

Willow United Methodist Church



The Communicator

January 2014



A Note From Pastor Marianne:

A new year is about to begin! None of us know what 2014 will hold for us, but we do know who will hold us in the year to come. Thank you, God, for your faithfulness. I would like to share a devotional from "The Upper Room: Disciplines 2014." I invite you to read Ecclesiastes 3:1-13.

"A new year offers the gift of time. How will the next 12 months unfold? We may experience times of accomplishment and times of failure. A medical concern, a family sorrow, or a crisis may arise. And there will be occasions for rejoicing – a new child in the family, a new work responsibility, or an old friend who surfaces on Facebook. All our seasons, all our days, bring us measures of hope and happiness, challenge and change. The writer of Ecclesiastes . . . speaks with poetic power about the gifts and demands of time. . . his ultimate belief rests in God's sovereignty. God, beyond worry or toil or even time itself, has given us time so that we might begin to comprehend how God stands both in and beyond time, always the same and always new.

As this year begins, you might consider how to approach the coming year as an opportunity for spiritual growth. Can you learn to be mindfully present in the moment, receptive to grace, willing to learn and to continue the powerful process of transformation?"

Starting Sunday, January 5, we will begin a series on "Forgiveness." You are invited. God's forgiveness toward us is at the core of our faith. It is a gift to be received from God and a gift to offer to others. And, it is sometimes difficult to accept or give to others.

My prayer is that we will seek out those opportunities to grow in spirit and in truth – as well as in service to God.

My love to you, Pastor Marianne

January Sermon Series

"Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go"

Rev. Adam Hamilton pastor at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas writes: "Forgiveness is essential to our lives. Without it, no marriage can survive, no family can stay together and no society can be sustained. It is a necessary part of lasting friendships and work relationships. . . We are bound to hurt others and they are bound to hurt us. If we are to live successfully and to know freedom and joy, these 6 words must be a regular part of our vocabulary: 'I'm sorry,' and 'I forgive you.'"



Our sermon series will help us to focus on the practice of forgiveness as we begin the New Year.

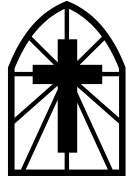
January 5: Receiving Forgiveness from God

January 12: Forgiveness in Romantic Relationships and Marriage

January 19: Forgiving Others

January 26: Forgiving Family

Ministries of Willow Church



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. All are welcome.

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 spiritual program to help those suffering the effects of alcohol addiction. Meetings are held Wednesdays 6:00 pm here at the church.

Music Ministry

Choir and worship opportunities through music participation. Practice is every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Children's Ministry

Christian education during worship service is offered twice a month to foster and guide our children in their faith under the direction of Jeanne Lochner. Children's Church the first Sunday of the month coordinated by Jennifer

Ethel's Food Pantry Ethel's Food Pantry is an outreach of our church and community as we strive to help those who are in need of food assistance. All food is donated. If you would like to donate at any time, see Helena, contributions are always needed. Please remember, misc. items are needed all the time. This month's item:



BISQUICK

Scrip Program

Our church benefits from the purchase of Scrip gift cards. Every time you purchase a card we receive a percentage of the purchase price. Use the cards not only to give as gifts, but also consider buying them for your own personal use, i.e. dining out, home improvements, gas, personal items. If you would like an updated list of retailers, please see Martha Molnar.

Thank you for your continued support

This newsletter is compiled by Donna Lee Hornyak. A special thanks to Gail Sobbecki and all who submit articles for our newsletter. If you would like to add to "The Communicator" please email : dhornyak2@gmail.com (Donna Lee Hornyak)

Prayer Partner



And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Romans 8:26-27

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 bouquets are purchased for the same week is \$12.50 each. Please remember.. Do not take the vases. They must be returned to the florist. Make all checks payable to Darlene's Flowers. If interested in donating altar flowers please contact **Vanessa Lenz** at 734-731-9611. **Please get your flower order and payment to Vanessa 2 weeks ahead of time .**

Just a reminder of what *really* is important in life!!!



Shoes in Church

Submitted by Martha Molnar



I showered and shaved..... I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat..... In a pew just in time.
Bowling my head in prayer..... As I closed my eyes.
I saw the shoe of the man next to me..... Touching my own. I sighed.
With plenty of room on either side..... I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?'
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine.. But it didn't bother him much.
A prayer began: 'Our Father'..... I thought, 'This man with the shoes, has no pride. They're dusty, worn, and
scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!'
'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.
The shoe man said..... A quiet 'Amen.'
I tried to focus on the prayer..... But my thoughts were on his shoes again..
Aren't we supposed to look our best. When walking through that door?
'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought, glancing toward the floor.
Then the prayer was ended..... And the songs of praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud..... Sounding proud as he sang.
His voice lifted the rafters..... His hands were raised high.
The Lord could surely hear.. The shoe man's voice from the sky.
It was time for the offering..... And what I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man reached.... Into his pockets so deep.
I saw what was pulled out..... What the shoe man put in.
Then I heard a soft 'clink' as when silver hits tin.
The sermon really bored me..... To tears, and that's no lie.
It was the same for the shoe man.... For tears fell from his eyes.
At the end of the service..... As is the custom here.
We must greet new visitors, And show them all good cheer.
But I felt moved somehow..... And wanted to meet the shoe man.
So after the closing prayer..... I reached over and shook his hand.
He was old and his skin was dark..... And his hair was truly a mess.....
But I thanked him for coming..... For being our guest...
He said, 'My name's Charlie..... I'm glad to meet you, my friend.'
There were tears in his eyes..... But he had a large, wide grin..
'Let me explain,' he said..... Wiping tears from his eyes.
'I've been coming here for months..... And you're the first to say 'Hi.'
'I know that my appearance.....Is not like all the rest.
'But I really do try.....To always look my best.'
'I always clean and polish my shoes...Before my very long walk.'
'But by the time I get here.....They're dirty and dusty, like chalk.'
My heart filled with pain..... And I swallowed to hide my tears.
As he continued to apologize..... For daring to sit so near
He said, 'When I get here..... I know I must look a sight.'
'But I thought if I could touch you....Then maybe our souls might unite.'
I was silent for a moment..... Knowing whatever was said
Would pale in comparison.... I spoke from my heart, not my head.
'Oh, you've touched me,' I said.....'And taught me, in part'
'That the best of any man.....Is what is found in his heart.'
The rest, I thought,..... This shoe man will never know.
Like just how thankful I really am.... That his dirty old shoe touched my soul



Parenting Study "Handling Anger in Your Home"

Willow UMC continues to offer 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 Parent Education and Asset Development for STARS, a school based program helping students make healthy lifestyle choices.

"Handling Anger in Your Home" is a 4 week study to help parents learn new ways to manage their own feelings of anger and frustration. By modeling good habits of control and communication, parents can better teach their children to handle their own emotions in a positive way.

All are welcome!

Dates of the study are the 4th Sundays of the month.

The first study session of 2014 will be January 26.

The study starts at 11:00am with snacks and ends at 12:00pm.

Meet in the home of Tyler and Jennifer Johnson at 25305 Bernadine 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!

FOR SALE:

Church Pews...8 feet long and/or 16 feet long...make excellent entry benches....please see Karen Wison...Best Offer

Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164

www.willowchurch.org

Marianne McMunn, Pastor

Email address: marianmcmunn@sbcglobal.net

Pastor's Schedule: Monday—day off Tuesdays and Thursdays at church Wednesday—home office and choir rehearsal at Willow Church Friday—Study Day Saturday—Home office

Phone: 734-654-9020

Pastor's Cell: 248-875-3783

Fax: 734-654-9020

Sunday Service 9:30 AM

Jeanne Lochner: Children's Ministry

Karen Struble: Music Director

Were You Here?

When Pastor Marianne asked us if we are willing to "go out on a limb" and help to heal those who are broken for the coming of God?

When we learned that we mustn't let our past determine our future.

When we were encouraged to "Stop, Look, and Feel God's all consuming love.

When so many in our congregation participated in the church cookie walk?



When Pastor Marianne, David Lochner and Vanessa Lenz showed all of us what it means to have the blessing of walking without pain.

Willow UMC Choir wants YOU!

Choir Rehearsal has begun and it's not too late for you to join!

Choir Rehearsal is every Wednesday at 7:00pm for one hour.

Please contact Karen Struble, choir director.





Dear Church Family: I don't know how to thank you enough for your prayers and cards, love and support while I have been recovering from a broken foot and surgery. Thank you for meeting me at church to unload and reload the car on Sundays, for setting up and putting away, making trips up and down stairs, closing up the church and for hauling and repairing my "scooter." Thank you for your patience and your consideration of me, allowing me to work from home as I heal up. I love and appreciate you all. Love, Pastor Marianne

To the Administrative Board and Congregation at Willow: Thank you so very much for your generous "year end bonus." Your gift greatly helps Doug and I with transportation costs, in particular. You are such a thoughtful and grace filled church and you minister to me in so many ways. Thank you once again.

I love you. Pastor Marianne

To the Board of Trustees: The Willow UMC community wishes to thank you, Board of Trustees, (chaired by John Tarr) for all of your hard work in getting the audio visual technology upgrade for our worship space and the new digital sign for the church's front yard. We can only imagine how many "man hours" went into these projects. Thank you for your vision and planning and making it happen. May God guide us, the church, as we seek to use these "instruments" to enrich our worship, reach out to our community and share the love of God with others.

Thanks to those of you who have financially supported the church and its ministries with your gifts throughout the years past and present so that the Trustees could take action. We are also mindful of those who gave sacrificially to the ministries of Willow UMC who are no longer with us. We offer a prayer of thanks to God for these folks as well.

Our love and appreciation,

Members and Friends of Willow UMC

Thank you to those of you who have accepted a role as an elected officer in service with and to the Willow United Methodist Church. Some of you have served in your current role for years – God bless you! Many of you have served on a variety of committees in a variety of roles – God bless you! Some of you are serving on committees or as a chair of a committee for the very first time – God bless you! We are grateful to you for utilizing your special gifts for service to God and the church. May the Lord bless you all and grant you wisdom and peace.

Administrative Board: Chair – Katherine Buck, Secretary – Jan Holland, Church Treasurer – Amy Harrison, Financial Secretary – Jan Holland, Asst. Financial Secretary – Kathy Farr, Music Director – Karen Struble, Lay Leader – Mark Buttignoli, Membership Coordinator – Martha Molnar, Children's Ministry – Jeanne Lochner, Asst. Children's Ministry – Hannah Seward, Chair of Finance – Jim Buck, Chair of Trustees – John Tarr, Chair of Pastor Parish Relations – Donna Lee Hornyak, Secretary of Nominations – Gail Sobecki, Communion Stewards – Deb Carter, Helena Lilly, Wanda Young, Jeanne Lochner, Lay Member to Annual Conference – Jeanne Lochner, Alternate to Annual Conference – Mark Buttignoli, Communications – Donna Lee Hornyak, Webmaster – Karen Wilson. Ad Brd Members At Large – Mary Krzeminiski, MaryLou Kennedy, Linda Kemp, RP Lilly, Jim Farr, Theresa Buttignoli, Helena Lilly, Sheryl Karls.

Board of Trustees: Chair – John Tarr, Treasurer – RP Lilly, Members – John Haydamacker and Jim Farr (2014), Mary Krzeminiski and Mark Buttignoli (2015), John Tarr, RP Lilly, and Jim Buck (2015).

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Chair – Donna Lee Hornyak, Members – Martha Molnar and Jack Nobles (2014), Cameron Buck, Donna Lee Hornyak and Kathy Holland (2015), Julie Struble, Michelle Siimon and David Lochner (2016), Mark Buttignoli and Jeanne Lochner.

Nominating Committee: Chair – Pastor Marianne McMunn, Secretary – Gail Sobecki, Members – Linda Kemp (2014), Gail Sobecki (2015), Katherine Buck (2016), Mark Buttignoli.

Finance Committee: Chair – Jim Buck, Members – Gail Sobecki (2014), Laura Haydamacker and Jim Buck (2015), Tyler Johnson (2016), Mark Buttignoli and Jeanne Lochner.

Thank you to those who have served on committees and your time of service is complete. We so appreciate your time, sharing your gifts and your ministry to us all. A special thank you goes to David Lochner who has served as the Chair for the Pastor Parish Relations Committee for multiple terms. Your leadership is so appreciated over the years. God bless you, David!

January 2014



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	
		<p>Happy New Year... Welcome 2014 AA 6:00</p>	<p>7:00 Bible Study at Wanda Young's home</p>	<p>Jean & Ed Miller</p>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Holy Communion Dedication of 2014 Church Officers Children's Church Women's Mtg.</p>		<p>Rotary 6:30 Mark Buttignoli Matt O'Connor</p>	<p>AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Debbie Carter</p>			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>All Church Breakfast Melissa O'Connor</p>		<p>Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Mary Van Meer</p>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>Ad Board Mtg.</p>		<p>Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>Reann Buckhart</p>		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<p>Parenting Study</p>	<p>Judy McDaniel</p>	<p>Rotary 6:30 Hollie Morrison</p>	<p>AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>		<p>Greg & Melissa Barnett</p>	