



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

Find the Official Church Calendar at:

www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar

Advent Worship

We are "Welcoming the Child" into our worship services this Advent and Christmas season.

Dec 2: First Sunday of Advent – Isaiah 11:1-9

The kingdom of God is where all children are welcomed and loved, especially immigrant children.

Dec 9: Second Sunday of Advent – Luke 1:57, 67-79

Like John the Baptist, children prepare the way for God to get through to us. So we welcome our own children and the wisdom they share with us.

Dec 16 : Third Sunday of Advent – Luke 1:39-45

***** WORSHIP IN KOHLSTEDT HALL*****

Several of God's children have not been able to worship with us for months because we are still waiting for our lift to be replaced. On Dec. 16, we will be worshipping in Kohlstedt Hall so that the whole Willow Glen family can be together for one Sunday.

Dec 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent – Luke 1:46-56

On the last Sunday of Advent, we will be back in the sanctuary to welcome the Christ Child with song and celebration.

Celebrating Christmas



Christmas is a wonderful time to worship with your church family, and we hope you will join us on Christmas Eve for one of our two candlelit celebrations.

Our **5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service is designed for families with children**, but is delightful for worshippers of all ages. Our children will share some special Christmas music, our praise band will lead us in familiar and contemporary Christmas carols, and the children will share Santa's favorite story as we celebrate the love of Christmas. The joy of Christmas is told with energy and hope and peace at this service.

Our **9:00 p.m. service is a peaceful candlelit service.** The familiar words of the Christmas story combine with the beauty of familiar Christmas music to create a peaceful and renewing celebration of the gift of Christ into our lives. Come and hear the good news in a way that will speak to your life for the year to come.

May all your Christmas celebrations bring you closer to the love of God.

Time for our Daily Advent Devotional

Our theme for 2018 is "Welcome the Child." We think you have a story to tell about a child who has made a mark on you and has led you a little closer to God. Maybe your parents or relatives took in an extra child when you were growing up.

Maybe you are a teacher and there was that one extra special student. Maybe you fostered a child or had an exchange student. Maybe you adopted a child or rescued a young person. Maybe you met a homeless child or



an immigrant in this country. Or maybe you have something you wish you could say to your inner child. Whatever “welcome the child” means to you, we hope that you will share your story with us because we know that it will be a blessing to us. So please write down your thoughts and email them to Pastor Rebecca at rebecca@wgumc.org. She needs 24 stories!

Advent Labyrinth Walks on Dec 4 and 19

December 4: Peace Walk from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

December 19: “A Christmas Carol” Walk from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

We are providing two opportunities to take a meditative walk on our labyrinth for all those who are seeking a little bit of peace in this crazy busy season. Our first walk will be on **Tuesday, December 4**, in conjunction with Advent Family Nights. We’ll take a “Peace Walk” with handbells to ring in the hope for peace. Our second walk will be on **Wednesday, December 19**, and will provide you some time to reflect on Christmas past, present and future in the spirit of Dickens’ classic tale.



Not Feeling Like Celebrating this Christmas?

Pastor Rebecca will arrange a special walk for anyone who is dealing with sadness or loss this season and having trouble getting into a festive spirit. Walking a labyrinth can be a healing journey of memory and hope, and she would be honored to prepare a way for you to be honest and real about how you are feeling. Call her if you would like to schedule a healing walk: 415-505-6237.

2019 Commitment Forms

We’ve gotten just over 20 commitment forms back and we need to hear from a lot more of you. Even if you give online, please, please, please let us know what you plan to give next year. If you lost your stewardship book or misplaced your form, you can pick up a new one at church or email the church office at wgumc@sbcglobal.net.

Lift Update

We thank those of you who stepped up to give a little extra when we discovered that the construction costs were going to be a lot higher than we thought. The work has begun, but it isn’t proceeding very quickly. Hang on and we’ll have a big party in the new year!

Christmas Offering



Our Christmas Eve Offering will go to our We Care Fund. David Forderer would like you all to know that he is a grateful recipient of transportation assistance from this fund and he isn’t the only one. We buy groceries, gas and sometimes clothing for people in need throughout the year, and we went over budget this year. We’d love to replenish this fund so we can continue helping next year. In lieu of buying poinsettias, which will be provided

through a generous gift from Darrin and Charla Bunton-Johnson, consider giving a gift to the We Care Fund in honor or in memory of someone special this Christmas

Manna and Hope Coat and Blanket Drive

The weather has turned cold and our houseless neighbors could use our help! We are collecting donations of gently used or new coats, blankets, scarves, gloves, hats and new socks. Please bring your donations to the Wesley room

by Sunday, December 9. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Pense 408-768-6507 or Jan Leonard 408- 65-01



**REMINDER: Giving Tree gifts are due
Sunday, December 2 & 9.
Thank you!**

General Church News continues on Page 7...

Church Staff

Rebecca Irelan

Senior Pastor

rebecca@wgumc.org

Susan Smith

Pastor of Children &
Family Ministries; Director,
Woodhaven Preschool

susan@wgumc.org

Lisa Jacobs

Director of Joint Youth
Ministries

lisa3cyouth@gmail.com

Katrina Kraynick

Associate Youth Director

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

Pastoral Letter

Isaiah's vision of the peaceable kingdom in Chapter 11 is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. It is hard for grownups to imagine that the wolf could ever live with the lamb or the lion eat straw like the ox, which is why we need little children around us, because they are better at imagining a future that is beyond what seems possible in the present.



The ravages of climate change, the devastation of forest fires and hurricanes, the polarization of our politics, and the ongoing crisis of homelessness—all these things work together to limit the horizon of our hope. But children don't see these limits nor would they pay much attention to them if they did. They don't listen to our "no's." They only hear God's "yes's."

For that reason, we want to focus on "welcoming the child" this Advent season. We want to welcome the children we know and love and also the children we don't yet know and haven't had the chance to love. We hope that they will help us to love the child that we use to be and still can be. We hope that they will help us to reconnect with our precious inner child who knows how to push the limits on love and still holds onto the hope that God's peaceable kingdom will come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Willow Glen UMC is a special place because years ago this congregation made a commitment to "welcome the child" and started a preschool. They deepened that commitment when they hired Susan to be a pastor for Children and Family Ministries and again when they came together with Cambrian Park and Almaden Hills UMC's to form the Joint Youth Ministry. Many of those children are young adults now but they can still lead us into new possibilities for ministry in the new year.

I'm looking forward to the promises ahead of us, but before we make plans to welcome any more of God's children into the faith, let's take some time to welcome the Christ child into our hearts. So let your inner child lead you to participate in the celebration of Christ's presence among us this season. Drop by our Advent Family Nights and share a meal, sing with the choir, ring with the bells, or walk a labyrinth. Renew your hope that the peaceable kingdom is a real possibility for your own life and you can make it a possibility for your world.

Peace of the season to you,

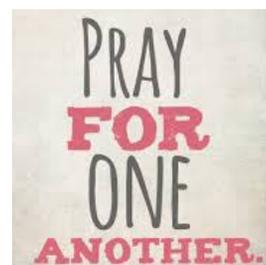
Pastor Rebecca

Remember These Folks in your Prayers:

Sara Zwingman & Family
Pat and Tom Farrow
Jane Plane
Dorothy Mauseth
The Hosack Family
Eva Fisher
Mary Pierson
Kay Champion
Kay Dahl

Barbara Hawkins
Russ Kintner
Lex Danson
Mark Menicucci
Norm Brustrom
Peggy Schlosser
Lynne Hosack
David & Tom Forderer
Joyce Osborn

Barbara DeWit
Alma Taylor
Helen Ball
Bobbie Corson
Jolene's sister, Jacqui
Village House women
Yoshiko Buchanan



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 & Ruth
Granfors*

UMW Executive Board

Sunday, Jan 13
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 Wednesday, December 5th

With harsher weather approaching, we are experiencing larger numbers of ladies in need of a hot lunch. At the same time we are finding food costs rising. This means your donations of funds to help with food purchases are greatly appreciated. As always, the Willow Glen UMW welcomes everyone's involvement and support of this ongoing local mission. We will take lunch to the Lifted Spirits Drop-in Center on Wednesday, December 5th, and we will assemble all donated items left in the Wesley Room for the Lifted Spirits ladies. Socks, gloves, and coats are especially needed. We meet at church at 11 a.m., and then carpool to Lifted Spirits. If you would like to participate in this mission, please let Ruth Granfors know (408-444-0702).



UMW 150th Anniversary Celebration Is Planned for March 2019



As we approach our 150th year of improving the lives of women, children and youth throughout our country and our world in March 2019, we are planning a special worship service followed by a 150-candles-strong Birthday Cake. We celebrate 150 years of addressing the injustices imposed on women and girls. You can become a part of this **Legacy** with your donation of \$18.69. (or more) to this important Legacy Fund. You, along with today's UMW members, will create our **Legacy** to carry the mission of faith, hope, love-in-action forward for the next 150 years and beyond. Please send your donation to: United Methodist Women, National Office, 475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, ATTN: LEGACY, New York, NY 10115. You can contact the Legacy Fund at 212-870-3705 or legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org

It's A Christmas Party and You're Invited

Our UMW Christmas program and scrumptious dinner will be hosted by the Heart and Hand Circle on **Thursday, December 6th at 5:30 p.m.** in Woodhaven. The UMW year-end meeting will be followed by dinner and entertainment. Nominations for the 2019 UMW Officers will be presented and elected. Childcare and transportation will be provided if requested. Please RSVP for the dinner to Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org).



United Methodist Women 2018 Calendar

- Dec. 5 UMW, Lifted Spirits Meal
- Dec. 6 Heart and Hand Circle, Christmas Program, 5:30, Woodhaven
- Dec. 19 Friendship Circle, Woodhaven, 12:30
- Dec. 23 Christmas Cookie Sunday
- Jan. 13 UMW Executive Board Meeting, Woodhaven, 11:45
- Mar. 15-17 Spiritual Retreat at Mission Springs, Mission Springs Conference Center, Scotts Valley



December Dates



We are at Cambrian Park UMC - 1919 Gunston Way, 95124 - in December

Sun, Dec 2 6:30-8:15pm- Plum Pudding. Come serve desserts for the annual Christmas party. Service hours given. AHUMC

Tues, Dec 4 6-8pm. Advent family nights. Crafts and potluck dinners. All ages and families welcome at WGUMC

Wed, Dec 5 6-8pm- Guys/Girls Night with dinner included.

Sun, Dec 9 4-5pm Worship band practice
5-7pm- Youth Group with small groups. CPUMC

Tues, Dec 11-7am- Hole-y Club. High school only. AHUMC

Tues, Dec 11 6-8pm. Advent family nights. Crafts and potluck dinners. All ages and families welcome at WGUMC

Wed, Dec 12 6:45pm-9pm. Volunteer at the Family Giving Tree warehouse sorting gifts for those in need! We have 35 spots. We meet at the warehouse-110 W. Tasman Drive, San Jose CA 95134. Sign ups start next week.

Sun, Dec 16 5-6:30pm. JYM teen, family and alumni Christmas dinner and party. 5-6:30pm. Bring a salad or dessert to share. JYM provides catered dinner and drinks. Lots of ways to get to know each other this evening and celebrate Christmas! CPUMC

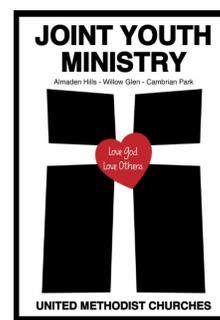
Tues, Dec 18 6-8pm. Advent family nights. Crafts and potluck dinners. All ages and families welcome at WGUMC

Wed, Dec 19 6pm-8pm- Feed the Need at CPUMC.

Fri, Dec 21 7pm-9:30pm. All youth Christmas PJ party! Desserts, white elephant gift exchange and Christmas movies. CPUMC

Dec 24 Christmas Eve worship services at our churches. All are welcome to attend.

Almaden Hills UMC at 5pm and 11pm
Cambrian Park UMC at 7pm
Willow Glen UMC at 5pm and 9pm



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

Our contact info:

Lisa - lisa3cyouth@gmail.com

Kat - katrina3cyouth@gmail.com

Leigh - leigh3cyouth@gmail.com

Many of you have been asking when our trips are for the winter and the summer! Here are the barebones and dates so you can block them off when you plan your upcoming family trips.

February 16-18 - JYM Snow Trip to Tahoe

March 24 - Evening at the Country Fair- Major fundraiser for students

June 14-23 - High School Mission trip to Pine Ridge South Dakota.

July 7-12 - Junior High Camp at Hartland Christian Camp

July 27-August 3 - Family Mexico Mission trip.

The deadline for the February Willow Word is **January 24**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com



Christian Community: Advent Family Nights

6:00-8:00 p.m. in Woodhaven

Tuesdays of Advent (Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 & 18)

It has become our tradition to gather as a church family to celebrate the season of Advent with activities and fellowship, food and preparation. We hope you will take a break from the "everyday" and join us each Tuesday for a simple potluck dinner and a little bit of "special" for the season. Drop in at Woodhaven anytime between 6:00 and 8:00pm. You'll find friendly faces, a warm meal, Christmas crafts and activities for the whole family, including the labyrinth available for some contemplative time.

We hope you'll come in from the cold and crazy of the Christmas season and get warmed and centered at Woodhaven with your church family.

If you would like to help by bringing part of the potluck meal one evening, please contact Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) or sign up online at familynight.wgumc.org. We would also like to have a host family each week to help with the set-up, greeting, serving and clean-up.

Our children will meet Santa and his animal friends in the forest to tell the Christmas story!

Audition workshop and mandatory parent meeting on Sunday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m. Cast and choir rehearsals each week in Sunday School.



Join us as we meet Santa in the woods and hear the story of the first Christmas. It's a gentle reminder of the reason for the season and the true gift of Christmas.

Choir: All of our Sunday School children become the Christmas choir. Rehearsals begin Sunday, November 18 at each Sunday (during Sunday School). Practice CDs are available from Pastor Susan.

Cast: Auditions for acting and speaking roles will take place on Sunday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m. All parents of those children interested in auditioning must attend a parent's meeting at the beginning of the audition workshop.

We need your help! We will need help creating a woodland set and may need some additional costumes, too. We will also need a photographer and videographer for the service, and stage assistance (especially with sound). Please e-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) if you can help in any of these areas.



CROSSWALK
FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP FOR
THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS

Friday, December 14

7:00 - 8:30pm

Kohlstedt Hall & Wesley Room

Theme: Making our Path Straight to Christmas

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

We're continuing to seek wisdom from Proverbs as we develop faithful habits. This month, we'll make plans to celebrate Christmas in ways that truly honor the birth of Jesus and the presence of God on earth. We'll be turning the holiday around a little so bring some Christmas advertisements or catalogs to redesign into holy art.

Friday, January 11

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Kitchen, Wesley Room & Kohlstedt Hall

Theme: Cooking for Others

Start the new year off right with friends and faith, continuing to find ways to shine our light in the world. We'll be preparing a meal to serve in the Village House women's shelter in February, and as always, there will be fun and friends, food and fellowship. CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders. Bring a friend!

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

Woodhaven Preschool Open House

Saturday, January 26

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Interested families are invited to tour the school, talk to parents and teachers, and learn more about registration for the 2019-2020 school year. Come on by yourself or pass the information to a friend or neighbor. We love sharing our school!

General Church News continue from Page 2...

Christmas Giving Tree

It's never too early to share with others during the holiday season. Stop by the Christmas Giving Tree in the Wesley Room to choose a gift tag for a special someone in the community. You can make their Christmas a little brighter by donating a gift as designated on the tag. Donations should be returned to the church as instructed on the gift tags. All gifts will be distributed through Esther's Outreach at Cambrian park UMC and the Family Giving Tree. What a wonderful time to surround others with joy and love! **Gifts should be returned to the gift-wrapped box in the Wesley Room by the date on your tag (December 2 or 9).**

Come Volunteer at the Family Giving Tree

Sunday, December 16 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Come be an elf for the Family Giving Tree - sorting and wrapping gifts for needy children in the valley. We will meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. and carpool to the Family Giving Tree warehouse in Milpitas for a 2-hour shift of Christmas wish fulfilling. This is a great project for older elementary children on up. Bring the family! E-mail Susan (susan@wgumc.org) for more information or to let her know you're coming.



Village House Shelter needs our help at St Paul's Dec 6, 15, 24, Jan 3

The Village House rotating shelter will be at St Paul's in December. They are a very small congregation and cannot provide the volunteer support. They have graciously opened their facility for use and the Village House network host churches have been asked to provide volunteer support. **WGUMC is committed to help with volunteers on Dec 6, 15, 24 and Jan 3.**

St. Paul's is located downtown at 405 S 10th St. Help is needed filling the following positions:

December 6: Breakfast Assistant, Dinner Assistant

December 15: Lead and Prepare dinner, Dinner Assistant, Intake Lead

December 24: Intake Lead, Site Supervisor, Overnight Host 1st Shift

January 3: Breakfast Assistant (2), Prepare and Lead Dinner, Dinner Assistant (2), Intake Lead

Volunteers can sign up for any of the jobs listed below by signing into the volunteer SignUp page at Village House Website <https://www.villagehousesccca.com/> or by contacting Liz Pense at 408-768-6507 or eapense@sbcglobal.net.

WGUMC to Host Village House February 2019

Thank you WGUMC for your continued support of Village House! Village House has proven to be a very successful program, having a significant impact on the medically fragile homeless women served and WGUMC is a big part of this success. From June 2017 to June 2018, 51 medically fragile women participated in the program. On average, the women stayed in the program for 107 nights. 76% were discharged into another safe and stable place and 35% were discharged to permanent house! In addition to stable housing, 32 had increased medical visits and care, 9 secured employments, 1 completed an IT certificate program, 6 attended regular psychotherapy, 15 of 18 showed improved sobriety, 3 resolved legal issues and 13 reconciled with family in a meaningful way!



Village house returns to WGUMC on February 6 and will run until March 6. The continued support by WGUMC is greatly appreciated as we prepare for our 4th year of hosting! Your help will be needed to continue this ministry successful. Can you join the shelter leadership team? We are looking for a handful of folks who are willing to serve as evening or morning supervisor one evening or morning a week so that we can have a consistent leadership team. Training will be provided! Many volunteers will also be needed in February. Contact Pastor Rebecca, Liz Pense (408)768-6507 or Jan Leonard (408)655-0155 to volunteer or for more information.

Building Hope - Mission Trip to Mexico

Willow Glen UMC, Almaden Hills UMC, Cambrian Park UMC & Joint Youth Ministry

July 27-August 3, 2019

This is an intergenerational mission project and we invite anyone ages 5-85 to consider joining the team. Working with Amor Ministries, we will build two-room houses for impoverished, working families. For most of this week-long trip, we will sleep in tents pitched in a basic campground, work full days in the Mexican sun, rain or wind and shower with a bucket of water warmed only by the sun. This trip will change your life as you get to know and fall in love with the people of Mexico who live in these conditions every day. Amor Ministries has been building in Mexico for more than 30 years. Find out more about their work at www.amor.org

The cost of the mission trip covers all mission expenses including transportation, lodging, food and the cost of the building materials (\$750 for adults, \$450 for children under 10). Your deposit of \$250/adult and \$150/child will be due by March 31, 2019.

Come find out more. An informational meeting will be held **Sunday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. at Willow Glen UMC.**

See photos from the previous trips and hear about our experiences first-hand. Find out more about the mission trip including the daily schedule and building plan. Discuss trip safety and finances. Ask all of your questions, and have them answered by folks who have taken this trip before and want you to join the team for 2019.

We hope you will join us this summer to build houses instead of walls.

Contact Pastor Susan Smith (susan@wgumc.org) or Lisa Jacobs (lisa3cyouth@gmail.com) for more information.

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

1420 Newport Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
(408) 294-9796
www.wgumc.org

