

# THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,  
Sharing and Serving



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## Sunday Worship

**10:00 a.m.**

Worship

**11:00 a.m.**

Fellowship Time

Find the Official Church Calendar at:

[www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar](http://www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar)

## WGUMC to Host Village House February 2019

This winter, we will again host the Village House, a consortium of several San Jose faith communities who have joined forces to provide year-round overnight shelter for 15 medically-fragile women. Willow Glen UMC will house the women **from February 6 through March 6**,

providing overnight shelter, food, showers and community. To help with the shelter either individually or as a family, sign up now at [shelter.wgumc.org](http://shelter.wgumc.org) or with Liz Pense (408) 768-6507 or Jan Leonard (408) 655-0155.

Financial donations can be given directly at the church or online at [give.wgumc.org](http://give.wgumc.org)

More information about Village House is available at [https://](https://www.villagehousesccca.com)

[www.villagehousesccca.com](http://www.villagehousesccca.com)



## Important Village House Dates

**CLEAN OUT WOODHAVEN ON FEBRUARY 2 from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.** We need all hands (and strong backs) on deck to help us move furniture and clean kitchens in getting ready for the Village House to move in on February 6. If you can give us just an hour on that Saturday, that will be great. RSVP to [rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@wgumc.org).

## TRAINING FOR SHELTER VOLUNTEERS ON FEBRUARY 3, AFTER WORSHIP (11:45 a.m.) IN THE SANCTUARY

If you have never been to a training to volunteer for the shelter, we suggest that you come. Even if you have been trained in the past, you will want to learn about the changes to our operations this year.

## Be Blessed, Be a Blessing

Provide a hot breakfast or set out a continental breakfast (5:45 to 7:00 a.m.)

Provide transportation from Willow Glen to Almaden Hills' day center, 7:00 a.m.

Wash and dry linens and towels, check schedule

Provide hospitality to the women as they arrive in the evening (6:15 to 10:00 p.m.)

Get some family members or friends and host a meal for the women and volunteers (6:30 to 9:00 p.m.)

Make the women feel safe so they can sleep (10:00 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. or 2:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.)

Make a financial donation to our food pantry and other Village House expenses

If you love your neighbor and have a heart that is open and ready to be transformed by God working through our guests, you have all the qualifications you need. To get more information about specific duties, to find out about background screening requirements and to sign up for available volunteer slots, go to [www.shelter.wgumc.org](http://www.shelter.wgumc.org) or call the church office.

## Ash Wednesday - March 6

Begin the Lenten Season with a visual reminder of our utter dependence on the love of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year, Pastor Rebecca will provide ashes at several times during the day. Since Ash Wednesday falls on the last day of the Village House shelter, Pastor Rebecca will be there early in the morning to offer ashes to the women and volunteers at breakfast and to the crew that comes to help pack up the cots and clean up Woodhaven. She will provide them at 12:30 pm for folks who are coming on their lunch hour. And again, in the evening, we will gather at Woodhaven at 7 pm to discuss the outcome of General Conference (see the pastoral letter) and pray together. Anyone desiring ashes can receive them at one of these times or call and make arrangements for Pastor Rebecca to deliver them.



## Coming Up in Lent

Almaden Hills, Cambrian Park, Los Gatos and Willow Glen UMC's are joining together to plan the Lenten season. The pastors will be doing a pulpit rotation for four of the Sundays, and we will be preaching on the Seven Last Words of Jesus. It promises to be a spiritually rich time, so arrange your schedules now so that you can participate as much as possible.

## Financial Update - Good News!

Thank you! Thank you! We had a December miracle! Our giving in December was two and a half times our budget!! This turned an almost \$19,000 deficit heading into December into more than \$10,000 to carry over as a reserve for 2019. Although the December giving was amazing, our outlook for 2019 is still uncertain. This is because we have received only a couple dozen pledge cards. Without knowing how much income to expect, we don't really know whether 2019 will be a good year or one where we must hope for another December miracle. So please, if you have not returned your pledge card do so as soon as possible.



Thank you again for our wonderful December and for your ongoing commitment to Willow Glen UMC.  
*Your Finance Team*

## Lift Update

We thank those of you who stepped up to give a little extra when we discovered that the construction costs were going to be a lot higher than we thought. The work has begun, but it isn't proceeding very quickly. Hang on and we'll have a big party in the new year!

*General Church News continues on Page 7...*

## Pastoral Letter

The United Methodist Church will probably make the news later this month, so in anticipation of your questions, I will try to provide some background. Every four years, United Methodists from around the world gather at General Conference to celebrate ministry, pass resolutions and update our rulebook, the Book of Discipline. At our last General Conference in 2016, the delegates asked the Council of Bishops to help us break the deadlock we have come to in our long-running debate over homosexuality. We have been arguing about this issue since 1972 and haven't been able to resolve our disagreements to anyone's satisfaction. There have been prayer vigils and protests and many efforts to change hearts by changing church law and nothing has worked.

So the Council of Bishops set up a commission, called The Commission on a Way Forward, to come up with some proposals for how the UMC could stay together as a denomination or provide a process for amicable separation. The Commission—made up of United Methodists from many different parts of the U.S. and other countries and from all different theological perspectives—has met nine times and has offered three plans for consideration at a special session of General Conference meeting in St. Louis on February 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

The proposals are too complex to describe in detail here, but basically one of the plans would allow pastors, churches and annual conferences to decide for themselves whether they accept LGBTQ clergy and perform same-sex weddings. Another plan would group churches by theology rather than geography, setting up three conferences that represent three different perspectives on the question. The third plan would retain the denomination's prohibition on LGBTQ clergy and same-sex weddings and increase penalties on churches and clergy for violating those policies.

The Council of Bishops is recommending the first plan, called the One Church plan, that allows Methodists to agree to disagree and still stay United. But there is no guarantee that this or any of the plans will pass. Other plans may be offered and certainly there will be the usual legislative attempts by various caucuses within the UMC to either advance or stymie each of them. Robert's Rules of Order was not designed to discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and we can only pray that hearts will be open enough to allow the Spirit to move the process in the direction of God's kingdom.

How can you learn more about the plans and follow the action of General Conference?

- Attend an informational session led by Rev. Linda Holbrook after worship on **February 17** (11:45 a.m.) in Kohlstedt Hall.
- Go to the denominational website, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)
- Watch the videos on our Annual Conference website, [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org).

How can you take action during General Conference?

- The UMC needs your prayers and we have set up an online prayer vigil for our South Bay churches. If you can spend an hour in prayer as our delegates discern a way forward, go to <https://app.momclone.com/gatherings/1416-umc-2019-general-conference-prayer-vigil>

There will be media reports that will raise questions and undoubtedly stir emotions. How can you process the news with other caring souls?

- We will gather informally at 7:00 p.m. in Woodhaven on Ash Wednesday for a debriefing that will include discussion, prayer and ashes.

Peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

## Church Staff

**Rebecca Ireland**

*Senior Pastor*

[rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@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*

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**Katrina Kraynick**

*Associate Youth Director*

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

**Robert Birnstihl**

*Organist & Director of Music Ministries*

**Tom Mounts**

*Director of the Willow Glen Ringers*

**Roxanne Kohlin**

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

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

### Announcing Our 2019 UMW Officers

Our 2019 UMW Officers are as follows: President, Patricia Madsen, Vice President, Mary Dee Dickerson, Secretary, Gwyne Grubb, Treasurer, Becky Morgan, Social Action, Carmen McBride, Spiritual Growth, Sherri Raia, Education and Interpretation, Jane Vivian, Membership, Nurture & Outreach, Heather Pham, Program Resources, Alice Singh, Sunshine, Linda Russo, Historian, Joyce Osborn, UMW Book Editor, Connie O'Ruanaidh, Sierra Leone Liaison, Jan Leonard, and the Nominations Committee, Sherri Raia, Jane Vivian, and Janet Ehrke.

### Lifted Spirits Lunch is Wednesday, February 6th

The first Wednesday of February we will be providing a lunch at Lifted Spirits for about 35 women with the average age of 55 who are in need of clothing, food and love. They are able to wash cloths, sleep, watch TV, paint pictures, for 4 hours, gets news of future places for items that they need, and see medical doctors occasionally. If you can help thru donations of time or money contact Patrica Madden at 408 289 1989 or Gwynn Grubb 408 622 4643. We meet at 11:00 a.m. at WG UMC that morning and carpool to the church on 4th Street. The menu changes from month to month but is always the first Wednesday of the month. We have boxes labeled in the Wesley room for donations for Lifted Spirits.



### UMW 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Is Planned for March 2019



As we approach our 150th year of improving the lives of women, children and youth throughout our country and our world in March 2019, we are planning a special worship service followed by a 150-candles-strong Birthday Cake. We celebrate 150 years of addressing the injustices imposed on women and girls. You can become a part of this **Legacy** with your donation of \$18.69. (or more) to this important Legacy

Fund. You, along with today's UMW members, will create our **Legacy** to carry the mission of faith, hope, love-in-action forward for the next 150 years and beyond. Please send your donation to: United Methodist Women, National Office, 475 Riverside Drive, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, ATTN: LEGACY, New York, NY 10115. You can contact the Legacy Fund at 212-870-3705 or [legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

### January's Connect & Learn Training Event

January 26, 2019 the El Camino Real District United Methodist Woman held their connect and learn leadership training event. The guest speaker was the Reverend Mariellen Yoshino of Almaden Hills United Methodist Church. The ladies attending from the Willow Glen United Methodist Women included Gwyne Grubb, Sherri Raia, Jane Vivian, Joyce Osborn, Patricia Madsen and Ruth Granfors. Special mention was made of the passing of Pat Farrow one of the longtime members at Willow Glen and also on the El Camino Real District level as Social Action Leader. Her memorial will be **February 9th at 2:00 p.m.** Willow Glen United Methodist Church, 1420 Newport Ave., San Jose, CA

## 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

First Thursday  
7 p.m. in Woodhaven  
Pastor Susan

### Friendship Circle

Third Wednesday  
12:30 p.m. in  
Woodhaven  
Sue Johnson & Ruth  
Granfors

For more information,  
call Ruth Granfors at  
408-444-0702.

## See's Easter Candy Sales in February

This coming February the women's group will be selling See's candy with delivery in time for Easter, and as in the past, many generous donations allows for children at local housing arrangements to receive bunnies or chickens on Easter morning. Watch for additional information coming soon.

## United Methodist Women 2018 Calendar

February 6	UMW, Lifted Spirits Meal
March 15-17	Spiritual Retreat at Mission Springs, Mission Springs Conference Center, Scotts Valley



## Get Ready for an "Afternoon at the Country Fair"

March 24 at Almaden Hills UMC 2:00pm-5:30pm



The event you have been waiting for is almost here! An incredible time for families, church members and neighbors to come together to support our Joint Youth Ministry teens!

- A delicious array of snack foods, desserts and drinks
- A fabulous auction
- An amazing talent show

Youth will be selling tickets at church beginning **Sun, March 3.**

**Two Weeks Only!** Adults: \$15, Students and Children being babysat: \$15

**Starting March 17** Adults: \$20, Students and Children being babysat: \$20

Even though teens are working at the event, they still need a ticket as they will be eating food.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year! With the support of local businesses and the community, we were able to raise more than \$20,000 last year. All proceeds from an "Afternoon at the Country Fair" go directly to Youth Ministry program needs, such as funding scholarships for camps for middle and senior high school students, leadership camps and mission trips, as well as enabling other year-round programming events.

Please consider making a donation to our auction! We'd love gift certificates, theme baskets, vacation homes, wines, parties hosted at your home, homemade treats, sporting event tickets and much more. Download the donation form at [www.jointyouthgroup.com](http://www.jointyouthgroup.com) to fill out and attach to your item before you drop it off at the church office. All items are due by March 14.

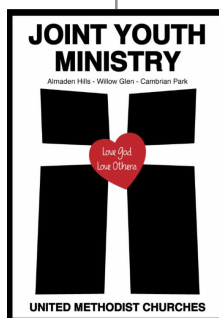
Thank you for your support!

## High School Mission Trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota

June 14-23 for Current 9th-12th Graders

When: We will begin our drive June 14th at 7am and return sometime on June 23rd.

Where: Staying at churches/hotels on the way up and down in various cities/states but spending our days in Pine Ridge, South Dakota at the facility Next Step lives at for the summer.  
Cost- \$1050- This includes transportation, food, rental cars, gas, mission trip payment to Next Step, activities, shirts and much more.



The JYM can pay up to half for students trip if needed for each student attending. Every hour a student and parent volunteers at upcoming fundraising events counts as \$10 off your trip. If you need more help financially with the trip we can work that out also. We have never needed to turn someone away for lack of finances and we don't want to do that for this trip either. Please talk with us. We want this opportunity for your student and for our JYM family.

Deposit of \$300 due March 3.

Students joining us on the trip are required to attend two of the four education nights offered to better prepare us for our time in South Dakota. Additionally all families need to help at the Evening at the Country Fair on March 24th in some capacity.

You can sign up for the trip today with this [link](#) and pay your deposit by March 3rd. We have 8 spots available.

## Junior High Camp at Hartland Christian Camp from July 7-12

Current Junior High Students - Join us for an amazing week! We will travel to Hartland Christian Camp located in Badger, CA (Near King's Canyon National Park). Hartland has amazing opportunities for students, such as high ropes activities, paint ball, swimming pool, canoes, crafts and crazy games! They also have a strong focus on Jesus and student faith development. Hartland is also a great place for students to create friendships with fellow JYM students, and learn to trust their cabin leaders, as well as Lisa & Kat. I hope you will join us!

**Who: Current 6th - 8th grade students**

**When: July 7th at 8:00am - July 12th at 2:30pm**

Where: Hartland Christian Camp <http://www.hartlandcamp.com/programs/jr-high-summer-camp#overview>

Why: Because it is awesome! And the best way for students to get to know each other better and create lasting bonds.

Cost: \$575 - financial aid is available!  
First Deposit of \$25 is due upon sign-up, Second deposit of \$250 is due April 28th, Final Deposit of \$300 is due June 9th.

You can turn in your volunteer hours as payment with one or both deposits. If you drive to or from camp we can deduct those hours from your student's trip cost.

[CAMP SIGN UP](#)

You can always find out what's happening with the JYM by visiting our website: <http://www.jointyouthgroup.com/>

Our contact info:

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

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

Leigh - [leigh3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:leigh3cyouth@gmail.com)

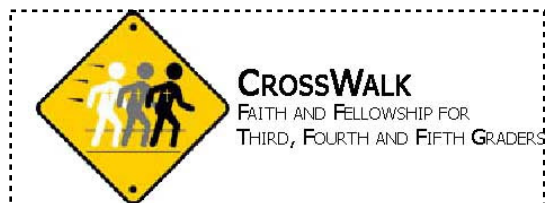


## Parables Teach Us A Lesson



In February, our Sunday School children will be studying Jesus' parables. Each story has a lesson that is just as meaningful today as it was when Jesus first told it. Come, hear some of your favorite stories, and learn as Jesus' first followers did.

Sunday School meets each Sunday after the children's time in worship (about 10:20am) in the preschool building. Come to worship with your family and then join us for Sunday School to engage your faith in a new way each week.



**Friday, February 8**

**6:30-8:30 p.m. (Note earlier time for February!)**

**Kitchen & Wesley Room**

**Theme: Serving and Sharing with Others**

It's our turn to serve at the shelter. We will meet a little early to make the final preparations to our meal, have dinner with the shelter guests, wash the dishes and hang out a little for some games and conversation. Watch your e-mail for more details about what you can bring for our meal, or contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

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

## Making Summer Plans...



**Vacation Bible School 2019**

**June 24-28**

Mark your calendars... It's always a faith-filled adventure at VBS! You won't want to miss it!



**Toyon Kids Camp 2019**

**July 7-13**

**Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA**

Our conference offers summer camps for children and youth beginning in third grade. CrossWalk kids are planning to attend Toyon Kids Camp at Monte Toyon in Aptos, July 7-13. There is nothing like camp to bring you closer to God as you make new friends and try new things! Consider a week of faith, friends and fun at camp this summer. Registration opens online in February. If you have questions, check out the website at [www.calnevypm.org](http://www.calnevypm.org) or contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

*General Church News continue from Page 2...*

## Building Hope - Mission Trip to Mexico

*Willow Glen UMC, Almaden Hills UMC, Cambrian Park UMC & Joint Youth Ministry*

**July 27-August 3, 2019**

This is an intergenerational mission project and we invite anyone ages 5-85 to consider joining the team. Working with Amor Ministries, we will build two-room houses for impoverished, working families. For most of this week-long trip, we will sleep in tents pitched in a basic campground, work full days in the Mexican sun, rain or wind and shower with a bucket of water warmed only by the sun. This trip will change your life as you get to know and fall in love with the people of Mexico who live in these conditions every day. Amor Ministries has been building in Mexico for more than 30 years. Find out more about their work at [www.amor.org](http://www.amor.org)



The cost of the mission trip covers all mission expenses including transportation, lodging, food and the cost of the building materials (\$750 for adults, \$450 for children under 10). Your deposit of \$250/adult and \$150/child will be due by March 31, 2019.

**Come find out more.** An informational meeting will be held **Sunday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. at Willow Glen UMC.**

See photos from the previous trips and hear about our experiences first-hand. Find out more about the mission trip including the daily schedule and building plan. Discuss trip safety and finances. Ask all of your questions, and have them answered by folks who have taken this trip before and want you to join the team for 2019.

We hope you will join us this summer to build houses instead of walls.

Contact Pastor Susan Smith ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) or Lisa Jacobs ([lisa3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com)) for more information.

## Remember These Folks in your Prayers:

Sara Zwingman & Family  
Tom Farrow  
Jane Plane  
Dorothy Mauseth  
Lynne Hosack  
Eva Fisher  
Mary Pierson  
Kay Champion  
Kay Dahl

Barbara Hawkins  
Russ Kintner  
Lex Danson  
Mark Menicucci  
Norm Brustrom  
Peggy Schlosser  
Lynne Hosack  
David & Tom Forderer  
Joyce Osborn

Barbara DeWit  
Alma Taylor  
Helen Ball  
Bobbie Corson  
Jolene's sister, Jacqui  
Women of Village House  
Yoshiko Buchanan  
Kyle Mastrolia  
Christine Ryczkowski



The deadline for the March  
*Willow Word* is **February 22**.  
Please send your story ideas  
and submissions to  
[Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

### Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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