

# WILLOW UMC CHURCH

THE COMMUNICATOR

MARCH 2013



I once read in an article on-line, written by Peter Larson, that stated, "*The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a virgin's womb and an empty tomb.* Jesus entered our world through a door marked 'No Entrance' and left through a door marked 'No Exit.' And for all who feel it is impossible to overcome the situations facing them —sickness, death, divorce, persecution, loneliness, despair, addictions—Jesus stands at the human door marked 'No Way' and knocks."

We have a savior who knows what it is to have a "hard knock life." He faced impossibilities while he walked this earth, but he overcame them through the mercy and power of God.

Jesus showed us the way to hope and trust in God, who is with us in all of our challenging circumstances and "impossibilities" of life.

There are times when we are in the middle of hardship, that it's difficult to hold onto hope and to trust in God. We may find that we are unable to hear the gentle knocking of Jesus. In times like these, we need each other. We need to listen for that gentle knocking of the Holy Spirit who wants to meet us at the point of our pain and to give us comfort and courage. Healing of our hearts and minds and souls can happen as we open the door to the love and grace of God.

Can you hear Jesus knocking?

May each of us let Easter morning come into our lives. May we allow ourselves to become amazed with the grace, the love, and the sacrifice Christ made to bring about reconciliation and resurrection.

And just when we find ourselves in a locked room, like the disciples after the crucifixion, may we listen for the knocking on the door. May we open the door and be reminded that Jesus is alive. And not only is he alive, but he wants to live through us, so that we too may be doors of God's love to those around us.

Will you trust God with the impossibilities in your life this Easter?

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Marianne

## Sermon Titles and Texts for March

March 3: "A Spiritual Diet"	Isaiah 55:1-9	
March 10: "Ambassadors of Reconciliation"	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	
March 17: "A New Thing"	Isaiah 43:16-21	
March 24: "Slaying the Giants"	Luke 19:28-40	
March 28: Maundy Thursday Service	"You Will Understand Later"	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
March 31: Easter Sunday Service	"New Life"	John 20:1-18

## Lenten Schedule

March 24, Sunday, Palm Sunday

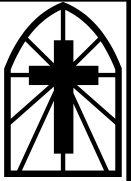
March 28, Thursday, 5:30 to 6:30pm Soup and Bread Supper  
7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

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



# 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.

**Parenting Class** The Basics of becoming a proactive parent...4 week study group...call the church for details

**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. ...please remember, misc. items are needed all the time. This month's items:

## Easter Candy

## 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.



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 : [dhornyak2@gmail.com](mailto:dhornyak2@gmail.com) (Donna Lee Hornyak)



## He Is In Control

**We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken....but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 .**

## Were you here???

When we were reminded that a house built on rock stands....and that "God is our rock."

When we remembered that "in every life—rain must fall. "and God is with us always.

When we heard that Jesus' mission was to tell us that" all are welcome at Gods table."

When we asked for our Lord to change us" transfigure us, so that this world might see what we have seen and worship you."

When we were told that if we change our habits, we will change our lives.

## Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is observed during Holy Week on the Thursday before Easter. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. In contrast to joyful Easter celebrations when Christians worship their resurrected Savior, Maundy Thursday services are typically more solemn occasions, marked by the shadow of Jesus' betrayal.



## EMPTY BOWLS

## Soup and Bread Supper

The church will be hosting an **Empty Bowls** soup and bread supper before the Maundy Thursday service. Supper will be served beginning at 5:30 followed by the Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 PM. Please join us....donations accepted but not necessary.

## Celebrating Mothers and Daughters "Girls Just Want to have FUN!"



Save the date!!! Saturday, May 4, 2013 11:00 AM

Mothers and Daughters...."having fun!" Luncheon



### 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.

## Willow United Methodist Church

36925 Willow Road  
New Boston, MI 48164

Rev. Marianne McMunn, Pastor

Email address: [mariannemcmunn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mariannemcmunn@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

## Which Member Are You?

Submitted by Wanda Young

A lot of members are like wheelbarrows—not good unless pushed!

Some are like canoes—need to be paddled!

Some are like kites—if a string isn't kept on them, they fly away.

Some are like kittens—more contented when petted.

Some are like balloons—full of wind and ready to blow up!

Some are like footballs—you can't tell which way they'll bounce next.

Some are like trailers—they have to be pulled.

Some are like neon lights—they keep going on and off.

Many, thank goodness, are like the North Star—there when you need them, dependable and ever loyal.

What kind of member are you???



### Chicken Supper

Wednesday March 13th 5:00 PM Carryout's begin at 4:30



Help is needed Tues & Wed mornings at 8:30 a.m. for preparation"

Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00

Donated Pies can be brought to the church any time Tuesday or Wednesday

### The Church Mouse Says:

There is a "church mouse" in the **sanctuary**. Can you find it???? Some have seen it...some don't know it's there...can you find the church mouse???



### IT'S MAGIC and it's SHOW!!!!

6:30 pm here at WILLOW CHURCH.—POT LUCK before 5:30 pm ...please bring a dish to pass and join us for this wonderful FAMILY NIGHT...SATURDAY, MARCH 16...Willow Church Fellowship Hall

### MEIJER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Willow United Methodist Church is a participant of the Meijer Community Rewards Program.

#### About the Program

Enrolled members shop Meijer, simply paying with cash, PIN-based debit card or linked Meijer Credit Card. Purchases made with a linked Meijer Credit Card earn 1%. Purchases made with cash or PIN-based debit card and a swiped Meijer 1 Card<sup>SM</sup> earn 0.5%.

Each year, at least 6% of Meijer net profits go toward overall community giving - one of the highest percentages in the retail industry!

Our church has earned over \$600 with our member participation. This is FREE money.

If you shop at Meijer's I encourage you to enroll. Please see me for an enrollment application or any questions.

If you have a Meijer Credit card, call or go to the customer service desk and ask them to please link your card to the community rewards program using **our 6 digit code# 986533**.

Thank you,

Janet Holland

## Parenting Study to Begin March 10th



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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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).

### Willow United Methodist Church February Administration Board Meeting February 17, 2013

Meeting opened at 10:50 a.m. with prayer by Pastor Marianne.




- ATTENDANCE:** Janet Holland, Pastor Marianne, Linda Kemp, John Tarr, Mark Buttignoli, Katherine Buck, John Tarr, Martha Molnar, Kathy Farr, Donna Lee Hornyak, Tina Szalek, Amy Harrison, and Cheryl Karls
- ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD:** January Minutes were read. Mark B. motioned to accept the minutes as read. Martha supported. Motion Carried.
- PASTOR'S REPORT:** Parenting classes are to be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month starting March 10, 2013 from 11:00 am. to 12:00 pm. A wedding is scheduled for September 9, 2013. The proper forms are to be submitted.
- TRUSTEES:** John installed the outside security light on the back of the church. New furnace filters have been placed. There will be maintenance on the lawnmower. A grass mowing schedule will be made.
- FINANCIAL:** The January Financial Report was reviewed. John Tarr motioned to accept the report. Donna Lee supported. Motion carried.
- ADJOURNMENT:** Mark motioned to adjourn. John. supported. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a. m.

#### Financial Report:

Total received for the month of January - \$4,998.54

Total expenses for the month of January - \$6,416.53

# March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Holy Communion 3rd Sunday of Lent Women's Meeting	4	5 Rotary 6:30 Greg Barnett Ralph & Faye Cannon	6 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	7 Bible Study 7:00	8 Gail Sobecki	9
10 4th Sunday of Lent One Great Hour of Sharing Coffee Hour after church Daylight Savings Time Parenting Class 11:00-12	11 Kathy Holland	12 Chicken Dinner Prep 8:30 am Rotary 6:30	13 Chicken Dinner Prep 8:30 Chicken Dinner 5 PM Carryout 4:30 	14 Bible Study 7:00 Martha Molnar Lauren Tilley	15 Sharon Dagenais	16 Ann Arbor District Leadership Training Pot luck 5 pm 6:30 Magician
17 5th Sunday of Lent Ad Board Meeting	18	19 Rotary 6:30	20 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	21 Bible Study 7:00	22	23
24  <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Parenting Class 11:00-12	25 Carol Nobles	26 Rotary 6:30	27 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	28 EMPTY BOWL Soup & Bread Supper 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service 7:00	29 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 1 Pm Service at Carlton UMC 7:00 Service at Willow UMC	30 
31 Breakfast 8 AM <b>EASTER</b> Egg Hunt after Worship RP Lilly Walter & Terry June	1 	2 Rotary 6:30 Sharon Benner	3 AA 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	4 Bible Study 7:00	5	6 