

THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,
Sharing and Serving



In This Issue:

General News	Pg 1-2, 7
Pastor's Page	Pg 3
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

Sermons in June

I always like to end my time in a church with a short series on my favorite book in the Bible, Philippians, often called the "letter of Joy." It's a short book but it packs a punch and leaves us with courage and hope, which is how I'd like to leave you. Join us online for worship at wgumc.org or go to our [YouTube](#) channel.

When Will the Church Be "Open"?

Though our doors closed back in March, our hearts never did. Still, while some hearts are longing to be back in the sanctuary for worship again, no one wants to do that until it can be done safely. As of this writing, the President has issued an executive order regarding worship services, the Governor has issued some guidelines for the state, and the County Department of Public Health has reaffirmed its shelter-in-place orders that prohibit in-person worship in Santa Clara County. We do not know when those orders might be lifted or what restrictions will be put on gatherings.

Meanwhile, Bishop Carcaño has been in conversation with the Governor's task force about an eventual return to in-person and indoor worship, and the Cabinet is working on its own

protocols. You can find her remarks at <http://calnev-email.brtapp.com/viewemail/2604282>

Keep in mind that by the time you read this, the situation may well have changed. We will do our best to get current information to you through our website and email as we go forward. If you have any questions or concerns, you can always call the church office. Also keep in mind the old song in our hymnal: "We Are the Church." The first verse goes: "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people." Whatever our state, local and church leaders decide, we're going to have to figure out how to be the people of God and reach people who are not currently in the church, with or without a building!

What Can We Do While We Wait?

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.]
2. If you don't have a nametag 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Thank you to Sue Lopez, Elaine Marshall and Kathie Mounts who have answered the call to bake communion bread. Progress!
6. 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.

Celebrating our Teachers and Graduates for 2020

Honoring the professional achievements and student graduations as well as offering teacher recognition from the Willow Glen United Methodist Church, San Jose, CA : May 2020. [Link to the graduates/teachers video](#)

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 can also give them a call 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 if you have problems creating an account.

Goodwill Fundraiser Postponed

We had hoped to bring a Goodwill truck to Willow Glen in June to raise money with all your donated items, but we will have to wait until they are allowed to send workers out to staff the trucks. Hold onto all the things you've been cleaning out of your garage a little longer!

Good News/Not-so-good News

Good news! WGUMC received a PPP small business loan/grant from the federal government. If we use it all up on payroll and utilities over the next 2.5 months and hold onto our staff, we don't have to pay it back. This money will enable us to keep our church and JYM staff and our preschool teachers for a few more months. But we will still need a plan for reducing the size of our budget deficit (\$9,000/month) going forward. All hands on deck for this one! And a huge thank you to Pastor Susan and also to Becky Morgan, Linda Russo, Jim Pierson, Ruth Granfors and Jim Leonard for getting our application in and approved. Well done!

Why We Give

Thank you to Jodi Edwards, Tom Grubb and Jane Vivian for sharing their thoughts on "why I give." Here is an article Pastor Rebecca found in cleaning out files that she would like to share with you.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." We might be familiar with this pronouncement, but if we don't read it with care, we might reverse the statement through a kind of scriptural dyslexia. We might read it to say, "Where your heart is, there will your treasure be also." That would make sense to us, because much of the time our dollars follow our heart's lead. We give to what matters to us.

But that isn't what Jesus said.

That's the appeal we hear from, say, public radio or our alma mater: if you care about this institution, you will write a check. In other words, "Where your heart is, there will your treasure be also." But Jesus didn't say that.

Jesus is speaking of a different dynamic. Give and spend where you want your heart to be, and then let your heart catch up. Don't just give to those things you care about. Give to the things you want to care about. Ask yourself, "If I were the sort of person I long to be, then what would I do? How would I spend my money?" Then do what you would do if you were that sort of person. Put your treasure where you want your heart to be. If you do, says Jesus, your heart will go there. If you want to care more about the kind of car you drive, buy an expensive one. If you want to care more about property values, remodel your house. But if you want to grow in your faith, bring an offering to God.

Wherever your treasure is, your heart is sure to follow.

Thank you to those who responded to our stewardship letter and put your treasure where you wanted your heart to go.

Pastoral Letter

This month brings the fifth time I have taken leave of a congregation in my ministry, but the first time that I won't really be able to say good-bye, at least not with smiles I can see and real hugs and ice cream. Just like every other part of church life in the last few months, we will have to make it up as we go along.

As I pack, I am making four piles: one for trash, one to go to Goodwill, one to box and put on the moving truck, and one to leave behind. In the pile of trash, I want to put the cancer and the five-year treatment plan that I have almost completed. I want to get rid of the fatigue, the brain fog, and the frustration of not being able to do everything I wanted to do for you. That pile needs a lot of forgiveness before I can trash it.

In the Goodwill pile go many things that were delightful and useful at one time but have become extra baggage as my family has changed and moved on, such as toys, books, and old clothes. There are a lot of things like that around the church, too, as in ways of living and worshiping that won't serve you in this new situation. You're going to need good will and grace as you sift through the pile and part with what no longer works for you.

Then there is the pile to box up and put on the moving truck. These are the things that my family is going to need in this new and unknown life up in Eureka. I will be packing up memories of the people I have had the privilege to pastor and gratitude for the love and support that my family and I have received from Willow Glen UMC.

But we are not the only ones moving on to a new life. All families and all churches are going through a transition, too. In the coming weeks, this church needs to be sure that it carefully packs certain parts of the past. That way, you won't forget who you are in the present and who you can be, with God's help, in the future. I'm thinking of the high ideals and deep faith of Grace Praisewater and Ruby Goodnight, whose pictures are still in my office, but there are so many others. I'm also thinking of the permission-giving culture and the "dream-big and do it anyway" attitude of the congregation, traits that are so rare in churches today but are a part of Willow Glen's DNA. I'm also thinking of the generosity of Peggy Schlosser and the whole Builder Generation, whose gifts continue to sustain this church. You will want to pack all these things in boxes that will be the first to be opened when you arrive at your destination because you won't survive long without them.

And then there's the pile to leave behind. I didn't want to leave behind too many messes! "Leave the campsite cleaner than you found it," is the life motto I got from my dad, the Boy Scout master. But the Coronavirus and broken wrist put a dent in my camp cleanup plans. Ironically, I arrived here at the end of a recession and am leaving as we head into another one, so I regret that I am leaving behind such an uncertain financial situation. But I pray that I am also leaving behind some other things that will be more life-giving: some of my passion for hands-on mission, some of my heart for the poor, some of my hunger for social justice, some of my longing for personal wholeness, some of my commitment to LGBTQ inclusion, some of my love for God's good Creation, some of my obsession with redwood trees and labyrinths. I pray that I am leaving behind a little bit of Jesus.



Church Staff

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Title

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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

Meeting Online
Pastor Susan Smith

Friendship Circle

Sue Johnson &
Ruth Granfors

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

UMW's May 6 Board Meeting Recap

Willow Glen United Methodist women held the first ever zoom meeting on May 6, 2020. Becky Morgan offered a reading of a prayer "We Rise".

Sherri offered the devotions and prayer concerns for Joyce Osborn and Pastor Rebecca with her broken arm.

The theme this year is "Let Your Light Shine" (Ignited for justice).

The treasurer Becky Morgan reported that we made about \$600 on the candy sales this year and we were able to furnish candy to one group of children at Easter time.

Pledges are coming in but are more necessary this year than before because of the lack of funds from To Kalon. We will need to revisit this issue in July so that we can meet our pledge to Mission of \$3500.

See's CANDIES.

Lifted Spirits Donations

Lifted spirits are still serving box lunches on **Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 to 1 PM**. Jane will contact the leaders to see how we might be able to be of help. Juice boxes are currently one of the items they can use so drop them off at the church if you're able to help with that item.



Join Heart & Hands on Zoom

Heart & Hands Circle continues to meet using Zoom the first Thursday of each month. Becky or Gwyne can give you more information on their meetings.

Help Prepare for the New Pastor

United Methodist Women have offered to help with the new arriving Pastor Brian by providing items for his refrigerator and gift cards to local restaurants. Jane and Gwyne are spearheading this project along with SPCR, Leslie Chamberlain, Liz Pense and Janet Ehrke.

Next on the UMW Calendar:

The next board meeting will be on **June 3rd**. Be sure to Zoom at noon with Willow Glen UMW. For contact information, Becky Morgan or Gwyne Grubb can help walk you through the process.

Michael Pope, the United Methodist Church conference lay leader, has a podcast on Facebook on **Friday mornings about 9 o'clock** if you want to catch her live or check during the day on Friday for her broadcast. It's really interesting if you get a chance to tune in from time to time. She stated that the United Methodist Church will not open up before the end of June.

The deadline for the July/August
Willow Word is **June 24**.

Please send your story ideas
and submissions to

Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com

JYM in June

For now we will continue to do virtual things and distant things, but we also sense students are very weary of those. We'd love if you could spend a few minutes giving us some feedback by [clicking on the link](#).

Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday Zoom Groups

ZOOM LINKS for the week below

Tuesdays at 6pm

[Tuesday Reoccurring ZOOM LINK](#)

Thursday Teen BootCamp 3-3:30pm

[Thursday Reoccurring Zoom link](#)

Sunday Youth Group

We will be rethinking "Sunday Night" in this format and how we might do June and summer together.

[Junior High 5pm Reoccurring Zoom link](#)

[High School 6pm Reoccurring Zoom link](#)

Password: JYMROCKS

SENIOR CELERATIONS!



Our Senior Class has had QUITE the end to their senior year. We love them and want to celebrate them in some of the ways as usual and some new ways too!

The class will still have their yearbook and video and will be posted and watched together the first week of June.

That means we NEED YOUR SENIOR Baby Pictures from parents ASAP if you haven't already. Don't worry about 6th-12th grade pictures. Lisa's got a boat load of those!

Please write letters and notes (addresses in the letter writing campaign list below) to our seniors and mail them to their homes.

June 7th- A virtual Drive by grad parade! We will meet in the CPUMC parking lot with signs and gifts and enthusiasm and do a drive by parade of some of our seniors homes. It will be late afternoon, after Lisa coordinated with Senior families, but please mark this afternoon on your calendar so we can celebrate our seniors.

The Baby has Arrived!



Our Associate Joint Youth Ministry Director, Kat, and CJ Baker (the old Youth Pastor dude), welcomed Danielle into their family Tuesday, May 12th at 4:46pm. Danielle is 7lbs, 14 ounces and they made it home to be a family of 4 by Wednesday evening dinner! Kat, as usual, did that birthing a baby thing like a boss. She is "resting", you know as much as possible with a 3 day old and 19 month old.... so not. Send cards of congrats and well wishes their way in the address on our mailing challenge list.

Prayers and joy for Kat in this new endeavor.

Summer Trip Refunds

Did you sign up and make a deposit for camp/ mission trip this summer? Please click on the link below to share with us how to refund or donate your deposit.

We have three options for you for your refund.

1. A refund in full for whatever you paid.
2. A refund in part for whatever you decide. Whatever you need/want back, we are able and happy to send you a check. If you'd like to donate a portion of that to the JYM to continue to pay staff salaries and fund events when they can happen, we can do a partial refund as well as donation receipt for the portion donated
3. Donate it all back to the JYM.

Every family who paid, please [click here](#).

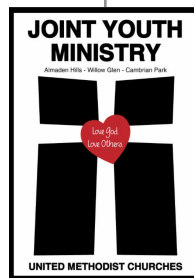
Mail Challenge

We have over 100 people in our churches and JYM family of leaders and students who would love to have their day brightened by a piece of mail from YOU! Art, note, crafted something/anything. Log who you wrote to and receive 1 point for every letter you send and 1 hour of community service/scholarship hour for every 5 letters sent.

We'd love for more of you to participate in this challenge and we know with school winding down you might be able to. The feedback from people who have received notes from you guys has been amazing. You have brightened so many days of people stuck at home in challenging times.

[All The Addresses](#)

[Log Your Letters Here](#)



Remote Sunday School: Continuing to Grow in Faith



When we closed the church buildings in mid-March, we did not stop learning or growing in Sunday School. We had just started a unit on Noah's story and the Rainbow Promises we continue to keep as part of God's

covenant with Noah. Pastor Susan took those lessons online and our children and families have been learning and growing together each week with stories, games, art, science, music and more. We finished up our regular Sunday School year with a unit on Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit. All of the video lessons are available at wgumc.org - just click on the "Remote Sunday School" button to see the entire playlist. If you'd like the printable instructions, e-mail Pastor Susan and she would be happy to send them. There is learning and reflection, faith and fun to be had for all ages.

CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders



All third, fourth and fifth graders are invited to CrossWalk. We regularly meet once a month to learn about ourselves and our faith, and have a lot of fun! We have continued to meet online since March, and are finding some new ways to come together to share our faith and have fun with friends. Watch your email for details about meeting times, or e-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to find out more. We'll keep meeting throughout the summer in whatever way we can to laugh and play and explore God's word together.

Compassion Camp: A Virtual Vacation Bible School

As we look around the world, what becomes clearer each day is our deep need for compassion - now more than ever. Centered on scripture and filled with ways to move, connect, create, play and care, Compassion Camp will bring some of what we love about Vacation Bible School to our own homes in a way that we can share with family and friends safely. From our table to our home to our neighborhood and beyond, we will discover ways we can cultivate compassion for each other, for ourselves and for the world.



Compassion Camp will be offered in weekly video installments **beginning Sunday, June 28th**. Each week will include a video lesson that can be watched at home with your family, or with a small group of friends online. As restrictions lift a little, we may even be able to meet in person for some activities with small groups. Watch your email for details on ways you can participate and connect with faithful friends and family this summer.

Calling all Vacation Bible School volunteers!

VBS may be virtual, but we need real volunteers to make it happen. One of the best parts of Vacation Bible School is the community of volunteers who make it come to life, and this year is not different. We are looking for volunteers to create sets and artwork, meet with small groups, and lead crafts, games, music and other activities with children in a video or online format. We also need videographers and editors to help put it all together. We will begin our work early in June to prepare our camp videos and activities. Please e-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to let her know how you would like to help.

Pentecost Poster

Many thanks to all of the WGUMC artists who colored pieces of our Pentecost poster. Assembled in worship on May 31, each piece of the poster came together to create an image of spirit-filled excitement. You can find the video here (<https://youtu.be/ZksABxQXD74>). Although the artwork and assembly took many hours of love and creativity, don't blink because the video goes by quickly. What a wonderful way to celebrate Pentecost together, reminding ourselves that the Holy Spirit keeps us connected even when we are safely at home.



Thanks to our faithful children's ministry volunteers and staff!

I hope you will take some time to thank these special people for their dedication, and have your kids find a way to thank them, too! Their love for our children is priceless.

Nursery - Jessica Bustos and Noritsu Lantimo

Crosswalk - Jed Burkey

Sunday School Supply Queen - Lara Brock

Sunday School - Ben Chamberlain, Molly Freeman, Sadie Freeman, Jane Partsch, Jennah Partsch, Lydia Pham, Paige Unger

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



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

Remember These Folks in your Prayers:

Lois Moore, undergoing treatment for cancer
Jed's partner, Debbie, for a diagnosis and treatment
Danielle Baker, born to CJ and Kat on May 12th
Rev. Brian Adkins, as he moves to San Jose
Pastor Rebecca, as she moves to Eureka
Caroline Erickson, for pain relief
Joyce Osborn, for peace and comfort
Hutcheson family in the loss of their grandson, Chris
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
Our seniors living alone
Our students learning at home
Our parents working and homeschooling
Our graduates missing out on celebrations



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
Carmen McBride
Errollyn Blank

Continued from Pastor's Letter on Page 3

One thing I learned while I was your pastor: never underestimate this congregation! Just about anything you put your heart to, you can and will do. So, regardless of the current circumstances, I am hopeful about your future. And our District Superintendent and the Bishop's Cabinet are, too, or you would not be getting the sought-after pastor who is coming to you on July 1st. I know that you will greet Brian Adkins with the same enthusiasm and eagerness that you greeted me. With my blessing on you and your new pastor and in anticipation of all the wonderful things you will do for God together, I leave you with the wise words of Steve Garnaas-Holmes, United Methodist pastor, poet and song writer, who sends this message to congregations going through a pastoral transition:

In this season many pastors and churches
are changing partners.
You are dancing; you are not married.

Receive your partner with love.
Welcome them warmly.
Remember they're a person.

Open your heart.
Listen for the music.
Let the Spirit lead.

Remember who you are.
Honor who they are.
Listen for their song.

Forgive them already.
Walk with them.
Come to serve, not to be served.

Focus on serving the world.
Check your assumptions.
Make it work.

Embrace change.
Be willing to change.
Embody resurrection.

Begin with Yes.
Imitate Jesus.
Pray always.

Follow God with them.
Dance while the music lasts.
Let them go when it is time.
[from his daily blog, Unfolding Light, June 18, 2018]

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Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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June 2020