

The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

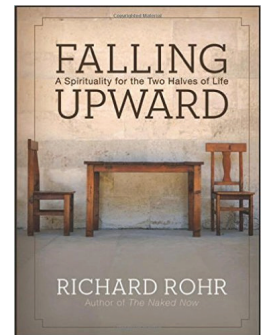
God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

A Resurrection Series

For several Sundays during the Easter season, we will be looking at our Scripture texts through the lens of Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. Falling upward is a good way to think about resurrection. The resurrection experience is like falling in love, but if you fall in love with God, you fall upward! We encourage you to buy the book or check it out of the church library and discuss it with your friends. Here are the first two sermons in the series:

April 10 – Peter and the Two Halves of Life, John 21:1-19

April 24 – Saul-Paul and the Further Journey, Acts 9



Winter Shelter Wrap-Up

We are in the process of getting together some figures that will help us evaluate our Winter Shelter experience this year and plan for next year. A financial report won't be ready until next month, but here are some data about our volunteers: All together, we had 128 volunteers.

- 59% came from WGUMC
- 22% from Holy Spirit Catholic Church
- 13% from other churches
- 6% were unaffiliated or came from another organization, like Lisa's Bootcamp, the Willow Glen Business Owners' Association and Girl Scouts.

We thank all of our volunteers, but would especially like to thank the Shelter Team, that met weekly to plan for the shelter, and our part-time paid staff, including a Shelter Director and several night supervisors. They all did a super job and were absolutely crucial in making our emergency shelter more of a "guest house." As Joyce Osborn remarked, we finally had the perfect opportunity to practice what we call "radical hospitality."

Shelter Team: Liz Pense, Jim and Jan Leonard, Pat Farrow, Janet Ehrke, Joyce Osborn, Craig Ramsay, Kristen Brown, Michelle Partsch, Becky LaBree

Shelter Director: Becky LaBree

Night Supervisors: Katie and Drew Roberts, Gabbie Fall, Christine Fall, Mikaela Manuel, and Eileen Hunter

Celebrate Our Confirmation Class on Sunday, May 1

Seventh, eighth and ninth graders from our Joint Youth Ministry have been meeting as a confirmation class since February. We will celebrate their commitment to their faith and the church on May 1 by welcoming them as full members of our congregation. Be here for morning worship services to support these wonderful young people as they reaffirm their baptisms, and then join them again at 5 p.m. at Almaden Hills UMC as they lead us in worship and witness to their faith. The day will be a spirited celebration of our young people and an inspiration to us all.



April 2016

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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 Irelan
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

I Hear Bells!

By Tom Mounts

The Willow Glen Ringers are thrilled to announce the acquisition of a new 4-octave set of Malmark handbells! The new bells debuted in church on Easter Morning. We are planning a dedication service on April 17, during a combined worship service.

In 1975, the Church purchased a 3-octave set of Schulmerich handbells, and established the Willow Glen Ringers handbell choir, under the direction of Juliette DeWitt. Those handbells served admirably for the last 41 years. Over the last 10-15 years, the age and use of the bells has started to show. Internal mechanisms have been wearing out, requiring significant rebuilding. New, unwanted sounds have sprung up, including squeaks and clicks from the axel that allows the bell's clapper to move back and forth. Additionally, as is true for most handbells, the stresses on the metal bells, themselves, have begun to result in additional "overtones," which are not always pleasant to the ear, or compatible with the actual notes being rung. For the life of the Schulmerich bells, repairs have been done in-house, by Richard Dentino, and later, by Tom Mounts. The bells have reached the point where in-house repairs are insufficient, and more professional restoration is required, at a significant cost.

Over the past 5 years, Tom Mounts had a number of discussions with his dad, Walt Mounts, about the deterioration of the Schulmerich bells. Walt indicated his support for trying to get the bells back in shape. Following his death in June of last year, Ray and Tom Mounts decided to use a portion of Walt's estate to purchase new handbells, in memory of both Walt and his beloved Alice, who was a BIG supporter of music in this church. With the approval of the Director of Music, and the blessing of Pastor Rebecca, a study was done to determine the best option to upgrade the bells. Following a demonstration by a representative from Malmark, the decision was made to purchase a new 4-Octave set of Malmark handbells.

The new bells arrived in January. They are BEAUTIFUL, and have a more "pure", even "mellower" sound than the old Schulmerich set (which we're keeping for some travel, and for looking at expanding our bell choir choices). Malmark has a unique option for their handbells, which allows the inside of the handbell handles to be inscribed. Keeping with the memorial gift nature of the new bells, the handles on the middle two octaves have been inscribed in memory of Walt and Alice Mounts and their faithfulness. The lowest bell (G3, for music lovers) has been inscribed as a memorial to Juliette DeWitt, as the foundation of the bell choir. The middle C bell has an inscription in memory of Judy Dentino, recognizing her long service as bell director, and her role in centering the bells in the worship of this church. We'll be looking at opportunities for other memorial inscriptions for the other two octaves of bells.

Meanwhile, please plan on attending worship (one service!) on April 17, when we will be celebrating the memorial gift of the bells, and dedicating them to the music ministries of this church. Also, with the additional octave of bells comes more opportunities for ringers. If you've ever thought about participating in the music ministries of the church, please give us a try!



WGUMC Staff Appreciation

On Sunday, April 24, we will be recognizing the Willow Glen UMC staff as part of the Sunday service. Please come and give them a personal thank you. We will continue the celebration with Treat Ice Cream and Cake after the service. For questions or more information, contact Elwyn Erickson at e-c_erickson@sbcglobal.net.

WGUMC is Feeding the Shelter Families on April 30

On Saturday April 30, from 4 – 6:30 p.m., WGUMC is scheduled to prepare and serve dinner at Family Supportive Housing at 692 N. King Road in San Jose. The five-year-old Shelter has 35 furnished family apartments, provides daycare, and holds ongoing classes. A full-time staff of 10 plus community volunteers help keep the Shelter going strong.

Volunteers are needed for Saturday, April 30:

4 people to donate food (we need enough to serve 70 people)

- One person to donate pasta
- One person to donate sauce
- One person to donate garlic bread
- One person to donate salad

3-4 people to set up, cook, and serve the food at the Shelter from 4 – 6:30 p.m. (no dishwashing). Please drop off food at the shelter before 3 p.m., or arrange for Stacey to pick it up at the church.

4-5 bakers to each bring 2 dozen cupcakes or cookies to the church either Friday before noon or Saturday 12 – 2 p.m., or drop off at the Shelter.

1 person to help transport food to the Shelter

All directions and instructions will be provided. For more information, please contact Stacey Ross at stacey1961@comcast.net. The next dates in 2016 are July 30 and Oct 29.

The friendly people at the Shelter will make you glad you served!

Financial Statement

Needed giving for January-February:
\$66,550

Difference between needed giving and actual giving:
-\$10,681

What this means: Giving is BELOW the minimum projected for this point in the year to fund our core ministries. Consider making an additional donation to the WGUMC general operating fund!

Visit the WGUMC "Give" page on our website. There is an Online Giving link and other opportunities. Check it out at <http://wgumc.org/give/>.



WE GIVE TO MINISTER IN JESUS' NAME

Together, Willow Glen United Methodists do remarkable Ministry in our community and around the world. We care for our homeless neighbors in San Jose; we travel to Mexico to build homes for those in need; we prepare and serve meals to the hungry; we help others in need through community services like The San Jose Family Shelter; through UMCOR we help survivors recovering from earthquakes; we equip the next generation to lead our church and make the world better. In all of this, we share the good news of Jesus Christ.



CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for Third,
Fourth and Fifth Graders

Friday, April 22

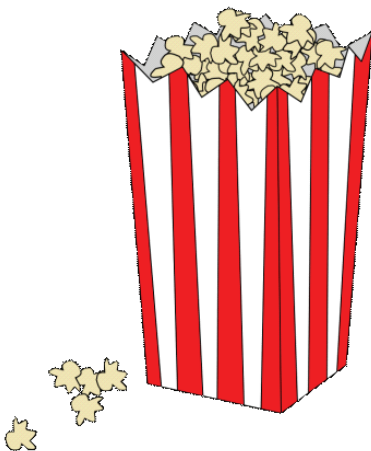
7 – 9 p.m.

Woodhaven

Theme: Everyone Wins!

We're popping the popcorn and settling in to watch a movie to highlight the value of win-win thinking. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like, and join us for a special screening in Woodhaven. We'll also be making plans for our May meeting when we welcome the incoming third graders to CrossWalk.

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



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!



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

Register online now at vbs.wgumc.org

Registration ends in early April, so register soon! If you would like to volunteer at Vacation Bible School this year, please contact Pastor Susan (ext.30 or susan@wgumc.org).

Hangin' Tough after Easter

The stories of Jesus living and teaching with the disciples after the resurrection and the tales of the early church provide a backdrop for our lessons on perseverance. In Hebrews 12:1, the author of Hebrews reminds us that when life gets hard, we can look to the heroes of the faith and see how they trusted God through some extremely difficult circumstances. God brought them through those trials, and God will help us through ours.



Our Memory Verse is Isaiah 40:31 (NIRV), "But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak." Persevering can be difficult, but thankfully we don't do this in our strength. When we trust in God, He will give us what we need to keep going.

We're trying some new things in Sunday School this spring – changing things up a little and seeing if we like the changes. Come on by and participate so you can help us decide what's best for our program. Sunday School meets each week at 10 a.m. in the preschool building. See you there!

Toyon Kids Camp 2016

July 10-15, Monte Toyon, Aptos

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).

Save the Date for Mission U

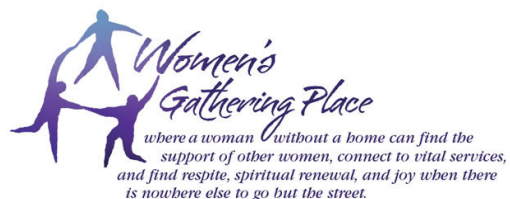
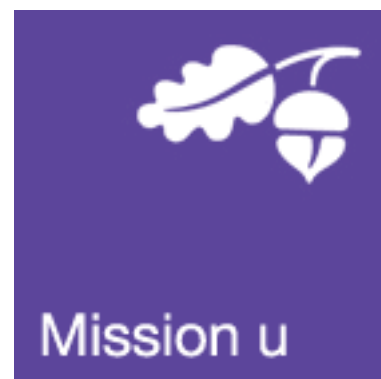
"Learning Together for the Transformation of the World" is available for members and non-members of United Methodist Women, women and men alike. The weekend event offers an in-depth study, while the one-day events give overviews of most studies. This year's studies include:

Spiritual Growth – The Bible and Sexuality, Claiming God's Gift
 Geographic – Latin America: People and Faith
 Social Issue – Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action

Dates for 2016 are:

- Weekend, August 5-7, UMC, Merced
- One-day, August 13, Visalia UMC
- One-day, August 20, First UMC, San Rafael
- One-day, August 27, First UMC, Roseville

Look for registration forms on the UMW board in the office hallway for complete information. Scholarships are available. Please contact Ruth Granfors at rag-sanjose@aol.com.



Women's Gathering Place

Members of UMW continue their monthly visits to the Women's Gathering Place on the first Monday of each month, offering lunch and friendship to those who assemble at First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Jose. Newcomers are always welcome. Gifts of clothing and personal items are needed year-round. Your financial support is also welcome. Please contact Pat Farrow for more information at patticia.farrow@gmail.com.

Request from the Clothes Closet

By Michelle Partsch

With warm weather upon us, our shelter guest friends are in need of summer clothes. We are inviting the ladies to visit our clothes closet on Thursday, April 14. If you have very good condition, clean women's clothing (shorts, tees, tanks, lighter weight pants, etc.) you would like to donate, please bring it to the Wesley Room no later than Monday, April 11, so we have time to prepare the closet. At this time, we request that you do not drop off any other items in order to make it easier for us to prepare in time. Thank you for your support!



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 21
7:00 p.m.
Woodhaven
*We will make plans for our
Cinco de Mayo dinner*
Contact Susan Smith

UMW Executive Board will meet Monday, April 11, 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 May *Willow Word* is April 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!



Social Action Event in Sacramento April 9

Formerly called "Legislative Event," this year's Social Action Event, sponsored by the CA/NV Conference of United Methodist Women, will take place at the First United Methodist Church of Sacramento on Saturday, April 9, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featured issues for action include Immigration, with the Rev. Brenda Vaca as speaker, and Human Trafficking, with speakers from Shared Hope International. Registration at the door is \$20, or \$10 without lunch. Registration forms are available on the UMW board in the office hallway, or contact Pat Farrow for additional information at patricia.farrow@gmail.com.

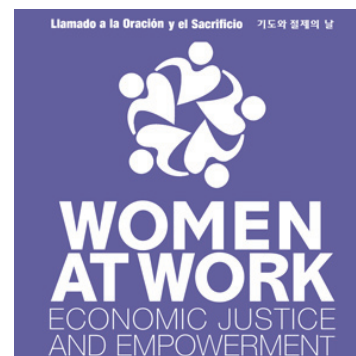
Quadrennial Meeting, Western Jurisdiction

Convening in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 22-24 with the theme "A Fresh Wind Blowing," the event will feature speakers Harriet Jane Olson, Chief Executive Officer of United Methodist Women; Yvette Richards, National President; and Rev. Paul Jeffrey, photojournalist. Of special interest is a mission trip to the nearby UMCOR West Depot and a Saturday evening banquet with a variety of entertainment. Registration of \$230 is due by April 11. For more information, please contact Ruth Granfors at ragsanjose@aol.com.

2016 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

This annual observance gives local and district units of United Methodist Women a chance to study and reflect on a particular theme each year, and to designate funds for ministries related to the theme for the year. This year's theme is "Women at Work: Economic Justice and Empowerment." The offering received will support national and international programs that empower women to gain the resources they need to earn a living wage so they can take care of themselves and their loved ones. Projects will include job skills training, small business development assistance and similar programs. The grant will also support campaigns to educate communities about economic justice at a local, national and global level. One hundred percent of the offering will go directly to fund these projects.

You may send your check to UMW, noted "Call to Prayer and Self Denial," to UMW Treasurer Becky Morgan, at the church office.



United Methodist Church Sheltering Farmers in Philippines

A United Methodist Church compound is giving sanctuary to 4,000 farmers and indigenous people after a protest for food relief turned deadly on April 1. Three protesters were killed and more than 100 injured when security forces fired on the crowd blocking a major highway. Protesters poured into the Spottswood Methodist Mission Center for refuge and the compound is now surrounded by police. Police conducted a search of those at the Spottswood Methodist Mission Center on April 2 but no guns were found.

According to news reports, 5,000 farmers from eight municipalities of North Cotabato province assembled March 30 along the Quezon Boulevard, blocking the national highway. They were demanding rice from part of the calamity fund administered by the government for those facing starvation from the drought which has plagued the area since November. The police fired on the crowd April 1. In addition to the number killed and injured, at least 89 people, including children, are reported missing.



Manila Area United Methodist Bishop Rodolfo A. Juan condemned the search and threats to Davao Episcopal Area Bishop Ciriaco Q. Francisco in an April 6 statement. "We condemn in the strongest possible terms the violence committed against our poor and helpless farmers," Juan said in his statement, recalling that Jesus fed the hungry and provided food and healing for those in need. "They are asking that they be allowed to live by being provided with the most basic of human needs — food. What was given to them were bullets and violence. Some of them met their untimely death. Jesus would have been very angry with these evil doings done against the least, the last and the lost."

He also deplored the intrusion of armed personnel into the church compound and the threats to Francisco. "We stand on our grounds that the church is a sanctuary for the most vulnerable and those in need of a refuge," Juan said.

A statement from the Promotion of Church Peoples Rights, a Filipino ecumenical human rights organization which includes The United Methodist Church, said: "Our nation faces a severe moral crisis — the cries of the people for food have been answered with hurled stones and life-destroying bullets! When the hunger of the poor brings violent responses from those in leadership, these leaders are not fit to govern. As they have lived for decades with inadequate access to basic needs and services, drought conditions are literally unbearable. Their cries should have yielded rice for them to bring to their hunger-plagued families; but rather than sustenance, they were razed by bullets and pummeled with stones."

United Methodist leaders have decried the violence against the Lumads, an indigenous people who have been the victims of genocide and human rights violations, for the past several months. The Lumads, who are from the southern Philippines, have been caught in the middle of combat between government soldiers and paramilitary rebels. Reports have surfaced of entire communities of Lumads being displaced.

In the current situation, medical and food assistance is being provided by individuals, churches and organizations with the help of United Methodists. "Let's be watchful, let us continue to stand firm and pray seeking God's protection, will, purpose. May we all be united in calling for peace," said Juan.

Mangiduyos is a correspondent for United Methodist News Service. Gilbert is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service. Contact her at newsdesk@umcom.org.



The Mission Possible Committee Is Looking for a Few Great People to Join Our Team!

The team meets once each month to approve fundraising events, organize and execute our debt re-payment plans, and to prioritize the many To-Do projects around the church facility. It's a fun team and we'd love to have your energy and ideas.

Thanks go out to Kyle Mastrolia and Peggy Schlosser, who are retiring from the team after three successful years. Thank You! To join the team or to learn more, contact Brian Ganz, Jeff Chamberlain, Jose Soler or Dave Freeman.

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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www.wgumc.org

