



# 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](http://www.facebook.com/WillowGlenUMC)

## Faith Forward

Easter Sunday was the best attended in several years. It was a glorious celebration of resurrection and new birth. I wanted to capture the spirit in the sanctuary that morning and bottle it so we could pour it out every Sunday of the year. People of faith and of no faith are hungry for that feeling of being full and ready to burst with life and joy and peace. What will it take for Willow Glen to be a place where that hunger can be fed on a regular basis? What changes do we need to make in order to be "God's family growing in loving, sharing and serving" in a rapidly-changing culture? Our Lay Leadership Council is assembling a team to revisit our mission statement and rethink how we live it out. The team will gather on May 6 during our congregational meeting after church to come up with a name and a game plan and decide when and how often to meet. We invite everyone to pray for us as we put our best faith forward.



## Bible Class is Viewing "Scopes Monkey Trial" Lecture May 3

On **Thursday, May 3 at 8:00 a.m.**, the Thursday AM Bible Class for All will be viewing a DVD lecture on the famous 1925 'Monkey Trial' in which John Scopes was accused of teaching evolution in violation of a Tennessee state law against "...teaching any theory that denies the story of the Divine Creation...as taught in the Bible..." Since then the trial has taken on a mythology of its own. This is lecture 16 of The Darwinian Revolution series.

Anyone interested is invited to attend. If transportation is needed we will try to find it for you, call **Jerry Hutcheson at 408-628-0322**. Better yet, if you plan to attend and can give a ride, please call as well.

## Lay Leadership Council & Congregational Meeting May 6

Following worship, we will gather to come up with ideas and leaders for fellowship events this summer. The SPRC will recruit some help with worship and pastoral care for the month of July. The vision team that is forming will also work on an agenda and timeline for meetings. And we will hear brief updates from the Finance Committee and Trustees. We'll provide some light lunch food and child care if you need it.

## Music Sunday/Pentecost/Confirmation on May 20

The Holy Spirit will be busy on Pentecost this year, pouring out a blessing on our youth as they make a confession of their faith in the service of confirmation and also inspiring our praise band, hand bells and chancel choir as they share the joy of their faith through music. Seventh,



eighth and ninth graders from our Joint Youth Ministry have been meeting as a confirmation class since February. We will celebrate their commitment to their faith and the church on **Sunday, May 20** by welcoming them as full members of our congregation. Be here for morning worship services to support these wonderful young people as they reaffirm their baptisms, and then, join them again at **5:00 p.m. at Almaden Hills UMC** as they lead us in worship and witness to their faith. The day will be a spirited celebration of our young people and an inspiration to us all. Plan to come and let the Holy Spirit bless you and rekindle your faith as the school year ends and summer begins.

## Annual Conference Offering for David

As you may know, David Forderer not only advocates for the disabled at the state level as a member of the Governor's commission on disabilities, but he does the same in the United Methodist Church as a member of Annual Conference. As we gear up to go to Modesto in June, we are asking for some extra help in getting David to Conference this year. He needs two assistants to travel with him and so we will need to cover their costs for four days and three nights. Sometimes it takes a whole village. Please make a gift of any size to the We Care Fund designated for David.

## Our Eco-Lawn is In!

On Earth Day we came to church in our work clothes and tackled the weeds that had taken over the lawn during the recent drought. Thanks to the Joint Youth Ministry and Boy Scouts and assorted adults who put in a couple of hours of hard labor, we were able to remove most of the weeds, lay down compost and over-seed what was left with a grass seed mix that is drought and weed resistant and doesn't need to be mowed often or at all. Now comes the time for daily watering and waiting for the seeds to sprout and grow. We also had a crew that worked on cleaning up the Woodhaven Garden and we want to thank them as well. Keeping our grounds looking good says to our neighbors: We know that God is good and we want you to know that, too!



## Financial Update

The Finance Committee wants to thank you for your continued financial support in 2018. So far, we've been doing pretty well in giving and other income. We're only about \$3,000 behind for the year, which is better than we expected. And to date, we have tithed in full to fund our shared ministry as United Methodists. If we can keep this up through the Summer and Fall, we'll have much to celebrate. To that end, you can help in several ways:

- By remembering to pay your pledge for the Summer (or by signing up for automatic payments through your bank or the church's website).
- By remembering to turn off the heat and the AC before you leave the building, even if

it's not your responsibility! Our PG&E bills are much higher than they should be because the thermostat is often left on by groups using the church.

- By tithing your tax refund or other financial windfall that you might receive to the church as a thank you to God for all the blessings you have been given.
- By doing your online shopping through Amazon Smile and designating the church as the beneficiary.
- By giving on your cellphone by downloading the app Joyfully2UMC.
- By sharing with the congregation why you give and what it means to you.

All your gifts are a blessing to your church family and we thank you!



## 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  
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[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 Ringers*

**Roxanne Kohlin**

*Office & Facilities Manager*  
[info@wgumc.org](mailto:info@wgumc.org)

## Pastoral Letter

It's hard to believe that I am about to finish my seventh year here at Willow Glen UMC. What a ride it has been! We have done a lot of renovations, paid off a big debt, said good-bye to many saints of the church, reconfigured our Sunday morning worship, baptized babies, confirmed youth, received new members, gone on mission trips, and embarked on a new homeless ministry. During those years, I also had to focus on getting my daughter through middle and high school and battling breast cancer.

Lately, I have been thinking about the work that is ahead of us. And I am realizing that to lead a church in a rapidly changing and culturally challenging environment will require me to get ready to make some changes, too. So, in order to be the best pastor I can be for you, I have asked the Staff-Parish Relations Committee if I may take a 5-week renewal leave this summer, beginning July 2<sup>nd</sup> and returning on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Aside from maternity leave, I have never taken a sabbatical in almost 30 years of ministry, but I hear from colleagues how refreshing and invigorating they can be. With Kristen heading to college in the fall, we aren't making any big travel plans. But I do intend to take some short trips, do a lot of hiking, make a quilt and maybe take some guitar lessons. I look forward to checking out worship in other churches and walking lots of labyrinths in prayer and preparation for our vision team work this fall. I have already lined up preachers for the Sundays I am gone, and my circuit colleagues will be filling in for pastoral emergencies.

The SPRC has been discussing how we can use these five weeks of pastoral renewal for congregational renewal as well. So we will be gathering after worship on May 6 to plan fellowship activities for the summer. The theme will be: "While the cat's away, the mice will play!"

In addition to planning some fun, the SPRC will be helping me to recruit volunteers to take on some of the ministry in my absence. We need people who will come early and set up for worship on Sundays and others who will keep in touch with our homebound members or coordinate assistance for those recovering from surgery or returning from the hospital. There is a job for everyone, so we hope that you will come to worship on May 6 to learn how you can pitch in.

I am so very grateful for the support of the Bishop, Cabinet and SPRC in providing me the time to rekindle the flame of my faith [2 Timothy 1:6]. With God's grace and your blessing, it is my prayer that I will return in August fully ready to light the fire for living out the Gospel here at Willow Glen.

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:

### CA/NV Conference Social Action Event

#### *Focus on Immigration*

The Focus on Immigration Social Action Event in April provided a wealth of information about support systems we can all tap into to assist immigrants to maintain family unity, as well as to facilitate their understanding of their rights and the benefits available to them. We learned about some of the inhumane ICE actions being taken that result in families being torn apart, children being afraid to attend school, and U.S. citizens being intimidated after assisting immigrant families. We learned that **Vilaysay "Sai" Chang**, (USCIS) US Customs and Immigration *Community Relations Officer*, works for economic well-being and justice for all as she educates the public on USCIS benefits, policies, and procedures. Much more information is available on the UMW website [www.canvunitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.canvunitedmethodistwomen.org). Some of the resources Sai recommends are: [vilaysay.p.chang@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:vilaysay.p.chang@uscis.dhs.gov), [caimmigrant.org](http://caimmigrant.org) and [im4humanintegrity.org](http://im4humanintegrity.org)



### Lifted Spirits Lunch is May 2



We will take a "Happy Cinco de Mayo" lunch to the Lifted Spirits Drop-in Center on **Wednesday, May 2**. This will be a full-on traditional celebration with assorted Mexican foods. 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, tortilla chips, salsa 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, 408-444-0702**, with your thoughts.

## District and Conference United Methodist Women 2018 Calendar

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Wed, May 2   | Lifted Spirits Cinco de Mayo Meal                   |
| Sun, May 6   | UMW Executive Board, 11:45 a.m. in Woodhaven        |
| May 18-20    | 20 <sup>th</sup> Assembly of UMW, Columbus, Ohio    |
| Sat, May 19  | UMW Annual Potluck Picnic                           |
| Sat, 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

*We're preparing for Team Spirit... We need some special supplies and your help.*

We are collecting the following items to use in projects at VBS. Please bring items to the church office or the preschool building for Pastor Susan. Contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) with any questions.

Please bring us:

- Empty shoeboxes
- Old trophies

We'd also love to borrow:

- A foosball table
- A ping-pong table

We'd also love you to join the fun and help our young players discover the power of being part of Jesus' team. We are looking for adult and teen volunteers to spend a day or two or three or the whole week at VBS. Email Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) if you'd like to be part of our team, or register as a volunteer at [vbs.wgumc.org](http://vbs.wgumc.org)

Thank you!

### Toyon Kids Camp 2018

July 8-14

Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA



Each year, some of our CrossWalk friends (entering 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

**Living honestly builds trust and helps us avoid being tangled in lies. We're sorting it all out and developing good habits in Sunday School.**



Honesty is a really big deal. That's why we are spending the month of May talking about it in Sunday School. Honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever we say and do.

Since the beginning, God has been in the business of making and keeping promises. God is honest. And we're called to reflect the image of God to the world around us. When what we say lines up with what we do, people know they can trust us. Our words have strength. Our relationships grow stronger. Our lives are built with integrity. We can show the world this reflection of God's honesty and faithfulness.

**We're building strong foundations of faith in Sunday School 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, May 11**  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Wesley Room and Kohlstedt Hall

CrossWalk will meet on **Friday, May 11** to welcome our newest members - next year's third graders. We will introduce ourselves and get ready for another year of growing together in faith, all while having some crazy CrossWalk fun!

CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders.

Bring a friend!



**Family Game Night**



**Friday, May 25**  
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.

**Pictures from the Earth Day!**







The deadline for the June  
*Willow Word* is **May 25**.  
Please send  
your story ideas and  
submissions to  
[Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

## Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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