

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

Official Church Calendar:

www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar

Lights for Liberty Event on July 12

WGUMC was an integral part of the Lights for Liberty protest on 7/12 at San Jose City Hall Plaza to support our immigrant brothers and sisters and their children. Pastor Susan did an amazing job as MC, Lois Moore was the organizer, and Curt Moore turned his hand to whatever was needed. Pastor Rebecca was a speaker and preached like a rock star, as usual. The crowd of approximately 750 applauded more during her talk than for any of the other dozen speakers. We were glad for this opportunity to show our community what following Christ's teachings means at WGUMC. ~ By Lois Moore

Reconciling Ministries Sunday

Lara Brock and her crew on the Reconciling Committee did an great job of planning and implementing our 2nd anniversary celebration of becoming a Reconciling Congregation. We thank Bob Birnstihl for inviting the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus to sing for worship and also Mark Teagle for bringing the cast of "Doors Open" from Wesley UMC to move us with an original musical about a church that is struggling to open its doors to the LGBTQ community. Our gratitude also goes out to Ruth Granfors and Jane Vivian and their helpers for putting on the lunch for that very memorable day.

"Back to School" Quarterly Meeting on September 8



It's back-to-school time for students – and for WGUMC! Join us for our quarterly meeting on **Sunday, September 8**, following worship. Here's our curriculum:

- Participate in the Ministries Fair Raffle – everyone's a winner!
- Hear updates from the Vision Team, Trustees, Village House and Finance Committee
- Attend UMC 101 – updates from our District Superintendent
- Get crafty – for a cause!
- "Ask the Pastor" Q&A

Please bring a plate of sandwiches to share; drinks and other school lunch treats will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Want to contribute to our school supply project? Please bring any of the following items to donate to Willow Glen Cares:

- Colored markers or pencils
- Pencil sharpeners or erasers
- Glue sticks
- Pencils or mechanical pencils
- Rulers
- Small scissors
- Black pens



Richard Rohr Book Study

We started a book adventure with Richard Rohr on August 29th, at 7 pm at Woodhaven and it's not too late to join us. We are discussing Rohr's book, *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe*, available through Amazon or your local independent bookseller. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month through September and October. Even if you can't make it to every session, come us as often as you can.

Village House - Please Sign Up!

WGUMC is happy to welcome the Village House homeless shelter back to our campus as a **Day Center** during the month of September. The women will be spending Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 7:00am until 3:00pm in Woodhaven. Please consider signing up for one of the shifts. Signups can be found at shelter.wgumc.org.



For more information contact Mindy George, mindylugeorge@comcast.net

San Jose Churches Discussing a New Church for Young Adults

The pastors and a few lay representatives from Almaden Hills, Cambrian Park, Los Gatos and Willow Glen UMC's (the "Isaiah 43:19" group) have been meeting with our District Superintendent, Rev. Shinya Goto, about the Cabinet's intention to plant a new expression of church for young adults in our circuit. The Cabinet hopes to build on the success of the Joint Youth Ministry by appointing a specially-trained pastor in the near future to gather a new spiritual community for young people who are not engaged in or drawn to our existing churches. The fact is that we have graduated hundreds of young adults from the JYM, but none of our churches are currently able to minister to them. Yet, looking at the demographics of our congregations, none of us can afford to lose this generation, either. So we are looking at a once-in-a-church's-lifetime opportunity to be a part of birthing something brand new and something that has the potential to renew our churches, if we are really sincere about our mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world. The pastors have begun meeting on the sidelines of our group meetings to help move the conversation along. We will be putting together some ideas about what we can do better together in the hopes that we can free up some resources to support this new venture. We look forward to sharing and shaping our vision with you sometime this fall. Keep us in your prayers.

Using your Gifts for God

Have you ever been a member of a food co-op or parent participation preschool? In these groups, there is an expectation that you will give your money and/or your time to keep the organization and its programs going. The church is a member-participation organization, and we depend on your money and time to function. This fall we will be sending out commitment cards so that you can indicate how you will use your money and your time to participate in the movement of the Spirit at Willow Glen. Very soon, our Committee on Nominations will get to work to identify the people with the gifts and the grace to help us do what God is calling us to do. Here are some gifts that we are seeking today:

1. Knowledge of or willingness to learn about the audio system to join the sound team for worship
2. Time to run the slide show one Sunday a month
3. Creativity and commitment to create the slides for worship
4. Care and concern for WGUMC and its staff and ministries to serve on the Church Council or Staff-Parish Relations Committee
5. Handy skills to help the Trustees with maintenance projects
6. Love for children and youth to teach Sunday School, lead Cross-walk, mentor youth

Street Sign Design Contest

Thank you to Lois Moore for organizing the design contest for our new street sign, and congratulations to **Olivia Kufeldt** for winning it!



Pastoral Letter

If you read the news, you've heard about "Infrastructure Week," designed to focus our attention on the nation's crumbling infrastructure. But that week never seems to arrive... except at WGUMC. In fact, it's been "Infrastructure Summer." Let me tell you what I mean.

Summer is the time for VBS, church camp and mission trips. So, I was happy to go to our "Summer Share" dinner to hear our youth share about what they experienced and how they have grown in their faith in just a few short months. This year, the dinner was scheduled for the same day as our Reconciling Ministries Sunday that featured the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus in worship, a lunch, AND the original musical "Doors Open" in Kohlstedt Hall. By the end of a very long day, I was feeling so blessed I could barely move! All I could do was think about all the amazing ministry that we do in and through WGUMC.

*Thankful
grateful
blessed*



That ministry only happens because of the infrastructure that enables us to do it. You know all about the ongoing renovation of our sanctuary lift. But you may not know that the summer began with another major renovation project at the Willowmont parsonage to get it ready for new tenants. Between making repairs and needed upgrades, it is turning into a substantial remodel. Though it's a lot of money to spend, I feel good that

we are making an investment in our investment that will enable us to better support our ministry staff for years to come.

But that isn't the only renovation we have been doing. We wanted to streamline our accounting practices, so we engaged an outside CPA, who is a member of Wesley UMC, to look over our financials and give us advice. The CPA, Sue Takaichi, graciously donated her time and spent two full days with us. She didn't find any problems with the accounts (yea, God!) and is helping us to generate more user-friendly reports. We have hired her assistant, Jill Kyle, to work with us on a periodic basis to keep us on track. At the same time, we have hired a payroll service to help us comply with all state and federal labor laws, and we are in the process of implementing new pay procedures.

These projects inevitably raised the issue of network security for the whole church campus. So we contracted with an IT specialist who also works with churches to overhaul our entire network and to set us up on our own server (donated by the CPA).



All of these upgrades were necessary and, in some cases, long overdue. If lately I've looked a bit like my head is about to explode, you'll know why. But I wanted to tell you about the progress that we are making because none of this infrastructure work would have been possible without your pledges and extra-mile giving. And while it may not be the kind of mission work that lends itself to a slide show with a soundtrack that we could celebrate at a missions dinner, it is this work that makes all of our mission and ministry possible.

So I want to thank the members of our Board of Trustees, our Staff-Parish Relations Council, our Finance Committee, and our administrative staff for the awesome job they have been doing this summer so that the Holy Spirit can get busy and keep working wonders at Willow Glen. Amen!

Pastor Rebecca

Church Staff

Rebecca Ireland

Senior Pastor

rebecca@wgumc.org

Susan Smith

Pastor of Children & Family Ministries; Director, Woodhaven Preschool

susan@wgumc.org

Lisa Jacobs

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lisa3cyouth@gmail.com

Katrina Kraynick

Associate Youth Director

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Robert Birnstihl

Organist & Director of Music Ministries

Tom Mounts

Director of the Willow Glen Rings

Roxanne Kohlin

Office & Facilities Manager
info@wgumc.org

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 Smith

Friendship Circle

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

For more information,
call Patricia Madsen at
408-289-1989.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

Lifted Spirits Lunch is Wednesday, September 4th



The local unit of the Willow Glen United Methodist church will be taking the monthly meal to the Lifted Spirits women at the 4th St., Presbyterian Church downtown San Jose on **September 4**. We traditionally plan to prepare food for about 40 people. This number includes the local church members, our unit Willow Glen members and then the guard and anyone else that is the part of the church organization. We average about 23 actual housed and unhoused women each month.

The September menu will be spaghetti, a green salad, garlic bread, bananas/cuties mandarin oranges, apple crisp and an assortment of drinks.

We are always looking for someone to go with us to visit with the women and help serve the meal at the church. If that sounds like something you'd like to do be at the willow Glen United Methodist Church by 11 AM. We usually complete our time by 2 PM and are back at the Willow Glen Church shortly there after.

Another way that you can help is by providing funds for us to use to purchase the groceries. Mark your checks or donations to the United Methodist Women for the Lifted Spirits.

Many people have noticed in the local newspaper that the actual church on 4th Street has been sold. We have been told they will continue the Lifted Spirits for the next couple years while they look for other building sites and the owners get permits before they start changing anything.

If you have questions contact Gwyne Grubb at 408-823-7370.

Save the Date for a Potluck Picnic on September 11th

The local unit of the Willow Glen United Methodist Women will have their annual potluck picnic in the Wesley room.

ALL are invited to come! You can even bring your spouse! After a short program we will all **enjoy our lunch at 12 noon sharp**. Hope you can make it! If you have questions contact Patricia Madsen at 408-289-1989.



United Methodist Women 2019 Calendar

Sept 4 Lifted Spirits Lunch

Sept 11 Potluck Picnic



JYM in August & September

All events are at **Willow Glen UMC** unless otherwise stated –
1420 Newport Ave, San Jose CA 95125

All Ages BBQ!

Monday, September 2nd

4:00 - 6:30pm

At Paul Moore Park (1426 Hillsdale Ave, San Jose, CA 95118)



Families and Friends are invited to join us for a BBQ for all ages! For the past many years we have held this BBQ on Memorial Weekend, but we decided to switch it up this year!

This is a great chance for parents to get to know Lisa, Kat, and other youth group families. We will provide the main meal (Hotdogs & burgers with vegetarian options) but ask that you bring a side dish to share. We will have some optional games planned, or you can just come and hang out.

We especially hope that some of our more veteran families will join us and connect with our new parents and students! We will play a few not-awkward ice breaker games. If you are a parent who knows no one in the JYM, this is a great event to come to! Teens are welcome to come without their parents as well.

PARENT JOBS:

We would love...

1 Volunteer to do Costco Shopping for us before the BBQ

2 Volunteers to meet Kat at WGUMC at 2:15 and help load tables into our van

4 Volunteers to help BBQ and set up tables and games at the park at 3:00

RSVP Here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Lj6KSzihJlI3SEnOH3PeXyqpjdr5ss1QcOKssEZdXW8/edit#gid=0>

Small Group Sunday Kick-Off

Sunday, September 8th

5:00 - 7:00pm

Students come and meet your adult small group leaders that will be teaching you throughout the year!

7:00 - 8:00pm: **Mandatory Parent Meeting**

This is one of two mandatory all parent meetings of our entire year. We will go through our calendar, explain the ins and outs of our program, have updated medical forms for you to fill out, and have volunteer jobs to sign up for. Please make it a priority for at least one parent to be present.



Students can hang out in the church afterward to do homework, or you can give them money and let them walk down to Lincoln Ave to buy themselves dinner.

Guys & Girls Night (with dinner)

Tuesday, September 10th

6:00 - 8:00pm



Join us for the first Guys and Girls night of the year! This is an evening where we split students by gender instead of grade, and do a variety of different games and activities together that helps us grow closer to one another.

We will have Roundtable Pizza for dinner!

NOTE: Our weeknight meetings are now on Tuesday, not Wednesdays.

Special Speaker Sophie Jackson

Saturday, September 21st

10:00am - 3:00pm



Introduction to Racial Injustice, the Prison Industrial Complex and Mass Incarceration, & the Church's Response: More Conversations on Privilege and Race (CPR)

We want to continue along our path of education on issues racism in our community, and are excited to have booked speaker Sophie Jackson for a day of education.

Sophia Jackson is a dynamic, powerful, grace-filled teacher and facilitator. She is a recent graduate of Pacific School of Religion where she earned her Master of Divinity and Certificate of Spirituality and Social Change. As a formerly incarcerated and substance involved individual, plus a member in two denominations, Sophia realized the Church was not adequately responding to the blight that the Prison Industrial Complex was having on Black and Brown men, women and youth. She developed this half day workshop to help churches wake up to this need.

Lunch will be provided.

Register Here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uSK9xMi6mCW-xLtPijnxZA8KxRY4ji9fZrZA8m_Vkc/viewform?edit_requested=true

Finding God in Sunday School

Children are invited to grow as disciples of Jesus by participating in Sunday School classes during the second half of worship on Sunday mornings. Our curriculum teaches the Bible stories in such a way that children are encouraged to live the good news of God's love. This fall, children will learn about the Bible, and explore Jesus' lessons of blessedness in the Beatitudes. All of these lessons strengthen the relationships that we have with God and with one another, and help us to travel a path of faithfulness in our lives.



Beginning September 8th, our Sunday School class will leave worship together after the Time for the Child and walk to our classroom in the preschool building. Lessons for children in preschool through fifth grade will be taught by dedicated volunteer teachers in a one-room schoolhouse format with activities designed for a variety of ages, interests and abilities. We hope your children will join us as we learn about the Bible and how to use it this fall.

Protecting Our Children and Youth

God has given us a sacred opportunity and a great responsibility to nurture and protect children and youth. For this reason, Willow Glen UMC has established procedures intended to provide a safe and supportive place for children, youth, and the persons who work with them, and to protect children and youth from abuse on our campus and in our programs.

This set of procedures outlines the respectful ways in which we treat children at WGUMC and the screening procedures for volunteers and staff who work with children and youth. We ask all parents and volunteers to complete a simple disclosure form which will be kept on file with the Children's Pastor. A fingerprint screening must also be completed. Volunteer forms and information are available online at volunteers.wgumc.org.



Thank you for supporting our efforts to make WGUMC programs wonderful and *safe* for our children and youth.



CrossWalk: Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders

Friday, September 13th

7:00 – 8:30pm

Kohlstedt Hall and Wesley Room

Theme: Overflowing Love

Scripture: John 4:1-6

All third, fourth and fifth graders are invited to CrossWalk. We meet once a month to learn about ourselves and our faith, and have a lot of fun! In September, we will be getting to know one another and discovering what it means to be CrossWalk together. We're all a little thirsty for some fun, faithful fellowship after a summer of adventure, so we'll explore the ways God quenches our thirst with love. As always, feel free to bring a friend!

E-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to ask any questions, let her know you are coming, or just say "hi!"

The deadline for the October *Willow Word* is **September 22**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com

Mexico Mission Trip 2019



Remember These Folks in your Prayers:

Natalie Thornton
Sarah Thornton
Tom Mounts
Jolene Jones
Anita Layman, in the death of her sister, Karen
Sara Zwingman & Family
Tom Farrow
Jane Plane
Dorothy Mauseth
Lynne Hosack
Eva Fisher

Mary Pierson
Kay Champion
Kay Dahl
Barbara Hawkins
Russ Kintner
Norm Brustrom
David & Tom Forderer
Joyce Osborn
Barbara DeWit
Alma Taylor
Helen Ball



Bobbie Corson
Village House
Yoshiko Buchanan
Kyle Mastrolia
Barbara Stone
Ingrid Quigley
Refugees from Central America
Migrant children in detention

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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