

# The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

## Summer Worship – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

During the last five years, our church has changed in many ways, but the where and how and when of worship has not changed in more than ten years. Recognizing that Willow Glen UMC is in some ways a new church, we are going to take a new look at our Sunday morning worship and how we can make it better. For several weeks in June and July, we will be talking about worship in worship. The children (and adults) will learn what some of the most basic elements of worship mean. The praise band will “unplug;” that is, they will be playing without the usual amplification for a more relaxed summer sound for the sanctuary. When our organist Bob Birnstihl returns from his vacation in July, we will experiment with ways to make our joint worship service a better and more intentional blend of traditional and more contemporary elements. Here are some highlights:

### June Worship

June 5: Music Sunday. Bells, choir and praise band will lead us in worshipping God and celebrating our music ministry as summer begins.

June 12: WORSHIP WILL BE IN KOHLSTEDT HALL for Disabilities Awareness Sunday. David Forderer and Pastor Rebecca will be sharing the message. We will be taking a special offering to help David attend Annual Conference as a lay member from Willow Glen UMC. He requires two assistants when he travels and so we will be taking up a collection to help defray their costs for food, lodging and transportation.

We will also be taking this opportunity for a brief consecration of our “newly” renovated hall and an update on our Mission Possible renovations and debt repayment. You are all invited to a special coffee hour on the Newport patio in celebration of our progress so far.

### Summer Sermon Series: The What, Why, Who, When, Where and How of Worship

June 19: The What of Worship, Acts 2:37-47

June 26: The Why of Worship, Revelations 7:9-17

Join us at 9:00 a.m. for bagels and conversation about your experiences in worship.

July 3: The Who of Worship, Luke 13:10-17

Pastor Rebecca will be celebrating her independence from chemotherapy this weekend and would also like to recognize others who have survived or are in the process of surviving cancer. If you haven't had cancer, but would like to celebrate being pain free, seizure free or drug free, join us this Sunday. We always remember to pray during the illness, but let's not forget to celebrate the recovery!

July 10: The When and Where of Worship, John 4:5-30; 39-42

Bring a bag lunch and stay after worship to discuss what it means to worship “in spirit and in truth.”

July 17: The How of Worship, selected readings

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. for bagels and conversation about new/old directions in worship.

If you would like to participate in our “visit another church” Sunday on July 24 or any other Sunday and fill out a response form, please send your name into the church office.

### June 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 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

## Retirement and Renewal

Each year at Annual Conference, the clergy who are retiring have an opportunity to address their colleagues and share part of their ministry story as they prepare for the next phase of their journey. I have always loved hearing their reflections and words of wisdom. Last year, one of the last to speak shared that he had learned you can retire at age 62. "62?" I thought, and I started calculating just how many years that would be for me, subtracting my age from the retirement age in question. What?!

I have never thought about retiring from ministry in anything but a "someday, when we are retired" kind of way. I cannot imagine not being in ministry in the church and not working with children and families each week. Yet, there I was calculating just how soon I could retire...and I realized that I needed to make a change.

Last winter and spring were extremely busy in both my ministry and my personal life. By June, all of my nerves were frayed and I really had no idea how everything would get done that summer. I kept my head down and just kept moving forward from one project to the next. I knew everything would get done, but I didn't feel that anything was getting my best. I knew I couldn't go on much longer like that, and I didn't want to.

So I have spent this year working to rebalance my life and work, and I can honestly say that I feel a lot less frazzled in general. I still may not know how it's all going to get done, but I am taking time to be with my family and do things for me. I am exercising more and reading more, checking my email less and setting better boundaries between work and home. I have worked really hard this year and have not always taken my days off, but I have still tried to maintain a peaceful attitude and to focus on people, rather than my to-do list. This is still an area of growth for me, and I continue to ask for your support in holding me accountable to a healthy balance.

In the meantime, I live with a teacher and a student who both get summers off, and we have often talked about me taking a month off in the summer so we can spend some extended time together and maybe take a long road trip. When I started calculating my retirement date last June, I knew it was time for this to happen. In January, SPRC graciously agreed for me to take a one-month renewal leave this July, and Steve and Casey and I started planning our time together.

Now it's time to share the plans with you, and I do so with mixed emotions. I can hardly imagine not being here each Sunday (and most days in between) for a whole month. You are my family too, and I know I will miss you. However, I also know that I need to purposefully hit the refresh button in my life so I can continue in ministry looking ahead to the people and projects involved, rather than counting down to an early retirement date. I am looking forward to returning to church in August, renewed and refreshed and ready to discover together where God is leading us in ministry together. And I can't wait to hear where the summer has taken you!

Peace and blessing,

*Susan*



## Coming Soon and Very Soon: Screens in the Sanctuary

As of this writing, plans are being made to install large monitors in the sanctuary for our use during worship and other events, such as Vacation Bible School. Thanks to the incredible generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able to do a piece of our sanctuary renovation ahead of schedule. Having screens that people can see (including the choir) will enable us to show video of church events, United Methodist relief efforts, and other videos for building up the Body of Christ. We will also be able to show the lyrics to songs or responses for prayer without the need to set up and take down a projector each time. This will be a system that will benefit our children and youth programs as well and we can't wait!

## Meditation and Mountains

**8:30 a.m. on June 9**

We'll try again to interest a group in getting out for some "tree therapy" in and around the parks in Santa Clara County this summer. This time, Pastor Rebecca will pick the trail and you can decide if it interests you. She would like to take you to the John Nicholas Trail in Sanborn County Park. The trailhead is on Black Road (off of Highway 17 at Lexington Reservoir). The trail is in the shade of redwoods and douglas fir trees and almost flat for the first two miles. At 1.4 miles, there is a small lake and a place to rest. The trail continues around the lake with plenty of bird-watching opportunities before it starts to switchback across a creek and head up to Skyline Blvd. We will plan to go about three miles total. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water bottle and bug repellent. Meet in the church parking lot and we'll ride together.

## This Is Your Church; This Is Your Chance

Pastor Rebecca and the Committee on Nominations have already started work on the leadership we need for next year as we rethink worship, stewardship and church administration. As she said in a recent sermon, this is your church and your once-in-a-generation chance to help us change the church so that it will be better positioned to change the world.

### This is Your Call

- We seek Trustees who will pay close attention to the worship conversation and how that will impact building use and needs.
- We seek workers and cheerleaders to get on board with the Mission Possible Team to finish repaying debt (only \$70,000 to go!) and continue with planned upgrades in Kohlstedt Hall and the sanctuary.
- We seek people with a passion for mission to help our Building Hope group plan for participation in a year-round rotating shelter.
- We seek individuals with a gift for facilitating conversation to lead one or two congregational meetings a year that will focus our attention on important ministries and celebrate important milestones in our church life. We also seek those who will help plan meals for those meetings.

## Wild Ride at Avalanche Ranch

**Vacation Bible School 2016**

**June 13-17**

### Vacation Bible School Set-Up

Sunday, June 12

12:00-4:00 p.m.

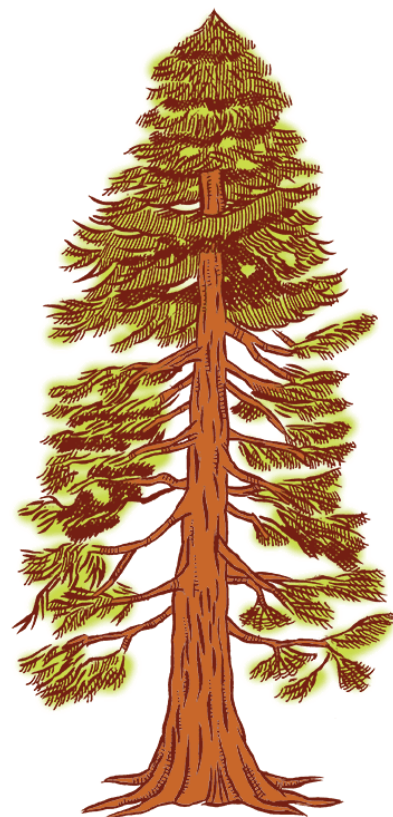
We can use lots of hands to turn WGUMC into Avalanche Ranch!

### VBS Clean-Up

Friday, June 17

1:00-3:00 p.m.

And then we clean it all up and get things ready for worship again.





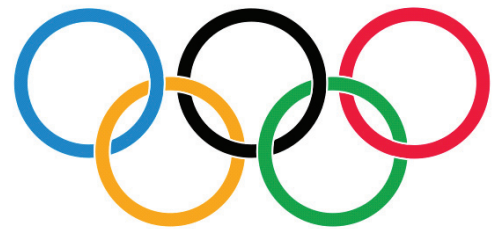
## Worshipping With Children

Children are an important part of our church family, and are always included in our worship services on Sunday mornings. You never have to worry that your child will be “too restless” for worship. Our children bring an energy and liveliness to worship that we all enjoy and appreciate. We encourage children to participate in worship in the ways that they are comfortable. Many share their joys and concerns during the prayer time, and join in our responses. Others dance in the aisles, read a book, or work on an activity clipboard provided in worship each week. It is amazing how much our children learn about worship and their faith by participating with us each week.

This summer as we worship together in one service and consider the ways that we worship and why, our children and youth will, of course, be included in that conversation. We will continue to have a “Time for the Child” in worship each week with Pastor Susan or Pastor Rebecca. However, following “Time for the Child,” kids will be invited to remain in worship with their families or go out to the playground for some special Bible Olympic training and free play supervised by our nursery staff. In worship, we will have some new “busy bags” available for young children which contain quiet activities for them to explore while soaking in the life of worship around them. We hope that your family will find what you need to make worship a time of rest and growth for you each week this summer.

## Training for the Bible Olympics

It's an Olympic year! Athletes around the world have been preparing for their events this August, and it's time for us to kick up the training for our Bible Olympics held at about the same time as the Rio games. The Bible Olympics combine physical skills such as dribbling a basketball with Bible-related skills such as knowing the books of the Bible. Each event encourages some training in Bible skills while being offered at multiple levels so all ages can be successful.



This summer, children will have the opportunity to practice these events each week on the playground following the “Time for the Child” in worship. Our own Bible Olympics will be held in August. So start your training now and get ready for the Games!

## Many Thanks to Our Faithful Children's Ministry Volunteers!

Week in and week out, these are the faithful who spend time with our kids, share the scripture stories and play together in faith. It can be a delightful ministry and, at times, it can feel like herding cats. Just last week, one of our young boys offered an observation that demonstrated that he had been listening over the past few weeks when it seemed his attention had been anywhere but on our lessons, and I was heartened by the knowledge that our kids are soaking up lessons of faith at all times. How important it is then to be continuously sharing our faith with our young people and how grateful I am for these volunteers who do that with such faithfulness and care.

I hope you will take some time to thank these special people for their dedication, and have your kids find a way to thank them, too! Their love for our children is priceless.

Sam Chamberlain – Children's Chapel  
 Janissa Dayrit – 1st & 2nd Grade Sunday School  
 Gabbie Fall – Children's Chapel  
 Tim Fisk - Nursery  
 Gillian Grubb – Children's Chapel  
 JJ Grzymala – Children's Chapel  
 Teresa Kossayan – Preschool & Kindergarten Sunday School  
 Noritsu Lantimo - Nursery  
 Becky Morgan – CrossWalk  
 Michelle Partsch – Preschool & Kindergarten Sunday School  
 Kristen Polanowski - 1st & 2nd Grade Sunday School  
 Steve Quigley – 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Sunday School  
 Carolyn Schwartz – Children's Chapel  
 Casey Smith – Children' Chapel  
 Rosa Soler – Preschool & Kindergarten Sunday School  
 Michelle Unger - 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Sunday School, Supply Queen



## Here's What You Missed at Our Confirmation Celebration

Last month, on May 1st, we celebrated the confirmation of seven young people from our church. These 7th, 8th and 9th graders met as a confirmation class from February through April. At our worship services on Sunday, May 1, we celebrated their commitment to their faith and the church by welcoming them as full members of Willow Glen UMC. Molly Freeman, one of our 7th graders, gave us an inspired message reflecting on her confirmation and what it means to her. Please take a few minutes to read or view her sermon in the "Sermons" section of our web site under "Resources" at [wgumc.org](http://wgumc.org). The 2016 class of confirmands includes Molly Freeman, Mekiah Glynn, Gillian Grubb, Evan Pham, Carolyn Schwartz, Katie Schwartz and Logan Unger.

## Thank You for Your Financial Support of Our Ministries

It is because of your prayers and support that we are able to nurture this new generation of disciples. Each confirmand had a mentor to walk the confirmation journey with them. This year we welcome a new generation of mentors: Almost 20 years ago we began to strengthen up our children and youth programs to show them how to love and be loved. BECAUSE OF YOU, our list of mentors this year included 21st century confirmands and graduates of our Joint Youth Ministry: Alex Fall Corbalis (2003), Katie Pense Roberts (2006) and Gabbie Fall (2010). God has done amazing work at Willow Glen UMC!



There are many ways you can ensure that we continue to grow disciples at Willow Glen UMC. With vacations fast approaching, please consider setting up your ongoing gifts and participation now, before you leave. A simple way to give is to set up electronic giving, either through your own online banking billpay, or through the church's electronic giving donation page. To review all the options for supporting our church, check out the giving page on our web site.



## A LOOK at the BUDGET

### Church Budget Update – April 2016

Needed giving for January – April: \$133,091

Difference between needed giving and actual giving: -\$31,896

What this means: Giving is BELOW the minimum projected for this point in the year to fund our core ministries.

**Tom Grubb has updated our easiest way to give.  
Check it out: [wgumc.org/give](http://wgumc.org/give).**

## 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

First Thursday  
7:00 p.m.  
Woodhaven  
Contact Susan Smith

UMW Executive Board will meet Monday, September 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the Wesley Room. UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Patricia Madsen.

The deadline for the July/August *Willow Word* is June 25. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain.

## Women's Gathering Place – Every First Monday of the Month

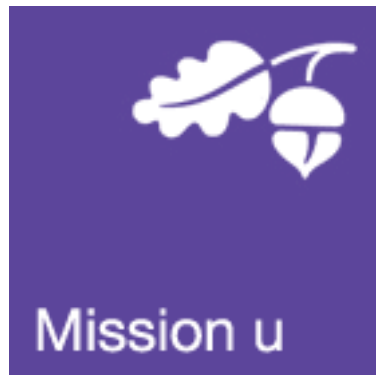
We will be serving lunch to our friends each month on the first Monday, and anyone is welcome to come along. This is an on-going project of United Methodist Women and we are committed to providing food and fellowship each month this year, although we are uncertain at this time whether the program will operate on Monday, July 1. Plans for July will be announced, when available, in the weekly news and Sunday bulletins.

Gently used clothing of all sizes, shoes and personal items are needed. There is a box in Wesley Room for donations. For more information, please get in touch with Pat Farrow at [patricia.farrow@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.farrow@gmail.com).



## “Mission U” Summer Learning Opportunities

Please see the UMW board in the office hallway for information about Mission u, a Conference program of United Methodist Women to provide information about United Methodist mission and outreach throughout the world. This year's studies are in three areas: The Bible and Human Sexuality, Climate Justice and Latin America. There is a weekend event and three one-day events, all in August. Scholarships are available for first time attendees.



Mission u is open to all, UMW members or not, women or men. Ruth Granfors will answer questions at [rag-sanjose@aol.com](mailto:rag-sanjose@aol.com).



## Where Will Summer Take Us?

### And How Can We Stay Connected?

Summer often gives us the opportunity to travel and visit new places. While we are looking forward to seeing you all in worship each Sunday, we know you will most likely take a trip or two during the warm months. So send us a postcard!

This summer, we will post two large maps at the back of the sanctuary and we want to document our travels. Send a postcard to the church from each place you visit and we'll mark that destination on our map. It will be fun for those in worship to hear from you and look forward to hearing your stories when you return.

Finally, if you worship at another church this summer, be sure to bring Pastor Rebecca or Pastor Susan a worship bulletin from their service. Anyone who does will receive a ticket for a free ice cream cone at our end-of-summer ice cream social on September 11. Keep in touch this summer – with your church family and your faith!

Send your travel postcards to: Willow Glen United Methodist Church  
1420 Newport Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125



## Ongoing Need for Men's Clothing

One of our homeless neighbors is frequently in need of new clothing. If you are cleaning out closets, we would like to keep some items on hand:

- men's jeans, size 33x32
- t-shirts, men's L
- tennis shoes, size 12
- sweatshirts/light jackets, size XL
- new men's socks and underwear, size M

If you have any of these items in clean and good condition, please drop them by the church office. Thank you!



### SPECIAL OFFER

#### HILLSIDE SINGLE BURIAL PLOT AT OAK HILL FUNERAL HOME AND MEMORIAL PARK.

Cambrian Park United Methodist Church was gifted a beautiful hillside single burial plot many years ago in Oak Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Park. This is a lovely but non-productive asset our church wishes to offer to our several church members. We are offering this location at a substantial discount from its current market value of \$13,000.00.

In addition to a 30% discount, we will also absorb the transfer fee of \$300.00 to reduce your purchase and transfer costs to \$9,100.00.

The plot is on the Sunset Hill, Lot 331, Grave No. 1. This is in Block A, between Valley View Dr. and Sunset Dr., over-looking the the Park from the top of Sunset Hill down to the trees at Curtner Ave.

Photos and more detailed information is at our church website:

<http://www.cambrianparkumc.org/>

Please see link in lower right portion of the Home Page

or goto

<http://www.cambrianparkumc.org/news--connections/burial-plot-info.html>

You may contact Bruce Guenard, Trustee at 408 377-9447 (message) for additional information.

My contact at Oak Hill is

Jose Llamas

Family Service Counselor: Oak Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Park

[jose.llamas@dignitymemorial.com](mailto:jose.llamas@dignitymemorial.com)

(408) 795 - 2037 - Direct Line

(408) 674 - 7069 - Cell

Who could assist you with plot location and other details.



## After the Winter Shelter...

For five weeks this winter, we opened our doors and our hearts to 15 women. This effort included at least 450 tasks completed by many more than 125 volunteers from over 15 churches, schools and community organizations. It was a crash course in compassion and care ministry that changed our lives.

The shelter offered our guests a respite from some of life's crises and an opportunity to feel God's peace and look ahead in their lives. Some found the energy and support to attend to medical needs. Others made decisions about education and work. Others simply felt safe and "at peace" for the first time in a very long time. All felt acknowledged and cared for as the people they are and not as the stereotype of "homeless."

It is our hope that, working together with Holy Spirit Catholic Parish and the other churches involved in this year's shelter program (both day and overnight), we can find a way to offer this kind of hospitality again next year and expand the ministry to a year-round guest house. We have begun conversations with city and county leaders in order to make this possible for churches in general, and we are inviting new congregations to join our movement. We continue to open our hearts to the moving of God's spirit to guide this ministry and it is an exciting and transformational journey.

This congregation was fortunate enough to receive many financial gifts that supported this program. Sizable gifts from the Williams family and the Ritchie and Mounts memorials (\$13,000) funded our staffing and a good portion of our shower truck rental. Smaller donations adding up to over \$5,000 covered program costs, pantry supplies and the rest of the shower cost. Looking ahead, we are exploring ways to bring the overall cost of running the shelter down by applying for grants for a shower truck and other large budget areas while continuing to welcome donations to the program. We give thanks for all of the ways you have supported this ministry and hope you will continue to share your experiences with the shelter in ways that help guide our decision-making for the future.



### Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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