



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

Holy Week Services

March 29: Maundy Thursday Service with Choir and Communion, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Pastor Rebecca will share a meditation on "Listening for the Heartbeat of God."

March 30: Good Friday Service, led by the Joint Youth Ministry, 7:00 p.m. at Almaden Hills UMC.

April 1: Easter Sunday Service will be at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with an egg hunt to follow.

April 8: Holy Humor Service - Bring your best jokes and leftover Easter candy. Wear your bunny ears.

The Hunt Is On - April 1

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 at susan@wgumc.org.



Got Any Good Jokes?

The Easter season kicks off on April Fool's Day, and we are going to pick up on a medieval tradition that designated the day after Easter as a "Day of Joy and Laughter" to celebrate God getting the last laugh on the devil when Jesus rose from the dead.

There is plenty of evil in this world, but we can take it on with a smile, knowing that Christ has already won a victory over it. Send in your best jokes, and we may use them on Holy Humor Sunday, April 8.

We Celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday on April 15



One tribe in North America has told this story for centuries: when people "pale as birch" crossed the great water in large canoes, they brought with them "The Black Book." However, the bringers of the physical Book could not have known what it would mean and look like to be Native and a follower of Jesus. Today Native Americans – with many unique languages, many unique cultures – honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors.

Supporting the Ministry of Christ Among Native People

Most Americans today recognize that the history following the arrival of the large canoes bore little resemblance to the one all Christians identify as Creator. That's why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, equips Native congregations – like New York's Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregation – to worship and serve as only they can. This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give. You equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Thank You

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 Thank you from the Women of Village House:

"I would like to thank all of you wonderful angels who have been so kind and loving. I have never experienced so much love. I know this is a great beginning...Thank you all so much. Sincerely, Liz"

"To All the Staff and Volunteers, Thank you for all your presence. It has inspired me to believe that I can make a difference even as you have in my life. Love, Gina"



Thank you to everyone who has written for our Lenten devotional this year. We have loved learning about your journeys.

Thank you to Steve Quigley and Kristen Brown for their help decorating the sanctuary for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Thank you to Bob, Tom, Michael and all of our musicians for the extra work and beautiful music in this holy season.

Thank you to our "Tackle-It-Tuesday" guys, Neil Fissel, Steve Quigley, and Tom Mounts, who are meeting once a month to do odd jobs around the church. They would love to have you join them.

Manna & Hope - A Food Ministry of WGUMC

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 "Manna & Hope" is a food ministry of Willow Glen United Methodist Church, started by Linda Yépez and Gina Libbee. Each week, Gina and Linda purchase, prepare and distribute piping hot homemade breakfast burritos and fresh coffee to homeless encampments along the Guadalupe River near San Fernando and Delmas streets, under the 87 overpass. Though we pride ourselves on bringing good, healthy, *hot* homemade food to those in need (the "**Manna**" part of our ministry), our primary goal is to give our brothers and sisters in the streets a sense of *hope*. Through consistency and follow-through, prayers and hugs, and a humble breakfast of burritos and coffee, our goal is to impart the feeling that what is wanted *can* be had, and no one should have to try and get there alone. *That* is the "**Hope**" part of our ministry. To support this ministry, we gladly and *gratefully* accept cash donations (checks should be made payable to WGUMC). Your \$20 donation will feed 40 people. **Please make sure that all contributions are clearly designated** with either "Manna & Hope" or "Food Ministry" in the memo! You can also help out with donations of eggs, grated cheese, gas cards, socks and **coffee** (grounds, stirrers and cups). Please drop these by anytime during office hours -- perishables go into the bottom left-hand side of the big refrigerator. Socks, gift cards, etc. can be left in the workroom.

Should you have any questions regarding what we do, please feel free to contact Linda at (408) 256-2121 or linday@wgumc.org. Thank you for your support!

Church Staff

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Pastoral Letter

As I write this, my daughter and husband are in Spokane touring Gonzaga University. The month of April will be full of anxiety as deadlines approach for making a decision about which college Kristen will go to in the Fall. She worked hard and has been accepted into every school so far. But that means that she has too many good choices and too many different directions she could take. That's a little scary, because she is beginning to realize that the next four years will one way or another shape the rest of her life. So, what does she do? She does a lot of research. She talks to her friends. She tours the campuses and tries to imagine herself at each one, hoping that somehow or other, the right path will choose her.

Watching Kristen go through this transition in her life makes me think that our congregation is in the midst of transition, too. It's been five years since we last revisited our mission statement and made the commitment to pay down the Woodhaven debt and complete the Kohlstedt Hall renovations. Now that we have "graduated" from Mission Possible, we need to get ready to begin a new chapter in the life of WGUMC. So, it's time to do some research, listen to God, talk to our friends, "tour" some new ways of being church and trust that the right path will choose us.

In the next month or so, we are going to round up some of our best hearts and brains to work on reimagining ministry in an ever-changing and always challenging environment. At a recent workshop, I learned about a process called "design thinking" that helps businesses and nonprofits define needs and design creative ways to fulfill them. I'm eager to try it out here and fortunately, some of you know a lot more about this than I do! With your help, I know we can improve on how we make disciples of Jesus Christ in Willow Glen.

As we begin to narrow our options, we can try out a Quaker method of discernment that I learned from Parker Palmer that can help congregations listen for the Spirit's leading as they make vital ministry decisions.

Who are we? Why are we here? What is God calling us to be? To do? How does God want us to go about doing it? How are we going to fund it? These are not new questions, but these are new times and we are going to need new answers, which means we are going to need you. Has it ever been more important to have

a strong and vital faith community to make disciples who will remake the world? This is the something bigger that we are all longing to be a part of. I can only ask you to do your part. Thank you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rebecca

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, May 6
11:45 a.m. in Woodhaven
Ruth Granfors

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

Lifted Spirits Lunch is April 4



The Lifted Spirits Drop-in Center April lunch will be a chicken and rice main dish, broccoli, rolls and dessert. As always, the Willow Glen UMW appreciates everyone's involvement and support of 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, cookies, brownies and beverages, etc. We meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to assemble all donated items and then carpool to Lifted Spirits. Please contact **Ruth Granfors at 408-444-0702** with your thoughts.

CA/NV Conference Social Action Event April 14

Focus on Immigration

The Focus on Immigration Social Action Event is Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Sacramento First UMC, 2100 "J" Street, Sacramento. You can register now for this amazing event and learn more about what's happening with immigration from four in-the-know guest speakers. The speakers are: **Lisa Kobayashi**, *Immigration Lawyer*, **Libby Scholes**, *California Church IMPACT*, **Vilaysay "Sal" Chang**, *US Customs and Immigration* and **Basim Elkarra**, *Council on American-Islamic Relations*. The program includes breakfast, lunch, and program materials. We invite you to carpool with our UMW from church. Registration after March 31 is \$20. Without lunch, it's \$10. The Registration Form and more information is available on the UMW bulletin board in the church office hallway and on the UMW website www.canvunitedmethodistwomen.org. For carpool arrangements, contact Ruth Granfors.



United Methodist Women's Legacy Informs Our Past, Present and Future

United Methodist Women is Approaching its 150th Anniversary



The UMW Legacy Fund is one part of our 150th anniversary celebration. The fund is a permanent endowment, investing current gifts that will grow for use in coming decades to continue support of ministries with women, children and youth. Each member is invited to give \$18.69 each year to this fund in addition to her pledge. Members are encouraged to make an electronic contribution to the Legacy Fund. UMW activities personify faith, hope and love in action. Today we are in ministry with countless millions of women around the world. The Legacy Fund is our promise to continue this ministry, and the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign's fundraising goal is \$60 million. Contact information: 1-800-278-7771 or www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.

District and Conference United Methodist Women 2018 Calendar

April 14	California-Nevada Conference UMW Social Action Event, Sacramento First UMC
May 18-20	20 th Assembly of UMW, Columbus, Ohio
June 23	CA/NV Conference UMW Breakfast, Modesto, California

Junior High Summer Camp at Hartland - July 8-13



The sign-up form for our Jr. High camp is now live! All current 6th - 8th graders are invited to join us for five days of fun! Our students have loved going to Hartland Christian Camp for the past seven years because of their engaging worship, incredible games, and the experience of traveling with their youth group friends!

Total cost is \$550, but we have financial aid available. First Deposit of \$250 is due April 22nd and final deposit of \$300 is due June 10th.

Download our volunteer form to track your scholarship hours.

Want more information about Hartland? Check out their website: <http://www.hartlandcamp.com/programs/jr-high-summer-camp>

Next Step Mission Trip to Lexington, South Carolina - CURRENTLY FULL

Payment Dates:

May 6 - \$400 Second payment due online or check. Service hours can be used for a portion



June 3 - \$450 Final payment due online or check. Service hours can be used for a portion

Education Nights:

Students must attend 2 of the 4 education nights to attend our trip. If they attend all 4 they'll get a bonus \$50 off the trip cost.

Sunday, April 8 - 7:00-8:00 p.m. (after YG)
Sunday, April 29 - 3:45-4:45 p.m. (before YG)

Sunday, May 6 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. (in lieu of YG)
Monday, June 18 - 6:30-8:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner.
Students bring a main dish item. JYM provides drinks, dessert and salad.

Trip Dates:

June 21 - 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Bring luggage to CPUMC and attend our commissioning service

June 22 - Leave! Flight details pending

June 30 - Return! Flight details pending

August 19 - Summer Share party! A dinner and time of reflection, teaching and sharing about our summer trip for families, friends and church members!

Fundraising/Scholarships:

May: A weeknight - BJ Brewery fundraising dinner - Details pending.

Parent service hours - We will have lots of ways for parents to get service hours too in the months ahead. Any event we need drivers, set up, clean up, prep work etc, can count for \$10 off an hour of work. All those things are listed in our weekly email.

Magical Mystery Tour - August 2-4

Save the date! Students currently in 6th - 12th grade are invited to join us for this fun trip to end the summer with! The destination will be a mystery, but more details about cost and RSVP'ing will be coming soon!



Vacation Bible School 2018



Team Spirit

June 25-29

Willow Glen United Methodist and St. Francis Episcopal churches invite all children ages 3 ½ years through 5th grade (completed) to join us for Vacation Bible School 2018, June 25-29.

Team Spirit is more than a sports camp. Throughout the week, we will have amazing Bible adventures alongside the disciples as we discover how to live as a team. With a variety of sports, crafts, songs, and the camp community experience, children will celebrate the spirit of teamwork and the role of God's love in our lives and relationships. We'll practice some of our favorite sports and learn some new ones, too!

Registration is now open at vbs.wgumc.org

Registration ends April 16, so register soon. If you would like to volunteer at Vacation Bible School, you can also register online at vbs.wgumc.org

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

We're letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts in Sunday School



We spent the month of March exploring what it means to be patient, so it seems natural that we would consider the value of peace in April. No one wants to be angry all the time. So what is the opposite of out-of-control, short-fused, self-centered, my-way-only anger? Following up on the Golden Rule, the answer is to care more about other people and their feelings than about any argument or disagreement.

Peace is a large part of God's creation and we can reflect God's peace in our relationships with others. This usually requires some type of sacrifice, but that cost is worth it. Peace is more than just saying the right things and smoothing over a conflicted situation for a few minutes. Peace is about doing everything we can to build bridges between people, fixing what is broken in our relationships and building one another up with love and care. We'll explore biblical examples of peace-making and learn some tools for how to make peace ourselves. Together, we're learning how to fix the problems that arise between people and to make peace a priority in our lives.

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, April 20

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Wesley Room and Kohlstedt Hall

Theme: *Being a Positive Influence*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 and Proverbs 12:26

As Christians, we are called to live with integrity, honesty and kindness. Being courageous may mean standing up for someone who is being picked on at school. It also means staying true to who you are and who God calls you to be. Let's consider how we can be good examples for one another as we continue to grow more fully into the people God created each of us to be.

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

Family Game Night

Friday, April 27

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.

Spring Cleaning Fundraiser for Woodhaven Preschool

Clean your closets! Clear the clutter! Bring gently-used clothing and household items to the Goodwill donation truck in our parking lot on **Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Woodhaven Preschool will earn money for all of your donations. *Please note that we cannot accept furniture or large appliances at this event.* Invite your friends and neighbors to bring their donations too. All proceeds from this event will go directly into improvements for our school.

Thank you for being part of our Big Spring Clean!





Ushers needed for 2018

If you would like a fun and easy way to serve your church, we are in desperate need of a few new ushers for 2018. You would only be asked to usher once every six weeks, and it doesn't require much more than showing up at church 20-30 minutes early on the day you usher. No prior training or experience is needed and you get to meet a lot of great people too! If you are willing to help us, please contact the church office or Jim Pierson at pierson-j@sbcglobal.net or [408-267-7933](tel:408-267-7933). Thank you!

The deadline for the May *Willow Word* is **April 23**.

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

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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