

# THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,  
Sharing and Serving



## In This Issue:

Pastor's Column	Pg 1
General News	Pg 3 & 7
UMW News	Pg 4
Joint Youth Ministry	Pg 5
Children & Family Ministries	Pg 6

## 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

Everywhere we turn lately, someone is urging us to "make a plan to vote." Never before have we faced such overwhelming uncertainty at election time that we consistently are reminding one another to plan ahead for getting to the polls and making our voice heard.

MAKE A  
PLAN TO



Each year around this time in the church, we are asked to make a financial pledge to the ministry of this congregation. As I have been reflecting on our annual stewardship campaign and my own practice of giving, I have found myself repeating, "make a plan to give."

Let me explain. As a newly confirmed teenager with no regular income of my own, I rationalized for many years that my giving to the church would be through service and leadership. After college, I continued with this practice until one year, during the annual pledge drive, I thought, "That's not really what the vow means, Susan. You're

an adult now and you have more to give." My income and expenses were still variable from month to month, and I wasn't sure I had much money to offer consistently, so I decided to start small and focus on the consistency part of my giving. That year, I made a monthly pledge to my church. I wrote it down and turned it in and felt good about taking a step forward in faith.

A few years passed and each year I would wonder if I could increase my pledge. I would consider the financial implications... could I afford to give more each month? How much more? The "step up your giving" charts suggested 1 or 3 or 5% increase, but at the rate I was giving, that didn't even seem significant. Instead, I kept my pledge the same for many years, not sure if I could step it up or if it would really matter.



At some point, I thought about tithing (I think it came up in a Bible study discussion) and the idea of giving 10% of my income seemed amazingly out of reach. How could I give 10% right off the top? My finances were still too uncertain... but then I thought, I don't have to do it all at once. I could increase my pledge by 10% each year and someday I might get close to tithing 10%. That year, when the pledge card came around, I increased my pledge by 10% and I made my plan to grow as a giver - I would increase by 10% each year.

Filling out those pledge cards was much easier once I had a plan. And while the increased amount wasn't too significant at first, over time the effects compounded just like they teach us about saving money for college or retirement. Compounding interest really adds up. It added up my giving too.

A good number of years have passed since I made my plans first to give and then to grow as a giver. Early on, writing my check each month to the church felt good and right, even when money was tight. I have always felt joyful in my giving, and a deep sense of gratitude has grown alongside our giving. Stephen and I feel so grateful for all that we have and can give, and in recent years, we have also made plans to give intentionally to other community organizations too. We may

not be quite at a 10% tithe yet, but we are closer each year and the sense of blessing and peace we have is much greater than 10% of anything.

As we enter into this stewardship season, I hope you will "make a plan to give" and make a pledge to the church this year. If you already make a regular offering, I invite you to consider making a plan to grow in your giving. It doesn't have to be 10% each year, but make a plan that feels right to you, and give thanks for all you have and all that you have to give. The ministry of this congregation is funded by your generosity, and we have ministry to do here in Willow Glen as God's family growing through caring, sharing and serving. May we grow into it together.

Peace,  
Susan

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:brian@wgumc.org)

**Susan Smith**

*Pastor of Children & Family Ministries; Director, Woodhaven Preschool*

[susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)

**Lisa Jacobs**

*Director of Joint Youth Ministries*

[lisa3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com)

**Katrina Kraynick**

*Associate Youth Director*

[katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:katrina3cyouth@gmail.com)

**Robert Birnstihl**

*Organist & Director of Music Ministries*

**Michael Kuo**

*Director of Praise Band*

**Tom Mounts**

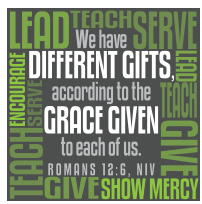
*Director of the Willow Glen Ringers*

**Roxanne Kohlin**

*Office & Facilities Manager*  
[info@wgumc.org](mailto:info@wgumc.org)



## Make a Plan to Give and Serve



In this season of gratitude, we hope you will be thinking about how you can support Willow Glen UMC with your time, your talents and your treasure. While our church activities look much different than they did a year ago, our commitment to growing and serving as God's family together remains the same - we just have to be creative and engage in our ministry in new ways! There are plenty of ways for you to serve and support your church, and even in this season of uncertainty and transition, we are optimistic about the ministry God has for us here in Willow Glen.

Watch your mail for information about making a financial pledge to the church for 2021. By making a plan to give, you help the church make plans for ministry and by making a plan to grow in your giving, you help the church grow our ministry.

You can also make a plan to support the ministries of our church with your service and leadership. Our Lay Leadership Development team is searching for new leadership in the areas of Staff-Parish Relations (HR), Finance and Trustees. We are also hoping to start and revitalize ministry teams in the areas of worship design, outreach, mission and young adult ministry. We may be calling you soon... but don't wait for us to ask. If you feel called to any of these areas, make a plan to serve and please contact Pastor Susan to talk about your interests.

## Writing for Advent: I Believe Even When...

Our theme for Advent this year is "I believe even when..." Following our recent tradition, we would like you to share your thoughts and stories for our home-grown Advent devotional. Write about your faithful growth or struggles. Reflect on the Christmas story and what it means for you this year. Offer an affirmation of your faith in a year that has tested it. Or share where you are finding hope, peace, joy or love. Send your writings to [devotions@wgumc.org](mailto:devotions@wgumc.org) so they can be added to our Advent devotional and shared with our church family on facebook and via email as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. **Please send your entries as soon as possible so our Advent devotional can begin on November 29th.**



## Christmas Giving Tree for Willow Glen Cares and the Family Giving Tree



Supporting Students in Need  
Willow Glen High School & Middle School

At Willow Glen High School, a surprising 40% of students live in poverty. They are children of the working poor. Some are homeless, live in foster care, or have recently lost a parent. These young people face numerous challenges to earn a high school diploma and raise themselves out of their difficult situations. [Willow Glen Cares](#) works to help these students address their challenges – providing school supplies and technology essential to success, buying groceries, paying a utility bill – so they can concentrate on learning, not just survival. By discreetly helping students meet their basic needs, and providing resources, encouragement, and enrichment, students improve their grades, attendance, test scores, and self-worth.

Willow Glen UMC will be sponsoring two WG Cares families for Christmas this year through our annual Giving Tree. Virtual gift tags will offer you the opportunity to provide gifts for family members or grocery gift cards for a holiday meal. Virtual gift tags will be hung on our virtual Giving Tree early in November. Stop by online and choose how you will share some love and hope this Christmas.

We will also be supporting [Family Giving Tree](#). All gifts and donations need to be returned to the church early in December. Please read your chosen gift tag sign-up carefully for specific instructions and deadlines. Thank you for sharing with others during this holiday season. What a wonderful time to surround others with joy and love!



Family Giving Tree™  
Granting Children's Wishes for Joy and Learning

*Continues on Page 7*

**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:****Recap from El Camino Real District UMW Annual Celebration**

Fifty-two Friends and members of the United Methodist Women joined The Annual Celebration First Virtual program on October 24. The Theme was "Renew Our Community Through Courageous Love". President K Stone had calculated that it saved a lot of mileage for those who travel hundreds of hours on the road so all could attend. Some travel as much as 600 miles. The guest speaker, Dr. Mary Cheng, gave a very moving talk entitled "Courageous Love for a Time Such as This". We are called to take

action when we see injustice happening. She also was a speaker at the CA/NV Conference Annual Celebration and will be a presenter on November 14 at 10 am zoom along with Julia Taylor presentation called "Developing Resilience Thru Spiritual Practice". Members need to register in advance to get the code. CA/NV UMW.org

El Camino District Officers were elected for 2021, using a new plan of adding six Leadership Team members, and the usual officers. They are still in need of a Secretary, if interested contact Betty Spencer Dickey, 408-559-6023 or bettybegreen.just@gmail.com.

The budget was approved for 2021 remaining to same as 2020. Do to the Virus there is a surplus left from this year. They are hoping to have Mission Springs event in March, but also have alternate ideas developing just in case we are still in "Lockdown". The budget for 2020 was \$13,000. and spent \$6,306.00.

Twenty-one units met the requirement to be a 5 Star Mission Giving Unit. Willow Glen was one of the group! Six Units were Mission Today recipients. The reading program had 170 books read, in nine units with 4 new reader members. Willow Glen had one of the new reader members. Willow Glen UMW had 3 members in the Saints category, Kay Champion, Eva Fisher, and Patricia Madsen.

Due to the limits of time to have workshops with various choices of speakers and topics as usual, they have gone to three (3) Zoom presentations on 3 Saturdays starting October 31 at 10 am.-11:30 am led by Betty Dickey, and Lisa Hatchett "Changing Ourselves, Changing the World". **November 7, at 10 am to 11:30 am** Sandy Nessheim will be presenting "Finding Peace in a Traumatic World". Members are encouraged to attend one or all of the presentations.

**UMW Joint Group Meeting on November 12th**

Mark your calendars for **November 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm** for a joint Executive Board Meeting/ Heart and Hands Circle. This will be a Zoom meeting of our local United Methodist Women. After a brief business meeting we will have a presentation by our local Treasurer Becky Morgan concerning the "World Thank Offering". As our daylight starts to shorten, have you thought about your light in the world? Are you hiding your light? Or do you want your light to shine in dark spots of the world? How has your encouragement with and support for the work of United Methodist Women allowed God's light to shine bright in the world?

Gwyne Grubb will have the information for the Zoom sign in and password, so watch for a message from her, or contact Ruth Granfors at 408-251-0458.

**Upcoming UMW Events:**

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

## JYM in November

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

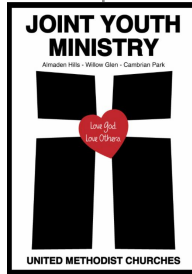
We invite you to join us for a year-long, intentional focus group. Our youth ministry has always enjoyed serving others, and we know our student have a heart for seeking out justice in our world.

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](mailto: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](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com)

Kat - [katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:katrina3cyouth@gmail.com)



## Looking ahead to Christmas Eve with our children

Our children are planning to film our version of the birth of Jesus on location at a local farm or park. It will be our voices narrating the story in mostly our own words with our kids acting out the roles as well. It's a chance for us to tell the story with some local and modern elements that highlight our own understanding and interpretation of the events and it is sure to be delightful. If your children would like to be part of the story, please contact Pastor Susan as soon as possible. Most of our socially-distant filming is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 11th**, but we would like to find ways for all of our children to be involved in whatever way feels safe for your family. Please e-mail Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) if your child is interested in being a part of our Christmas story.



## Children's Christmas Choir

Due to COVID-19, we will not have a children's choir this year. However, we will send home a Christmas CD so children can continue to learn traditional hymns and carols (in sometimes untraditional ways) while celebrating the Christmas story and preparing for Christmas.

## We need your help!

We will need parent help filming and editing video, supervising our actors on location, and coordinating simple costumes. All of this will happen early in the season so the final video is ready for Christmas eve. Please e-mail Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) if you can help in any of these areas.



## CrossWalk

*Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders*



**Friday, November 13th**

**\*online\***

Theme: A Grateful Character

Scripture: Colossians 2:6-7

We are trying to walk like Jesus and that means living out our values. We'll consider Jesus' example and determine the kind of character we want to demonstrate, especially in this season of thankfulness. We'll be together online this month, and Pastor Susan will bring you some supplies for our activities. Please let her know that you are planning to attend.

### Mark your calendars!

On **December 11th**, we are scheduled to volunteer at the Family Giving Tree Warehouse, sorting and wrapping gifts for children in our community. Watch your e-mail for information on how to sign-up in advance.

CrossWalk is for third, fourth and fifth graders. Bring a friend!



As we continue to stay close to home and worship online, we offer weekly lessons for families to use together in lieu of Sunday School classes. These lessons are 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](mailto: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 area 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.

## Hanging of the Greens on November 29th

---

Sunday, November 29th

2-4pm (registration required)

On Sunday, November 29th, we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent by preparing our outdoor spaces for the season. Join us as we gather safely outside to set up and light our outdoor Christmas tree in the Woodhaven garden, make luminarias and hang greens and lights around the church exterior. We will have socially distant activities for all ages as we work together to create a festive environment for our Advent and Christmas season.

Advance registration is required for everyone involved, and all of our COVID guidelines will be followed. Sign up at [familynight.wgumc.org](https://familynight.wgumc.org)



## Advent Virtual Choir Performance on November 29th

---



Our three "sister churches" are collaborating on a virtual choir performance (at least one) currently slated for the first Sunday in Advent, **November 29th**. The anthem selected is Mark Miller's I Believe, voiced for SATB, with John Hess from Almaden Hills aptly directing/assembling.

Each participant would record their own voice part with the music, track, and instructions supplied. You are cordially invited/encouraged to participate!

The first step is to email Rev. Amy Beth Durward at Cambrian Park, as she will get you started: [RevAmyBeth@CambrianParkUMC.org](mailto:RevAmyBeth@CambrianParkUMC.org)

The deadline for the December/January  
*Willow Word* is **November 23rd**.

Please send your story ideas  
and submissions to

[Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

# THE WILLOW WORD

## **Willow Glen United Methodist Church**

---

1420 Newport Avenue

San Jose, CA 95125

(408) 294-9796

[www.wgumc.org](http://www.wgumc.org)



November 2020