflect on what actions we may be moved to take to grow in fruitfulness as a congregation. The series will begin Sunday, September 21. If you would like, you are invited to order the book written by Robert Schnase. Copies may be purchased from Amazon, or you may let me know and I will make the order for you. We will be using this book as our format for the Bible Study group that meets on Thursday evenings during the series weeks. Perhaps you may feel you cannot commit to an ongoing study, but I invite you to consider attending for the 5 week period of the series.

May God continue to guide us in our journey of faith and mission.

My love to you all, Pastor Marianne

Sermon Titles and Texts for September:

September 7: "Jesus Grew in Wisdom and Stature"

Luke 2:40, 51-52

September 14: Pulpit Exchange with Milford UMC

Rev. Douglas McMunn

September 21: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Series:

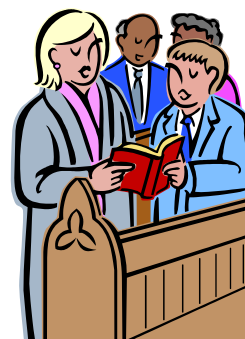
"Radical Hospitality"

Romans 15:7

September 28: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Series"

"Passionate Worship"

Psalms 84:1-2



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Children's Ministry Director: Jeanne Lochner

Music Director: Karen Struble

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Backpacks for Community Children

After last year's successful outreach to school children, we will once again be receiving backpacks and supplies to be distributed to the local schools. Last year 100 backpacks were filled and given to children who needed them. Helena Lilly is working with other community agencies/clubs/businesses to organize this project. Please consider how you may help make a difference in a child's life. Boxes for donations will be in entry of sanctuary. Backpack Blessing will be on September 7 – Rally Day.

Backpack Blessing

All children and students are invited to bring their backpacks to church on September 7 for a backpack blessing!



Third Graders to Receive Bibles

Sunday, September 7, 3rd Graders will be presented Bibles during Worship. Please contact Pastor Marianne and let her know names of those who would like to receive their Bibles.

Teacher Dedication

We honor those who teach us. Thanks to those of you who are teachers in the church, those of you who teach in the school setting and those who are employed in educational institutions serving as staff. We want to say a blessing over you as the new "school year" begins. Join us for Worship September 7. Is there a special teacher in your life that you could invite to join this time of blessing?

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 on the table as you enter the sanctuary. Large print available.



Special Thanks for Movie Nights 2014!!

Thank you, John Tarr and crew, for hosting the wonderful summer of 2014 Movie Night Events for our community. Thank you to Willow UMC for extending warm hospitality to all of our friends who came to enjoy a free night of family fun.

Willow United Methodist Church Choir Wants You!

Rehearsals for Choir begin September 3 at 7:00pm in the church sanctuary. The choir always welcomes any who want to lift their voices in praise to God through the choir ministry. Each choir member will receive music in sheet form and audible recordings to practice with. Plans are in the making for a Christmas Cantata. The choir rehearsals are for 1 hour each Wednesday evening. If unable to attend a rehearsal, one can practice with the recorded music. If you like to sing - Come and join us!



THE MYSTERY OF COMMUNION

From June 2014 Upper Room



Paul wrote: “As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he come.”

For a long time I questioned the point of Holy Communion. Then one day it dawned on me as I walked from my pew to the altar rail—a walk that was longer than I’d thought.

For me, Communion celebrates the long walk of Christ from life to crucifixion to resurrection. It is the walk that Christians around the world make each Communion service. It is the walk that the saints in heaven walked long before us. The bread we eat reminds me of the manna that God provided to the Israelites in the desert. The wine is the life-giving blood of God’s grace that Christ gave for our salvation.

At Communion the story of our faith is constantly being retold and demanding to be heard. At Communion we are committing to serve our brothers and sisters—even the entire world. And when we glimpse the truth that lies within the mystery and Communion becomes more revelation than routine, our lives are radically transformed. Communion is a miracle that empowers and encourages us to take the love of God into the world for the sake of Christ.

FOR EVERYTHING A SEASON

Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw.

The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. “What did you see?” he asked.



The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless. The second disagreed, saying it was budding with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth son insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father said his sons were all correct, for they’d seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. “Don’t judge a tree—or a person—based on just one season of life,” he counseled his children. “Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life’s seasons have lived.”

“Furthermore,” he added, “don’t give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you’ll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn.”

From THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF ADRIAN Newsletter

Fall Bible Study

Bible Study will begin September 4 at 7:00pm and we will meet in the home of Wanda Young at 19070 Otto Court, New Boston. Come and join this small group as we gather to discuss things of the Bible, our faith journey and share our prayer requests with one another. This has been a special time to relax, reflect, and renew as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have never been a part of a study, we invite you to try it out for a week or 2. Any questions? Please contact Pastor Marianne, facilitator.

Cleaning Bucket for Flooding in Detroit

Storms hit the City of Detroit on Monday, August 11, dumping a record rainfall that shut down major freeways and damaged churches, homes, and businesses. Wayne County and several cities (Royal Oak, Warren, Ferndale) have all declared a state of emergency. Red Cross has mobilized volunteers across the area. United Methodist Committee On Relief has also been on site to reach out to these communities.

What can we do to help? We can assemble and deliver flood buckets. Please let Pastor Marianne know if you would like to donate items for flood buckets. Holly Morrison will be assembling the buckets. Pastor Marianne will be delivering.

Following are the items needed:

5-gallon bucket with resealable lid

Buckets from fast-food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned;

Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner;

Advertisements on the outside are acceptable.

Liquid laundry detergent

One 50-oz. or two 25-oz. bottles only.

Liquid household cleaner

12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water;

No spray cleaners.

Dish soap

16-28 oz. bottle any brand.

1 can air freshener

Aerosol or pump.

1 insect repellent spray

6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover.

1 scrub brush

Plastic or wooden handle.

18 cleaning wipes

Handi Wipes or reusable wipes;

No terry cleaning towels;

Remove from packaging.

7 sponges

No cellulose sponges due to mold issues;

Remove from wrapper.

5 scouring pads

Remove from wrapper;

No stainless steel, Brillo pads, or SOS pads (nothing with soap built in). (continued)



Cleaning Buckets continued from previous page:

50 clothespins

Remove from packaging.

Clothesline

One 100-ft. or two 50-ft. lines;

Cotton or plastic.

24-roll heavy-duty trash bags

33- to 45-gallon sizes;

Remove from the box.

5 dust masks

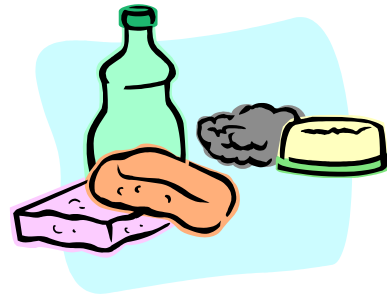
2 pairs kitchen dishwashing gloves

Should be durable enough for multiple uses;

Remove from packaging.

1 pair work gloves

Cotton with leather palm or all leather.



Would you like to become a member of Willow United Methodist Church?

If you are considering becoming a member of Willow UMC, you are invited to attend Membership Classes. There will be 2 classes in a session. The first class will include some history about the United Methodist Church (UMC) as well as a question and answer time where you will be invited to ask your questions about the UMC and/or Willow UMC.

The second class will include a look at the vows of membership for your prayerful consideration. If after these 2 classes you decide that you do indeed want to take the vows of membership, we will receive you into membership during a Sunday morning worship service.

The first session of Membership Classes will be held September 14 right after the Worship Service. The class will determine the 2nd class day and time and the date for Membership Sunday. Please speak with Pastor Marianne about your interest. If this date does not work for you, can be flexible.

we





Soul touches sole in the City of Detroit

KAY DEMOSS, Senior Editor-Writer, Michigan Area

"He can sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo!" That old chestnut about salesmanship may soon be joined by another ... "They can sell sandals at the North Pole!" The United Methodist Pastor, Rev. Faith Fowler reports that Detroit Treads, manufactured by Green Industries of Cass Community Social Services (CCSS), surpassed \$50,000 in shoe sales their first month. "Once something ends up on the internet," Faith says, "it can go everywhere. We've now sold Detroit Treads in 44 states, including two pairs in Alaska!"

With only eight states to yet make a purchase, it's clear that Detroit Treads ... made from tires dumped illegally all over the city ... are becoming a best seller for Green Industries. Started in 2007, the operation launched with a couple good products: Mud Mats employed 12 men; document shredding provided jobs for another 50. A third group of men was brought on to the production line last year when coaster sets began to be manufactured out of wood and glass salvaged from abandoned buildings.

The latest product launch took place during a fireworks event in downtown Detroit on June 23. From there it's "Gone wild!" according to Fowler, the Executive Director of CCSS. The sandals are distinguished by an Old English D "of our design, different than the Tigers'." Their website states their mission: "To create a unique, stylish and sustainable sandal that affords wearers a comfortable way to express their Detroit pride, while empowering CCSS workers to gain vital skills and work experience."

Five more persons have been hired for this new venture. "We'll keep picking up people as we go," Fowler explains. "We get no corporate grants or government money so our expansion will be built around sales." Currently it's taking about 36 hours a week to keep up with orders.

Over 6,000 volunteers a year—from high schools, colleges and churches—come to the Cass neighborhood. They not only lend a hand, they lend self-esteem and hope to employees. "When the volunteers come, people in Green Industries become the teachers," Faith explains. "They take a great deal of pride in that."

Green Industries has given birth to a whole new sport that Faith calls, "Tire Hunting. It requires no guns, no bullets and no dogs." Some of the volunteers become tire hunters, roaming over 140 square miles, searching the city streets and responding to phone calls. Since 2007 over 35,000 tires, brought in a few hundred at a time, have been converted into useful objects. The Mud Mats used the sidewalls; now the sandals use up the treads. (And the sandal straps are recycled from seatbelts.)

Sandals are available for women and men in sizes ranging small to x-large. Cost is \$25 plus shipping. [Orders may be placed on the website](#) or by phone: call Sue Pethoud at (313) 883-2277ext. 203.

A fashionable product that promises profit. Yes. But the greater promise is in the transformation of 85 lives taking place at Green Industries. "These are jobs," Faith asserts, "not job training. Lots of organizations do job training. When we hire a person, he or she is drawing a paycheck." Further, it takes special qualifications to be hired by CCSS. "We look for people who have barriers to employment," the director notes. "Many of the developmentally disabled can't read. Some have asthma, AIDS, or PTSD. Others have been in prison. Those we hire are those who other folks don't want to take a chance on."

To watch a video, google "soul touches sole in Detroit" THEN click on "Detroit 4 News"



Chicken Supper

We are happy to announce that our Chicken Suppers will continue as in the past. Our Heart Felt Thanks are extended to Kathy and Jim Farr for their many years of chairing this Ministry!! We are so thankful for your dedication, time and energy.

Several in the congregation have stepped forward to “chair” various committees...following is a list :

Supply: Kathy Holland and Jan Holland

Dining Room Helena Lilly

Pie Room: Karla Clark

Kitchen: Mary Krzeminski

Clean Up: Karen Struble

Finance: Wanda Young and Jan Holland

Anyone and everyone who has volunteered in the past can and is encouraged to take part as usual. If you're new and see a particular “job” you would like to help with...please volunteer...many hands are needed. If you've helped before...we ask you to “come as usual!!!”

Please remember...**WE NEED PIES**...please bring them on Tuesday or Wednesday morning.

If you signed up to bring some needed supplies, please have them on or before the date Kathy and Jan assigned.

This Ministry is important to the finances and the health of our church...if we all “pitch” in...the task will be much easier. Our Chicken Dinners not only assist our church with our finances, but it is a church community building activity as well – time to be together, getting to know one another better and serving together. It's also a way to invite our community into our space and share our gifts and hospitality with them.

Cole Slaw Work Bee

Many thanks to all who volunteered at the Cole Slaw Work Bee...So many donated needed supplies that we had no need to purchase any. Cash that was donated was turned over to the Chicken Supper Finance Committee.



If you donated supplies, worked the day of the Bee or sent us prayers and support...Thank You.

The freezer holds more than enough slaw for our suppers...and the work bee was a fulfilling blessed day. P.S. We need large ice cream buckets with lids...drop them off at the church any time..

Upcoming Events:



October 4 and 5 is **Apple Festival**. Willow UMC will be sponsoring a booth, selling Apple Fritters and games for the kids. Please contact Laura Haydamacker or Helena Lilly if you have any questions or would like to participate in the community event.

United Methodist Women of Detroit Annual Conference will be having their **annual meeting** in Owosso, MI on Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 10am to 3pm. Bishop Deborah Kiesey will be the keynote speaker. Please contact Pastor Marianne if you are interested in attending this meeting.

Registration fee of \$16, includes lunch, is due October 15.



Parenting Study "Handling Anger in Your Home"

Willow UMC offers a free parenting study for parents of children of all ages. The study utilizes a parenting series by Jim Williams who is a national parenting advocate and speaker and the director of STARS, a school based program helping students make healthy lifestyle choices.

We are finishing up a 4 week study helping parents learn new ways to manage their own feelings of anger and frustration.

Even if you were unable to attend the first session, you are welcome to come and join the remaining classes.

The group will meet the 4th Sunday of each month, starting September 28 after worship service. Gathering time is 11:00am. We enjoy snacks, teaching and discussion time and close with prayer at 12:00pm. The study is held in the home of John and Laura Haydamacker at 24340 Waltz Rd., New Boston. If you have any Questions about the class or location, please contact Pastor Marianne, parenting study facilitator (248-875-3783), Jennifer Johnson, co-coordinator (734-625-5750).

Hope to see you there!

BLESSING ALL AROUND From the June 2014 Upper Room

As a friend and I walked across a parking lot, he bent over to pick up a coin. I had walked past without seeing it, yet he acted as if he had actually been looking for it. He put the coin in his pocket and said, "Thank you, Lord." My friend admitted that he frequently found coins on the ground—sometimes even dollar bills. "I look for the, so I find them," he said. Then he added, "It's the same with God's blessings. I look for them, and I find a lot of them!"

My friend was right. God's blessings are so abundant that we frequently take them for granted: family to care about us; friends to share laughter and tears; a home to go to, however humble it might be; talents and abilities to help us make our way in life. All these and so much more are gifts of a loving God.

After that day, I began to look for God's blessings. My friend was right; I found a lot of them!!! This discovery of God's abiding love has helped bring contentment to my days. It has also strengthened my relationship with others because I realize they too are objects of God's amazing love. This lesson doesn't make everyone a friend. But it does motivate me to try to treat others with the dignity and respect all God's children deserve.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Each fall our church hosts an annual church conference. As part of this meeting we are asked for a report from our Pastor Parish Relations Committee

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) works with the pastor to identify and clarify values for ministry of the congregation and can set priorities for leadership and service. The PP committee is asked to lead the congregation to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support and respect the pastor, staff and their families, and set priorities that strengthen the congregation's total ministry.

Members of the Pastor Parish Relation Committee are:

Donna Lee Hornyak: Chair

Martha Molnar, Jack Nobles, Cameron Buck, Kathy Holland, Julie Struble, Michelle Simon, David Lochner and Lay Leaders: Jeanne Lochner and Mark Buttignoli.

Please contact any or all of the members of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee if you have any concerns or positive comments about our pastor, our church, our church service and the ministry of Willow Church.

We will be asking the congregation to give us some feedback, through a general survey, so we may complete our report for the Annual Conference that not only comes from the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, but from our congregation input.



ANNUAL WILLOW CHURCH PICNIC

September 2014



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 Labor Day 	2 Rotary 6:30 PM	3 AA 6:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	4 Bible Study Wanda Young's 7PM	5 Mark & Therea Buttignoli Bob & Shelly Gardynik	6
7 Rally Day Back Pack Blessing Teacher Dedication Children's Church	8	9 Chicken Supper Prep 8:30 am Tammy Cole Kristen Southerland	10 Chicken Supper	11 Chris & Reanne Burkhart	12 Connie & Kevin Burke	13
14 Pulpit Exchange with Milford UMC Membership Class with Pastor Doug	15	16 Sarah Buttignoli Rotary 6:30 PM	17 AA 6:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	18 Ryley McKart Wanda Young	19	20
21 Ad Board Mtg.	22 Mary Lou Kennedy	23 Rotary 6:30 PM	24 AA 6:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	25	26 Women's Social at Martha Molnars	27
28 Parent Study	29	30 	1 AA 6:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	2	3	4 Apple Festival 