

# 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

Official Church Calendar:  
[www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar](http://www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar)

### Holy Week Services



**HOLY WEEK**

**April 18 - 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service** with Choir and Communion in the sanctuary. Meditation: Washing Feet in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**April 19 - 7:00 p.m. Joint Good Friday Service** at Almaden Hills UMC. We are joining with Los Gatos, Cambrian Park and Almaden Hills UMC's and their chancel choirs for a traditional Good Friday service held at Almaden Hills, 1200 Blossom Hill Road.

**April 21 - Easter Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary with an egg hunt to follow.

**April 28 - Holy Humor Service.** Back for a second year in a row. Wear bunny ears, an outrageous tie or a funny hat. Bring your best jokes and leftover Easter candy. Make a Peeps diorama! Time to have some laid back fun.

### What is Holy Humor Sunday?

There is 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. Since we know that Christ has already won a victory over all the evil in the world, we can take it on with a smile one Sunday out of the year.



### Focus on Mission: Congregational Meeting with Taco Bar on April 7 at 11:45 a.m.



Congregational Meeting with Taco Bar on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 am in Kohlstedt Hall. Come for the food; stay for the fellowship! Bring your favorite taco fillings (meat, cheese, beans, veggies, guacamole, etc.) and we'll provide the rest. At this meeting, we will focus on the mission of Willow Glen UMC. We will connect you to the online survey put together by our Vision Team and receive reports on the Reconciling Committee's response to General Conference, the Village House sheltering program, and the upcoming Mexico Mission and Joint Youth Ministry trips this summer. We will also entertain ideas for repairing and upgrading our church signs to include our commitment to be reconciling.

### May is Mental Health Awareness Month

On May 5, we will have Rev. Cindy McCalmont as a guest preacher to talk to us about the intersections of spiritual and mental health. Cindy is a United Methodist pastor from the Iowa Conference who now lives in San Jose and works with NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She will be available for further discussion and resources in the library following the worship service.

### Please Fill Out the Vision Team's Online Survey or pick up a paper copy at church on Sunday

WGUMC's Vision Team believes that it takes a whole congregation to listen and respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit, so they have put together a survey to listen to you. We want your feedback on the current ministries of the church and your thoughts about emerging needs in our congregation and community. By filling out this online survey, you will be helping your church meet the challenges of a rapidly-changing world. Please click on the link below and it will take you to the online survey form. We hope that you are having a holy Lent and that you will send us your comments before Easter. Bless you! [survey.wgumc.org](http://survey.wgumc.org)



Because we believe that all persons are of sacred worth;  
 Because we believe that all persons—including those who are LGBT+—are made  
 in the image of God [Genesis 1:26-7; 9:6];  
 Because we believe that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation [2 Corinthians 5:18];  
 We therefore join our sisters and brothers in the Reconciling Ministries Network in their efforts to  
 extend the love of Christ to all and to work toward the full inclusion of LGBT+ persons in the life and  
 ministry of the United Methodist Church.

On June 4, 2017, the congregation of Willow Glen United Methodist Church (by unanimous vote), joined the Reconciling Ministries Network; adopting our formal \*Reconciling Statement which opens with the words above. Our efforts today are more important than ever! While deeply disappointed & saddened by the outcome of the 2019 General Council, we also find ourselves invigorated with renewed energy and determination in working towards our mission of full inclusion for our LGBT+ siblings.

To our LGBT+ family:

You are welcome here! Willow Glen United Methodist Church whole-heartedly rejects the outcome of the General Conference. We are each an integral part of the Body of Christ, and we would be Incomplete without you.

To Reconciling Congregations & Communities, the RMN team recently posted this \*\*call to action:

“... **stand your holy ground.** Reach out to your neighbors and community with love. Proclaim your welcome of God’s LGBT+ children with boldness. This Church does not belong to exclusionary forces, and we remain committed to reclaiming it for *all* God’s people.”

Let us all strive to look for opportunities to answer this call! Listed below are a few immediate actions we can take to support the movement; you may know of more, please share! Let’s do all that we can to ensure our LGBT+ community is feeling our love & support!

#### How can I help?

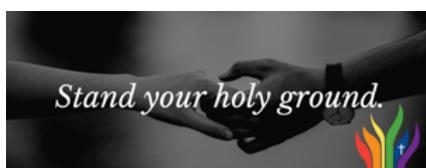
- Become a Reconciling Individual. Submit your pledge to join the witness of United Methodists who welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions into the full life of the church.
  - On-line at [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)
  - By mail: pledge cards and SASE’s available in the hallway (near the library)
- Donate.
- Pray.

#### Where can I learn more?

- Message from the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops: [Bishops Video Message](#)
- JJ Warren’s speech at General Conference: [JJ Warren Video](#)
- Post-General Conference Visits by Bishop Carcano: [Schedule of Visits](#)
- California-Nevada Annual Conference main website: <https://www.cnumc.org/>
- Reconciling Ministries Network: [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)

\*WGUMC’s full statement of Reconciliation may be found on our website at: <http://www.wgumc.org/reconciling/>

\*\* <https://rmnetwork.org/stand-your-holy-ground/>



*General News continues on Page 7...*

## Pastoral Letter

If I ever had a hard time relating to the tumult of emotions that the disciples must have felt in the days leading up to and following the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, I don't anymore. The Special General Conference held in St. Louis in February to deal with the UMC's ongoing division over LGBTQIA clergy and same-sex marriage caused a tumult of emotions among United Methodists all over the world.

For some of us, it has felt like a death or at least a grievous wound to the church we have long known and loved. To most of our bishops, the vote to pass the so-called Traditional Plan was not traditional at all but very un-Wesleyan. Tragically, a slim majority of the delegates rejected our founder's exhortation: "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may." Well, we proved without all doubt that we couldn't.

So, the days and weeks immediately following General Conference felt like a death and a crucifixion and a burial of something that I have loved all my life. My beloved United Methodist Church has come to Holy Saturday, that day that Jesus spent shut up in the tomb. But even though our Church has been shaken to its foundations and may seem as though it has no future, I sense there is something amazing happening here.

I attended the first gathering called by Bishop Carcaño at Los Altos UMC following General Conference. Over 500 people were there and so was the Holy Spirit. Since then, I have connected with clergy and laity in our Annual Conference and across the country, and I have discovered a renewed and urgent sense of call and purpose. The Methodists in the Western Jurisdiction are leading the church in a brand new conversation (*see below*). We in the West are the light of the UMC world right now, and I'm feeling both humbled and empowered to put our lamp on the lampstand of theological diversity and radical inclusivity.

Yes, we are still in the tomb, but Easter is coming! God is doing a new thing among us, and it is my fervent hope and prayer that we will have the grace and strength to be instruments of God's peace if not in the United Methodist Church we once knew, then in the new movement of Wesleyan faithfulness that is rising in the West. The resurrection is not just a future promise. It is our current reality if we are willing to live it. Alleluia!

*Rebecca*

The Western Jurisdiction leaders met in Portland in March to formulate a response to the actions taken at the Special General Conference in St. Louis in February. Here are some excerpts from their statement (for the full statement, go to [westernjurisdictionumc.org](http://westernjurisdictionumc.org)):

### A Statement by the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team

*We, laity and clergy, of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, as one body, deeply saddened and greatly harmed by the rending actions of the 2019 General Conference, reaffirm our commitment to a radically hospitable church in two converging ways.*

#### I. As United Methodists, we must resist injustice and insist that the Church repent of the exclusionary principles of the Traditional Plan.

We remain committed to the connectional ministry of The United Methodist Church and to working for an open and inclusive Church for all God's people. We understand that the unity God intends for us binds us not by uniformity, but by love, for God is love. Ever obedient to Christ's commandment to such radical love and extravagant hospitality, we cannot comply with the actions of the 2019 General Conference.

## Church Staff

**Rebecca Irelan**

*Senior Pastor*

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**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)

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

### 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  
*Pastor Susan Smith*

#### Friendship Circle

Third Wednesday  
12:30 p.m. in  
Woodhaven  
*Sue Johnson &  
Ruth Granfors*

For more information, call Patricia Madsen at 408-289-1989.

### Lifted Spirits Lunch is Wednesday, April 3

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, April 3rd, and we will assemble all donated items left in the boxes 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 Patricia Madsen know (408-289-1989).



### Mission Springs Spiritual Retreat

**Bold Discoveries: God's Not Finished with Me Yet!** was the focus of the El Camino Real District UMW Spiritual Retreat on March 15-17 at the Mission Springs Conference Center in Scotts Valley, California. Retreat leader, JoAnne Neish, provided an enthusiastic program designed to help participants discover their identity in Christ. Patricia Madsen and Mary Dee Dickerson enjoyed this spectacular Spiritual Retreat. Patricia valued the overall peace and joy of the refreshing community of women seeking to enhance their present and future role in service and love as they deepen their relationship with Christ. She felt empowered to move forward with her goals, projects, and work with United Methodist Women as a result of JoAnn's encouraging leadership and well-planned activities.

### 150 Years of UMW Love-In-Action

On Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> we celebrated the 150 year period from 1869 to 2019 when UMW started worldwide mission work. We were honored to have Pastor Mariellen Yoshino from Almaden Hills UMC leading worship as we highlighted both our achievements over the past 150 years and our plans for advances in carrying the mission of faith, hope, and love-in-action forward for the next 150 years.

### UMW Legacy Fund

Our UMW members support our **Legacy** to carry the mission of faith, hope, love-in-action forward for the next 150 years. You can become a part of this **Legacy** with your donation of \$18.69. (or more) to: United Methodist Women, National Office, 475 Riverside Drive, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, ATTN: LEGACY, New York, NY 10115. You can contact the Legacy Fund at 212-870-3705 or

[legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

### United Methodist Women 2019 Calendar

- April 20 El Camino Real District UMW Leadership Team Meeting, Almaden Hills UMC, in San Jose
- May 4 CA/NV UMW Social Action Event at the Event Conference Center in West Sacramento
- May 4-5 CA/NV Conference UMW Team Meeting with District Counterparts
- June 1 El Camino Real District Social Action Event (Location to be determined)



## The Afternoon at the Country Fair is in our rearview mirror

**With your hard work we have raised over \$32,000! We have a few more items left to bid on so check those out and see if we can make it \$33,000!**

The weather cooperated. The volunteers, both student and adult, were abundant. The auction was full. The place was decorated beautiful and the outdoors was filled with fun. We are counting this weekend as a massive success but in displaying the talent of our students in serving and performing and our adults with their gifts of decoration, organization, baking and more. We are a good family to one another and Kat, Leigh and myself couldn't be more grateful to be in our roles. We have some big auction items left over and want to offer those to people who couldn't come or those who did and might have missed their chance. If you want to place a bid on one of them please email Lisa by Friday at 3pm with the bid.

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK-** Please fill out this short survey about the Afternoon at the Country Fair. We had lots of new changes this year and we'd like to know what you liked and didn't like! Parents, alumni, students, guests etc. [Survey](#)



## High School Mission Trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota

**June 14-23 for Current 9th-12th Graders**

**When:** We will begin our drive June 14th at 7am and return sometime on June 23rd.

**Where:** Staying at churches/hotels on the way up and down in various cities/states but spending our days in Pine Ridge, South Dakota at the facility Next Step lives at for the summer.

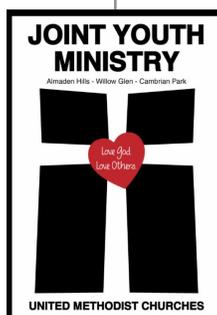
**Cost-** \$1050- This includes transportation, food, rental cars, gas, mission trip payment to Next Step, activities, shirts and much more.

The JYM can pay up to half for students trip if needed for each student attending. Every hour a student and parent volunteers at upcoming fundraising events counts as \$10 off your trip. If you need more help financially with the trip we can work that out also. We have never needed to turn someone away for lack of finances and we don't want to do that for this trip either. Please talk with us. We want this opportunity for your student and for our JYM family.

Deposit of \$300 due March 3.

Students joining us on the trip are required to attend two of the four education nights offered to better prepare us for our time in South Dakota. Additionally all families need to help at the Evening at the Country Fair on March 24th in some capacity.

You can sign up for the trip today with this [link](#) and pay your deposit by March 3rd. We have 8 spots available.



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

Current Junior High Students - Join us for an amazing week! We will travel to Hartland Christian Camp located in Badger, CA (Near King's Canyon National Park). Hartland has amazing opportunities for students, such as high ropes activities, paint ball, swimming pool, canoes, crafts and crazy games! They also have a strong focus on Jesus and student faith development. Hartland is also a

great place for students to create friendships with fellow JYM students, and learn to trust their cabin leaders, as well as Lisa & Kat. I hope you will join us!

**Who:** Current 6th - 8th grade students

**When:** July 7th at 8:00am - July 12th at 2:30pm

**Where:** Hartland Christian Camp <http://www.hartlandcamp.com/programs/jr-high-summer-camp#overview>

**Why:** Because it is awesome! And the best way for students to get to know each other better and create lasting bonds.

**Cost:** \$575 - financial aid is available!

First Deposit of \$25 is due upon sign-up, Second deposit of \$250 is due April 28th, Final Deposit of \$300 is due June 9th.

You can turn in your volunteer hours as payment with one or both deposits. If you drive to or from camp we can deduct those hours from your student's trip cost.

[CAMP SIGN UP](#)

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](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com)

Kat - [katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:katrina3cyouth@gmail.com)

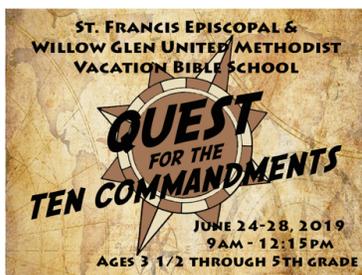
Leigh - [leigh3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:leigh3cyouth@gmail.com)



### 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.

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](mailto: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 April 7.** Thank you!



### Quest for the Ten Commandments Vacation Bible School 2019

#### June 24-28

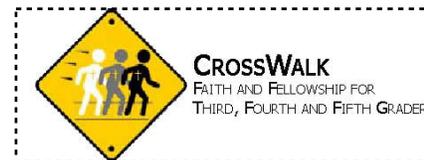
Willow Glen UMC and St. Francis Episcopal Church invite every child between the ages of 3½ years through fifth grade to Vacation Bible School, June 24-28.

It's a Quest for the Ten Commandments and you won't believe where it will take us! Throughout the week, we will have amazing Bible adventures as we discover the ten commandments and how God's rules can guide our lives and relationships. With a variety of games, crafts, songs, and a community of friends, each day will bring new experiences and help us live as God's people.

**Come join the Quest for the Ten Commandments!**

Registration is now open at [vbs.wgumc.org](http://vbs.wgumc.org)

**Registration ends April 15**, so register soon. If you would like to volunteer at Vacation Bible School, you can also register online at [vbs.wgumc.org](http://vbs.wgumc.org)



Friday, April 26

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Wesley Room & Kohlstedt Hall

Theme: Beach Day! 2.0

We're going to try again to have some beach-y fun at CrossWalk. Come for sandcastles and beach games. We're still exploring the wisdom of the Bible so there will be scripture treasure too as we discover the rocks and pebbles and sand in our lives and how we make time for everything that is important to us. Bring a beach towel!

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



### Toyon Kids Camp 2019

July 7-13, 2019

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. You can find more information and register online 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.

*Western Jurisdiction statement continued from Page 3...*



Instead, we will celebrate the fullness of God's creation in all its differences. In this moment we especially celebrate the lay and clergy leadership of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual children of God. And we will maintain the rights for our clergy and local churches to serve all people, which includes honoring the covenant of marriage for couples of all identities and orientations.

**II. Grounded in our Wesleyan heritage, we will foster a new movement to gather the energy of inclusive United Methodists throughout our global connection.**

God calls us to recognize that a "new thing" is being born—a new expression of what it means for the Church to be truly inclusive. As we continue to search for ways to serve with integrity within The United Methodist Church, we offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness to the emerging movement, seeking to join others in realizing the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons today.

As we begin to develop this new thing, we divest from institutional patterns that perpetuate racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, and other structural sins. We remember that injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere, and seek to deepen our understanding of the intersections of suffering and hope. We strive to center voices from the margins in this new thing that God is doing. We will carefully follow more leaders who are people of color, young people, and our LGBTQIA+ siblings as we pursue God's "way in the wilderness" (Isaiah 43:19).

As we make our way back home to create the Church where all are truly welcome, we invite you to partner with us. If you share our vision and our hopes, we invite you to join in the conversations that will be convened to listen to many voices and explore the possibilities for the future. Every United Methodist who shares our vision for a Church that truly, and finally, opens its hearts, minds, and doors, offering a home for all God's people, has a responsibility to do what they can from where they are. We are stronger together! If you would like to engage with what we are doing, visit [onechurch4all.org](http://onechurch4all.org) to learn more, send us a message, and stay in touch. At times when we pause to listen intently for God's word for this moment, we ask for your patience. And as we move in partnership with others and with you, we ask for your prayers, even as we pray without ceasing for you and our beloved Church.

**The Mission Cabinet of the Western Jurisdiction**

The College of Bishops  
Directors of Connectional Ministries  
Chairperson of the Leadership Team

*General News continued from Page 2...*

**Financial Update**



Unfortunately, our giving is down about 20% for the first two months of 2019. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet this would be a great time to do so. And if you give electronically and haven't updated your pledge for 2019, please go to your online account and update your electronic pledge. Your Finance Team continues to look for ways to save costs and increase our revenue, but we are always grateful for your gifts. God is good! - Your Finance Team

**Remember These Folks in your Prayers:**

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

Barbara Hawkins  
Russ Kintner  
Norm Brustrom  
Peggy Schlosser  
David & Tom Forderer  
Joyce Osborn  
Barbara DeWit  
Alma Taylor  
Helen Ball

Bobbie Corson  
Jolene's sister, Jacqui  
Women of Village House  
Yoshiko Buchanan  
Kyle Mastrolia  
Christine Ryczkowski  
Karen Haight



The deadline for the May  
*Willow Word* is **April 22**.  
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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