



WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Reverend Brad Lewis, Pastor

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

SEPTEMBER 2016



A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD:

During the years Debbie and I lived in Roscommon, MI, I owned a jet-ski. One of the members of the congregation I served allowed me to moor the jet-ski on the lake behind her home. In order to moor the jet-ski, I needed to connect a chain from the jet-ski to a concrete block that was in several feet of water. I purchased a new chain, went out into the lake, hooked the chain to the jet-ski and to the anchor block and felt good that I was able to get the job done so quickly. As I was getting ready to go home, the owner of the property came out to ask me if I had taken a good look at the anchor block before chaining the jet-ski to it. I told her I hadn't. She suggested that I go back out and take a close look at the steel loop in the concrete block. So, reluctantly, I waded back out and upon closer examination discovered that the steel loop I had connected the chain to was two-thirds rusted through! Fortunately, there was another concrete block nearby with a steel hook in much better condition.

I had a new high-strength chain to use, but I had connected it to the weakest link. Who knows what might have happened to the jet-ski in the next storm if my friend hadn't cautioned me about the possible weak link in the connection.

Our lives can be viewed as links in a chain. Each part of our lives (job, family, faith, personality, friends, hobbies, community involvement, etc.) is another link that defines for ourselves and the world who we are.

As you know, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. You may be an expert at your job, are very involved in your community, have a pleasant personality, and life may seem great. But if your weakest link is faith, experience has shown me that you will be unexpectedly set adrift when the storms and troubles of life come. Without a faith that is intentionally reinforced by consistent growth and nurture you won't know how to keep yourself from drifting into despair, confusion, and hopelessness when the storms come.

Jesus said, "I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built." (Luke 6:47,48)

The most important link in your life is faith. Now is the time to make your faith as strong as ever and connect it to the solid Rock of "Jesus Christ [who] is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

May the faith link in your life be your strongest link.



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.

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. 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.

Thought for the Day: When I face a problem, I can find refuge in God.

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

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

**MANY THANKS TO BRIDGETTE GERIG FOR
STEPIING FORWARD AND VOLUNTEERING TO
COORDINATE ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS
MINISTRY.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SISTER CHURCH
WHITE PIGEON UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
In White Pigeon, Michigan.**

BOOKS 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:

"The 3 Simple Rules" by Ruben Jobe

DISCOVERY GUIDE
LIFE & MINISTRY
 OF THE MESSIAH

EDITED BY
WORLD
 GROUP

30 PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY
RAY VANDER LAAN
 WITH TERRY LEE AND ALAN C. GILBERTSON

Discover Jesus - Journey back to the time of Jesus. Marvel at the magnificence of Herod's palace. Scramble among the ruins of Qumran. And wonder at the simplicity and wisdom of Jesus' parables. Discover in the eight sessions how the events of Jesus' day impacted his life, ministry and communication. Then let them impact yours.

Pastor Brad invites you to join him on an exciting and fascinating journey and allow your faith to be strengthened and connected to the solid rock of Jesus Christ in ways you may not have thought possible.

Where: **Donna Lee Hornyak's**
27303 Bell Rd.
New Boston MI 48164



Our first practice will be September 7th at 7:00 PM. We generally practice on Wednesday evenings. We have CD's that we give each member to practice their music. At Christmas we have a special cantata that we sing as our gift to the congregation. If you would like to use the gift God gave you, come on Sept. 7 for our first practice



Day:



Children's Church meets every Sunday.

After the Children's Time – Story and Discussion and Singing - in the Worship Service, children of all ages are invited to the Children's Church Area in Fellowship Hall.

Children's Church includes a Bible Story time and activities for the children to participate in to enhance their time of learning.

Jennifer Johnson is our Children's Church Coordinator.

Children's Church Team includes Jennifer Johnson, Jeanne Lochner, Donna Dent, Raeann Burkhart, Tessa Bailey, Krista Burkhart, and Hollie Morrison. Thank you all for serving our children!

Back to School



Backpacks for Community Children

Willow UMC will once again be receiving backpacks and supplies to be distributed to the local schools. Last year many backpacks were filled and given to children who needed them. Helena Lilly is working with other community agencies/clubs/businesses to promote 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 and Fellowship Hall. Backpack Blessing will be on September 11 – Rally Day.

Helena Lilly, coordinator

Backpack Blessing

All children and students are invited to bring their backpacks to church on September 11th for a backpack blessing!

Third Graders to Receive Bibles

Sunday, September 11th, 3rd Graders will be presented Bibles during Worship. Please contact Pastor Brad and let him 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 11th. Is there a special teacher in your life that you could invite to join this time of blessing?

Daily Devotion Available

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 is available.

Daily Devotions



WERE YOU HERE????

When we were reminded that Justice and Righteous is what God expects of us.

When Pastor Brad assured us that age and gender are non issues when it comes to discipleship.

When our congregation was asked "Why accept God's call to service?" and the answer was "so that God gets the Glory!"

When our administrative board met to discuss the workings of the church.

When the women of Willow Church met to plan the "Fall Festival."



ANNUAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

October 13 7PM

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 PPR Committee is asked to lead the congregation to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support and respect the pastor, staff, volunteers and their families and set priorities that strengthen the congregation's total ministry.

Members of the PPRC are:

Donna Lee Hornyak: Chair

Julie Struble, Michelle Simon, David Lochner, John Haydamacker, Jack Nobles, Tessa Bailey, Mark Buttignoli, Jeanne Lochner

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

We are asking the congregation to give us any information that you may feel will assist us in completing our annual report for the Annual Conference that comes from not only the PPRC but from our congregation input.



COUNTRY FAIR at Willow Church

Saturday, September 17th. Time 11:00—3:00

IT'S HERE AND IT'S HAPPENING!!! Several booths will hold baked goods, produce, crafts and gently used items, etc. And of course the kitchen will serve up some delicious food.

Mark you calendar and bring a friend. All proceeds are for Willow Church Women's Group.

Country Fair

September 2016

Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3 
4 Holy Communion Children's Church	5 Theresa & Mark Buttignoli Shelly & Bob Gardynik	6 Rotary 6:30	7 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	8 Bible Study 7:00	9 Tammie Cole Kristen Southerland	10
11 RALLY DAY!!! Backpack & Teachers Blessing 3rd grade bibles Children's Church Reanne & Chris Burkhart	12 Connie & Kevin Burke	13 Chicken Supper Prep Rotary 6:30	14 CHICKEN SUPPER 	15 Bible Study 7:00	16 Sarah Buttignoli	17 Country Fair 11:00 – 3:00
18 Children's Church Administrative Board Meets Riley McKart	19	20 Rotary 6:30	21 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 John Tarr	22 Bible Study 7:00 Mary Lou Kennedy	23	24 Angela Cole Jennifer Johnson Madeline King
25 Children's Church	26 Jim Farr	27 Rotary 6:30 Irene Kovac	28AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Angie Southerland	29 Bible Study 7:00	30	1 OCTOBER Apple Fest 

Willow United Methodist Church
August Administration Board Meeting
August 21, 2016

Meeting opened with prayer at 10:48 a.m. Mark Buttignoli

ATTENDANCE:

Jan Holland, Pastor Brad Lewis, Katherine Buck, Donna Lee Hornyak, R.P & Helena Lilly, Jim & Kathy Farr, Mark Buttignoli,, Amy Harrison, Martha Molnar, Sheryl Karls, Greg & Bridget, and Debbie Carter.

ADMNISTRATIVE BOARD: July Ad Board minutes were read. Jim motioned to accept. R.P. supported. Motion carried.

PASTORS REPORT:

Pastor Brad reported that the chairpersons that received forms to complete need to have them in by September.

TRUSTEES: Jim reported that the parking lot was sealed & striped. The plumbing in the kitchen has been completed. John Tarr is still looking into the additional monitor for the sanctuary.

FINANCIAL:

July financial report was reviewed. R.P. motioned to accept the report. Debbie supported. Motion carried.

BUDGET: Budget is behind by \$1,610.02.

OTHER:

Kathy motioned to give \$50 from the budget's outreach funds for the victims of the Louisiana flooding. R.P. supported. Motion carried. R.P motioned to have an additional collection from the congregation. Sheryl supported. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Jim motioned to adjourn. Mark supported. Meeting adjourned
11:28 am.

Recording Secretary= Janet Holland

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest."**

MATTHEW 11:28

