

THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,
Sharing and Serving



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Sunday Worship:

Worship Online on YouTube

Coffee Hour and Fellowship at 11:00 am: Check your Weekly Message from WGUMC for Zoom Login information

Pastor's Column

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Now we see dimly as in a glass, but then we shall see face-to-face." Since the Pandemic began in March 2020, we have longed for the day we might stand in each others' presence. Recognizing the expediency of returning to our missional and discipleship work, in ways that are currently limited by technology (and by technological fatigue), we are submitting a limited interim request for re-opening our campus for some small group, in-person ministry activities.



Our ReLaunch Team determined early on in our conversations that the logistics surrounding in-person worship in the sanctuary will take more time to consider and plan for, but we felt a strong need among our members to find safe ways to come together in the coming weeks. Our interim plan proposes reopening the Woodhaven Patio and Kohlstedt Hall for use by small groups such as our Joint Youth Ministry, CrossWalk, and UMW circles and Bible study groups as requested. Each group will need to be approved with designated leadership being specifically trained and taking responsibility for additional safety and sanitization procedures.

We are hopeful that, with safety plans in place, we will be approved to begin once again meeting together in small but meaningful ways. These gatherings, while looking a little different than they have in the past or being new events all together, will allow us to worship, study and fellowship in safe ways while helping us reconnect with one another after months of isolation. Our ministry remains committed to doing no harm, to doing good, and attending to the ordinances of God. And, above all, to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We believe that we are prepared to begin to re-engage in these missional goals in-person, and appreciate your help in adapting to new measures and procedures.

Pastor Susan

What to Look for in the Coming Weeks

- Small group gatherings on the Woodhaven Patio (limit 25 people) or Kohlstedt Hall (limit 15 people).
- Hand sanitization and hand-washing available.
- Temperature screening upon arrival at events.
- Masks worn by all and physical distancing required.
- Advance registration for group meetings and events.
- Posters and visual safety reminders posted.
- No food service will be allowed.
- The sanctuary remains closed.
- Worship will continue online with only some small, special outdoor services being considered.
- Pastoral leadership will consider outside requests for campus use as submitted.

new
PLAN

Worship & Zoom Fellowship on Sundays



Meet us for worship online on Sunday! You can go to our [YouTube Channel](#) or our [website](#) and watch at any time (posted at 7am

Sundays), then join the Zoom coffee hour fellowship at 11:00am. See your midweek email message for directions to join the zoom meeting. If you need further assistance, please contact the office at info@wgumc.org.



Christian Meditation Meets Online



Join WGUMC's Christian Meditation Group, which meets **Mondays 12:30pm-1:15pm** each week. Ingrid Quigley is the facilitator for this group, which has been meeting at Woodhaven for the past 9 years. All are welcome.

For questions and meeting information, contact Ingrid (email the office if you need Ingrid's contact info).

Wednesday Early Bible Study (WEBS)

Continuing to meet every Wednesday, ALL are welcome to join in these virtual (Zoom) meetings. WEBS Zoom meetings now begin at 7:30am for socializing and Bible Study. Bring your coffee. Visitors may contact Tom Farrow at montrealtom@hotmail.com or call (925) 890-0048 for an invitation/instructions to the Zoom meeting.

Prayer Requests Process Updated

Please join our Prayer Chain email list. If you, or someone you know, would like their email address added to the Prayer Chain, please send a note to prayers@wgumc.org.

Prayers are copied exactly as they are written to us via email or as stated during the Zoom Coffee Fellowship on Sundays. Thank you!

Thank you for your faithful ministry to the Prayer Chain!



Church Staff

Brian Adkins

Senior Pastor

brian@wgumc.org

Susan Smith

Pastor of Children & Family Ministries; Director, Woodhaven Preschool

susan@wgumc.org

Lisa Jacobs

Director of Joint Youth Ministries

lisa3cyouth@gmail.com

Katrina Kraynick

Associate Youth Director

katrina3cyouth@gmail.com

Robert Birnstihl

Organist & Director of Music Ministries

Michael Kuo

Director of Praise Band

Tom Mounts

Director of the Willow Glen Ringers

Roxanne Kohlin

Office & Facilities Manager
info@wgumc.org

The deadline for the November *Willow Word* is **October 24**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com

Cancelling Halloween?



One of the first years I worked at Los Altos UMC, there was a movement in the local community to cancel Halloween in the schools. Conservative church leaders were advocating that the celebration of Halloween brought out the evil in us and, some vehemently argued, was the way that Satan would get ahold of our

children. Our beliefs about darkness and evil aside and how that might influence our children, I believe Halloween is a community holiday rather than a religious one and, as such, I have tried to find ways to include the community aspects of its celebration into the life of our church family without focusing too much on the dark, ghoulish parts. There is a lot of fun to be had in dressing up and pretending to be someone else for a while, imagining your heroes and connecting with your neighbors and friends.

In a year when so many traditions and celebrations have been cancelled for our kids, Halloween seems like a good chance to offer a safe way for our church family to come together and have a little fun, filling in for our regular trick-or-treat traditions that we may not feel are safe in our neighborhoods this year. At this time, our newly established Family Ministries team is making plans for a Trick-or-Treat Trail through the Woodhaven Garden for our church families. Read more below about our plans to celebrate Halloween together, unless the CDC or the county health department puts a hold on trick-or-treating entirely for the community.

Trick-or-Treat Trail

Saturday, October 31

2-4pm (by reservation only)

Princesses, pirates, and all kinds of heroes are invited to don their costumes and enjoy a Willow Glen UMC celebration at our first-ever family Trick or Treat Trail. While at the event, children and their families will have the opportunity to safely trick or treat from station to station and fill their bags with goodies. This will be a one-way trail designed for social distancing and safety with a photo booth at the end to create a virtual Halloween parade for the congregation. Advance registration is required for everyone involved. Watch your email for more details about registering and making your appointment for Trick-or-Treat fun.



Want to decorate and host a trick-or-treat station on our trail? We need friends to set up stations around our garden area with decorations for the holiday, and be available to safely distribute treats to our kids. Designing a trick-or-treat station could be a fun project for families with teenagers or adults who love the holiday. E-mail Pastor Susan for more information, or watch your email to sign up as a station host.

Can't stand passing by the Halloween candy in the store? Pick up a bag to donate for our trail goodies. Candy donations can be brought to the church office or preschool by October 23.

Women's Groups

United Methodist Women is open to all women regardless of church membership. Please call the contact listed below for information.

Heart & Hands

Meeting Online
Pastor Susan Smith

Friendship Circle

Sue Johnson &
Ruth Granfors

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:**CA/NV Conference UMW Annual Celebration on October 17th**

No pandemic or disaster can stop the United Methodist Women from moving forward with their Annual Celebration. A day long program, including two inspiring speakers, a Table Talk on Racism, remembering our saints and installation of Officers are among other things we will celebrate on this day. It is going to be different in comparison to past years. BUT be assured, it will be awesome!

**California/Nevada Conference United Methodist Women
Annual Celebration 2020 - October 17th
10 am - 3:30 pm via Zoom**

Join the UMW of our Annual Conference for our Annual Celebration – virtually!
Click [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to register.

**El Camino Real District UMW Annual Celebration on October 24th**

**Annual Celebration 2020: Renew our Community Through Courageous Love
Saturday, October 24, 2020
10:00am - noon
Virtual meeting via Zoom**

For the first time in our recorded history, we are gathering for our Annual Celebration through an online “Zoom” meeting. The COVID-19 protocols limit our ability to meet in person, and we want to do our part to ensure everyone’s health and safety. So for this year, on Saturday morning, October 24, settle into your favorite chair, get your morning snack, and connect with our District United Methodist Women online.

- Celebrate the Mission and Ministry of our District United Methodist Women
- Brief business meeting
- Guest speaker Dr. Mary Cheng

Mission Link Newsletter - August 2020

Get the [August 2020 Mission Link newsletter](#) from El Camino Real District United Methodist Women! Next issue will be published in November 2020.

In this issue:

- Coming events
- Social Action from around the District
- Opportunities for Ministry
- District UMW Team notes

Upcoming UMW Events:

Please [click here](#) for El Camino Real District UMW Events.



JYM in October

We hope to see you soon! Please reach out if you need any help with anything, we know that things are hard right now. Let me repeat that.

We know things are hard right now. I don't think words can capture how overwhelming life can be at the moment.

If finances are tight and you need any help with school supplies, groceries, internet access, or anything else, let us know and we will see what we can do. We also want to provide spiritual support as well as mental health support. We can always chat if you need us, and will always be happy to recommend therapists and helping you navigate that process if necessary.

There is not much we have not seen or been asked to assist with, so please believe us when we say we want to help you. Let us know!

Students Seeking Intersectional Justice & Education Series

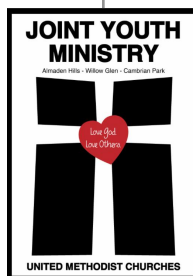
We invite you to join us for a year-long, intentional focus group. Our youth ministry has always enjoyed serving others, and we know our student have a heart for seeking out justice in our world.

Right now, there is a LOT going on in our community, our country, and our world. Students have expressed a desire to do more. We want to start an intentional small group of students whose focus will be on social justice. It will be part education and part action.

While our primary focus will be on racism in America, we will also be examining this issue through an intersectional lens. We will learn about how sexism, poverty, environmentalism, sexual orientation, gender identity, ableism, and anything else we discover all work together to oppress others, especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. We will discuss current events, learn about the history that had led us here, and figure out ways we can take action in our communities.

We will meet once a month, mostly over Zoom. We want students who want to be committed to this for the entire year.

If you want to be a part of this but missed the first meeting on Sept 29th, please still [sign up here](#) so we know that you are interested.



If you have any questions, please e-mail Lisa at Lisa3cyouth@gmail.com

Financial Donations for the JYM

With a very interesting ministry year, and no large trips for the foreseeable future, we have decided to forgo our annual fall fundraiser. We know many people's financial situations are changing, and we feel that we do not need to do our typical large push for pledges from church members and community members this fall.

However, we know that the three churches who support us continue to have their own financial obligations, and the JYM also has constant financial obligations, such as van registration and insurance, payroll, program costs, etc.

If you had already planned to make a donation at our annual fall fundraiser, or have the extra financial means at the moment and would like to support us, please consider making a one-time donation today. Or if you would like to become a monthly donor, any small amount helps!

Thank you for your consideration!

You can click here to make a one time, or monthly donation [DONATE](#)

Have you followed us on Social Media?

You can find out what's happening in the JYM by checking out our Facebook and Instagram accounts and weekly JYM emails for the most up-to-date programming information.

[JYM FACEBOOK](#)

[Follow us on Instagram](#)

JYM Leaders Contact Info

Lisa - lisa3cyouth@gmail.com

Kat - katrina3cyouth@gmail.com

It's time to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF!

For over 60 years, kids have trick-or-treated for UNICEF, making a difference in the lives of kids in need all around the world. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact communities around the globe and in the United States, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF won't stop. We're implementing a virtual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF experience and through the month of October, you can add purpose to Halloween by collecting lifesaving donations for UNICEF virtually.



Beginning October 1st, teachers, parents and children can register for their digital, orange box and participate in fun activities to earn "coins" that add up to real-life impact! Like almost everything in 2020, we are finding new ways to do the things that are important to us. Let's try something new to help make a difference in children's lives this Halloween.

You can find out more at www.unicefusa.org/trick-or-treat

Pastor Susan also has some of our favorite collection boxes available from previous years. If you would like one to donate the coins you have collected at your house this year, just let her know and she'll bring you a box.

CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders
Friday, October 23
7:00 - 9:00pm



Theme: Outdoor Movie Night
Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23

Come to CrossWalk to make new friends and grow in faith. We meet once a month to learn about ourselves and our faith, and have a lot of fun!

This month, let's get together and enjoy a movie together. Bring your own beach or camp chair and probably a blanket or sweatshirt, too. We'll set up our seats safely apart from one another, but be together as we share a story of friendship and faith-filled action.

CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders who want to grow in faith. Feel free to bring a friend! We need to know who is coming, so please e-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to RSVP.



As we continue to stay close to home and worship online, some of us are missing the routine engagement and learning of Sunday School. Beginning in September, we have begun offering weekly lessons for families to use together in lieu of Sunday School classes. These lessons will be e-mailed to families each week as part of our "Sunday at Home" series. The activities are short and simple, but we hope they offer families ideas and resources for some dedicated family faith time each week. If you would like to receive the lessons, please contact Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to be added to the distribution list.

Our "Faith Connections at Home" e-mail also contains a link to a short weekly children's worship video produced by United Methodist churches in the Sacramento and shared throughout the conference. We hope you enjoy meeting new friends and pastors from around the conference and meeting Mort and his puppet friends.

Looking Ahead to Christmas: Filming the Christmas story

We are making plans to have our children lead worship virtually on Christmas eve by filming our own version of the birth of Jesus on location at a local farm to share with the congregation. It will be our kids' voices narrating the story in their own words and acting out the roles as well. It's a chance for our kids to tell the story with some local and modern elements that highlight their own understanding and interpretation of the events and it is sure to be delightful.

To begin preparing our pageant, Pastor Susan will share the video we made in 2016 with families soon so children can begin thinking about how they would like to participate and create an updated version of the story. **Our on-location video shoot will happen on Wednesday, November 11th (during the day).** All children who would like a role in the video should **let Pastor Susan know by October 18th** and all parents should plan to attend an online parents' meeting soon after.

While we may not have a Sunday School kids' choir this Christmas eve, we are looking forward to the children sharing the wonder of the nativity as we celebrate God with us.

Village House Update

In March, Village House suspended operations due to COVID. Fortunately, all guests were placed in other shelters, motels or permanent housing. After careful consideration, the Village House steering committee has decided to end operation of the Village House shelter permanently. WGUMC was a faithful partner of the interfaith network supporting Village House for 5 years. Each year, we showed that we are a mighty, small congregation with a big heart. WGUMC lovingly provided safe shelter for our guests by housing them overnight in Woodhaven and by providing respite in the Woodhaven day center. Serving our homeless guests enlisted the entire WGUMC community through providing meals, working a hospitality or overnight shift, serving as a supervisor, cleaning the kitchen and Woodhaven, serving on the leadership committee and supporting financially and with prayers. We helped to improve the lives of our guests and grew in our service. I am very grateful for WGUMC's faithful support of this ministry.



Over the past several months, the WGUMC steering committee has worked hard to assure the Village House assets would continue to be used to serve the homeless. The physical assets have been given to other organizations; lockers to Hotel da Zink, a homeless shelter, towels and toiletries to Grace Homeless Ministries, feminine products to Front Door Ministries and cots for fire relief victims. The monetary assets will be distributed in \$5K or \$10K grants to other agencies serving the homeless or underserved and several churches in the Village House network plan to start a ministry with the shower trailer.

I am very grateful for the love and support WGUMC provided to the guests of Village House. You made a difference in the lives of our guests. I look forward to the seeing where God leads us to be of service in the future.

With a grateful heart,

Liz Pense Village House co-director

Help the Wildfire Survivors

When families return to their homes, the clean-up and recovery begin. Knowing that wildfire season runs year-round, our conference Disaster Response Office regularly stocks Wildfire Kits designed to provide the supplies families need to begin their clean-up work. Already, their entire store of supplies has been deployed to families in need, and the Disaster Response Office has sent out an urgent request for donations of more Wildfire Kits.

A "WILDFIRE KIT" is different in its contents from the usual UMCOR Cleaning Bucket. The kits consist of a rake and shovel, plus a variety of small items such as Tyvek coveralls, gloves, masks, goggles, spray bottle, cleaning towels, and a tarp, placed inside a 5-gallon bucket with a lid.

At Willow Glen UMC, we will be collecting supplies for Wildfire Kits in collection boxes on the Woodhaven porch through October 3.

Please bring the following to donate:

- 5 gallon buckets with lid
- Tyvek Coveralls (without boots attached, 2 per bucket)
- N95 particulate respirator dust masks (5 per bucket)
- Work gloves (2 pair per bucket)
- Nitrile gloves (10 pair per bucket)
- Safety goggles (2 pair per bucket)
- 5'x7' tarp (2 per bucket)
- Multi-use handiwipes or disinfecting wipes



Help the Wildfire Survivors (continued)

- Re-usable cleaning wipes (no terrycloth, microfiber or paper)
- Heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gallon size, 10 per bucket)
- Dry cleaning sponges or "soot sponges"
- Hand sanitizer
- Rake
- Shovel

Find the complete list of needed supplies with sourcing information [here](#).

We will also accept financial donations to help with the purchasing of needed supplies. Please send donations through wgumc.org/give or to the church office, labeled *Wildfire Kits*.

UPDATE:

On October 4 at 2pm, we invite a small group of volunteers safely gather on the patio to assemble our donated supplies into Wildfire Kits that will then be delivered to the Disaster Response teams who will get them to fire survivors around the state. To limit our work to a safe number of people, ***please sign up [here](#)*** for your shift or activity.

Thank you for your response to this call for action as we continue to pray for the safety of our neighbors most closely affected this fire season, and pray for the safety of all involved.

Please contact Liz Pense (liz.pense@gmail.com) or Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) with any questions. Thank you!

THE WILLOW WORD

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

1420 Newport Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
(408) 294-9796
www.wgumc.org



October 2020