



THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,
Sharing and Serving

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Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to like WGUMC on Facebook! www.facebook.com/WillowGlenUMC

Find the Official Church Calendar at: www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar

Reconciling Ministries Sunday a Success!



On June 4, 2017, we convened a Church Conference to vote on a recommendation to join the Reconciling Ministries Network, founded in 1982 as an organization of churches, groups and individuals, moved by the reconciling love of Jesus Christ, to create a community of reconciliation and to advocate for the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons into the life and the leadership of the United Methodist Church. The resolution passed unanimously (with a few abstentions), and we joined many over 900 United Methodist

Churches and over 35,000 individual Methodists who affirm the all-encompassing love of God. On August 19, we celebrated our first anniversary of that commitment with a special worship service and very special guests from the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus. A big thank you to Bob Birnstihl for arranging the music and to the Reconciling Ministries Committee that did a bang-up job in planning the worship, ordering yard signs and banners, making bulletin and pew inserts and decorating the sanctuary and tables at coffee hour. We had so much fun, we'll definitely do it again next year!

The following week, some of us joined a large group of Reconciling United Methodists from around the South Bay to worship and march in the Silicon Valley Pride Parade and staff a booth to welcome parade-goers into our faith communities and into a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you to Gabbie Fall for coordinating our participation in this year's Pride events.

Church Finances are on Track

Good news! Our financial picture continues to look stable as we head toward fall. You all did a great job keeping up with your pledges through the summer and thanks to a couple of large gifts we've received this year our giving continues to keep pace with our expenses. We are also staying current with our tithe to the Conference. So let's keep the momentum going into the Fall and all the way through the remainder of 2018! Thank you for your faithfulness and continued commitment to Willow Glen UMC.

- Your Finance Team



Sermon Series for September and October



What Would Jesus Do? What Would Jesus Say?

In September, the lectionary gives us the Letter of James the Doer. Just in time for Labor Day, we're going to get the one who says, "faith without works is dead." And for several Sundays, we'll work our way through his letter, asking "What would Jesus do?". And then, in October, I'll be preaching on "what would Jesus say?" about topics that are not addressed in James or any other book of the Bible. Jesus didn't directly address many of the problems we have today, but that doesn't mean that he doesn't have something important to say to us about them. So you'll have the chance to vote for the topics you want Jesus to speak to you about: Technology/Social Media, Global warming, Income inequality, Immigrants, Racial prejudice/profiling, Me Too Movement, Guns in our culture, Lack of civility/divisions in our country, State of the Church/Future of Christianity, Parenting, Aging, Care-giving, Career, Relationships, Money management, Health Challenges, Other.

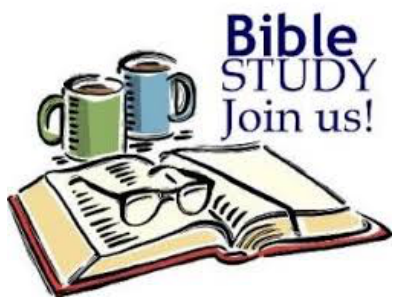
A Note from a Very Grateful Pastor

Words cannot express how blessed I feel by your willingness to allow me five weeks of renewal leave. As I said my first Sunday back, I was able to do almost everything I wanted to do. We traveled to Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. We visited my sister in Tahoe. I walked labyrinths in Kings Beach and the North Bay. I started a quilt for my daughter and rediscovered my love of sewing. I took on something that has been on my bucket list ever since I left seminary and borrowed a couple of guitars from Bob Hunt. I am practicing 30 minutes every day. I listened to lots of sermons on YouTube and found some inspiring preachers to help me reconnect with my passion for ministry.



I come back rested and renewed and ready for work. I could not have done it without the help of a whole village/congregation. So thousands of thank you's to everyone who made my renewal leave possible: members of the SPRC who took on the job of overseeing and coordinating the worship services and pitched in to do some pastoral care; Pastor Susan and all our wonderful musicians for leading in worship; Roxanne Kohlin who communicated with our guest preachers; Christine Ryczkewski who did an amazing job with the worship slides; my clergy colleagues who were there to field emergency calls; Rev. Linda Holbrook, Rev. Dick Corson, Linda Yepiz and William Geske for bringing you the Word; and last but not least, Patricia Madsen, Michelle Unger, Jane Vivian, Corazon Collen, Ruth Granfors, and Kristen Brown and all their assistants who helped you play while the cat was away! I am so sorry that I missed out on your summer of fun. We'll have to keep it going into the fall. Every one of you has been a Christ to me! Thank you. Thank you.

Thursday-Morning-Bible-Class-For-All Starts Again Sept. 6 @ 8:00 AM



Come join us as we study the Apostle Paul in a 12 lecture video by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory University—one of our favorite lecturers. Prof. Johnson says: "One of the most fascinating, important and controversial figures in the religious history of the West, Paul the Apostle continues to find champions and detractors, sometimes in surprising places." The course will explore Paul's religious commitments as a member of the Pharisaic movement, his persecution of the Christian sect, the dramatic experience that changed him into an apostle, and his work as a missionary and church founder. It addresses many questions such as these:

- *Was Paul the inventor of Christianity or part of a larger movement?
- *Is he best understood from the Acts of the Apostles or from his letters?
- *Why does he focus on moral character of the community?
- *How do his supporters and detractors depict him?

BB&B (Brown Bag & Bible) on Sept 16

Once a month, Pastor Rebecca invites you to bring a bag lunch and stay after worship for a brief meditation and deep dive into the text for the day. There are so many things you can't cover in a 20-minute sermon. There are so many questions and possible life applications. We'll meet for the first time upstairs at Woodhaven on **September 16 at noonish**.

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Pastoral Letter

Vision Team 2018

Our Vision Team has three tasks. The first is to evaluate the church's ministries in light of our current mission statement. The second is to collect data in order to learn what are the present and emerging needs in our church and community and determine whether or not our mission statement will help us respond to them. The third task is to revise our mission statement as necessary and come up with a plan to align our resources in order to meet current and anticipated needs. In short, we need to know where we are, where we need to go, and how we are going to get there.

However, we will never get where we need to go if we don't remember where we've come from and why. Let's go back to the original mission statement of Jesus. You'll find it in the Gospel of Luke. In the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." [Luke 4:18-19] In short, the mission of Jesus was to proclaim the kingdom of God. And to follow Jesus was to hope for, work for, and build a life in that kingdom.

So when Jesus told his disciples. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," [Matthew 28:19] he was essentially asking them to buy into his mission and continue the work of bringing folks into God's kingdom. That's what the mission statement of the United Methodist Church says. We are here "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Here at Willow Glen, our mission statement says that we are "God's family growing by caring, sharing and serving." That aligns with the UMC mission because growing is just another way of saying making disciples. And caring, sharing and serving are ways that we transform our world. The question is: how is it working for us?

So far, the Vision Team has been evaluating our ministries in light of our mission statement. But this fall, we need to start looking at whether our current ministries are actually meeting the current needs. That will require us to do some deep listening to the folk who are here and folk who are not here, insiders and outsiders, long-time members and newcomers, dyed-in-the-wool Methodists and the "spiritual but not religious." And the truth is that we don't know where those conversations will lead us.

We are like old Abraham who "set out, not knowing where he was going." [Hebrews 11:8] But he went on faith, and we can, too. If we already knew the answers to our questions, we wouldn't be open to any new ideas or new information, new people and new directions. If we want to know where the Spirit is leading, we have to stop and pay attention. So, as we try to respond to God's call in a fast-changing culture, let us pray for patience and trust in a God who is always going before but will never leave us behind. Remember, God is good all the time!

Enjoy!

Rebecca



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

Our Beginning: Together, we are building our legacy

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 p.m. in Woodhaven
Susan Smith

Friendship Circle

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

UMW Executive Board

Sunday, Sept 9
11:45 a.m. in
Woodhaven
Ruth Granfors

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



On March 23, 1869 in Boston, Massachusetts, Clementina Butler and Lois Parker informed six women members of the Methodist Episcopal Church about the desperate health care and educational needs of women in India. Their

Call to Action raised funds to send Isabella Thoburn, a teacher, and Clara Swain, a doctor, to India. The meeting in March led to the formation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the first of many Methodist women's mission organizations to address the injustices imposed on women and girls in the 19th century. United Methodist Women is their successor, and we celebrate 150 years of changing the lives of women, children and youth.

Mission u: Learning Together for the Transformation of the world

This year's United Methodist Women's Mission u highlighted the following thoughts on ways to enhance spiritual life. First of all, the focus of worship events should be "on worship". The idea is that all too often many other activities, endeavors and pursuits become distractions and compromise the time and space that is called "worship". We can do a better job of monitoring worship events and prevent infringement on our worship time. Secondly, it is important to take time and consider, "When did I create a designated time to be with God?" and "What special time with God have I experienced?". A third suggestion is to journal (page 607 in hymnal) covenant prayer (40 days/nights). The annual UMW training event known as Mission u was formerly known as the School of Christian Mission. Its purpose is to deepen our walk with God and to study the current issues impacting society

Lifted Spirits Lunch is Wednesday, September 5

We will take lunch to the Lifted Spirits Drop-in Center on **Wednesday, September 5**. We will assemble donated items left in the Wesley Room for the Lifted Spirits ladies. As always, the Willow Glen UMW appreciates everyone's involvement and support of this ongoing local mission. The September 5th meal will be Spaghetti (Ruth), Green Beans (Carmen), Salad (Alice), Apple Pie (Patricia), Bread (Jane) and Drinks (Gwyne). If you would like to participate in this mission, please let Ruth Granfors know (408-444-0702). We can always use salads, cookies and beverages, etc. We meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to assemble all donated items and then carpool to Lifted Spirits.



United Methodist Women 2018 Calendar

- Sept. 5 UMW Lifted Spirits Meal
- Sept. 9 UMW Executive Board Meeting, 11:45 a.m. Woodhaven
- Sept. 12-14 Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco - <http://globalclimateactionsummit.org>
- Oct. 3 UMW Lifted Spirits Meal
- Oct. 20 CA/NV Annual Conference Annual Celebration, Campbell, UMC
- Oct. 27 El Camino Real District Annual Celebration at First UMC-Sunnyvale



We have new changes to our Wednesday night schedule based on great survey feedback and conversations with our student leaders! Check out what to expect for the fall.

Wednesday Night rotation (typical unless holidays)
Always 6-8 with dinner

1st Wednesday - Guys Night/Girls night - Any 6th-12th graders can join us for a night of games, teaching, growth and creating deep friendships separated guys and girls with different leaders walking alongside you.

2nd Wednesday- Spiritual growth nights called BYOB!

7th-12th graders - Students have asked for some more intentional spiritual development with some commitment piece involved so they can really get to know other students with similar interest levels. We will be doing a three month run of this for the fall, with different options in the winter and spring. This fall we offer three groups

1. BYOB- Bring your own Bottle (water)- Outdoors with God. You'll eat dinner together and then go on a hike close by while talking about your faith and seeing God outdoors. Led by Pastor Rebecca and Bruce Eshleman
2. BYOB- Bring your own Bible- Want to understand the Bible a little better and help apply it to your life? You'll eat dinner together and then Pastor Mariellen will be leading a group through some meaningful passages and discussion.
3. BYOB- Bring your own Bias. Want to understand social justice issues and our own blind spots to local and global issues? After dinner Pastor AmyBeth will lead you through some discussion about issues that are relevant to faith and current life.

These Wednesdays will not be drop-in, but more of a sign up for the three month session. It's a trial run to better meet the needs of students who were asking for a structure and deeper community like this!

3rd Wednesday- Feed the Need - Any 6th-12th graders - Join us to cook an amazing meal and dessert from scratch, sit together in a more formal setting to eat together and then package up meals for home deliveries to those struggling with illness, death or needing some encouragement.

4th Wednesday- Student Leadership Team 7th-12th graders.

These students commit to be on the team for the year and

help us plan and implement events as well as grow in their understanding of themselves and their gifts, and of God. We would still like to have a few more students on the team so if you're interested email Lisa3cyouth@gmail.com

September is creeping up on us and we have some big dates to share!

We'll be at Almaden Hills UMC on 1200 Blossom Hill Rd for Sept/Oct



September 3, Monday (Labor Day)- 5-7pm- WATER OLYMPICS! Join us for some super fun team building games with water!

September 5, Wednesday- 6-8pm - Guys Night Girls Night kick-off with dinner

September 9, Sunday, 5-7pm Youth Group
7-8pm- Parents meeting
7-8pm- Students interested in worship band gathering

September 11, Tuesday- 7am- Holey Club High School

September 12, Wednesday-6-8pm- BYOB groups.

September 16, Sunday- 1ish pm- Leadership team building day
5pm- Matilda Movie night- Wear your PJ's and bring a book to donate to a childrens shelter

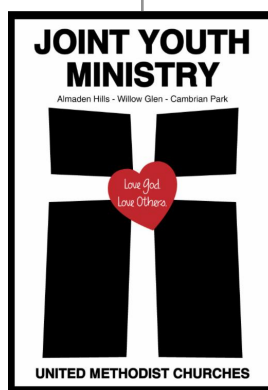
September 19, Wednesday-6pm-8pm- Feed the Need

September 23, Sunday- 5-7pm Youth Group

September 26, Wednesday - 6-8pm Leadership team

You can always find out what's happening with the JYM by visiting our website: <http://www.jointyouthgroup.com/>

Our contact info: lisa3cyouth@gmail.com and katrina3cyouth@gmail.com



Changing things up for children on Sunday mornings



As we head back to school, we are adapting our Sunday School program to better meet the needs of our children and families. Beginning **September 9**, when our children leave worship following Time for the Child, they will head over to the preschool building with volunteer teachers for Sunday School. Using a new curriculum called Dig In, children in preschool through fifth grade will experience the scripture together in fun and meaningful ways as we grow in our relationships with God and discover what it means to reflect the heart of God in our daily lives. Our new Sunday School program during the 10:00 a.m. worship replaces our Children's Chapel presentations of Godly Play stories. After many years using Godly Play, we are ready for a new approach to learning and engaging Bible stories. So join us in worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and then for Sunday School as we dig into the Bible and learn about our faith in fun and creative ways.

Protecting Our Children and Youth

God has given us a sacred opportunity and a great responsibility to nurture and protect children and youth. For this reason, Willow Glen UMC has established procedures intended to provide a safe and supportive place for children, youth and the persons who work with them, and to protect children and youth from abuse on our campus and in our programs.

This set of procedures outlines the respectful ways in which we treat children at WGUMC and the screening procedures for volunteers and staff who work with children and youth. We ask all parents and volunteers to complete a simple disclosure form which will be kept on file with the Children's Pastor. A fingerprint screening must also be completed. If you have any questions about the policies or need volunteer forms, please call Susan (x.30). Thank you for supporting our efforts to make WGUMC programs wonderful and *safe* for our children and youth.

Returning! Family Game Night at Willow Glen UMC

Saturday, Sept 22
5:30-9:00 p.m.
(note new day)



Are you looking for a way to connect with your family and others? Wanting to get away from the screens for some good fun? Join us 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.



CROSSWALK

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP FOR
THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS

Friday, September 14
7:00 - 8:30pm

Wesley Room and Kohlstedt Hall

Theme: What does it mean to be wise?

All third, fourth and fifth graders are invited to CrossWalk. We meet once a month to learn about ourselves and our faith, and have a lot of fun! This year we will be exploring the wisdom found in Proverbs and how it can help us live faithfully. We'll get to know ourselves and our friends better as we laugh and play and explore God's word together. CrossWalk is never the same twice - there's always something goofy happening as we grow! As always, feel free to bring a friend!

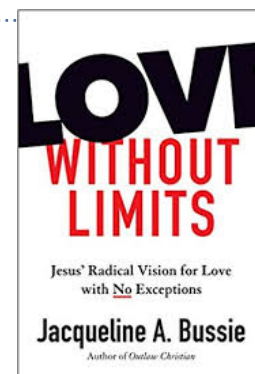
E-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to ask any questions, let her know you are coming, or just say "hi!"

General Church News continued from Page 2...

Fall Book Study

Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions, by Jaqueline Bussie.

The book promises "practical solutions for people of faith who yearn to love across division and difference in these troubled times. Through poignant personal memoir, engaging theological reflection, inspiring true stories of boundary-busting friendships, creative readings of scripture, and surprising shout-outs to some of love's unsung heroes, Bussie challenges readers to answer God's call to practice a love so deep, it subverts the social order; so radical, it scandalizes the powerful; so vast, it excludes no one." If this sounds like a balm for your wounded soul, join us on Tuesday evening, **September 18, 7:00 p.m.** in Woodhaven. We'll agree on a time and place to meet once or twice a month. Feel free to order the book or contact Pastor Rebecca and she can do it for you. It is available as a hardback or Kindle edition.



A Stewardship Guide Coming This Fall



In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus confirms that the most important commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This fall, we are putting together a guide to help us be better stewards of all our resources so we can maximize our love of God and empower our love of neighbor. We will be passing out booklets in worship and asking you to make specific commitments of your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. If you would like to help put together this stewardship guide, please contact Pastor Rebecca.

Lift Replacement Update

The money is in the bank! The architect's plans are finished! The engineers' calculations are done! The contractor has been chosen! The city approvals have been received! The permits have been paid! The lift has been ordered! All we are waiting for is the concrete man to have time to get the project started. Keep praying!

Tackle-It-Tuesdays! Sept 18

Every 3rd Tuesday of each Month at 11:00 a.m. (note new start time)

Join the Trustees and Volunteers on Third Tuesday mornings to help tackle those nagging little chores we need done around the church campus! Tasks for all ages and abilities! We can use your help! More info: contact Neil Fissel at hiltz@sbcglobal.net



Remember These Folks in your Prayers:



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| The Family of Steve Quigley | Mary Pierson |
| Sara Zwingman and family | Kay Champion |
| Pat and Tom Farrow | Kay Dahl |
| Jane Plane | Barbara Hawkins |
| Dorothy Mauseth | Russ Kintner |
| Harriet Hosack | Lex Danson |
| Eva Fisher | Ruth Lines |



September Village House Day Center at WGUMC

WGUMC is teaming with St Francis Episcopal church to provide a Day Center for Village House while Stone Church will be providing the overnight shelter. Our Day Center will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Sunday, September 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 23, 27, 28 and 30. We plan to keep the shelter operations simple, but **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** Please sign up at church and online at shelter.wgumc.org. If you have experience working with Village House, consider taking one of the 4-hour supervisor shifts each week. If you'd just like to serve as a volunteer, there are 2 1/2-hour shifts available for each day. We could especially use help early Sunday morning. Background checks are necessary and you can find the forms on the church website under "[Volunteers](#)." If you would like to be part of the leadership team or need more information, please contact Liz Pense at 408-768-6507 or Jan Leonard at 408-655-0155.

The deadline for the October
Willow Word is **September 23**.
Please send your story ideas
and submissions to
Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com

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