



THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,
Sharing and Serving

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Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Worship

11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to like WGUMC on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/WillowGlenUMC

Village House Moving Day - Wednesday, March 7

We need your help in the morning to move the women's belongings and bedding to St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. If you can spare a couple of hours, that will be a big help. Please RSVP to info@wgumc.org.



Woodhaven Workday - Saturday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.

We had a great troop to help us get Woodhaven ready for our Village House guests in February and got everything done in record time. We will soon say good-bye to the women and need to bring back the furniture to Woodhaven and clean up the kitchens. We can use your help again. Show up anytime between 9:00 a.m. and noon, and we'll find a job for you to do. Thank you!

UMCOR Sunday is March 11

This is a crucial Sunday for us because it is the day we come together to empower the United Methodist Committee on Relief to do disaster relief and refugee resettlement. If you remember:

- When hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma slammed Texas, Louisiana, Florida and Puerto Rico in 2017, UMCOR was there.
- When wildfires ravaged thousands of homes in the West and Southeast, UMCOR was there.
- When refugees and migrants around the world needed help, UMCOR was there.
- When a mudslide in Sierra Leone killed more than 500 people and destroyed 2,000 homes, UMCOR was there.



They were there because of [UMCOR Sunday](#).

This Special Sunday covers the operating costs of UMCOR, which allows the relief agency to be where it needs to be, when it needs to be there, for as long as it needs to be there. It allows UMCOR to funnel 100% of earmarked donations directly to the designated project. UMCOR receives a 4 star rating from Charity Navigator.

Daily Lenten Devotions: Share your faith journey!!

For Lent this year, we are exploring the idea of pilgrimage as a spiritual discipline. But even if you haven't been to the Holy Land or any of the other sacred sites around the world, you have probably been on many "mini pilgrimages" in your life



and you undoubtedly have gleaned some wisdom from them. Tell us about them! Here are some questions to get you thinking and writing:

Have you ever taken a “heritage tour” to learn about your family history? What did you learn about yourself or about God? Do you take annual trips to a cemetery? Why? What happens there? Have you ever worked on a project so long that you were not the same person when you finished as when you started? Where was God in that process? Have you ever had a major health crisis and spent a long time in recovery? How did you get through it and where was God in it? Have you ever gone on a journey and felt strangely “at home” in a very strange place? What was it like? Have you ever been to one of those “thin places” where you can readily feel the presence of God? Do you have a daily spiritual discipline that helps you be more intentional and aware of God during your everyday travels?

Anything can be a spiritual pilgrimage if you choose to think of it that way. The point of our Lenten devotions is to awaken in us an awareness of the spiritual reality of our lives and the One who goes with us on all our journeys. Email your thoughts to rebecca@wgumc.org.

WGUMC is Serving Dinner at the Family Shelter on March 31

On Saturday, March 31 from 4:00-7:00 p.m., WGUMC is scheduled to prepare and serve dinner at Family Supportive Housing at [692 N. King Rd.](#) in San Jose. The shelter has 35 furnished family apartments, provides daycare and helps displaced families get their feet back on the ground.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Donate Food Items** (we need enough to serve 70 people) - Lasagna Pasta (4 10-oz. boxes), Sauce (3 gallons), Garlic Bread (4 ready-made loaves), Salad (3 large bags).
- **Calling All Bakers** - We need 6 dozen cupcakes or cookies minimum. Please bring 2 dozen cupcakes or cookies.
- **Set Up, Cook & Serve** - 4 people are needed to prepare and serve food at the Shelter from 4:00-6:30 p.m. All directions/instructions will be provided. It's a lot of fun, and the friendly people at the Shelter will make you glad you served!

Please contact Craig Ramsay (craigramsray@gmail.com) to sign up to help, and bring items to the Church kitchen on Friday, March 30 or Saturday before 2:00 p.m.

Next dates in 2018: June 30 and September 29

Questions?

Contact Craig Ramsay at craigramsray@gmail.com or 415-225-7220.

The Hunt Is On!

Who doesn't love an Easter egg hunt? On Easter Sunday, following worship, we invite all children to hunt for eggs. Bring your baskets to Kohlstedt Hall after the Easter celebration where Pastor Susan will dismiss children by age for the egg hunt.

Please note that there will not be Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

If you would like to help with preparations for the egg hunt or refreshments for fellowship time on Easter, please e-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org). We will also be collecting individually-wrapped Easter candy to fill the eggs (no peanuts or nuts, please). Please bring donations to Susan or the office by March 15. Thank you!



Church Staff

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Pastoral Letter

As our month of sheltering comes to a close, I want to pass on some reflections on this ministry from some of the members of our Village House Shelter Team.

Michelle Partsch says, "Our guests have amazing stories and so much wisdom to share! In my conversations with several of the ladies I have felt like I am chatting with my aunts, sharing laughs and bonding over the universally shared challenges of parenting and living life. The generosity and appreciation demonstrated by these women and by all of our volunteers has been an inspiration. I am so encouraged to see how our efforts can have a lasting impact through the return of one of our original guests as a volunteer this year. And it has been so much fun strengthening my friendship with Linda who is the Yin to my Yang!"

Linda Yepiz, who has served as our shelter director, has loved listening to the women laugh together in the back room after dinner. She has been touched by the way that almost all of the guests go out of their way to hunt her down for a hug before they leave for the day. Linda says, "For me, all of this is the definition of what it means to #BeRadicalLove. For real."

Jan Leonard says, "I have been loved strongly by these ladies, certainly more than I have loved them. They have ministered to me and each other. I like the concept of home for these few weeks - a place not without conflict, not without irritations but also a place not without love."

Jim Leonard offers this: "Working with the women a wonderful experience - keeping the infrastructure working not so much."

As for me, this month has helped to remind me of why I was called to ministry. Sometimes senior pastors feel more like business managers, but the Village House women remind me that I am also a spiritual leader. As I said a few weeks ago, as the shelter opening approached, I felt my heart begin to expand because I knew that I would be meeting people who have an incredible hunger for God. They mostly don't have jobs or money or family to get in the way and I don't have to convince them to slow down and soak up the love. They ask me to pray for them and they are eager to pray for me. I am grateful that they remind me of how church should be.

We are grateful to everyone in the congregation who has supported this effort with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We also celebrate the fact that we had a lot of help from our sisters and brothers in Christ in other churches around San Jose. We

have made many cross-congregational connections and friendships and these continue to deepen the more we work together building community in our one little corner of God's kingdom.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Holy Week Services:

March 29: Maundy Thursday Service of Communion in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.

March 30: Good Friday Service at Almaden Hills UMC at 7:00 p.m.

April 1: Easter Service at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary with Egg Hunt to follow.

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
7:00 p.m. in Woodhaven
Susan Smith

Friendship Circle

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

UMW Executive Board

Sunday, March 11
11:45 a.m. in Woodhaven
Ruth Granfors

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

Annual See's Easter Candy Sale

Selling See's Candy at Easter is one of the ways United Methodist Women fund their mission projects each year. Orders will be taken this year on March 4 and March 11, and deliveries will be made on March 18 and 25. This year, as in the past, members and friends of Willow Glen UMC are encouraged to purchase a variety of Easter items offered by See's. Those who don't want to use the candy themselves can give an Easter treat to the children in three local shelters, provide treats for children who might not have any otherwise, and avoid all those calories going home with you. You purchase the candy and UMW officers will deliver it to the children. Or place an order and take some Easter candy home to enjoy with your family. Everybody wins! Please see the UMW Easter display at coffee hour on March 4 and March 11 or contact Becky Morgan.



Lifted Spirits Lunch is March 7



The Lifted Spirits Drop-in Center March lunch will be an assortment of luscious homemade crockpot recipes. As always, the Willow Glen UMW appreciate everyone's involvement and support in this ongoing local mission. If you would like to participate in this local mission, please let Ruth Granfors know. We can always use salads, rolls, beverages, etc. We meet at the church at 11 a.m. to assemble all donated items, and then carpool to Lifted Spirits. Please contact Ruth Granfors, 408-444-0702, with your thoughts.

Mission Springs Retreat, March 16-18

A Bold Awakening: Revitalize Ourselves and Our Faith

Our District UMW hosts this spiritual retreat as a special time for us to pause and revitalize at the lovely redwood forest Mission Springs Retreat Center just outside Scotts Valley, California. This is a beautiful place to focus on our spiritual health. Ms. Micheal Pope will lead this thought-provoking program. Micheal is a California/Nevada Conference Lay Leader and a co-pastor of services for individuals living with memory loss. She is the host of "Life is a Sacred Journey," a radio show on BlogTalk Radio, and she has written *Life Is a Journey We Know by Heart*.

A variety of activities offered at this retreat include morning matins, prayer walks, craft tables, a talent show, etc. For more information and for Registration Forms see the Registration Forms folder on the UMW Bulletin Board in the Church Office hallway. March 2nd is the registration deadline, however you may want to contact the Registrar, Debbie Ow, at ow.debora@yahoo.com or at 925-285-8874 if you need to register late.

District and Conference United Methodist Women 2018 Calendar

- March 16-18 Spiritual Retreat at Mission Springs, Scotts Valley California
- April 14 California-Nevada Conference UMW Social Action Event, Sacramento First UMC
- May 18-20 20th Assembly of UMW, Columbus, Ohio
- June 23 CA/NV Conference UMW Breakfast, Modesto, California

Get Ready for an “Evening at the Luau”

March 25 at Almaden Hills UMC 5:00-8:30 p.m.

The night 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!



"Evening at the Luau" is an event you cannot miss!

- A delicious catered dinner
- A fabulous auction
- An amazing talent show

Youth will be selling tickets at church beginning **Sunday, March 4**. You can also buy tickets online at <http://www.jointyouthgroup.com/donations--payments.html>

Two Weeks Only! Adults: \$25 Students and Children being babysat: \$15
Starting March 19 Adults: \$30 Students and Children being babysat: \$20

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

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 “Evening at the Luau” 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 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!



JYM Summer Dates!

Summer will be here before we know it. Save these dates on your calendar!

June 22 - July 1: High School mission trip to South Carolina with Next Step Ministries

July 8 - 13: Jr. High Camp! We travel by bus with our 6th to 8th grade students.

Aug. 2 - 4: Magical Mystery Tour! We will travel to a destination unknown to all but Lisa & Kat!

Making Summer plans...

Vacation Bible School 2018

June 25-29

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

Toyon Kids Camp 2018

July 8-14

Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA



Each year, some of our CrossWalk friends (entering 3rd-6th grades) go to summer camp together at Monte Toyon in Aptos. Sponsored by the California-Nevada conference of the United Methodist Church, this is a great way to meet other kids of faith and enjoy the great outdoors together as we learn about our God and ourselves. Susan will not be on staff at Toyon Kids Camp this year but she may stop by for a visit! You can find more information and register online now at the Conference Camping website:

www.calnevypm.org

Willow Glen UMC has financial assistance available for your kids to go to camp. If you need it, please talk to Pastor Susan.



Sunday School

Are we there yet?
Learning patience in Sunday School

We are learning to trust God for our basic needs, for our safety, for our health and well-being. There are moments, though, where trusting God seems a little bit more difficult - the moments when we have to wait.

Let's face it. Waiting for anything is difficult, and it often tests our patience and our faith. So we are

asking God to help us develop patience as we continue to put our trust in God. By doing so, we reflect God's spirit to others, and we are less likely to hurt our relationships with other people.

The Bible is full of stories that help us realize the importance of being patient and help us to learn patience too. We'll be exploring these principles through the month of March. We know we're not there yet, but it doesn't keep us from asking the question. So let's put our trust in God and enjoy the journey together.

Sunday School meets each week at 9:00 a.m. in the preschool building.

See you there!



CROSSWALK
FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP FOR
THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS

Friday, March 9

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wesley Room and Kohlstedt Hall

Theme: Many Ways to Pray

Prayer can be a powerful connection, but sometimes we feel like we don't know where to start. In observance of Lent, we will spend time learning to pray in many different ways - some quiet and some not so quiet. We will pray for each other, for ourselves, for our families and for the world. We will also consider taking on a Lenten Challenge to help us focus on our faith for the remainder of Lent. So much to do! Don't miss a minute of this time with your friends in faith!

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

Family Game Night

Friday, March 23
6:00-9:00 p.m.
in Woodhaven



Join us every Fourth Friday for family game night at Woodhaven! We'll bring out our favorite board games and find some new ones. We'll have time to connect with one another and deepen friendships as we play.

Bring dinner for your family, or a dish to share, or eat before you come. Drop in for part of the time or come play for all of it. This a casual time for friends and fun.

The deadline for the April *Willow Word* is **March 24**.

Please send
your story ideas and
submissions to
Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com

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