

# THE WILLOW WORD

## God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving



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### Sunday Worship

**10:00 a.m.**

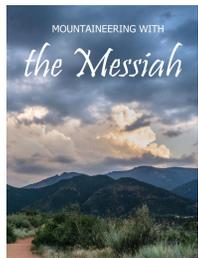
Worship

**11:00 a.m.**

Fellowship Time

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

### This Lent: The Mountains are calling...and we must go.



This Lenten season during worship, we will be taking the trail with our sister churches in Almaden and Cambrian Park and exploring the mountains around Jerusalem on our way to the cross on the mount of Calvary. Many of the important moments in the story of Jesus take place on mountains and here in San Jose, we are surrounded by them. Our three churches have some hills to climb this year, so we will take the time in Lent to get our faith in better condition. Once again, we will do a pulpit rotation, and Willow Glen will have a guest preacher on March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Lenten Prayer Journey

As part of our Lenten journey, we invite you to offer your prayers in experiential ways around the sanctuary and Trinity Room each Sunday. A variety of prayer stations will be available to receive your prayers of gratitude and confession as well as words and photos or drawings for God. Together, we will be praying for one another and for the world as well as focusing on strengthening our relationship with God. Join us on the journey.

### Lenten Daily Devotions

To go along with the mountain theme, we ask you to share with us your thoughts and stories about the mountains you have climbed (real or metaphorical) and what they have taught you about yourself and about God. I love hiking in real mountains, but the toughest mountains I have climbed were not made out of rock! And I bet the same is true for you, too. We will be inviting folks from our sister churches to contribute this year, but we still want to hear your mountain wisdom. Please send your submissions to [rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@wgumc.org).



### Bible Basics Anyone?



For Lent, we are starting a new small group for those who would like to get to know the Bible but don't know where to start or how to read it. The Bible has a lot of wisdom for living but it can be intimidating and confusing, so this class will be about taking down the barriers to Bible study and opening up a window for insight and inspiration. During Lent, this class will take the place of Kaleidoscope - Fridays at 2:30pm.

### Are you an Easter bunny?

Who doesn't love an Easter egg hunt? On Easter Sunday, April 12th, following worship, we invite all children to hunt for eggs. If you would like to help with preparations for the egg hunt or refreshments for fellowship time on Easter, email 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 March 15. Thank you!



### Equal Exchange Chocolates, Teas and Coffee are Back!



Thanks to Roxanne and Jeanette, we have re-stocked, and even have some new chocolate bars, coffees, & teas available for purchase from the cart. Look for it in the Wesley Room during Coffee Fellowship time on Sundays. Satisfy your cravings while supporting the co-ops of small-scale farmers from over 40 farmer organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States.

## Village House

We are finishing up our fifth year in the Village House program. This has been the smoothest operation yet thanks to God's grace, your prayers, and our solid team of shelter supervisors, dedicated overnight staff, and wonderful new and veteran volunteers. It is amazing that our little church can do what much larger churches struggle to do.



This year, we want to say a cheer for our co-directors (Liz Pense and Jan Leonard, and their faithful assistant, Jim Leonard); our intake director (Mindy George) evening supervisors, evening host leads and Sunday morning leads (Gerri Hodson, Yin Mei Lawrence, Gwyne Grubb, Sherri Raia, Amy Yee, Liz Pense, Mindy George, Jan Leonard, Kami Tomberlain, Rebecca Irelan, Becky Morgan, Michelle Unger, Ingrid Quigley and Kindra Ahrens); our pantry fairy (Sherry Raia); our paid overnight staff (Betty Adams, Tatianna Jackson, Gabbie Fall and Linda Yepiz); our intake, evening and overnight volunteers; meal and transportation providers; breakfast hosts; laundry team and furniture movers. We are very grateful for the folks from other churches and other organizations who filled many of our volunteer spots too. A special thank-you goes to Troop 233 for helping us move the furniture out of Woodhaven and clean the kitchens. It takes a Village to be Village House and we are grateful for each and every volunteer!

We still have a major lift at the end of the shelter, so we need your help moving the cots and storage trunks to St. Francis Cabrini on **Tuesday morning, March 3rd**, and moving the furniture back into Woodhaven on **Saturday morning, March 7th**.

## Update from your Finance Team

Unfortunately, our giving last month was significantly lower than our budget resulting in our expenses far exceeding our income. Hopefully, like other recent January's, this is an anomaly and our giving will get back on track this month. Regardless, it is more important than ever that we ask each of you to prayerfully consider your giving for 2020 and if you have not renewed your pledge, please do so now.

Remember, you can update your pledge at any time at [www.give.wgumc.org](http://www.give.wgumc.org). Thank you for all you do for Willow Glen UMC! ~Your Finance Team



## Men's Group – The Heart of Men – Meeting every Tuesday evening @ 7:00PM



**The Heart of Men**  
Saving men one heart at a time.

The Heart of Men men's group is now meeting every Tuesday evening at 7:00PM at Willow Glen United Methodist Church. There are now well over 20 guys that have signed-up for the group and we have had at least 12 men at each of our meetings so far. The theme and agenda for each meeting is set-up so that you can easily pick-up and connect with the group even if you miss a week or two. Make it a point to check it out this next Tuesday. The Heart of Men meet weekly, adventure often, volunteer regularly and retreat annually. Most importantly, we are become a Band of Brothers and hold each other accountable. RSVP on [www.theheartofmen.org](http://www.theheartofmen.org) to let us know you are coming or to find out even more information.

[Register Now](#) for the Wild at Heart Men's Retreat (**March 26-29**) in the Santa Cruz Mtns - Deep in the heart of every man is a longing for a battle to fight, an adventure to live and a beauty to rescue. It's how we bear the image of God. It's what we were made to be...and it's been lost...it must be recovered. Maybe what we need is permission. Find out [more](#)...



## The Heart of Men Scholarship Campaign

In addition to our weekly meetings and hosting a 4-day Wild at Heart Boot Camp men's retreat March 26-29, 2020, The Heart of Men has an active scholarship campaign to raise money to help any man who would like to attend the retreat and needs financial support in order to do so. Any contribution in any amount is appreciated. Here is a link to the campaign: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/wild-at-heart-mens-boot-camp-scholarship-fund>

## Pastoral Letter

Paul writes, "All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose." [Romans 8:28] That has been my mantra since our Isaiah 43:19 Team worked so hard last year on a plan for cooperative ministry for Almaden Hills, Cambrian Park and Willow Glen UMCs, built on the successful model of our Joint Youth Ministry. What we are discovering in the new year is that things never go exactly as planned, and sometimes they go better.

After submitting our proposals for a cooperative parish and a new church start for young people with the urging of our District Superintendent, the pastors met in January with Craig Brown, the Executive Director of Congregational Development for our Annual Conference, and with Matt Smith, the Chair of the Conference Committee on New and Vital Congregations and founding pastor of The Table in Sacramento. They were both pleased to receive our proposals; Matt was excited that we were the first group of churches to request a new church start. But they cautioned us that we have more work to do before we are ready for the appointment of a new church pastor. We first must clearly identify the need we are not currently meeting and train the lay leadership that will launch a new congregation to meet that need. Our efforts in this direction have begun, but we have a lot more to do.

Since then, we have learned that there was not a good match for us in the latest group of pastors especially trained to start new churches. But the bad news is good news because that gives us more time to assist our young people in laying the firm foundation for a successful launch.

Because of these considerations, the Bishop and Cabinet would like us to hold off on the proposal to form a cooperative parish. They would like to see us make more progress on the new church idea before we move into what is officially called a Cooperative Parish. That does not mean, however, that we can't go ahead and work together in ways that will strengthen our existing ministries, and that is exactly what we intend to do.

The 43:19 Team discussed the Cabinet's response and then talked about next steps. The formal assessment of congregational vitality known as ¶213 has not yet concluded for Cambrian Park, and the Cabinet is busy making pastoral appointments for the new year starting July 1. While there are questions about what that all means for us, we are going ahead with several initiatives. We are planning a joint worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, to celebrate the birth of the Church and the birth of new hope among us. We are talking to some of our JYM alums about forming a group and nurturing the leadership for new ministry to young people. And we are thinking about the potential for a new group for the young parents that we have in our post-JYM, Bootcamp and Preschool communities. We have Pastor Susan to thank for beginning these conversations and making the initial connections, but we are going to need more of you and the Holy Spirit to help make it happen.

God is good. All the time! And that means that our worship time will not change after Easter. I thank everyone who gave their feedback about the schedule for worship that we came up with to implement the cooperative parish proposal, and we were prepared to amend that schedule based on your concerns. Since the proposal is on hold, we will keep our worship at 10:00 am for the time being. Nevertheless, we are going ahead with the new weekly communion service at Cambrian Park at 8:30 am, at least for the season of Lent. Stepping back, can't you see how, in spite of all the moving parts and shifting plans, God is working for good and working all the time!

Blessings all around,  
Rebecca

## Church Staff

**Rebecca Irelan**

*Senior Pastor*

[rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@wgumc.org)

**Susan Smith**

*Pastor of Children & Family Ministries; Director, Woodhaven Preschool*

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**Lisa Jacobs**

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**Katrina Kraynick**

*Associate Youth Director*

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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)





## 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

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

### Lifted Spirits March 4th



On February 5th, the ladies of Lifted Spirits were treated to Kentucky fried chicken, cornmeal muffins by Jane Vivian, coleslaw by Alice Singh, beverages and a surprise birthday cake for Ruth Granfors from Jane Vivian and fresh fruit by Barbara Lecus. Meals now are served in the former sanctuary. Ladies that are housed have a special chance to shop at the store on our meal day.

We had ham leftover from December and plan to do a crockpot/casserole with either lentils or navy beans for **March 4th**. If you can help, please come by the church or contact any UMW member. Cash contributions are always welcome. It costs about \$100 each month. We feed anywhere from 18 to 35.

### See's Candy Sales for UMW Fundraiser

Beginning **March 15th**, the ladies of the Willow Glen United Methodist Women will be selling See's candy as their main fundraiser for the year. Becky Morgan and her helpers will be selling candy each Sunday after church for two weeks, and then delivery will conclude by **April 5th**. Each year we have one special item that we purchased additional quantities to be given to children at Easter time. Be sure to check in the Wesley room after church beginning March 15th!

# See's CANDIES®

### Conference UMW Social Action

Under the leadership of Connie Hunter, our new social action mission coordinator for the California Nevada Conference UMW, we will have a preview of the plans for



the Conference UMW legislative social action event. It will be different than in the past years and promises to be a very engaging and relevant time. The program begins with morning Bible study that will explore the issue of racial disparity in the way and manifests itself. Lunch will be served by the Plates Cafe, which is part of a nonprofit organization that is a social enterprise that supports the employment training of women. The proceeds from the Plates Café go directly to support women working to recuperate and re-engineer their lives. In the afternoon, we will divide up into workshops to discuss topics which include black parallel school boards, prison ministry and mass incarceration.

The program begins on **April 25th at 9:30 AM and will conclude at 3:30 PM** and it's being held at the Sacramento Japanese UMC in Sacramento California.

### Choose Hope for God's World at the Spiritual Retreat, Mar. 13-15

March 13-15, 2020 - In the peaceful setting of a women's weekend retreat, explore what it means to choosing hope in a time of climate chaos. Come rejuvenate yourself in the beautiful coastal redwood forest. Learn some evidence based, transformational therapies that deepen your authentic connection to the non-human natural world. Find out more about how worldviews shape our past/present/future, about climate reality today and ways to manifest real hope.

Rev. Charlotte Bear is an Elder with 23 years professional ministry experience as a senior Pastor, Healthcare Chaplain and certified Eco-Chaplain. She is also a certified Climate Reality Leader. Combining personal story with current science and eco-therapeutic techniques, she provides a framework for re-booting a constructive relationship with sacred Earth community.

Online and mail-in registration is available. Get more information on the [Retreat web page](#).

**Please register before March 4, 2020.**

## JYM in March

All events are at **WGUMC** unless otherwise stated – 1420 Newport Way

### CPR Certification for Teens & Adults

**Sunday March 8th**

**5:00 - 8:15pm**

**CPR Certification for teenagers and adults!**

Two years ago we offered students and adults the opportunity to become CPR certified. Our certifications have expired, so we are offering this class again!

Cost is \$40 a person, this is what LionHeart Safety charges us per participant. You will receive a card from the organization stating that you are CPR certified after completing the course.

We have limited space available! Please RSVP to Kat at [Katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Katrina3cyouth@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend.

### FUNDRAISER: An Afternoon at the Ball Park!

**March 29th, 2:00 - 5:30pm @ Almaden Hills UMC**

Our annual spring fundraiser is getting close - this year we are introducing a NEW theme - Afternoon at the Ballpark!

### We need help soliciting businesses for donations!

If you can help ask businesses for donations for our auction, please contact Lisa at [lisa3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com). You can do this on your own time, we have a list of businesses who have received a request form from us, you would be following up in person or over the phone with the local places.

Not only is this a fun community event for our youth group and church families, it is also an essential fundraiser that helps our program function at its current level. This is a fundraiser with many moving pieces - but its made easier when we all work together! Here is what we need:

**1. Donation Items.** We are looking for auction baskets, new items we can place in baskets, gift cards, tickets to plays or sporting events, vacation rentals, chicken eggs, parties, and anything else you think people will want to spend their money on! You can donate these items personally, or ask a business your have a good relationship with! You can use our donation letter and donation form to ask for items or gift cards.

**2. Volunteering beforehand!** We need **five parent volunteers for the auction team** to help collect donated items, inventory what we receive, put together baskets, and

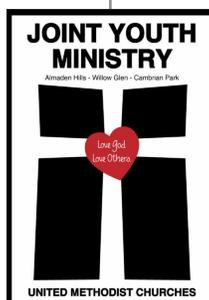
help the weekend of with arranging donations and figuring out who won what at the end of the evening. **If you are interested in that, please email Lisa at [lisa3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com).** We also need **three parent volunteers for our food team.** Help decide on what appetizers we want to serve, coordinate parent and student volunteers the weekend of, organize kitchen before and after. **If you are interested in that job, email Kat at [katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:katrina3cyouth@gmail.com).**

**3. Teenage Talent!** A big part of our event is a teenage talent show to end things off. Teens can showcase their singing, instrument playing, dancing, video making, or any other talent for their friends and family! **They earn 4 scholarship hours for participating.** Please sign-up with the [link](#) if you are interested!

### High School Summer Mission Trip

Are you in High School Currently?

We want you to join us on our annual summer mission trip! This year we are going back to one of our favorite places, The Navajo Nation in Crownpoint New Mexico to learn alongside other youth groups, build, worship and serve. It is time to get your name on the list for our trip! All the trip logistics are being worked out and the plan being set in place and will be shared in the next few weeks.



What we know for sure is we are gone- Friday, June 12th- Saturday, June 20th. We will be traveling by van. We will have some adventures along the way and it will change your life. If you plan on joining us this summer, please click below to [REGISTER HERE](#)

### Junior High Camp at Sugarpine

Are you currently in Jr. High? - Join us for an amazing week! We will travel to Sugarpine Christian Camp located in Oakhurst, CA. Sugarpine 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. Sugarpine is also a great place for students to create friendships with fellow JYM students, and learn to trust their cabin leaders. I hope you will join us!

Who: Current 6th - 8th grade students

When: July 5th at 11:30am - July 10th at 2:30pm

Where: [Sugarpine Christian Camp](#)

Why: Because it is a ton of fun! And the best way for students to get to know each other better and create lasting bonds and friendships, as well as develop in their own faith life.

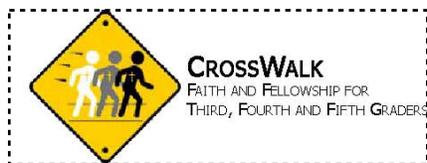
[SIGN UP HERE](#)

## Listening to God: Rainbow Promises



The rainbow was God's covenant with Noah that God would never again destroy the world with a flood. This final promise is the one we remember most from the story of Noah, but throughout the flood story, Noah also makes a number of promises to God that we

continue to keep today as our part of the covenant. In Sunday School this spring, our children will be learning about the "rainbow promise" - God's promise to never again destroy the earth, and our promise to care for one another, the animals, the plants and all of creation. As Ann Weems writes, "It's a promise - when we become rainbows to each other." Join us in Sunday School as we celebrate God's promise and strengthen our own - to become rainbows to one another and the world around us. We meet each Sunday after Time for the Child.



## CrossWalk

*Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders*

**Friday, March 13th**

**7:00 - 8:30pm**

Kohlstedt Hall & Wesley Room

Theme: A friend like Jesus

Friends are important, and we really want friends we can depend on. Let's take a look at the kind of friend Jesus was to his disciples and friends and see if we can learn to be friends like Jesus. There will be games and a little bit of science fun, too.

CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders who want to grow in faith with friends. Feel free to bring a friend!

## Making Summer Plans...

### Vacation Bible School 2020

#### Building the Peaceable Kingdom

**June 22-26th**

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 22-26th, 9am-12:15pm**. This year will be an adventure in kingdom living guided by scripture and the works of Dr. Seuss.

Online registration will be open on **March 20th** at [vbs.wgumc.org](http://vbs.wgumc.org)

### Toyon Kids Camp 2020

**July 6-12th**

Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA

Our conference offers summer camps for children and youth beginning in third grade. CrossWalk kids are planning to attend Toyon Kids Camp at Monte Toyon in Aptos, **July 6-12th**. There is nothing like camp to bring you closer to God as you make new friends and try new things! Consider a week of faith, friends and fun at camp this summer. Registration is now open online. If you have questions, check out the website at [www.calnevypm.org](http://www.calnevypm.org) or contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

The deadline for the April *Willow Word* is **March 23**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to [Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

## What is the Protocol that is being considered at the United Methodist General Conference in 2020?

Interested in more information on General Conference 2020 in Minneapolis this May? Dr. Randall Miller from Pacific School of Religion came to Campbell UMC to give us some background. He recommended some videos that will get you up to speed as the UMC heads toward a split over LGBTQ inclusion and other issues. Check out "Emily Explains" on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/qEtQENHT2qY>. In this new 6-minute video (posted Feb 20) Emily explains the origins of the "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation" and its proposed pathways for conferences and local churches in the denomination as they vote to stay/ go, and what those votes will mean for the future of the UMC.



### Resource Links:

Protocol press release, from the Council of Bishops: <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.or..>

Protocol signed agreement: <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.or..>

Protocol legislation: <https://www.gracethroughseparation.co..>

GCFA statement on the Protocol's possible financial impact: <https://www.gcfa.org/media/2123/finan...>

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/EmilyExplains](http://www.facebook.com/EmilyExplains)

## Remember These Folks in your Prayers:

Village House guests and volunteers  
 New small groups for men and young adults  
 The UMC and the upcoming General Conference  
 Ingrid Quigley, recovering from surgery  
 Mary Dee Dickerson, recovering from surgery  
 Barbara DeWit, recovering from surgery  
 Tom Mounts, recovering from surgery  
 Joyce Osborn, who was hospitalized  
 Carolyn Erickson, for pain relief  
 Mindy George, Sherri Raia, Ruth Granfors and others who have been ill



### Continued prayers for:

Lynda Hutcheson  
 Dorothy Mauseth  
 Eva Fisher  
 Mary Pierson  
 Kay Champion  
 Kay Dahl  
 Barbara Hawkins  
 Russ Kintner  
 David & Tom Forderer  
 Alma Taylor  
 Helen Ball  
 Bobbie Corson  
 Yoshiko Buchanan  
 Kyle Mastrolia  
 Barbara Stone  
 Tom Farrow

# THE WILLOW WORD

## **Willow Glen United Methodist Church**

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March 2020