

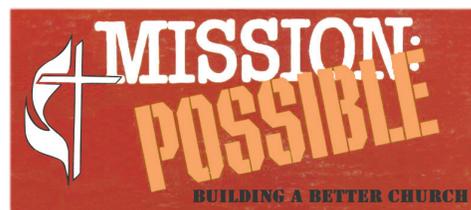
# The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

## Save the Date: Mission Possible Celebration Dinner on Good Steward Sunday, September 10

Our third congregational meeting and meal will be held after worship on September 10 to celebrate the successful completion of the Mission Possible Campaign to renovate Kohlstedt Hall and pay down debt from the Woodhaven renovation. We will also take a look at our ministry needs for next year and begin collecting pledges for the 2018 operating budget and the lift replacement fund. We are planning a meal that is not to be missed!



## What's Up With Worship?

For the month of August, we will continue meeting in Kohlstedt Hall for worship, except on August 20, when we will do a pet blessing service on the Woodhaven Patio. Beginning in August, Pastor Rebecca will be preaching on some gems of Scripture found in the Book of Romans. These are passages that everyone should commit to memory, because there will come a time when every one of us will need them!

## Blessing of the Animals on August 20 at 10 a.m.

Bring your pets to our service of blessing, and we will give thanks for the special animals that God put into our lives to remind us of our vital connections to (and responsibilities for) the precious web of God's good Creation. Our worship service will be outside on the Woodhaven Patio, but your pet must be properly restrained at all times while on the church campus. Water and shade will be provided. If you can't bring your pet, bring us a photo to bless. If you don't have a pet but would like us to bless your stuffed animal, we can do that, too.

If you would volunteer to help us set up chairs and equipment early that morning or if you could be a pet guardian to help us keep all our pets and people comfortable and safe, please give your name to Pastor Rebecca or Pastor Susan. This will be a great weekend to invite a friend or neighbor – and their pet, too!



## Your Church, Your Chance

With lots of changes in our congregation and with Pastor Susan now splitting her time between the Preschool and the Church, we have the task of reassessing our ministries and the people we need to lead them in the coming year. The Nominations Committee has begun addressing these needs and would like to offer you a once-in-a-generation chance to help us change the church so that it will be better positioned to change the world.

*See Volunteers in Ministry, Pages 4-5*

### July/August 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

## We Are a UMC With Pride

At our congregational meeting and church conference on June 4, we gathered in Kohlstedt Hall to receive a recommendation from our informal Reconciling Ministries group to become an official member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which is an organization of mostly United Methodist Churches, Mission Committees, Sunday School classes and individuals who are committed to advocating for the full inclusion of LGBT+ persons into the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church. We invited members of the Reconciling Ministries Committee from Almaden Hills UMC and youth who have joined our church and who are passionate about this issue.

It was helpful to have our youth sit at different tables and share with us elders why welcoming people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender is an expression of their understanding of God and an important part of their Christian faith. It was also an illustration of how much the conversation has changed since I first started in the ministry twenty-eight years ago. Instead of making assumptions and holding prejudices because we really didn't know anyone who was gay, we now have co-workers, friends and family members who have shared their stories and their lives with us and changed our hearts. Instead of having angry debates at church meetings, we are taking unanimous votes. Instead of splitting the church, we are embarking on a path that will bring more Christ-loving people together.

The recommendation passed with 53 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions. At the meeting, a group of about a dozen people offered to serve on a Reconciling Ministries Committee to help us figure out what voting "yes" means for Willow Glen UMC.

A day after our vote, I received an invitation to a planning meeting for the San Jose Pride Parade on Sunday, August 27. All of the Reconciling United Methodist Churches in the South Bay march together and this year, I am proud to say that we will be among them!

Yours in Christ,  
Rebecca



**RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK**

## Financial Outlook

Our giving receipts through June 2017 are \$151,380, which is \$36,941 less than our budget needs. As a church, we have managed to keep our expenses below last year's level, but not enough to eliminate our cash flow problem. With no reserve cushion remaining, we need to carefully watch our spending. It is more important than ever that we remember to turn off the lights and turn off the air conditioning if you are the last one in your group to leave. Before you head out the door for summer vacation, please check the status of your church pledge and get caught up. We always sweat out the summer months and this year, we don't have any cushion. If you're one of those who typically donates in one or two lump sums for the year, now would be a good time! You may update your giving profile at [giving.wgumc.org](http://giving.wgumc.org) or send an email to [stewardship@wgumc.org](mailto:stewardship@wgumc.org). Thank you so much for your ongoing support of our ministries at WGUMC.



### Give to WGMC While You Shop

Instead of going to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), go to [smile.amazon.com](http://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. Be sure to include [amazon.smile.com](http://amazon.smile.com) in your favorites on your browser for easier access. Your gifts mean more than you know.

### New Ways to Donate

Also available now is the Joyfully2UMC App which can easily be used on mobile devices for one-time donations anytime, even during worship offering time (see article, below). The app is available through iTunes or GooglePlay.

### Don't Forget to Designate

Also, the fund dedicated to replacing the lift to the sanctuary continues to slowly grow. Be sure to designate your donations for the lift to ensure monies go to that fund.

## Donation Statements Available Upon Request

For the past few years donation statements have been mailed once a year in January. Because of the cost of stamps, and the increased use of electronic communications, we do not send interim statements to everyone. However, your individual giving status is available at any time. To request your statement, send an email to Ingrid Quigley at [stewardship@wgumc.org](mailto:stewardship@wgumc.org) or call Ingrid at 408-209-4430. Your statement will be prepared and mailed to you within a week of your request.

## News on the Lift

We have worked with an architect and a lift supplier to define what the best approach is for putting in the new lift, meeting current ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements and minimizing the overall cost. Several vendors were contacted to see about getting the old lift fixed in the interim. Unfortunately once the vendors heard how old the lift was (installed in 1979) they all declined to work on it because they did not want the liability. Because of this and requirements by the state, the old lift has been disconnected and totally removed.

At the moment we are in the process of finding a contractor that will give us an estimate for the work that will need to be done before and after the new lift is put in place (e.g. modifying the cement work, the landing and the enclosure to meet current requirements). This has proved to be a real challenge as the 4 or 5 contractors contacted by our architect have declined the job because they are too busy and our job is too small, but we are still on the hunt.

As soon as we have an estimate for the total job it will be communicated so we can get to work raising the necessary funds. To date we have approximately \$6,000 in the lift fund which is guesstimated to be about 10% of what will be needed. As far as schedule goes, we know that it will take at least three months to get the lift once it's ordered. Most of the rest of the work can be done while we are waiting for the new lift. In addition, once we have the funds it will probably take an additional month or more to get the necessary approvals/permits from the city and state.

If this sounds like a lot to do – IT IS! But your fearless Trustees are plowing ahead as fast as possible.

## Your Church, Your Chance

Our Lay Leadership Council now meets on an as-needed basis, because our new administrative structure calls for us to hold four congregational meetings per year to which we bring proposals and plans for major ministry initiatives and at which we celebrate ministry milestones. You are someone who knows how to bring people together, can lead large group discussions and can help plan and lead one of these events during the year.

Our Board of Trustees has the job of supporting the ministries of the church through the careful stewardship of all church properties. There is enough work for everyone and we could use a full complement of nine Trustees. You are someone who likes to take on projects and see them to completion, who can work with their hands or find someone who can, who likes to make a difference that people can see and appreciate. Do you love the church? Can you make phone calls and attend a monthly meeting? You are the very person we need.

Leslie and Dick Ose have been faithful Co-Chairs of our Finance Committee the past several years and will be stepping down next year. You are someone who likes a challenge, is good with numbers and detail, can read a spread sheet, lead a meeting once a month, and communicate with the pastor and congregation about church finances.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is the committee that has responsibility for the amazing staff of this church. You are someone who loves the youth and children's ministries and wants to support our program staff. You have a passion for music in worship and want to encourage our musicians. You have a vision for the congregation and want to share it with your pastor. You are perfect for this Committee.

With Pastor Susan splitting her time between the Preschool and the Church, our Sunday School teachers, confirmation mentors, Crosswalk and VBS helpers, and Preschool Committee members are more important than ever. You love kids and love Susan and you are anxious to make a real difference in someone else's life. You want to see our children's ministries thrive.

The Village House has been a major ministry effort for us in the past couple of years, and Pastor Susan has been an instrumental leader in that effort. You are a layperson with organizational skills and a passion for ministry with the poor who can continue her good work and help Pastor Rebecca facilitate our participation in 2018.

Building Hope is the group that oversees all the mission activities of our congregation: our Christmas giving tree, our mission trips, our service days, and our ministry with the homeless. You are someone who believes that faith is a verb, that others will know we are Christian by our love, and who can help us to inspire others to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Worship has been a wilderness experience for many of us as we wander in space and time through staff changes and maintenance challenges. That is certainly true for the team that tries to plan and prepare for worship. You are someone who wants to be sure that the experience of God is not lost in the shuffle and who has creative ideas for bringing the Word and the love of God to life on Sunday mornings.

Our newest group is the Reconciling Ministries Committee that will meet in the coming year to implement our June 4th decision to join the Reconciling Ministries Network to advocate for and practice a more inclusive way of being church. You raised your hand at our June meeting to say that you were willing to help in that effort and you are now considering whether God is calling you to be the convener of that group. You are:

Lara Brock  
Jed Burkey  
Liz Burkey  
Laura Burnett  
Alex Corbalis

Bill English  
Amy Fall  
Gabby Fall  
Madelynn Glynn  
Jan Leonard

Jim Leonard  
Carmen McBride  
Jane Vivian  
Linda Yepiz  
Lucy Yepiz

## We Need You...To Put Our Ministry into Action

Our Nominating Committee is hard at work filling open positions for 2017/2018 and helping our members find the right fit to serve our church and our community. Let someone from Nominating know how you would like to volunteer:

- Leslie Chamberlain – leslie.chamberlain@hotmail.com
- Janet Ehrke – janet.ehrke@aol.com
- Michelle Unger – mrtunger@gmail.com

We can provide more details about the opportunities below.

### Staffed by the Nominating Committee:

Board of Trustees  
 Staff-Parish Relations Committee  
 Finance Committee  
 Endowment Committee  
 Nominations and Leadership Development  
 Worship Team  
 Building Hope Mission Team

Lay Leader  
 Lay Member to Annual Conference  
 Membership  
 United Methodist Women  
 Quarterly Conference Facilitators  
 Joint Youth Council  
 Preschool Representative

### Other Ways to Get Involved:

#### *Sunday Morning Worship*

Praise Band  
 Projector Team  
 Chancel Choir  
 Bell Choir  
 Liturgist Coordinator/Liturgist  
 Usher Coordinator/Usher  
 Communion Coordinator/Communion Servers  
 Altar Flower Coordinator  
 Body-BUILDER Coordinator  
 Sound Technician  
 Locker-Upper  
 Dishwasher

#### *Church Office and Facilities*

Office Volunteer  
 Garden Group  
 Employment and Community Options Volunteers

#### *Finance Office*

Money Counter  
 Fair Trade Sales

#### *Communications*

Willow Weekly Email  
 Willow Word  
 Website Team

#### *Congregational Care*

Prayer Chain Coordinator  
 Caring Hands Knitting Group  
 Parish Visitors  
 Care Team

#### *Mission Groups*

Change the World Coordinator/Volunteer  
 First Saturdays Coordinator/Volunteer  
 Shelter Meal Coordinator/Volunteer  
 Mexico Mission Team

#### *Adult Spiritual Formation*

Adult Study Leader  
 Bible Study Leader  
 Meditation Group Leader  
 Library Volunteer

#### *Children's Ministry*

Sunday School Teacher  
 Sunday School Assistant  
 Children's Chapel Leader  
 CrossWalk Leader  
 Boy Scout Representative

#### *Joint Youth Ministry*

Small Group Leader  
 Wacky Wednesday Helper  
 Feed the Need  
 Girls' Night/Guys' Night Volunteer  
 Walkathon Team  
 Auction Team  
 Fundraising Event Team  
 Thursday Prep  
 Prayer and Care Team  
 Mentor  
 Finance Team  
 Next Step Mission Team Leader

## Women's Groups

*Our circles don't meet regularly during the summer months.*

The UMW Executive Board will meet Sunday, September 10, 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.

## Upcoming UMW Events

The CAL/NEV Conference United Methodist Women's Breakfast will be Saturday, June 24, at 7 a.m. in San Carlos at the Fale Hufanga Tongan UMC. A flyer describing this program "Legacy – Blooming in the Holy Spirit" is available on the UMW bulletin board in the church office hallway.

### Upcoming Mission u Events

The CAL/NEV Conference UMW Mission u is a "Learning Together for the Transformation of the World" study program. This year's Mission u Events (August 11 – 12 in Livermore and August 26 in Palo Alto) offer the following study choices:

- A. Spiritual Growth – A Covenantal Community
- B. Geographical – The Missionary Conferences of the UMC
- C. Social Issue – Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action
- D. In Mission Together – Missionary Conferences (Youth)
- E. Spiritual Growth – The Bible and Human Sexuality

Registration forms are available on the UMW bulletin board in the church office hallway.

## Monthly Visit to Lifted Spirits

UMW members and friends will again be taking lunch and friendship to the women at Lifted Spirits drop-in center for women. This shelter was formerly known as Women's Gathering Place and is located on the premises of the First Presbyterian Church on 4th Street in downtown San Jose.

On the first Wednesday of each month we prepare lunch and serve it to about 25 or 30 women who have the opportunity to spend a few hours each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon in a safe and welcoming environment. While there, they have access to showers, laundry facilities and visits from a mobile health clinic. There's a room to sleep, and a room set aside to "shop" for donated clothing and personal items.

We're always in need of your donations of good used clothing, shoes, health and beauty items and will welcome financial donations as well, to help us cover our costs in preparing the meals. A check to UMW marked "Lifted Spirits" would be greatly appreciated.

## UMW Reading Program

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

For 140 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose of the program is to encourage UMW members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

Visit [UnitedMethodistWomen.org](http://UnitedMethodistWomen.org) for the 2017 and 2018 reading program lists.

The deadline for the September *Willow Word* is **August 25**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to [leslie\\_chamberlain@hotmail.com](mailto:leslie_chamberlain@hotmail.com).

Bring a Friend and a Side Dish to Share

## Buck-a-Burger Continues on Wednesdays Through August 9

Let's celebrate the hazy days of summer! Join us on the Woodhaven Patio on Wednesdays starting at 5:30 p.m. for a barbecue and fellowship! The men from the RATS recovery group will again join us, so bring a side dish to share with all, along with your own table service. Main course and drinks will be provided.

Invite your friends and neighbors! This year, the suggested donation for dinner is two dollars.



Tai Chi



Balance, Tranquility, Strength

## Tai Chi on the Patio

For several summers, the Woodhaven patio has been used for Tai Chi Practice. The group is coordinated by Jane Vivian and invites experienced practitioners who would like to join Wednesday mornings from 9-10 a.m. through August 30.

There are usually between six and eight women participating. This is not a class with a teacher, but experienced Tai Chi students who lead themselves. Interested church members are welcome to join the group.

Do You Feel Like You're Holding the Whole World Together?

## Save the Date for Fall Retreat: October 21-21

Does it seem like you're busy taking care of everyone else? This retreat is dedicated to empowering you to take care of yourself!

Facilitated by a Family Practice Nurse Practitioner, this two-day event will be an interactive, experiential, educational gathering to help people feel more in control of their well being and lives.

You will learn to:

- Become self-aware and self-expressive
- Manage stress and increase relaxation
- Enhance sleep
- Increase awareness of your body
- Enhance your immune system
- Find ways to move that you enjoy

The agenda will include experiential learning (practicing different self-care modalities in group), group discussion, debriefing and homework. Look for more details soon!

## Willow Glen Hosts Day Center for Village House

When the daytime warming centers for Village House closed down at the end of April, the women had no place to go during the day. Libby Echeverría, from Valley Med Homeless Health Care Clinic, reported that the women felt homeless again and their mental and physical health began to deteriorate. Upon hearing that, Pastor Rebecca wondered if we couldn't open Woodhaven during the day for the weeks that the Cathedral of Faith was hosting the overnight shelter. She decided we could!

With Linda Yepiz managing the volunteer signups and a group of faithful volunteers filling shifts, we provided respite from the "heat on the street" for six hours, Monday through Friday, for the month of July. While she was attending Annual Conference in June, Pastor Rebecca recruited Alum Rock UMC to open their doors three days per week for the month of August when the Village House moves to Saint John Vianney Catholic Church.

Thank you to everyone who spent time with the women. Your friendship means so much to them!



### Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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