

WILLOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36925 Willow Road , New Boston, Michigan 48164

Reverend Brad Lewis, Pastor

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

THE COMMUNICATOR

MARCH 2016



A note from Pastor Brad:

Ever receive an email forwarded to you that you deleted without even looking at it? I almost did that to what I discovered to be a reminder of the true message of Easter. I don't know who composed the following email, but enjoy what follows and may your Easter be filled with our Living Lord's never ending love.

Back in the mid 19th century, two unmarried sisters, Anna and Susan Warner, lived across the Hudson River from West Point. After the death of their father, who had been a New York attorney impoverished by the depression of 1837, they supported themselves by writing. Susan wrote novels which became best-sellers. Anna wrote poems and hymns and, in fact, wrote a new hymn each month for a Sunday School class she taught made up of West Point cadets.

One day in 1860, Susan was writing a story about an ill child and wanted to include a song that could be sung to the dying youth. She turned for help to her songwriter sister. That's when Anna penned these memorable words:

**Jesus loves me! This I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak, but He is strong.**

That is the song that has become the best-known Christian song in the world.

Anna later published it separately in a hymnbook. And the tune we use today was composed in 1862 by William Bradbury. He is the one who, in fact, added the refrain:

**Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.**

Is there any more basic – or any more important – precept than this in Christianity? Love is the one thing that sets Christianity apart from all other religions, because our God is the only deity in any of the world's religions whose fundamental quality is love. John reminds us, in fact, that God not only loves, but, more fundamentally, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Love is God's very essence. God showed it by sending his Son so that "whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

**Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.**

But there's more than salvation in this simple song. It even goes to everyday Christian living: (continued on page 2)

*He's
Risen!*

**Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.**

In the early 20th century, one of the world's foremost Christian theologians was Karl Barth, whose profound theological treatises were enormously influential throughout Europe and America. But one day a student asked Barth if he could sum up in just a few words what was most important about his life's work and theology. Barth briefly considered the question, smiled and responded, "Yes, in the words of a song my mother used to sing me, 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'"

And so it is that the most profound and widely-known Gospel song ever written was a song written for children. But that seems appropriate. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14).

*He's
Risen!*

God loves you, and so do I. Happy Easter!

Pastor Brad

March Scripture Readings and Message Themes

Sunday March 6, 2016

Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Turning Trash into Treasure

A young man trashes his life, but finds redemption.

Sunday March 13, 2016

Scripture: John 12:1-8

The Norm of Jesus Devotion

The measure of our devotion to Jesus is conscious decision and responsiveness.

Palm Sunday March 20, 2016

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

Something is Out of Place

The Messiah is coming! Don't let the parade pass you by.

Maundy Thursday March 24, 2016

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Meal

When times are tough, people tend to eat at home more often. But communion is one meal that shouldn't be missed.

Good Friday March 25, 2016

Tenebrae Service: an evening meditation service on the passion of Christ.

Easter Sunday March 27, 2016

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Signs of Life

When the women came to the tomb, they found a sign of life -- the tomb was empty!



WILLOW CHURCH FREE STYLE

Our annual Free Style event has been scheduled for April 23, 2016 . Please bring in your donated clothing, accessories, shoes & purses (ONLY PLEASE) between Feb. 28th and April 10th. We are asking that all items be clean and ready for sale. If you can sort and label the boxes, bags, etc. that would make the process of sorting and arranging the Free Style items easier.



Free Style is a free clothing event to benefit anyone who is struggling to afford these items. Anyone can show up, take what is needed and pass it on...no questions asked. All the while browsing our fellowship hall that is transformed into a Free Style boutique, with a free snack bar and personal shopper helpers if needed. If you have any questions, please see Karen Wilson. Let's all work to make this event the best ever...serving our community by reaching out to all.

To my dear ones at Willow UMC,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ! I miss you!

How can I even thank you all enough for the wonderful send-off that you gave to me my last Sunday serving as your pastor. The cards, the gifts, your kind words of love and support meant so much to me - and still do. It took me several days to get through the "love notes" because I kept breaking down when I read them! Thank you for the beautiful lunch, the lovely decorations in the Fellowship Hall, for the precious musical water globe. Thank you for loving me and my family so well these last 4 ½ years.

It has been my great joy to serve alongside of you. You extend the love of Christ to one another and the community and the world. You are a loving and serving congregation and God is using you in some very special ways in your community. You are making a difference. I will miss seeing you each Sunday at worship and during the week. My memories of our times together make me smile. Each one of you is a gift from God and each personality is precious.

I know that you are in good hands with Pastor Brad. I feel grateful that he is there to serve alongside you at this time.

I look forward to the next time I may see you in person. (Who knows, maybe Kendall and I will drop in for a "Chicken Dinner" this year!) You will always be in my heart and you are in my prayers. I still can't believe how God blessed me with such a wonderful group of followers of Christ to be in ministry with. You make my heart sing. You make me "Happy." I praise God for you.

My love to you,

Pastor Marianne

Update: Katie continues to pursue job opportunities with a great attitude and energy. I look forward to caring for Kendall full time when it all comes together. In the meantime, I am caring for her when her mama needs focused time and when I can't stand being away from her any longer!



Dear Friends,

WITH
GRATEFUL
HEARTS

We want to thank you for such a warm welcome to Willow UMC! The lovely coffee hour, hugs, handshakes, kind, encouraging words, bright smiles and some very thoughtful gifts have given us extremely grateful hearts in becoming part of your church family. And we thank you, too, for wearing name tags which is helping us learn the names of our new friends at Willow. We are very happy and blessed to be here with all of you, and we look forward to learning more about each other as time goes by.

God loves you and so do we,

Pastor Brad and Debbie Lewis



Were you here????

When we were reminded that "the God who tends the lilies in the field tends us also."

When Pastor Brad told us that we never know how God will change our lives.

And when he also said "when we trust God, we can be a winner even if we lose."

When the congregation gathered on Ash Wednesday to repent towards God.

When Pastor Brad's message told us "if Christ is living in us it will spill out for others to see."

When the children of Willow Church go to "CHILDREN'S CHURCH" each Sunday.

When we gathered together for a special coffee hour to welcome Pastor Brad and his wife Debbie.

When we hear the voices of our choir sing the praises of Our Lord and we soar with sound of their praise.



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 under the direction of Jeanne Lochner. Children's Church is held each Sunday, coordinated by Jennifer Johnson.

This newsletter is compiled by Donna Lee Hornyak. A special thanks to Gail Sobbecki 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: Every care that I can turn over to God makes room for another blessing.



Willow Church Cook Books

We have a limited number of Willow Church Cook Books remaining for sale. Those interested please see Martha Molnar for purchase. \$10.00 each.

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 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

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. Please contact Vanessa Lenz at 734-731-9611. Orders and payments are required 2 weeks prior to date.



BOOK to read!

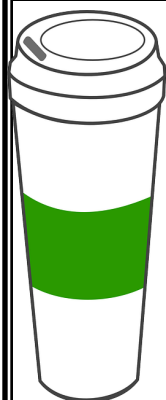
Have you read a good Christian Book lately...one that you would recommend to others? We will start now listing book titles submitted by our congregation that others might enjoy.

Anything written by Karen Kingsbury...an inspirational best selling novelist. Her book "Ever After" was named the 2007 Christian Book of the Year.



Maundy Thursday, also known as “Holy Thursday,” is the Thursday of Passion Week, one day before Good Friday (the Friday before Easter). Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER
WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24th...at
WILLOW CHURCH. SUPPER AT 6:00 pm, SERVICE
AT 7:00 pm BRING YOUR OWN BOWL**



PLEASE NOTE

The carpet in the church sanctuary and narthex has recently been cleaned. We ask that if it is necessary for those attending any service to bring in a beverage, please do so in a **covered** container.

Thank you for your consideration.

BETTER HABITS, BETTER LIVES, BETTER WORLD!

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

CHICKEN SUPPER

It's that time again...our Spring Chicken suppers begin March 9th. Carry outs begin at 4:30, Supper is served at 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$10.00 per person, children 12 and under \$5.00 each.

Menu: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuits and gravy, cole slaw, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, milk.

Please have your donated items at the church by Sunday, March 6th...as usual, pies are always needed.

Join us for a delicious meal!!

Chicken dinners are scheduled for April 13th and May 11th.

COMING TO WILLOW CHURCH: A few of the planned events.

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Good Friday Service | Children's Easter Program |
| Maundy Thursday Service with Soup and Bread Supper | |
| All Church Cleaning Work Day | Fall Harvest Event |
| Special Christmas Events | Men's All Church Breakfast |
| Coffee Hours | Vacation Bible School |
| | Lego Camp |
| Bible Study | Women's Group Special Events |
| Easter Flowers | Children's Church |
| Free Style Clothing Event | Blessing of the Animals |
| Chicken Suppers | Mom 2 Mom Sale |
| Mother, Daughter, Ladies Luncheon | |



March 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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|--|--|---|--|--|---|-----------|
|  | | <p>1</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p> | <p>2</p> <p>AA 6:00 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Bible Study at Donna Lee's home 7:00 pm</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> |
| <p>6</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>Women's Mtg.</p> <p>Children's Church</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p> <p>Gail Sobecki</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Chicken Supper</p> <p>Carry out 4:30</p> <p>Serving supper 5:00</p> | <p>10</p> <p>Bible Study at Donna Lee's home 7:00 pm</p> <p>Doug & Marianne McMunn</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Kathy Holland</p> | <p>12</p> |
| <p>13</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>Children's EASTER PROGRAM</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Martha Molnar</p> <p>Lauren Tilley</p> | <p>15</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p> <p>Sharon Dagenais</p> | <p>16</p> <p>AA 6:00 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm</p> <p>Dallas Kennedy</p> | <p>17</p> <p>Bible Study at Donna Lee's home 7:00 pm</p>  | <p>18</p> <p>Kyle Buttignoli</p> | <p>19</p> |
| <p>20</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time</p> <p>Children's Church</p> <p>Ad. Board Mtg.</p>  | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p> | <p>23</p> <p>AA 6:00 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm</p> | <p>24</p> <p>Maundy Thursday Soup & Bread Service 6:00 supper 7:00 Service</p> | <p>25</p>  <p>Service at Willow Church 7:00 pm</p> | <p>26</p> |
| <p>27 EASTER</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 8:00 am</p>  | <p>28</p> <p>Nathan Adkins</p> <p>Danielle Mathews</p> | <p>29</p> <p>Rotary 6:30</p> | <p>30</p> <p>AA 6:00 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm</p> | <p>31</p> <p>Bible Study at Donna Lee's home 7:00 pm</p> <p>R.P. Lilly</p> <p>Terry & Walter June</p> | | |