

# THE WILLOW WORD

## God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving



### In This Issue:

General Church News	Pg 1-3, 7
UMW News	Pg 3
Pastor's Page	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

### Willow Glen UMC Starts Up with a New Pastor on July 1

*A Letter from our District Superintendent, Rev. Shinya Goto, announcing the bishop's appointment of WGUMC's new pastor, beginning July 1st.*

April 2, 2020  
Kristin Kufeldt, SPRC Chairperson  
Willow Glen UMC 1420 Newport Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Willow Glen United Methodist Church, Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My thoughts and prayers are with you. It is with great joy that I inform you that, after much prayer and consultation, Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño intends to appoint the Reverend Brian Adkins to serve as your Senior Pastor effective July 1, 2020.

Pastor Brian is a wise and energetic pastor who is an excellent preacher, teacher, and community developer. He was one of 32 United Methodists to serve on the Commission on the Way Forward that led the denominational conversation on the issue of homosexuality. His previous appointments have included leading diverse congregations in a wide range of settings including Epworth UMC in Berkeley, CA, Open Door UMC in Richmond, CA, and St. Luke's UMC in Richmond, CA. I have been impressed with the fruitfulness of his transformational ministry. Pastor Brian has a passion for reaching new people and sharing God's love. He is uniquely gifted to lead Willow Glen UMC of San Jose into further growth and vitality.



Pastor Rebecca, and Pastor Brian will work together with your lay leadership for a smooth and effective leadership transition. On behalf of Bishop Carcaño, I thank you for the great insights and prayers your pastors and SPRC have offered throughout this process, and I anticipate even greater things from your congregation as we journey onward.

Finally, I ask for your prayers during this critical time of transition for Pastor Brian. I trust that you will welcome him warmly. Please also pray for Pastor Rebecca and Hank as they prepare for their move. Please also pray for the vitality of the wonderful faith community that is Willow Glen United Methodist Church of San Jose.

Walking with you as we follow Jesus,  
Shinya Goto, District Superintendent, El Camino Real District  
California-Nevada Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church

## Preparing for a New Pastor

While everyone is reinventing the wheel every day, we are preparing for a new pastor. While there are a lot of things we don't know yet about what is going to happen this summer, there are ways that you can really help out Rev. Brian Adkins and your Staff Parish Relations Committee right now:

1. Get yourself access to the online directory and upload a photo of yourself and your family! This is going to be crucial for a new pastor to get to know you by face in a time of social distancing. (Check your weekly emails for the link or email the church office.)
  1. If you don't have a name tag or have lost yours, let the office know and we'll get some new ones ordered. We hope that you'll be needing one by fall.
  2. Help the SPRC coordinate a welcome party or get-to-know-you gatherings when those are allowed.
  3. Volunteer to be on a live-streaming team that can make our services go live this summer.
  4. Now that we have streaming licenses for our music, we need to have a music secretary that reports the titles of the music we sing to our two licensing companies each week. This can be done easily online.
  5. Pastor Rebecca will no longer be here to make the slide show each week. We need you to join a team of people to take this job, so the new pastor doesn't have to do it.
  6. Bake communion bread for when we are back in the sanctuary. Pastor Rebecca has a fail-proof recipe for bread dough that can be easily made in a bread machine and then baked in the oven. If you're willing to bake but don't have a machine, let us know. We'll find you one.
  7. Since Lex Danson moved, we haven't had anyone who could order the name plaques for the Columbarium and get them installed. We need a new Columbarium custodian.

## Thank-you's

A big thank you to Matt Thornton, Anthony Stone, Bob Hunt and Tom Grubb who have helped us with the filming and editing of our shelter-in-place worship. We are also grateful for the time and talent of Bob Birnstihl and Michael Kuo who have been providing excellent worship music under not-so-excellent circumstances.



## Who is "Old Scratch"? Draw Us a Picture



"Old Scratch" is an old name for the devil that has been used by many writers, and I borrowed it for my "Why the Virus Couldn't Steal Easter" sermon/poem/story for the Sunday after Easter.

Click here to read the Suess-like sermon, "[Why the Virus Couldn't Steal Easter.](#)"

For those of you of any age who like to draw, we'd love to see your picture of what Old Scratch looks like. Give it your "Grinch-y" best and [send us](#) a pdf of your illustration.

We'll post them online!

## In Gratitude

In place of Staff Appreciation Sunday in the sanctuary, we hope that you'll take a moment to send a card or email to our church staff members, most of whom are trying to figure out new ways to do their ministry jobs while at the same time figuring out how to do life. We are especially grateful to each of them for their extraordinary creativity and commitment this year. Mail cards to the church office.



### Here are their email addresses:

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

Michelle Partsch: [michelle@woodhavenpreschool.org](mailto:michelle@woodhavenpreschool.org)

Roxanne Kohlin: [roxanne@wgumc.org](mailto:roxanne@wgumc.org)

Linda Russo: [linda@wgumc.org](mailto:linda@wgumc.org)

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

Katrina Kraynick-Baker: [katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:katrina3cyouth@gmail.com)

Bob Birnstihl: [bobb@envsys.com](mailto:bobb@envsys.com)

Tom Mounts: [mounts.tom@gmail.com](mailto:mounts.tom@gmail.com)

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Noritsu Lantimo: [nlantimo@gmail.com](mailto:nlantimo@gmail.com)

### Prayer Walk

The Woodhaven Garden Prayer Walk that we set up for Holy Week will be up until the shelter-in-place orders are lifted. Come for some socially-distanced spiritual healing. The garden is so pretty now and there are maps and meditations to guide your walk and help ease the stress and fear of this unusual season. Bob and Michael have provided some music. E Clay Buchanan created a "processional" labyrinth on the patio that facilitates social distancing. You can even come at night because he has illuminated the path and it's really cool! If you can't come physically, Kathy Benedict has prepared a printed version of the walk. Thanks also to Kathy, Jolene Jones, Linda Holbrook and Hank Millstein who wrote meditations for the stations.



### Prayer Walk At-Home

[Images for walk](#)

[Music for the walk](#)

### Finance News



We have applied for a PPP loan/grant authorized by the CARES Act that Congress passed several weeks ago. Thanks to Susan Smith and others, we got the application in, but not before the program ran out of money. There is no way of knowing if/when we will get this grant aid, so please keep your pledges coming. We are hoping and praying that we will not have to lay off our staff, but without more revenue coming in in the coming months, that is looking more and more likely. There are many ways you can support your church financially. You will be receiving a post-Easter stewardship letter in your mailbox soon, along with a copy of the letter announcing the new pastoral appointment. But you can always go to [wgumc.org](http://wgumc.org) to make one-time or ongoing donations.

### The Heart of Men is back

We're back with live "Online" & "Local" meetings! We're going online to do God's work - digitally. Join us Tuesdays: 7 - 9:00pm for local members and on Wednesdays: 6 - 8:00pm for online members. The [Heart of Men](#) is a men's group built for our current time. [Click this link](#) to Subscribe and receive: free membership & "Wild at Heart" book, local & online meeting schedules, meeting & retreat information, newsletter & much more.



### Christian Meditation Meets Online

Follow [this link](#) is for the WGUMC 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, contact Ingrid (email the office if you need Ingrid's contact info).

### Wednesday Early Bible Study (WEBS)

Visitors welcome. Join us on Zoom at 7:00 am. For more info, please contact Jane Vivian at 408-269-3907

### Bible Basics Class on Zoom

Each **Friday on Zoom at 2:00pm**. The class is beginning at the beginning with some of the seminal stories that will help us understand the rest of the Bible. [Join this Zoom Meeting](#)



**Pastoral Letter**

I am living the Easter story this year as I bring one phase of my ministry to an end and prepare for a new life to begin. For the first time in years, maybe decades, I've actually had time to go through the boxes that I cart from church to church and make decisions about what I really want to keep and what I can let go. And there's a lot! I am giving away many of my academic books and throwing out my dissertation notes. It was too hard to do that for my last move, but I'm ready for this move. (Not having nearly as much storage space in the Eureka parsonage is an extra incentive.)

I am not the only one who is spending extra time in the tomb this year getting ready for Resurrection. I know a lot of you are cleaning out closets and garages, and, yes, we are planning a Goodwill truck fundraiser as soon as the social distancing orders are eased and trucks are available. But I imagine that you are also thinking about old habits you'd like to get rid of and old ways of thinking and living that you'd like to let go. This is the potential upside for all of our downtime. We can choose whether we will be scared of what our life-with-the-Coronavirus is going to be like or we can make it an occasion for the Holy Spirit to do some spring cleaning in our lives.



In the month of May, think about what you are prepared to leave behind you whenever you get to leave your shelter-in-place, and start living that way now. Spring is the perfect time to clean the slate and start the new life God is waiting to birth in you.



While we clean out the old (pastor), it's also time to prepare for the new (pastor). Please read the article on Page 1 about what you can do to help the members of the SPRC plan a Willow Glen welcome for Brian in these challenging circumstances. As I said in a recent sermon, this is not at all how I imagined I'd be spending my last couple of months here. I've moved many times in my ministry, but this one is going to be hardest and not just because I have a broken wrist. Not being able to worship and spend time with you all is a heavy burden for me, as it must be for Brian and his congregation in Berkeley, as well. Please keep the pastors who are coming and going in your prayers. Thank you.

Blessings,  
Rebecca

**Church Staff**

Rebecca Irelan  
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

[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

Tom Mounts  
Director of the Willow Glen Rings

Roxanne Kohlin  
Office & Facilities Manager

[info@wgumc.org](mailto: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**  
Meeting Online  
Pastor Susan Smith

**Friendship Circle**  
Sue Johnson & Ruth Granfors



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:**

**See's Candy Sales for UMW Fundraiser a Success!**

We had the usual candy sale/fund raiser before Easter, featuring candy from See's. We were happy to provide 60 children with Easter candy rabbits at two different shelters this year!



## JYM in May

All events this month take place in your own home! Stay in and stay safe.

### Honoring our Seniors

Being a senior this year suddenly looks much different than what we imagined. While we cannot have our typical "Senior Banquet" in June this year, the Joint Youth Ministry will be honoring our senior class in a variety of ways. **If you are a parent of a senior student, we would love if you could send us 10 pictures of your kiddo from their childhood as well as a Senior portrait or another nice photo of their senior year. Send pictures to [Katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Katrina3cyouth@gmail.com).**

### Sunday Night Zoom Groups

Since Kat will officially be on maternity leave, Lisa will be leading two groups at different times - one for Jr. high and one for Sr. high

5:00 - 6:00pm

[Jr. High Zoom Meeting](#)

6:00 - 7:00pm

[Sr. High Zoom Meeting](#)

Passwords: JYMROCKS

### NEWS ABOUT: High School Summer Mission Trip & Junior High Camp at Sugarpine

If you have not heard the news about our summer mission trip... it has officially been cancelled. We are looking for ways to financially support the Navajo people at this time, who are being disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 virus. Many of our leaders and students have spent time in Crownpoint before, our heart aches for their suffering.

We have also made the decision to not attend Jr. High camp this year.

We know this is a huge disappointment for our 6th - 8th graders, as well as our alumni who were excited to join us as cabin leaders this year. While we grieve the loss of memories our students would have gained together, we know this is the safest decision we could make at this time.

As for our own youth group summer activities, we have some tentative plans but again, much is in the air as restrictions are still in place. Our hope is that as restrictions are lifted we can come up with creative ways to safely meet in small groups. We will update you as we can with our decisions!

## May's Month of Service!

A new month means we need a new challenge!

As we continue in Shelter in Place we want to continue to be a JYM family distantly together! There are so many people, organizations and communities in need of care and this month our focus will be on serving in the ways we can. Each week will have a theme and you will get "points" for the amount of ways and activities you participate in. The whole plan will be emailed home on **May 1st** but some of the ways we plan to distantly serve are:

- Making homemade masks for the Navajo Reservation
- Writing letters to our church members who are homebound and those who have supported the JYM over the years
- Outdoor beautification - trash pick up, gardening work for homebound seniors, seed exchanges, etc
- Baked Good door drops
- Creating "About Me" videos to share with our congregations

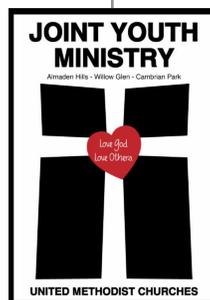


Participate in weekly "challenges" to make our world a better place



We know being a parent in the midst of a global pandemic and sheltering in place with your family while trying to work, manage school work, cancel plans, and function is HARD. We hope you always know you can reach out to us (or any of our church's pastors) if you are in need of emotional, mental, or financial help.

Your job stopping doesn't mean bills, rent, or grocery buying also stops. If you are feeling financial stress, please send Lisa and I a message. We will figure out the best way to support you and your family and make sure your necessities are covered. The Joint Youth Ministry is a community and we need to take care of each other in these times.



**Pentecost: The Holy Spirit is with Us Now**



Through the Holy Spirit, we know God is with us, helping us to live as faithful disciples. In remote Sunday School lessons, children will be studying the story of Pentecost found in the second chapter of Acts. They will hear how the Holy Spirit came at

Pentecost and empowered the disciples to build the church, and children will consider how they are empowered by God's presence be faithful disciples also. May will be a Spirit-filled month in Sunday School, even if we can't be together.



**Cross Walk**

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

CrossWalk will continue to meet online as long as the stay-at-home order is in effect. Watch your e-mail for details. We hope to meet in person again this summer as we are able to welcome our new third graders and offer our best wishes to our fifth graders as they move to middle school and Joint Youth Ministry programming. For more information, e-mail Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).



**Looking ahead to Vacation Bible School 2021**

We are so excited to share "Building the Peaceable Kingdom" with you!

Unfortunately, we have made the difficult decision to postpone our Vacation Bible School program to next summer when we can really do it right. The uncertainty of the weeks ahead makes it difficult to determine whether we would be able to gather for VBS in June or even August this summer, and the energy of VBS is difficult to translate to a virtual experience. Our churches are hoping to offer some children and family programming options this summer as we are able to begin gathering again. We will keep you informed of those opportunities as they are developed.

We hope you will join us in June 2021 for an adventure in kingdom living guided by scripture and the works of Dr. Seuss.

The deadline for the June *Willow Word* is **May 23**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to [Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

## Important Events Postponed

General Conference 2020 scheduled for May and set to consider plans for breaking up the denomination has been postponed until 2021. Our California-Nevada Annual Conference which usually meets in June has been rescheduled for September. As of April 28, the pastoral moves are still scheduled to take place on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Keeping in Touch

Want to write cards to our seniors? They would love to hear from their church family.

Find the [Mailing List here](#). You could also give them a call by finding their phone numbers using **Breeze**, our online directory database. If you didn't last fall when you were sent emails to make an account, *now* is the time to get your access to our online directory. That way you have all the contact information right at your fingertips. Also, please upload a photo of you and your family. This is a really important way that we can start preparing for Pastor Adkins. He will appreciate having your faces to tie to your names!



[Create your account here](#). Be sure to use the same email address you've given to us - the system looks up your email address to find a contact match.

Write Roxanne at [info@wgumc.org](mailto:info@wgumc.org) if you have problems creating an account.

## UMCOR Sunday Lost in the Coronavirus Shuffle

We were unable to pass the offering plate to raise money for the UMC's disaster relief fund administered by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. But you can make contributions to UMCOR Sunday all year online at [umcsgiving.org/giveUMCOR](http://umcsgiving.org/giveUMCOR). You can also access [UMCOR Sunday contributions](#) at our website.



For more information on UMCOR's response to coronavirus, [click here](#).

## JYM to pay larger portion of May/June/July JYM Payroll Costs

The Joint Youth Council would like to proactively help our three supporting churches by paying a larger proportion of the monthly JYM payroll expenses for May, June, and July. Normally, the three churches provide nearly all of the JYM payroll funding and JYM conducts fundraising to provide 100% of the JYM program funding (for our ongoing weekly programs, camp and trip scholarships, and all other JYM expenses). JYM will pay an additional \$1,000 per church toward JYM payroll costs for each of these three months (\$9,000 total in additional JYM payroll payments), reducing the amount the churches need to provide for these three months. It is our hope that this action will help all of our churches during these challenging times.

JYM held a successful fundraiser in March with the support of our JYM community and our church members. Now that our summer plans have changed and we will need less scholarship funds for trips, we would like to put a large portion of our spring fundraiser toward keeping the youth program strong by continuing to pay our amazing staff members while also reducing the financial burden on our churches. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Joint Youth Ministry!

If any JYM families and friends would like to be a monthly donor to the JYM to help us continue to pay our staff, please click below. Any amount would be helpful. [Donate Here!](#)

## Zoom Fellowship on Sundays

Meet us again for [worship online](#) on Sunday. You can go to the website and watch at any time, but if you watch at 10am, you can join a Zoom coffee hour afterward, starting at 11am. Make yourself a cup of coffee or tea and park yourself in front of your computer or phone and wait for your church family friends to show up. It will be so good to see you!



NOTE: On May 3rd - we'll start the Lay Leadership Meeting at 11:30 on this same channel. Much to discuss, so please join in!

## Join this Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 634 719 303; Password: 229261

Dial in via phone (audio only): 1 669 900 6833

**Remember These Folks in your Prayers:**

All victims of the Covid-19 pandemic  
 Our healthcare workers and first responders  
 Essential workers and small business owners  
 Homeless neighbors  
 Local, state, national and world leaders  
 Churches and nonprofits trying to hold people together  
 Lois Moore, undergoing tests  
 Katrina Kraynick-Baker, for a safe and speedy delivery  
 Caroline Erickson, for pain relief  
 Bob Hunt's niece, Acacia, for hope  
 Bob Hunt's nephew, Caleb, in legal trouble  
 Hutcheson family in the sudden loss of their grandson, Chris  
 Chris's wife and two young children  
 Our seniors living alone  
 Our students learning at home  
 Our parents working and homeschooling  
 Anna Olivia Rankin, born on March 13th  
 Rev. Mariellen Yoshino, recovering from surgery



Continued prayers for:  
 Lynda Hutcheson  
 Dorothy Mauseth  
 Eva Fisher  
 Mary Pierson  
 Kay Champion  
 Kay Dahl  
 Barbara Hawkins  
 Russ Kintner

David & Tom Forderer  
 Alma Taylor  
 Helen Ball  
 Bobbie Corson  
 Yoshiko Buchanan  
 Kyle Mastrolia  
 Barbara Stone  
 Tom Farrow

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**Willow Glen United Methodist Church**

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May 2020