

The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

Worship Schedule for Holy Week and the Easter Season

April 9, Palm Sunday:

Our "Stages of Faith" sermon series ends on Palm Sunday with Jesus, who is the fulfillment of our faith. Join us for the beginning of Holy Week.

April 13, Maundy Thursday:

7:30 p.m. service of communion in the sanctuary.

April 16, Easter Sunday:

One service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, with Easter Egg Hunt to follow. Because of schedule conflicts, this will be our "Music Sunday" this year, if you needed another reason to worship God on Easter!

We will begin a season-long celebration of the living Christ and the renewal of Creation. Come listen to speakers talk about what mountains, rivers, forests, deserts and oceans can tell us about the God who gives us life and gives it abundantly!

April 23 and 30:

We will be worshipping in Kohlstedt Hall for a couple of weeks because the lift is broken and the choir will be off.

May 7, 14, and 21:

We will be back in the sanctuary to close out the choir year. Starting May 28, worship will move to Kohlstedt Hall for the summer while we work on replacing the lift.

Easter Memorial Flowers

We will again have Easter flowers gracing the sanctuary in memory, honor, and celebration of loved ones. Easter flowers are \$10 per plant and dedications will be noted on an insert Easter Sunday. See the insert in the Sunday bulletin, and please place your order by April 9.



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.

Please note that there will not be Sunday School at 9 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

If you would like to help with preparations for the egg hunt or refreshments for fellowship time on Easter, please e-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org).

March 2017

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Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.
Sunday School

10:00 a.m.
Combined Worship

11:00 a.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

Roxanne Kholin
Office & Facilities Manager

Loving Our Neighbors

All during the season of Lent, we have been sharing stories about loving our neighbors or being loved by them. In just a few days, we will open God's house to neighbors who don't have any other shelter and the true meaning of the story of the Good Samaritan [in Luke 10] will really hit home. Our shelter team has been working on this for months. They have gone over procedures. They have written volunteer job descriptions and an operations manual. They have filled out lots of paperwork for the city to be able to run the shelter and to receive a grant to lease a shower truck. They are raising funds to cover the costs of extra custodial services, supplies, food and gift cards for clothing. Now it's our turn to step up so we can come through on our commitment to house fifteen medically fragile women for four (and maybe more) weeks.

Though it seems like a monumental task, we remember that we did it last year, and we can do it again! The advantage we have this time is that we have a much better idea of what we are doing. We have learned from our mistakes and we have more partner churches in the Village House network to help us.

The disadvantage is that we are not paying our young adults to take on the night supervision. That means that we need everyone, and I mean EVERYONE to make this work. We especially need people who will take one of the two nighttime shifts (from 10:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. or 3 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.) and stay awake while the women sleep. We also desperately need people who will come in the early morning (from 5 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.) and help the ladies get up, get breakfast and get ready to go for the day. All the other jobs and job descriptions are on the website: www.shelter.wgumc.org.

If you wonder why we are doing this, there is only one good reason: because Jesus told us to. Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." But we will ask, "When did we see you hungry and give you food or thirsty and give you something to drink or a stranger and welcome you or naked and clothe you or sick or in prison and visit you?" And Jesus will answer, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." [Matthew 25:35-40]

We love Jesus best by loving those who have the least. This is the love with which God loves each of us. If we keep it to ourselves, we won't have anything. If we give it away, we get the One who means everything. And by the grace of God, we will both receive and be a blessing.

Pastor Rebecca



Update on Our Lift

For the past year or so, the Trustees have been moving slowly toward replacing the wheelchair lift that provides access to our sanctuary. The lift was first installed in 1979, and it no longer meets any kind of standard for safety or accessibility. We knew that its days were limited, and indeed, it quit working in March. A master electrician was not able to get it started again, and we are waiting on a company that installs lifts to assess the situation. We are prepared for the news that either the lift is not repairable or it is so far out of code that they will not fix it for us. Therefore, we are moving full steam ahead with plans to replace the lift as soon as possible. We will not only be purchasing a new lift, but we will be building a shaft to house it and replacing the landing and realigning the sidewalk for better access to it. We know that this will be costly, but it is a price we have to pay if we want to say that all are truly welcome here.

We have established a fund for anyone who would like to donate to this project. It already has over \$1000 in it, but we have a long ways to go. Until Easter, we will continue worshiping in the sanctuary even if the lift is inoperable. But we will be making alternate plans for worship in the event that our sanctuary will be inaccessible for weeks or months to come. Watch your email, the church website and this newsletter for updates. And pray that God will lift us up again!

Spiritual Growth Opportunities for Lent

Kaleidoscope Bible Study continues during Lent. We have been meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings in Woodhaven, but we will be moving to the Trinity Room (off the sanctuary) starting April 6.

Who Is My Neighbor? Thank you to everyone who has sent in a story about their neighbors for our Lenten devotions this year. Keep them coming!



Good News from Mission Possible

Our capital campaign to pay down debt and continue with renovations which began in 2013 is getting close to achieving its original goals. We have just made another \$11,000 payment bringing our debt total down to just \$26,000 from well above \$200,000. We have \$20,000 still in the bank and a few projects in Kohlstedt Hall to complete. Following Kyle Mastrolia and Peggy Schlosser last year, Brian Ganz and Dave Freeman are stepping down from the committee. Jeff Chamberlain will remain on the committee long enough to help the new committee make decisions about getting the campaign across the finish line. We thank Brian and Dave and Jeff for their extraordinary dedication and leadership in this monumental project. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Financial Outlook Through February 28

Last December, several generous donations increased our giving receipts to \$80,000, allowing us to end the year with \$20,000 in our reserve fund. Unfortunately, we do not receive \$80,000 every month. In fact we have received only \$44,346 to date in 2017 which is \$11,000 less than we received by this time last year. We have not yet had to use funds from the reserve cushion, but may have to before the end of the month to pay our bills. The estimated giving needed through February to support the ministries of this church: \$62,777.

The good news is that you can give to WGMC while you shop. Instead of going to amazon.com, go to smile.amazon.com. You will be prompted to choose your charity from the drop-down list which includes WGUMC. That's it! Prices, passwords and any lists are just like Amazon, but a percentage of your purchase price goes to the church. Just be sure to include Amazon Smile in your favorites on your browser for easier access. Your gifts mean more than you know.

The other good news is that we have established a fund dedicated to replacing the lift to the sanctuary. Donations may now be made to this fund.

Also, please remember to turn off the lights and turn down the heat if you are the last one in your group to leave.

As we continue moving through 2017, we invite you to update your online giving profile on our website or send an email to Ingrid Quigley at stewardship@wgumc.org so we may better plan for this year's finances.

Humbly Following Jesus in Sunday School

We live in a world that's all about putting ourselves first. Putting others first will cost you something: your time or money. Maybe it will cost you some pride. But when we choose to follow Jesus with our lives, believing that His death and resurrection made it possible for us to be right with God, the least we can do is put others first even if it's a bit uncomfortable and costs us something.

So this month, we're exploring what it means to be humble like Jesus and to put others first. This means we have to give up our sense of entitlement. As always, Jesus shows us the way to live with humility. We'll study his life and death and resurrection with eyes and hearts focused on how we can follow his example and put others needs before our own desires. As we respond to Jesus' love, we'll learn we can show humility as we love those around us.

Our Memory Verse for April comes from Philippians 2:3 where we read, Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. (NirV)



Hero Central: Vacation Bible School 2017

June 26-30

Do good! Seek peace and go after it! Psalm 34:14b



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 26-30.

This year, we will discover the hero in each of us and celebrate the heroes all around us. Throughout the week, we will have amazing Bible adventures alongside some favorite Bible heroes that will help us find our strength in God. With crafts, games, songs, the camp community experience and some superhero fun, children will celebrate the qualities that make us heroic. We'll also learn from some community heroes too! Grab your cape, but don't hide behind a mask. Love is a superpower at Hero Central!

Registration ends April 9, so register soon at vbs.wgumc.org! If you would like to volunteer at Vacation Bible School this year, please be in touch with Pastor Susan (x.30 or susan@wgumc.org).

Toyon Kids Camp 2017

July 9 - 14, Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA

Each year, some of our CrossWalk friends (entering 3rd-6th grades) go to summer camp together at Monte Toyon in Aptos. Sponsored by the California-Nevada conference of the United Methodist Church, this is a great way to meet other kids of faith and enjoy the great outdoors together as we learn about our God and ourselves. Susan will not be on staff at Toyon Kids Camp this year but she may stop by for a visit! You can find more information and register on-line now at the Conference Camping website: www.calnevypm.org

WGUMC has financial assistance available for your kids to go to camp. If you need it, please talk to Pastor Susan.

CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for
Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders

Friday, April 28, 6:30 – 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.

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

Kristine Evon

Kristine was born and raised in San Jose and her parents are originally from the Bicol Region of the Philippines. She and her husband Bill have been married for 7 years and have an adorable 16 month old son named Ezra. Her happiest memory is when Ezra was born, and knowing the feeling of unconditional love.

Graduating from college and becoming an analyst at the Probation Department is a proud accomplishment for Kristine. She is also very social and enjoys spending time with friends, meeting new people and learning about other cultures. Cooking has always been a love of Kristine's and she enjoys spending time in the kitchen which is very therapeutic for her.

Kristine loves traveling. One of her favorite trips was to Madrid, Barcelona and Paris with two girlfriends. The most memorable part of the trip was walking through the beautiful grounds of Versailles where she felt independent and worry free. She is excited to be joining our church family.



William Jeske

William grew up in Santa Clara, but now resides in his late grandmother's Willow Glen home. His mom was a Navy brat; dad was a Wisconsin transplant. They married in 1967 and, had mom not passed away last June, they would have celebrated their 50th anniversary last February. William has one younger brother.

When he's not using his super powers to fight crime, he's a medical records technician (file clerk) for an outpatient clinic in San Mateo County. He says that his workday is filled with intense filing action: "Everything I touch turns to excitement, and then I file it." William trained to be a newspaper reporter and earned his BA in Reporting & Editing from SJSU. He still keeps an eye out for freelance opportunities and has taken up photography, hoping to supplement his freelance articles with photographs.

His happiest memory is of fishing and camping in the mid-1970s at Caswell Campgrounds. He's proud that he was able to use his (pre-internet) research skills to find and re-unite some long-lost friends.

Sally McIntire

Sally is from Newton, Massachusetts. She attended Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She has a brother and sister who still live back East. She moved to Alameda and attended graduate school at Cal State Hayward. She became a family therapist and worked out of her home.

Sally has two daughters, Heather and Renee. She is the proud grandmother to two granddaughters and a grandson. They enjoy coming to visit her and playing ping pong with her. Sally also enjoys playing ping pong and would like to get back to hiking again which is a long time joy of hers.

Sally and her late husband enjoyed driving to national parks in their motorhome. She is planning a trip with her daughter to travel to Glacier National Park this summer. Sally will also travel to New Hampshire this summer to visit her brother and sister. They plan on vacationing at the same lake that she and her family has been visiting for many years. A memorable travel experience was when she and her husband went on an African Safari in Tanzania. She loved seeing all of the animals as they migrated across the plains. Sally looks forward to becoming a member of WGUMC!

Sherri's mother always told her that she was a Methodist and Sherri knows that her mother would be pleased to see her as a member of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church.

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Women's Groups

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

Heart and Hands

Thursday, April 6
Serving Dinner for the Shelter
6 p.m. in Kohlstedt
Susan Smith

Friendship Circle

Thrid Wednesday
12:30 p.m.
Sue Johnson

The UMW Executive Board will meet Sunday, May 7, at 11:30 a.m. in Woodhaven.

UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Ruth Granfors.

The deadline for the May *Willow Word* is **April 20**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain.

Women's Gathering Place

What a wonderful Crock Pot Bonanza we had at the WGP on March 6. The guests thoroughly enjoyed the variety of homemade fare, especially Tony and Sherri's chili pot, and the pea soup and clam chowder. They were delighted by Tom Grubb's homemade bread. As always, the Willow Glen UMW appreciates everyone's involvement in this ongoing local mission. Please watch the weekly bulletins for your opportunity to get involved with this "Love Your Neighbor" service. We will serve lunch again on Monday, April 3. Please contact Pat Farrow with any questions.



Delicious Candies for Easter Baskets

Have you seen Becky Morgan and her crew with their suggestions for making Easter especially tasty? You can contact Becky or see her on Sunday mornings to purchase Sees' finest offerings. The proceeds from these candy sales will be used to provide Easter sweets to shelter residents.



Heart and Hands Serves Dinner April 6

6 p.m. in the Kohlstedt Kitchen & Wesley Room

We decided to serve dinner at the Village House Shelter on our next meeting date, Thursday, April 6. We are creating a taco/tostada bar so our guests can make tacos or salad or whatever they like.

If you would like to join us, donate part of the meal or help in some way, please contact Pastor Susan at susan@wgumc.org.



Volunteers Needed for Village House Shelter

We will host 15 medically-fragile women from April 5 to May 17. There is a role for everyone in making our guests welcome. There are opportunities for all ages and levels of assistance to help, both during the day and in the evening, with Hospitality, Supervision, Meal Prep & Service, and Laundry/Cleaning.

Volunteers are particularly needed for the shelter next week, especially Morning Hosts and Overnight Volunteers. We have a gentleman from Holy Spirit who has signed up for many of the overnight shifts, but he **MUST** be paired with a woman. So we need a female for the following shifts:

- April 6: 3 am to 7:30 am; 10:30 pm to 3 am
- April 7: 3 am to 7:30 am
- April 9: 3 am to 7:30 am; 10:30 pm to 3 am
- April 10: 3 am to 7:30 am; 10:30 pm to 3 am



We also have a lot of openings for meal providers. The following dates are open for meals: April 7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 26, and May 2. Find out more and sign up online at shelter.wgumc.org or with Amy Yee (408 431-6698; amyrandallyee@gmail.com).

Join Us for Move Out and Move In

Please join the Trustees and shelter helpers this Saturday morning, April 1, at 9 a.m. as we re-arrange the garage, move furniture out of Woodhaven and clean both kitchens in preparation for the Village House Shelter. Please email Gwyne at gwyneo@comcast.net if you are able to help. Come anytime! Your assistance is much needed and appreciated. Please bring cleaning supplies.

Move-in day for the women is Wednesday, April 5, and their belongings should arrive sometime that morning. If you can help set up cots and footlockers, please contact one of the pastors (susan@wgumc.org or rebecca@wgumc.org) and let them know you are coming.

Lenten Series Concludes next Tuesday: Let Justice Roll!

The final Tuesday evening to stretch your vision and deepen your soul. Sponsored and hosted by the United Methodist Churches of Silicon Valley: Los Gatos, Campbell, Willow Glen, Almaden Hills, Good Samaritan, Cambrian Park

Recognizing and Addressing Unconscious Bias

Tuesday, April 4, Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; Program at 7:00 p.m.

Los Gatos UMC, 111 Church Street, Los Gatos

Michael Roosevelt: Collaborative Justice Project/Sr. Court Services Analyst, Center for Families, Children & Courts

Register for the event at: <https://umcletjusticeroll.eventbrite.com>. *Make a note on eventbrite if you will need childcare.*

JYM Evening At The Movies

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Evening at the Movies this past Sunday! Though the event is only three and a half hours, it takes months and months of preparation to pull off. Lisa and Kat are so grateful for the amazing team of volunteers who have been working on auction items, food decisions and design details for the past few months. We could not put on this amazing event without you.



The totals are in ... From auction items and donations, we received \$21,600 from the event on Sunday night! This does not include dinner ticket sales, as the majority portion of tickets goes to cover our costs. In addition, we also received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 last month from a family who wanted to support our program. That means that on Sunday we had raised a grand total of \$31,600!

This is amazing news and means we will be able to continue our program for the rest of the year. It also means we have scholarship money available, so if you are hesitant to come on a trip with us, PLEASE contact Lisa and Kat and ask about financial aid! We have vacation homes and a few parties left! If you didn't get to attend and would like to make a donation to the JYM, you can do so by buying one of these items, or making a tax-deductible donation at www.jointyouthgroup.org.

Welcome New Members

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John Moriba

John is from Sierra Leone, West Africa, in the Moyamba District. He is from the Mende tribe which is one of the largest, most educated and influential tribes in the region.

John comes from a large family and has three brothers and three sisters. He has a lovely wife and two beautiful daughters. He is working so that they can join him in the U.S. as soon as possible.

John currently works as a care giver and is also looking for other opportunities in the accounting field. He loves traveling with family and friends. He is also enjoying getting to know the Bay Area. He's happy to be joining WGUMC and has already started singing in the choir!

Sherri Raia

Sherri is originally from Elk City, Oklahoma, where she was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Elk City when she was 10 years old. Shortly after, she moved to San Jose with her parents when she was twelve.

She and her husband, Tony, have been married for 38 years. She enjoys spending time with his three grown children and all their extended family.

Sherri is a retired special education teacher where she taught at Steinbeck Middle school in the San Jose Unified School District. She also worked as a program specialist part time after retiring from teaching.

Sherri volunteers at the Humane Society in her spare time and enjoys reading. She also loves to travel. She has been to Europe several times and she has traveled to Mexico and Canada. She dreams of one day traveling to China sometime and is planning a trip to Chicago this fall. Her favorite and most memorable trip was a river cruise from Amsterdam to Belgium and back.

Kristin Salah

Still coming - check back next month!

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