



A Note From Pastor Marianne

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (Jesus, John 15:12-13, NIV).

In ancient Rome, February 14 was a pagan holiday to honor Juno, the goddess of women and marriage and the queen of the Roman Gods and goddesses.

Later, however, it became a Christian holiday named after a Christian priest. According to church tradition St. Valentine was a priest near Rome about the year 270 A.D. At that time the Roman Emperor imprisoned Christians for not worshipping the Roman gods. During this persecution Valentine was arrested because of the stand he took, refusing to do so.

While he was in prison, Valentine did not stop ministering to and witnessing to his fellow prisoners and even to the guards. The story goes that one of the guards, who was a good man, had adopted a blind girl. He asked Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl received her sight. The guard and his whole family, 46 people, believed in Jesus and were baptized. When the emperor heard about this, he was furious that Valentine was still making converts even in prison, so he had Valentine killed.

St. Valentine was willing to risk his life to share the good news of God's love through Christ Jesus.

According to high school teacher, Bob Mc Ilhenny, Valentine and the prisoner's daughter that had been blind developed a special friendship. Before he was executed, Valentine wrote her a note of encouragement and signed it "Your Valentine." Out of this sad scenario came the celebration of what we now call Valentine's Day. A special day for expressing love and friendship.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." This is what Valentine did. He loved and cared enough for his community, including his "enemies," that he risked his life and lost his life, so that others would have the opportunity to know Christ.

Jesus did this for all the world – and "while we were still sinners Jesus died for us."

On Valentine's Day and on every day, let us be risk takers and be quick to express God's love through our love to those around us – friend and foe alike. And let's not forget to also express our love to Jesus, who showed us the way to God's love, who

(Excerpts taken from "Daily Encounter" by Richard Innes)

My love to you all,
Pastor Marianne

Sermon Titles and Texts for February

February 3: "Jesus Inaugural Address" Luke 4:21-30

February 10: "Shine Jesus, Shine" Luke 9:28-36

February 13: Ash Wednesday Service
"Don't Claim Your Baggage" Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 17: "Can I Download an App for Resisting Temptation?" Luke 4:1-13

February 24: "Without a Trace" sermon by Rev. Doug McMunn



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 weekly 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 Johnson.

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 or your order may be canceled. If you have an altar vase, please return it to the church.**

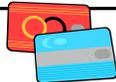


Ethel's Food Pantry Ethel's Food Pantry is an outreach of our church and community as we strive to help those who are in need of food assistance. All food is donated. If you would like to donate at any time, please see Helena, contributions are always needed. Each month in the newsletter, we will be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



MACARONI AND CHEESE

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 Sobecki and all who submit articles for our newsletter. If you would like to add to "The Communicator" please email me at: dhornyak2@gmail.com
(Donna Lee Hornyak)

Trust In Him

The Lord will work out his plans for my life—for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever. Don't abandon me, for you made me.

PSALM 138:8



Were you here???

When Hailey Johnson warmed our hearts with her spontaneous testimony during “time with children” by declaring that “we get gifts for Christmas because we’re nice and people love us!”

When our church leaders were recognized during church service?

When we were asked what is our project in our faith journey?

When our church and our children remembered the children of Newtown, Connecticut?

When we realized that “the lessons we learn from a tightrope walker can draw us closer to God?”

When we heard that when we stand at the edge of a personal challenge our “Community of faith” is always with us?

When we learned that if we “lose our connections with Christ” we will lose our footing in our life’s journey?

When we realized that the “abundance of Gods Grace brings us peace and joy.”



Celebrating Mothers and Daughters

Mother
/Daughter
Fun!!!

Watch for information about Willow Church’s annual Mother/Daughter event that celebrates Mothers Day in a special way. Next months newsletter will contain information about dates, time, deadlines and cost of tickets.

Dish Towels

The church kitchen is in need of NEW KITCHEN TOWELS. Any color, any pattern as long as they’re new. Please bring them to church at any time and leave them in the kitchen.

Thank You



Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164

Rev. Marianne McMunn, Pastor

Email address: marianнемcmunn@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

734-654-9020

Sunday Service 9:30 AM

Jeanne Lochner: Children’s Ministry

Karen Struble: Organist and Choir Director

FOOD PANTRY 24/7 734-753-4320

Pastor Marianne has a new address:

350 Cabinet
Milford, MI 48381

Church Bulletin Announcements

If you have announcements that you would like to share in the bulletin on a Sunday morning, please get them to Pastor Marianne by the Wednesday before you would like it printed in the bulletin.



Lenten Calendar:

February 13, Wednesday, Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm

February 17, Sunday, First Sunday of Lent

March 24, Sunday, Palm Sunday

March 28, Thursday, 5:30 to 6:30pm Soup and Bread Supper
7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

March 29, Friday, Joint Good Friday Service at Carleton United Methodist Church at 1:00pm

Good Friday Service at Willow UMC at 7:00pm

March 31, Sunday, Easter Sunday All Church Breakfast at 8:00am

Easter Sunday Worship at 9:30am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt after Worship



Parenting Study to Begin in March 2013

Willow UMC will be offering a free parenting study for parents of children of all ages. The study time will be utilizing 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.

This study will begin with "Parenting 101: The Basics of Becoming a Proactive Parent." This is a 4 week study with the following titles: "Navigating Through Troubled Waters," "Developing a Parenting Plan," "Managing the 'Balancing Act,'" and "Keeping Your Family Strong."

"This Proactive Parenting series is about choosing to live in a circle of influence with God in the center. It's about learning how to parent with a plan so that you can become the kind of parent that God wants you to be."

The class will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 11:00am to 12:00pm in the home of Tyler and Jennifer Johnson, who live about 2 minutes from the Willow UMC at 25305 Bernadine Rd, New Boston. Jeanne Lochner, Children's Ministry Director, will provide a Children's teaching time during the parenting study which will also be held at the Johnson's home.

Our first class will begin on March 10. The format includes opening prayer, introductions, 15 minutes DVD teaching by the author, Jim Williams, and group discussion time.

Please join us!

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). If you have questions regarding children's time, please contact Jeanne Lochner, Children's Ministry Director (734-243-3163).



A Conversation with God (Author unknown) submitted by Gail Sobecki

Me: God, can I ask you a question?

God: Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?

God: I promise.

Me: Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?

God: What do you mean?

Me: Well, I woke up late.

God: Yes.

Me: My car took forever to start.

God: Okay.

Me: At lunch they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait.

God: Hmmm.

Me: On the way home my phone went dead just as I picked up a call.

God: Okay.

Me: And on top of all that, when I got home I just wanted to soak my feet in my new foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work!!! Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?

God: Well, let me see. The Death Angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me: (humbled): OH...

God: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that would have hit you if you were on the road.

Me: (ashamed) Oh...

God: The person who made your first sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what he has. I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.

Me: (embarrassed): Ok...

God: Your phone went dead because the person who was calling was going to give false witness about what you said during that call. I didn't even let you talk to them so that you would be covered.

Me: (softly) I see, God.

God: Oh, and that foot massager had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry God.

God: Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me in all things, the good and the bad.

Me: I will trust you.

God: And don't doubt that MY plan for your day is always better than your plan.

Me: I won't, God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today.

God: You're welcome, child. It was just another day being your God, and I love looking after my children.



Willow Church

Happily invites all to our 3rd annual:



Free Style!



Willow Church will once again be hosting our bi/annual **FREE** (but *gently used*) clothing event to benefit anyone in the communities struggling to afford these items. Just show up, take what is needed, and pass it on...no questions asked! While browsing our basement transformed into a boutique, grab a snack of popcorn, cookies, coffee, and punch offered at Nick & Nelson's "Free" snack bar! For any questions, please contact our Church or email farmerwilson@gmail.com.

When?

Please join us on **Saturday, March 9th, from 10-3** (or until all items are gone) in our Church basement and take home any clothing items available that you might need.

Where?

Willow United Methodist Church
36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164 www.willowchurch.org
Phone 734 654-9020

Need doesn't always have a face. If you are in need of clothing, please come. In these past 3 years, need has found its way to our Free Style event with many faces and stories. We have shared heartfelt moments, but the moments we remember most are the ones where we have been witness to the relief of someone who desperately needed it or watched the excitement of a young teen who found that name brand item in just the right size! Or shared a cup of coffee with that special friend who stopped in to help another who couldn't make it! Need is need, please come enjoy a few hours of fun with us! It is our pleasure to serve our communities.

Your friends at Willow Church

Willow United Methodist Church
January Administration Board Meeting
January 19, 201

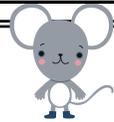
Meeting opened at 10:55 a.m. with prayer by Pastor Marianne.

- ATTENDANCE:** Janet Holland, Mark Buttignoli, Jim & Katherine Buck, John Tarr, Martha Molnar, R.P. & Helena Lilly, Kathy Farr, Donna Lee Hornyak, Tina Szalek, Amy Harrison, and Cheryl Karls,
- ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD:** December Minutes were read. Mark B. motioned to accept the minutes as read. R. P. supported. Motion Carried.
- PASTORS REPORT:** A calendar meeting is next Sunday after church. There will be an Ash Wednesday service February 13 at 7:00 p.m. March 28 Maundy Thursday service and March 29 Good Friday service is at 7:00 p.m. Carleton UMC is having Good Friday service in the afternoon. Easter breakfast will start serving at 8:00 a.m. There will be an egg hunt for the children after service.
Pastor Marianne & Jennifer Johnson would like to see a parenting class offered. It would be held at Jennifer Johnson's house starting in March on Sunday's after church. Pastor Marianne will be teaching the class. While the classes are being taught, a children's Sunday school class will be taught by Jeanne at the Johnson's. Day's will be decided soon. Mark motioned for parenting classes and the time required for the pastor to be held. R.P. Lilly supported. Motion carried.
- TRUSTEES:** John applied for a waiver for the requirement of Willow having a "mop sink" for the basement. The light for the parking lot, filters for the furnace and the better heat in the basement is on his to do list.
- FINANCIAL:** The November Financial Report was reviewed. R.P. motioned to accept the report. Jim Buck supported. Motion carried. The December Financial Report was reviewed. Kathy motioned to accept the report. Mark supported. Motion carried. Jim Buck reported the 2012 budget ended in the positive.
- OTHER BUSINESS:** Kathy motioned to increase the chicken suppers to \$10.00 starting with the next supper. Amy supported. Motion carried. Children prices will remain the same.
- ADJOURNMENT:** John motioned to adjourn. R.P. supported. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a. m.

Financial Report: Total received for the month of December - \$5,406.44 Total expenses for the month of December - \$6,269.48

Eavesdropping on "The Farr's"

By the Church Mouse



Kathy: "I can't believe it Jim, but the Church Chicken Suppers are right around the corner again!"

Jim: "Oh %#@!"

Kathy: "Stop griping. You know how necessary they are. You have to admit it's been easier to do because of all the people who have pitched in to help."

Jim: "I know, I know. What are the dates for this season?"

Kathy: "They are **March 13th, April 10th, and May 8th**. I guess that means I better get those donation and work sheets re-vamped and setup to pass around."

Jim: "I'm sure glad Richard is back to order the chicken. I don't mind going to Gordon's and Sam's Club as long as we go on the days they have samples. Don't forget to ask for a lot of pies! I really love those lemon, berry, apple, cherry, & pumpkin pies!!!"

Kathy: "I know you never met a pie you didn't love. You'd probably eat a sauerkraut & kielbasa pie if someone made one!"

Jim: "Maybe a gizzard pie too! Hey, why don't you have Donna Lee put something in the Church paper to give people a heads up on the dates? Isn't that a good idea?"

Kathy: "My dear, you are brilliant! What would I do without you?"

Kathy to herself: "...I'd probably have less headaches!!!"

February 2013

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					<p>1 Zachary Johnson Rachael Hogan</p>	<p>2 Judy Reynolds</p>
<p>3 Holy Communion Children's Church</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>6 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Debbie Zender</p>	<p>7 Bible Study 7pm Wanda Young's home 19070 Otto Ct.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 All Church Breakfast Karen Wilson</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>13 AA 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00</p>	<p>14 Bible Study 7pm </p>	<p>15 Mark Zender Women's Social at Donna Lee Hornyak's 6PM 27303 Bell Rd</p>	<p>16 Carol & Jack Nobels</p>
<p>17 First Sunday of Lent Advisory Board Meets</p>	<p>18 Jan Holland</p>	<p>19 Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>20 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>21 Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Deb & Mark Zender</p>
<p>24 Second Sunday of Lent Pulpit Exchange with Milford UMC</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Rotary 6:30 Fay Cannon</p>	<p>27 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>28 Bible Study 7pm Last day of clothes collection for Free Style</p>	<p>1 </p>	<p>2</p>