

# The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

## Holy Week and Easter Services

### **Maundy Thursday Communion Service with Choir and Labyrinth**

7:30 p.m. in Kohlstedt Hall

Following the communion service, our labyrinth will be available for anyone to walk until 9:00 p.m. Children are welcome.

### **Good Friday Service at Willow Glen UMC, 7:30 p.m.**

The Joint Youth Ministry is leading the Good Friday Service and because Holy Week falls in March, Willow Glen will be hosting this year. This is an informal and participatory service that gives our young people a chance to tell the passion story and our older folks to hear it in a new way.

**ONE SERVICE on Easter Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary with egg hunt to follow.

Come early to get a good seat. You are invited to wear your Easter hats, dresses, shirts, ties, etc. This year, we want to go all out to celebrate our new life in Christ!

**ONE SERVICE on the following Sunday, April 3, at 10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary.

**ONE SERVICE on Sunday, April 17, at 10:00 a.m.** for the dedication of our new handbells.



## Give to One Great Hour of Sharing in March to Support the Work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

Your generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan
- And when the next mass crisis occurs

### **UMCOR and the Syrian Refugee Crisis**

Having begun as a refugee relief committee, UMCOR is back to its founding mission in responding to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Relief agencies agree that refugees from Syria seeking shelter in neighboring countries will soon total 3 million. An estimated 1 million uprooted Syrians already have taken refuge in Turkey. A few miles from that country's southern

*Continued on Page 7*

### **March 2016**

#### **In This Issue:**

Pastor's Page	Page 2
General Church News	Page 3
Children & Family Ministries	Page 4
Joint Youth Ministry	Page 5
Women's Page	Page 6
UMCOR	Page 7
Mission Possible	Back

## Sunday Worship

**8:45 – 9:45 a.m.**  
Contemporary Worship

**9:45 – 10:00 a.m.**  
Fellowship Time

**10:00 – 10:45 a.m.**  
Christian Education/Sunday  
School

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
Traditional Service

**12:00 – 12:30 p.m.**  
Fellowship Time

## Church Staff

Rebecca Ireland  
Senior Pastor

Susan Smith  
Pastor of Children &  
Family Ministries

Lisa Jacobs  
Director of  
Joint Youth Ministries

Lorene Sheridan  
Director of  
Weekday Ark Ministries

Robert Birnstihl  
Organist & Director  
of Music Ministries

Tom Mounts  
Director,  
the Willow Glen Ringers

Dee Davis  
Office & Facilities Manager

Karen Kwon  
Wedding Coordinator

## Celebrating Life This Easter

I don't know about you, but I am more than ready for Easter this year. Coming off of two more funerals in the last couple of weeks, it seems as if we've spent longer than three days in the tomb over the past twelve months, and I'm anxious to burst out of it. So, I'm hoping that this church family will all gather together in one service on Easter Sunday morning to give thanks to our God who has been good to us even when some days have been bad. I am picturing a sanctuary full to overflowing with God's people, all wearing our Easter best because we are determined to give our best to God and to sing resurrection until it becomes our reality. So get out your Easter hats, dresses, ties, shirts and spiffy shoes because we have new life to celebrate this year!

Following worship, you and the whole family will be invited to coffee hour and our annual egg hunt. This is the year we rejoice in one Lord, one faith, one church, one family, one service – and one egg hunt!

## Rebecca



## A Sermon Series and Study for the Easter Season

Last summer, I listened to Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, while driving to and from the redwoods in Felton. I remember thinking that this book would speak to a lot of people I know, no matter which half of life they were in. The wisdom in the book will work its way into the sermons following Easter and I am willing to lead a book study if anyone is interested. In any event, I encourage you to get the book and read it. You won't regret it.

## We Need Palms!

Do you have palms? We are in need of a new source for palm leaves for the sanctuary and Kohlstedt Hall on Palm Sunday. If you have palms in your yard or know someone who does and is willing to let us trim them, please let Pastor Rebecca know. She will be looking for volunteers who can cut and transport them to the church the day before Palm Sunday.

## 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.



## Trustees' News

In getting ready for our winter shelter, we purchased and hung curtains in all the Woodhaven windows. Thanks to the Woodhaven endowment funds, we have put the finishing touches on our retreat center. Thank you to Ruth Granfors, Susan Smith, Kristen Brown, and Steve Quigley for getting them ordered and up in time for the shelter to open!

The handrail down to the basement (and to the women's shelter clothes closet) on the north side of the sanctuary building has also been repaired. Thank you to Mike Kernaghan from the Walk to Emmaus for getting that fixed. There's nothing like having guests to get us in the mood for home improvements.



## Shelter Update

We are getting closer to the end of our winter shelter and beginning to look at how to help the women make the transition to their new church home at St. Francis Cabrini in Cambrian Park on March 16. In this effort, we have had wonderful leadership, with Susan as ministry staff liaison, Becky LaBree as our part-time shelter director, some JYM graduates as our paid overnight staff, and a task force of church members who have been meeting almost weekly to make sure that all the bases are covered and everyone is safe and comfortable. On top of that, we have had loads of volunteers from this church, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, and other faith communities, Boy Scouts, Boot Camp and also the Willow Glen business community. It really has taken a whole village to provide a safe environment for fifteen women this winter, but it has been well worth it. We will keep you informed as we develop plans for celebrating all the work we have done in the past few months and discussing how we can extend and expand this ministry in the future.





## CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for Third,  
Fourth and Fifth Graders

Friday, March 12

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Wesley Room and Kitchen

Theme: **Serving and Sharing  
with Others**

It's our turn to serve at the shelter. We will meet a little early to make the final preparations to our meal, have dinner with the shelter guests, wash the dishes and hang out a little for some games and conversation. Watch your e-mail for more details about what you can bring for our meal, or contact Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org).

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



## Taco Bar!

## Night Lights:

### Holding on to Hope in Sunday School

Hope. It's a word we hear thrown around from time to time:

I hope you have a great day.

I hope you're feeling better.

Hope that meeting with the boss goes well.

We hope for things all the time, big and small. But when you really look at the idea of HOPE, you start to notice the weight of it all. Hope in its truest and most life-giving form is something that God has uniquely offered the world. The hope that God offers can bring light into the darkest of circumstances. It helps us believe that everything is going to be okay.

As we prepare for Easter, we are remembering that, even in the darkest times, God is powerful enough to make something good come out of something bad. God will faithfully carry us through the darkness and into the light. That's a lot to celebrate!

Sunday School meets each week at 10:00 a.m. in the preschool building. See you there!

## Wild Ride at Avalanche Ranch

### Vacation Bible School

June 13-17, 2016

Summer would not be complete without Vacation Bible School! This year, we will visit Avalanche Ranch and take a wild ride through some Old Testament stories. There will be music, crafts, games, friends and lots of good ol' Western fun as we celebrate God's love for each of us and find life-changing ways to share that love. All children from 3 ½ year olds to those just finishing fifth grade are invited to attend as campers. Invite your friends and neighbors to join the Wild Ride, too. Don't forget your hat and boots!

Registration is online at [wgumc.org](http://wgumc.org) through March 31.



Willow Glen United Methodist Church  
St. Francis Episcopal Church  
Vacation Bible School 2016

## Toyon Kids Camp 2016

July 10-15

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 10-15. Pastor Susan will not be on the camp staff this summer, but many of our favorite camp leaders from previous years will be there, and they want your kids to be there too. Check it out at <http://www.cnumc.org/youngpeoplesministries>. There is nothing like camp to bring you closer to God! Consider a week of faith, friends and fun at camp this summer. Registration is open now. If you have questions, contact Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org).

## JYM Evening at the Hop

Sunday, March 20

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Almaden Hills UMC

Find your best 50's attire and throw it back to the "good old days"

- Catered 50's style dinner
- Massive Silent Auction
- Rootbeer Float Bar
- Games, Picture Booth and More Surprises
- Talent Show with Lots of Great Acts

Tickets are for sale each Sunday after church or online at [www.jointyouthgroup.com](http://www.jointyouthgroup.com). Adults \$25, teens working event \$15 children being babysat \$15, family cap price \$100.



Auction items from families, friends and businesses need to be in ASAP. We need more tickets, baskets, items, gift certificates, services and more. Please use your connections to ask for donations. This is our main fundraiser of the year. We need to raise money for our high school mission trip to South Dakota and our junior high students to attend Hartland Christian Camp this summer this summer. Please ask for donations of items or financial donations from friends! All the documents you need are on the website at [www.jointyouthgroup.com](http://www.jointyouthgroup.com).

We need more volunteers for the weekend of the event, as well as the planning and organizing in advance. Email Lisa if you can help, especially if your student will be taking scholarships this summer.

We need students to sign up for the talent show. Kat will be holding tryouts/run through on Sunday, March 6. Thank you for your support!

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

**Who:** The current 9th-12th graders in the JYM and adult leaders from the JYM are partnering with Next Step Ministries and a few other youth groups from around the country to serve in Pine Ridge.

**What:** Pine Ridge is one of the largest reservations in the country, but it is also one of the poorest. The people of the Lakota Sioux tribe continue to struggle with issues such as extreme poverty, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide. The living conditions are dismal, but there is great hope. While in South Dakota, you will be working to rebuild the Pine Ridge Reservation. Many of the work projects include new home builds and moderate-to-heavy repair projects such as flooring, siding and wheelchair ramps.

**When:** We plan to travel from San Jose on Friday, June 17. We will return on Saturday, June 26, at night. We are driving a very far distance to get there, and will have two drivers per van.

**Why:** We serve because God said to love God and love others and this is a practical, important thing to do for our faith and for others. We serve because it changes the situation of the people who we serve and it changes our hearts as well. We travel far to serve because in living in community, traveling as a youth group and seeing the world together, we grow deeply in friendship.

## Junior High at Harland Christian Camp

**Who:** Current 6th-8th graders.

**What:** A week at summer camp with hundreds of other junior high students from all over California. We travel together by rental bus to Badger, CA (about 4.5 hours away). This camp has so much to do. There is paintball, rock climbing, mud pit wrestling, basketball court, pool, ropes course, zip line, archery, snack bar, worship band, speakers, cabin leaders and much more! Lisa and Katrina will be with you for camp all week as well as some JYM Alumni and volunteers as your cabin leaders!

**When:** Sunday, July 10, through Friday, July 15.

## Women's Groups

Open to all, newcomers are welcome. Please call the contact listed below for information.

### Friendship Circle

Third Wednesday  
1:00 p.m.  
Woodhaven  
Contact Sue Johnson

### Heart and Hand

Thursday, April 7  
7:00 p.m.  
Woodhaven  
*We will make plans for our  
Cinco de Mayo dinner*  
Contact Susan Smith

UMW Executive Board will meet Monday, February 8, at 9:00 a.m. in Woodhaven. UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Patricia Madsen.

The deadline for the April *Willow Word* is March 25. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain.

## Join Heart and Hand for a Cinco de Mayo Dinner!

Ladies of WGUMC, mark your calendars for Thursday, May 5, for a delicious taco bar dinner hosted by Heart and Hand. Learn more about our UMW circles, the fun we have and how you can join. You don't need to make a decision that night, just come enjoy an evening of food and friendship. Hope to see you there!



## Women's Gathering Place

UMW is scheduled to visit the Women's Gathering Place on Monday, April 4. Leaving from the church at 11:30 a.m., we will take lunch to our friends at WGP who gather at First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Jose. These are women without permanent housing, most of whom are living on the streets of San Jose. They welcome the food and gifts we bring, but they seem to most appreciate and enjoy our being with them for a few hours of visiting and sometimes quiet activities, such as knitting, puzzles, and card games. We usually are there from noon to around 3:00 p.m.

Newcomers are always welcome, and we appreciate gifts of clothing, underwear (especially in larger sizes), socks, sanitary items and personal items such as lotion, etc. We would also welcome monetary donations to help finance the cost of the food we provide. As this is a project of United Methodist Women, checks may be made to UMW, noted for Women's Gathering Place. We will be visiting the Women's Gathering Place each month on the first Monday. To volunteer to help in any way, please contact Pat Farrow at [patricia.farrow@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.farrow@gmail.com).

## Annual See's Easter Candy Sale

Easter is coming early this year (March 27) and so is the annual sale of See's Easter Candy being promoted by UMW. Orders will be taken on February 28 and March 6, with orders filled on March 13 and March 20. For additional information, please contact Becky Morgan or Beth Minton.

An important reminder: You can order Easter Candy for the children in 3 local shelters, and provide Easter treats for children who might not have any otherwise, at the same time avoiding all those calories going home with you. Or, you can take the Easter Candy home for you and your family to enjoy!



## Give to One Great Hour of Sharing in March to Support the Work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief

*Continued from Front Page*

border with Syria, the city of Kilis, with a normal population of 88,000, has swelled to encompass an additional refugee community of more than 70,000. The most vulnerable members of the Kilis refugee camp in Turkey are Syrian children. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is working to make sure they have the opportunity to be children.

The International Blue Crescent, with funding assistance from UMCOR, provides a Child-Friendly Space. The UMCOR-supported program provides refugee children in the camp opportunities to play and interact, “to be a child, even in these difficult situations,” said Francesco Paganini, UMCOR executive for international disaster response, after a recent visit. “Our support is essential for the children to have access to the care and help they need.”

Many of the children have suffered shocking experiences amid the horror of war that overtook their homes and neighborhoods.

As the flow of Syrians uprooted from their homes continues unabated, it is sadly clear that major assistance to refugees in neighboring countries like Turkey will continue to be needed well into the future.

One Great Hour of Sharing calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God’s love with communities everywhere. The special offering underwrites UMCOR’s “costs of doing business.” This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

When you give generously during the One Great Hour of Sharing, you make a difference in the lives of people who hurt.





## Mission Possible

Back in 2013, we named our effort to renovate while paying down debt “Mission Possible,” partly to convince ourselves that such a big job wasn’t impossible. Well, we can report that the mission is looking more and more possible all the time. Many improvements have been made and more are in the works. The most recent upgrade has been the replacement of the windows in the sanctuary with new, energy-efficient windows and frames that won’t leak. The old, colored plastic windows have been removed and will be stored until we find someone who can advise us on what needs to be done and how much it will cost to restore and rehang them. Thank you to Jim Leonard for being on hand to oversee the installation.

The other good news from the Mission Possible Team is that we are down to a debt of \$71,000 on our previous renovations, and one of the remaining loans has now been paid in full. In 2011, that debt stood at \$240,000, so we have made remarkable progress. We thank every member of the Mission Possible Team over the last three years for their hard work and perseverance: Brian Ganz, Kyle Mastrolia, Dave Freeman, Jeff (and Leslie) Chamberlin, Peggy Schlosser, Jose Soler, Kindra Ahrens, and Michelle Unger.

We would like to give some of these folks a much-needed rest and we are calling upon other members of the congregation to step up and help us finish the job. We are almost there; the debt is almost three-quarters paid. You can jump on the bandwagon now and take the credit for getting us into the end zone! If you will join the team, talk to the pastor or one of the team members.

## Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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