

WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Kelly Vergowven, Pastor

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

THE COMMUNICATOR FEBRUARY 2018



A NOTE FROM PASTOR KELLY

"Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2 NASB

As we move toward the season of Lent, we have the opportunity to take some time and reflect on our years past and look forward to our future with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We can listen for God's voice, get on the move, and develop confidence in God being one who truly answers us. But these processes, whether foregrounded or running in the background of our lives, may not be enough in themselves to lead us or sustain us on "this tedious journey." We have to stay focused on where we're heading if we're going to get there. And we need to stay focused on the one who gives us the power to get there. An affirmation of faith will help to strengthen our focus, collectively, on the redemptive presence, work, and power of our God.

I look forward to a beautiful season of Lent with all of you, serving as disciples of Jesus Christ!

God's peace and blessings to you all!

Pastor Kelly

PASTORAL VISITS

Pastor Kelly is available for pastoral visits! If you would like a visit or know of someone who would like a pastoral visit please let Pastor Kelly know via a phone call, text, email or a note on her desk to set up a date and time.



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. Sept.—May

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS AT WILLOW CHURCH

Ash Wednesday: Feb. 14th service at 7 PM FIRST DAY OF LENT

Soup Swap: Feb 16th Lenz home 6 pm

God Works Community Meal: Thursday, Feb. 22nd

Family Game Night: March 17th

Maundy Thursday Evening Soup and Bread Supper 6:00—Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM, March 29th

Last day of Lent: March 31st

EASTER SUNDAY: April 1st

Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road
New Boston, MI 48164

Kelly Vergowven, Pastor

Email address: kvergowven@hotmail.com

Pastor Cell Phone Number: 1-734-497-3560

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



POCKET PRAYER SHAWLS

Willow Church
continues to have
Pocket Prayer Shawls
available for those

who need prayer. Please feel free to take one to
anyone you feel needs the prayers of Willow Church.

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 me at dhornyak2@gmail.com.

Thought for the Day: The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him!!!

PSALM 145 :18

WERE YOU HERE?

When we were told that "The Holy Spirit is guiding us to that perfect light?"

When Jace Anthony Bailey was baptized?

When Pastor Kelly reminded us that when we are baptized we are cleansed by Christ?

When Pastor Kelly also reminded us that "God knows all about us and loves every bit of us?"

When our sermon was about how by living in the light of Christ, He is transforming us for our new life in His Kingdom?

When Pastor Kelly assured us that we must follow the voice of the one who knows the way: "The Lord is my Shepherd."

When Dawn Karls was baptized and welcomed into membership at Willow?

When we were reminded to remember the "Blessed Assurance" of our Baptism?



DID YOU KNOW?

That communion is a time to turn our hearts to God. It is a time to pray silently for forgiveness, listen

to the music and reflect of one's own life; of realizing that we are partaking with Jesus at the last supper and that he died for you so that your sins can be forgiven. So as we approach the elements and as we walk away, (some of our members kneel at the communion rail to pray) lets be considerate, as a congregation, to be silent at this time of communion.



Our Choir Sings (Calvin Solo)

First Responders Brunch



I would like to personally thank everyone who aided in making the First Responders Brunch such a success. I personally received many compliments on the food provided by the wonderful ladies from the Willow Women's Group. All of the assistance and guidance that was provided me both before, during, and after the event. I would also like to thank Richard, Jim F., Tom, Nelson, and Ed. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful group of individuals and I am forever grateful.

Meeting opened at 10:45 a.m.

Daily Devotions



**We're on FACEBOOK...friend us
at Willow Church!!!**

ATTENDANCE: Jan Holland, Pastor Kelly, Katherine Buck, Mark Buttignoli, David & Jeanne Lochner, Linda Kemp, Amy Harrison, Jim & Kathy Farr, Donna Lee, Tyler Johnson, Debbie Carter, and Greg Gering.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD: November 2017 minutes were read. Debbie motioned to accept the minutes as read. Amy supported. Motion carried. There was no December Ad Board meeting.

PASTORS REPORT: Pastor Kelly reported that December was full of activities. So far this year we have had two baptisms and one new member. Attendance has gone up. First Responders service went very well. It was much appreciated. We are getting a new district superintendent this June. Rev Mark Spalding is retiring.

TRUSTEES: Jim reported that we are still in the process of selling the lots. The potential buyer wants the three lots combined into two. We are waiting for the townships approval. The trustees are putting up a light in the coffee pot area this week. After Jan's suggestion, the trustees will look into a timer switch for the outside "porch" lights so they can be on at night but not during daylight.

FINANCIAL: November's financial report was reviewed. Donna Lee motioned to accept the report. Jeanne supported. Motion carried.

PASTOR PARISH: If anyone has a concern or accolades regarding the pastor, please see one of the pastor parish committee members. It was brought up to bring back the videos with contemporary and traditional music during worship. Greg said that Kelly is willing to do that. He told her he will help her.

BUDGET: Tyler reviewed the new budget of \$60,794.75 with the board. Donna Lee motioned to accept the new budget. After review and discussion, it was determined that \$500 needed to be added to the Taxes and Fees category. With that, Donna Lee motioned to accept the new budget of \$61,294.75 as amended. David supported. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Debbie motioned to adjourn. Jeanne supported. Meeting adjourned 11:22 am. Motion carried.

Recording Secretary — Janet Holland

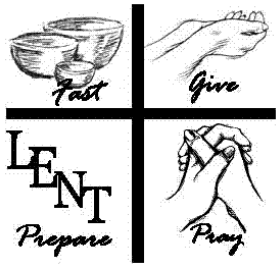


FIRST RESPONDERS SUNDAY SERVICE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE





20 Things to Give up for Lent

We celebrate Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent on February 14th. Many Christians “give up something” for Lent, but usually it has very little impact on their life and walk with Christ. The reason is that we usually give stuff up for all the wrong reasons. With that said, here are 20 things you might consider giving up this Lent. And these are things to give up not just for Lent, but for the rest of your life.

- ♦ Guilt—I am loved by Jesus and He has forgiven my sins. Today is a new day and the past is behind.
- ♦ Fear—God is on my side. In Him I am more than a conqueror. (see Romans 8)
- ♦ The need to please everyone—I can’t please everyone anyways. There is only one I need to strive to please.
- ♦ Envy—I am blessed. My value is not found in my possessions, but in my relationship with my Heavenly Father.
- ♦ Impatience—God’s timing is the perfect timing.
- ♦ Sense of entitlement—The world does not owe me anything. God does not owe me anything. I live in humility and grace.
- ♦ Bitterness and Resentment—The only person I am hurting by holding on to these is myself.
- ♦ Blame—I am not going to pass the buck. I will take responsibility for my actions.
- ♦ Gossip and Negativity—I will put the best construction on everything when it comes to other people. I will also minimize my contact with people who are negative and toxic, bringing other people down.
- ♦ Comparison—I have my own unique contribution to make and there is no one else like me.
- ♦ Fear of failure—You don’t succeed without experiencing failure. Just make sure you fail forward.
- ♦ A spirit of poverty—Believe with God that there is always more than enough and never a lack.
- ♦ Feelings of unworthiness—You are fearfully and wonderfully made by your creator. (see Psalm 139)
- ♦ Doubt—Believe God has a plan for you that is beyond anything you could imagine. The future is brighter than you could ever realize.
- ♦ Self - Pity—God comforts us in our sorrow so that we can comfort others with the comfort we receive from God.
- ♦ Retirement—As long as you are still breathing, you are here for a reason.
- ♦ Excuses—A wise man once said, if you need an excuse, any excuse will do.
- ♦ Lack of counsel—Wise decisions are rarely made in a vacuum.
- ♦ Pride—Blessed are the humble.
- ♦ Worry—God is in control and worrying will not help.

God has so much more in store for you. But so many of these things above are holding you back from walking in the full destiny he has laid out for you. Today is a new day.



February 2018

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				<p>1</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Women's Mtg.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>7</p> <p>AA 6:00</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Karen Wilson</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>PPRC Mtg.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>AA 6:00</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00</p> <p>Hollie & Ed Morrison</p> <p>Zachery Johnson</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Women's Group Soup Swap at Lenz home 6:00 PM</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Administrative Mtg.</p> <p>Jan Holland</p> <p>Tessa Bailey</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>21</p> <p>AA 6:00</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>22</p> <p>GOD WORKS Community Supper</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Children's Church</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Faye Cannon</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p>	<p>28</p> <p>AA 6:00</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Bible Study 7:00</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>