

The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

Homecoming at WGUMC

Sunday, September 10, at 10 a.m.

We are celebrating a big win for our Mission Possible Capital Campaign. We have drop-kicked our debt through the goal post of life! We're also celebrating our varsity team of fundraisers who have played for us for several years and scored some amazing successes in renovating Kohlstedt Hall, the kitchen, Wesley Room and hallway.



We also are kicking off a new campaign to raise funds to replace the sanctuary lift and updating our pledges for the operating budget for 2018.

All in the fellowship of friends and over good, free food. We are planning a meal that is not to be missed! To give us an idea of how much food to prepare, please email info@wgumc.org or call 408-294-9796 with the number attending from your family.

If you can help with set up or clean up that day, please contact the church office or Pastor Rebecca. Looking forward to celebrating with you!

Where is Worship this Fall?

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well that there will come a time when it won't matter where you worship, but only that you worship in spirit and in truth. Well, it is the truth that our sanctuary has been inaccessible to some ever since the lift broke, and so in the spirit of inclusion we have been "camping out" in Kohlstedt Hall for worship all summer. For some of you, this has not been your choice of worship environments, and we thank you for your patience and flexibility.

As the fall begins, we want the chancel choir and bell choir to be a part of worship, too, so we will be worshipping in two places for the next few months. For September, October and November, we will be in Kohlstedt Hall on the first and second Sundays of the month and in the sanctuary for the third, fourth (and fifth) Sundays. We are also working on setting up a video system in the sanctuary that will make it possible to join the service from the church library.

September 3 and 10: Kohlstedt Hall

September 17 and 24: Sanctuary

October 1 and 8: Kohlstedt Hall

October 15, 22 and 29: Sanctuary

November 5 and 12: Kohlstedt Hall

November 19 and 26: Sanctuary

September 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 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

Roxanne Kholin
Office & Facilities Manager

Reallocating Our Resources

In the Book of Acts, as the band of Jesus' followers began to grow and become a movement, the original disciples realized that they could not do everything themselves and were going to need some help. So they appointed seven servants (deacons) to attend to the needs of the people while the apostles focused on teaching and preaching the Word. Ever since that time, the Christian Church has had to figure out how best to allocate its resources in order to do all the ministry its called to do.

Here at Willow Glen, we've had a summer of reallocating resources. We have been reallocating our space and worshiping in Kohlstedt Hall because the sanctuary lift is broken. In light of the need to raise money for the lift replacement, we are reallocating our funds, using our remaining Mission Possible funds to pay off our Woodhaven renovation debt (yeah!!!) and asking the Board of Trustees to take on the remaining Kohlstedt Hall projects (sound panels, new projector installation and sound system upgrades). That will bring to an end our Mission Possible capital campaign just in time to start the Lift Up! lift replacement campaign. Read about our September 10 end-of-campaign celebration on pages 1 and 3.

But we aren't just moving around our physical and financial resources, we are reallocating our human resources, too. On July 1, Pastor Susan began her new job as Preschool Director. Over the last several weeks, Susan has been rearranging her schedule and workspace, and we are going to have to do some rearranging, too. Our task now is to look at our ministry with children and families and consider what needs to change in light of this staffing change.

Clearly, Pastor Susan can't do in half time what she was doing fulltime, so now is our time. For my part, I am taking on the task of staff liaison to our hands-on, hearts-in ministries including the Building Hope team and Village House. Now I'm curious about your part.

If you first came to this church because we do great ministry with children and youth, then I want to know if these ministries are still important to you. If so, will you volunteer to teach Sunday School or lead in Crosswalk or help organize a Confirmation class or plan VBS? I want to do all of these things, but I also have to reserve time to preach and teach the Word. So, like those first disciples, I look to the Holy Spirit to call up some new lay servants. Is the Spirit calling you?

All I know is that every day starts with a much longer list of things I want to do than I have energy to do. Every day I am reminded that I have to pray to God and count on you. Every Sunday, as we set up and take down our worship space, it occurs to me that at least we are on the move and, with your help, it's going to be a great year!

Yours in Christ,
Rebecca



Celebrate Mission Possible on September 10

*Our debt is paid. We are set free!
Now forth we go to follow Thee!*

During worship on September 10 we will celebrate the goodness of God and the faithfulness of this congregation in paying down the debt on the 2011 Woodhaven renovation while simultaneously raising fund to renovate Kohlstedt Hall, the church kitchen, Wesley Room and the hallway. While we have a few projects yet to complete, we are declaring the successful end of the Mission Possible capital campaign so that we can announce the beginning of the Lift Up! sanctuary lift replacement campaign.



We will worship and lunch around tables in Kohlstedt Hall. Mangala Meegodage will again provide us with a free meal to mark this ministry milestone. We want you to be there so we can thank you for all that you have done to help us reach our goal. It took longer than we had hoped and your perseverance is impressive!

But we have new challenges awaiting us. This year, we have a lift to replace and a budget to balance, so as we thank you, we also hope to recruit you. At our lunch on the 10th, we will give you the first opportunity to make a gift to the Lift Up! campaign and to make a pledge to the 2018 operating budget of the church.

In this next year, we aim to raise roughly \$350,000 in regular giving. Dividing that amount by the number of regular givers (roughly 100) gives you an idea of what it takes to fully fund our ministries. Not everyone can give \$3500 a year, but everyone can give something, even if it is only your time (which is precious) and your talent (which is abundant). As the parable of the widow's mite tells us, it is the measure of your love and the sincerity of your commitment, not the size of your gift that counts. If you miss the gathering on the 10th, a pledge card will be mailed to you.

Preaching on the Original Protesters

It seems that almost every weekend there is a protest going on somewhere. And you wonder, where did this all get started? One could argue that it was Bible-believing Christians who really got us going. This October is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's famous proclamation that kick-started the Protestant Reformation. Starting on September 17, we'll begin a sermon series that will delve into some of the major figures of that movement to explore what wisdom they have for Methodist Protestants today.

September 17: Hank Millstein preaches on John Wycliffe and the Word of God

September 24: Martin Luther and Salvation by Faith

October 1: John Calvin and the Will of God

October 8: Menno Simons and the Kingdom of God

October 15: Anglicans and Beautiful Prayers

October 22: John Wesley and Beautiful Lives

October 29: Navigating the New Reformation

New! Family Game Night at WGUMC

Tuesday, September 5, 6-9 p.m.

Friday, September 22, 6-9 p.m.

Are you looking for a way to connect with your family and others? Wanting to get away from the screens for some good fun? Join us twice a month for family game night at Woodhaven! We'll bring out our favorite board games and find some new ones. We'll have time to connect with one another and deepen friendships as we play. Bring dinner for your family, or a dish to share or eat before you come. Drop in for part of the time or come play for all of it. This a casual time for friends and fun.



Make Space at the Table:

Sunday School Is All About Friendship in September

We are created to be in relationship with God and one another, and friendship helps us understand the true nature of our Creator. This month, we'll explore some of the ups and downs of friendship and consider what makes a good friend.

Our memory verse is Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes." We'll discover together how we can use our words and actions to show others we care and be the friends God wants us to be. Join us in Sunday School each week at 9 a.m.



Back to School

Beginning September 17, Join Us for Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Children's Chapel During Worship

Our children and youth are in a constant state of discovery and our Sunday School classes are a place where they can begin to experience for themselves who God is, how much God loves them, and all that God wants for their lives. Together, we explore God's big story and discover the active part we play in it. If you have not been a regular participant in our Sunday School program before, now is the time to join. We find that the kids who engage their faith during Sunday School are confident in making faithful decisions throughout the week.

Each month, our curriculum focuses on a different value and, using Scripture and experience, helps children discover how they can better apply that value to their faithful living. From trust to courage to honor and much more, our children will explore stories of the Bible and develop their values through music, games, crafts, and friendships. Sunday School classes will meet at 9:00am in the preschool building each Sunday. We begin our time with all ages together to engage the scripture and then break into smaller groups by age or ability for the remainder of our lesson.

In addition to Sunday School, we will continue to offer Children's Chapel during worship. This program gives younger children a chance to interact with the Bible and worship in their own way. Following the Children's Time in worship, our preschool through first graders will participate in Godly Play, hearing Gospel stories about the life of Jesus in a quiet and thoughtful way that allows them to enter into the story themselves and learn it from the inside out. If you have wondered what we do after we leave the service, come on over and find out! There's always something great happening in the ARK!

Sunday School for middle school and high school youth will be offered on Sundays when Lisa or Kat are here with us at WGUMC. Watch your email for updates about when these special small group times will take place. Lisa and Kat love to get together with students and share some devotional and prayer time as well as explore their current faith ponderings.

Classes and locations are as follows:

9 a.m. Sunday School

Nursery Care: ARK 109

Preschool – Fifth Grade: ARK 102

Junior & Senior High: Youth Office

10 a.m. Worship Service

Nursery Care: ARK 109

Children's Chapel: ARK Circle Room

Protecting Our Children and Youth

God has given us a sacred opportunity and a great responsibility to nurture and protect children and youth. For this reason, Willow Glen UMC has established procedures intended to provide a safe and supportive place for children, youth, and the persons who work with them, and to protect children and youth from abuse on our campus and in our programs.

This set of procedures outlines the respectful ways in which we treat children at WGUMC and the screening procedures for volunteers and staff who work with children and youth. We ask all parents and volunteers to complete a simple disclosure form which will be kept on file with the Children's Pastor. A fingerprint screening must also be completed. If you have any questions about the policies or need volunteer forms, please call Susan (ext. 30). Thank you for supporting our efforts to make WGUMC programs wonderful and safe for our children and youth.



CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders

Friday, September 8, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Kohlstedt Hall
Theme: Made to Make a Difference

All third, fourth and fifth graders are invited to CrossWalk. We meet once a month to learn about ourselves and our faith, and have a lot of fun! In September, we will be getting to know one another and discovering what it means to be CrossWalk together. Just in case... wear clothes you don't mind getting wet. We'll have some sloppy fun and set some directions for a year of playing and growing in faith together as we explore the difference we are called to make in the world. Email Susan at susan@wgumc.org to ask any questions, let her know you are coming, or just say "hi!"

Our Kids Need Your Support!

There Are Lots of Ways for You to Help in Our Children's Ministry Programs

When we think of volunteering in children's ministry, we often assume that our programs just need teachers and folks who will work directly with our children. Of course, we are always looking for nurturing leaders for our Sunday School classes and fellowship groups, but there is a lot more that happens to support our children, families and teachers. Below I have listed just a few of the ways you can get involved in our children's programs. We'd love to have your help in any of these areas, so give me a call if something sounds good to you!

Pastor Susan
susan@wgumc.org or ext. 30

Prayer and Care for Children and Families: Send birthday cards to children. Meet together to pray for our kids and their families. Send notes to encourage them and celebrate with them.

Coordinate or Prepare Supplies: Cutting out pieces for craft projects. Gathering the supplies Sunday School classes will need each week.

Organize Supplies: Have you seen Susan's office a.k.a. the Sunday School supply room? Keeping it all organized is an ongoing job. If you like everything in its place, have we got the task for you! Help Susan keep it all together, making sure everything has a place and gets back in it after its use.

Crossing Guard: Serve as a small group leader for our third, fourth and fifth grade fellowship group which meets the second Friday of each month in the evening. Play games, engage in faith-filled discussion and support our upper-elementary kids as they continue to discover who they are as people of faith.

Sunday School Teacher: Spend one or two Sundays a month leading a lesson with a class of children or youth. Curriculum is provided, and supplies are prepared for you. Come and be with our kids as they learn and grow in faith.

Music Leaders: Help our kids' choir learn songs for Christmas eve worship. Coordinate some of our young instrumentalists to play together in worship. Choreograph and teach a dance. Or help the children learn a song on the handbells.

Family Activities: Do you have an activity you'd like to see us do as a church family? Attend a baseball game? Go bowling or ice skating? Coordinate events for families to have fun together with other church families.



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.

Women's Drop-In Center Lunches

The Willow Glen United Methodist Women will serve lunch to approximately 30 women at the Lifted Spirits Women's Drop-In Center (WDC) on Wednesday, September 6. We welcome and appreciate your donations and support of this mission. We still need apple pies, garlic bread and drinks. Volunteers who help prepare and serve these lunches will gather at church at 11 a.m. and carpool to WDC. To sign up, or for more information, please contact Jane Vivian or Gwyne Grubb.

2017 Conference UMW Annual Celebration

The CA-NV Annual Conference Celebration will be Saturday, October 21st at Loomis UMC in Loomis, CA. The Annual Celebration is a joyful gathering with sisters making beautiful music while participating in worship and learning experiences.

The theme of this event is Storytelling with Linda Kennedy, Storyteller Extraordinaire. Also three workshops offered in the afternoon are:

- "Navigating Your Computer" empowering us to use the web efficiently
- "Native American Worship" lead by Derrick Rainbow
- Being a "Volunteer In Mission" team leader

More information is available on the UMW bulletin board in the church office hallway.



2017 District UMW Annual Celebration:

Exploring How We Build Bridges

The El Camino Real District Annual Celebration will be Saturday, October 28, at St. Paul UMC in Fremont. The Annual Celebration is a day we gather to celebrate the work we have done throughout the year, and to elect district officers and establish a budget for 2018. Together we will worship, sing and learn.

This will be an opportunity to learn a lot about the Muslim religion. Our program will empower us to be bridge builders, bridging the fear of those whose faith is different than ours, and to be voices for inclusivity. Also three workshops are being offered to explore how we can be in relationship with people of differing cultures:

- "Finding Common Ground" exploring the value of listening to others and looking for the God within them
- "From Diversity to Inclusion" Pastor Dale Weatherspoon will lead this discussion
- "Tour and Conversation" touring the neighboring mosque and learning about Islam and what it means to be a Muslim in the US today.

More information is available on the UMW bulletin board in the church office hallway and on the El Camino Real District UMW website at <http://elcaminorealumw.org>.

The deadline for the October *Willow Word* is **September 25**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to leslie_chamberlain@hotmail.com.

If the Plane Is Going Down, Put On Your Oxygen Mask First!

Are you holding the whole world together?

Taking care of everyone else?

Is this not working so well lately?

Deb St. Julien, a JYM volunteer and nurse practitioner in family practice, will lead a Fall Retreat at Woodhaven Retreat Center on October 20-21 (Friday evening and all day Saturday). She's planning a retreat dedicated to reminding and empowering you to take care of you!

This interactive, experiential, educational group will help people feel more in control of their well-being and lives. You will learn skills that you can use anywhere, any time that will help you:

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

The retreat will include experiential learning (practicing different self-care modalities in a group), group discussion, debriefing and homework.

Summary of skills and topics: self-care, self-awareness and self-expression, body-mind awareness, body-mind integration basics, sleep, movement, relaxation response, drawing, journaling, sitting and moving meditation or contemplative prayer, imagery, autogenics (self-regulation) and biofeedback. Skills are accessible, and can be used anywhere in any situation.

Look for registration details coming soon!

Mark Your Calendar:

Preparing Meals for Family Supportive Housing

WGUMC has reserved three dates in 2018: Saturdays March 31, June 30 and September 29. Save these dates and join the team that will prepare and serve a meal and share fellowship with the residents at Family Supportive Housing. More details coming soon!



UMW Calls for an End to Violence Against Women and Girls

From November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, Human Rights Day, women around the world will join the call for an end to violence against women and girls.

This year, because getting an education has become so unsafe, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign focuses on the relationship between peace and education with the theme "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All."

The education of women and girls is key to skills and knowledge for employment, jobs, gender equality, and culture of peace and non-violence. To achieve this outcome, schools must be accessible and safe.

Bullying, fighting and sexual assaults affect millions of children, and girls often experience physical and /or sexual violence at or on their way to school. We know more must be done to ensure the safety of girls in and around schools here in our neighborhoods and around the world.

Action Alert: Be informed, alert and active. Know the existing safety plans, procedures, and conduct codes in your community's schools.



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