

# The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

## Worship Schedule for Fall

As we are working on getting all our ducks in a row to start on the lift replacement, we will be worshipping part-time in Kohlstedt Hall and part-time in the sanctuary so that we can provide better access for a few Sundays a month. We are hoping to install a camera in the balcony and cabling into the church library so that we can worship all the Sundays of Advent in the sanctuary. Here is the schedule from now until New Year's:

**October 1 and 8:** Kohlstedt Hall  
**October 15, 22 and 29:** Sanctuary  
**November 5 and 12:** Kohlstedt Hall  
**November 19 and 26:** Sanctuary  
**December 3, 10, 17 and 24:** Sanctuary  
**December 31:** Kohlstedt Hall



## The Reformation at 500

This October is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's famous proclamation that kick-started the Protestant Reformation. Continuing a sermon series that began in September, for the Sundays in October we will be doing a little theological genealogy to recapture the spirit of the Reformation and the inspiration and insight of its leaders to enrich our faith that is always in need of reform.

**October 1:** John Calvin and the Sovereignty of God  
**October 8:** The Radical Reformation and the Kingdom of God  
**October 15:** Anglicans and Beautiful Prayers  
**October 22:** John Wesley and Beautiful Lives  
**October 29:** Navigating the New Reformation

## UMVIM Awareness Sunday Is October 15

General Conference has asked all churches to designate a Sunday to recognize UMVIM: United Methodist Volunteers In Mission. If you were wondering about what the UMC was going to do for the long-term recovery after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, this organization is your answer. Once the rescue efforts have concluded and the rebuilding has begun, United Methodist Churches nationwide will be sending teams to storm-ravaged areas to help communities rebuild. If you would like to assist in that effort, we will be taking a special offering on October 15. Make your check out to WGUMC and designate it for Volunteers in Mission.



### October 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

## Climbing Mountains

As I was hiking up the newly opened trail to the top of Mount Umunhum recently, I was remembering the first letter I wrote for the Willow Word back in July 2011. After summiting the PhD mountain in 2009, I was looking for another mountain to climb. So the bishop sent me to Willow Glen in the almost flat Santa Clara Valley. Little did I know that I was coming to a church with a mountain of debt! (District Superintendents don't generally give pastors too much information about new appointments for good reason!)

It took the economy and the church's finances a couple of years to recover from the Great Recession, so we didn't start tackling the debt and the unfinished renovations until the summer of 2013. From that point on, it was a slow but steady climb. With the leadership and labor of Brian Ganz, the Mission Possible Team rounded up pledges and held fundraisers and paid at least a dollar of debt for every dollar we spent on renovations in Kohlstedt Hall, the kitchen, the Wesley Room and the adjacent hallway. In the end, we raised \$358,000, repaid \$205,000 in debt and funded \$139,000 in renovations.

In September, we wrote the last check to pay the last dollar on the last loan, and I just have to say this: "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we're free at last!" This is a fantastic accomplishment thanks to God's grace and your faith. I feel liberated for the first time in six years to focus more of my energy on ministry and not just on paying back money. And again, I'm looking for mountains to climb.

I am longing to find ways for our church to offer adults more opportunities for life-changing encounters with Christ and on a more consistent basis than we have in the past several years. It is harder to provide that for adults than for youth because parents typically put a higher priority on their children's spiritual growth than their own. The intense pressures of surviving in Silicon Valley and the spiritual toll it takes on members of our community is by far my biggest challenge, my tallest mountain.

As a first step on a very steep climb, I want to encourage you to check out a retreat that Deb St. Julien will be offering this month at Woodhaven. [See page 7 for more information.] If you can't commit to a class that meets for weeks or months on end, I encourage you to try out the retreat model. You can make a lot of spiritual progress in a short amount of time by committing a portion of your weekend to your most important relationships, the one you have with your busy self and with the God who is never too busy to love you.

Grace and peace,  
*Rebecca*



## LiftUp! Campaign Gets a Lift

We kicked off our fundraising campaign for the sanctuary lift replacement at our “homecoming” celebration on September 10. On that Sunday, we raised about \$10,000 and donations keep coming in. We currently have over \$12,000 in the account and over \$15,000 in pledges, so we are well on our way toward our goal of \$55,000. We encourage you to think of some of the saints who have used that lift in the past: Miriam Doran (Ruby’s mom) and then Ruby herself, Katherine Hayward, Elizabeth and Wayne Williams, Margery Epperson, Jeneil Wieman, Janell Plane, Lynne Hosack, Lynda Hutcheson, and David Forderer, to name a few. We hope that you will give a gift and one day when you need it, the lift will be there for you!



## Financial Update

Great news! We are about 2/3 of the way toward our goal for pledged and expected giving for 2018. The last third will be harder to raise, so if you haven’t had a chance to review your pledge, we hope that you will consider giving this year’s pledge a cost of living increase for next year.

Almost half of our giving now comes online. We are very grateful for regular online gifts because they ease the cash flow. But it’s also easy to forget what we are giving. So we encourage you to go to [give.wgumc.org](http://give.wgumc.org) and update your online pledge for 2018. For those of you who would rather pledge by check, you’ll be receiving a letter and pledge slip in the mail soon.

More good news! Despite running a deficit all year, we made it through the summer, keeping current with all of our regular bills. Thank God and thank you all!

## Nametags Are Here!

Nametags are making a comeback, thanks to Al Mauseh and Heather Pham. We have decided on a good use of the money given in memory of Al Mauseh, who was one half of the Al and Dorothy Welcoming Committee, who greeted and befriended so many newcomers to WGUMC. Heather Pham, who has volunteered to head up a new welcome team, is ordering nametags for everyone who regularly attends worship. She has also made a magnetic board to keep them so you don’t have to remember to bring them from home. The board will be moved from our worship space to coffee hour each week so that you can pick up your nametag and return it to its place. Thank you, Heather, for helping us get back to healthy habits of hospitality.



## Family Game Night

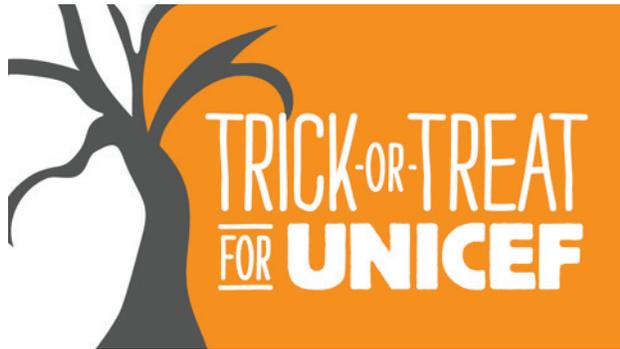
Tuesday, October 3, at 7 p.m.

Connect with others and get away from the screens for some good fun! Join us twice a month at Woodhaven for family game night. We'll bring out our favorite board games and find some new ones. Bring dinner for you family, or a dish to share, or eat before you come. Drop in for part of the time or the entire evening. Casual and fun!



## It's Time to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF!

For over 60 years, kids have trick-or-treated for UNICEF, making a difference in the lives of kids in need all around the world. You can, too! Pick up your orange trick-or-treat box from Pastor Susan and start collecting donations from family, friends and neighbors. You can even wear your costume to church on Halloween weekend and trick-or-treat for UNICEF among your church family at fellowship time. Let's help make a difference in their lives this Halloween!



## Planning Advent Family Nights

For the past few years, we have gathered weekly for a family meal and activity in Woodhaven during Advent. We would love to continue this tradition with your help. Please contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) if you would like to make this family ministry possible this Advent season. We will all meet together in October to plan our Advent activities and then work together to publicize, prepare and lead them for our church family.



## CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for  
Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders

Friday, October 13, 7 – 8:30 p.m.  
Theme: Shining Our Light

We have lots of fun learning about ourselves and our friends at CrossWalk, and discovering how we can shine. As we discover our strengths together, we will find new ways to use them in ministry to the world. There will be pumpkin fun, too! You won't want to miss it! CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders. Bring a friend!

E-mail Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) to ask any questions, let her know you are coming, or just say "hi!"



## JYM Walk-a-Thon Is Sunday, November 5

1 - 4 p.m. at Cambrian Park UMC

The JYM big fall fundraiser is fast approaching. The Walk-a-Thon is a pretty straightforward fundraiser, where students ask church members, family and friends to donations to the Joint Youth Ministry. Donations are tax-deductible, and we will have prizes and incentives for students to raise money.

Walk-a-Thon packets are available now! Students, start asking for pledges!

Money that we raise provides scholarships, pays for our program budget, provides groceries or counseling to families in need, contributes to salaries and lots of other boring but super important expenses! So help us to raise, raise, raise and make the JYM a wonderful place for everyone.



## Senior High Mission Trip to San Francisco

**When:** Friday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, November 12

**Who:** Any students in the JYM or their friends. 40 students MAX

**What:** A weekend of social justice education, volunteer work at multiple nonprofits, teambuilding, spiritual growth and a little free time in an awesome city.

**Where:** We will sleep at the Waller Center, a United Methodist-owned retreat center in the heart of the Haight. We will travel around the city in our rented 15 passenger vans. We also will do lots of walking.

**Why:** To grow in our understanding of the world and diverse people groups, to bond as a youth group, to serve others and to challenge ourselves spiritually.

**Cost:** \$170. Checks made out to WGUMC-JYM or paid online on our website.

## Other Upcoming JYM Events

### Off Campus Hike

**Sunday, October 1, 5-7:15 p.m.**

Join us for something different: an off campus hiking adventure! We will meet at AHUMC, drive to the Quicksilver trail entrance near Castellero Middle School. The hike is not too difficult, about 3 miles round trip. Since we are going off campus, expect to pick up your student around 7:15 p.m.

### Guys & Girls Night

**Wednesday, October 4, 6 - 8 p.m.**

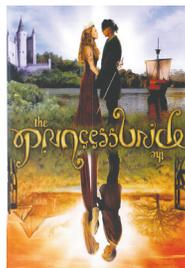
Guys & Girls, join us for a night together! Girls will continue in our theme of being BRAVE and guys will grow closer through games and discussion. We will have pizza for dinner!



### Family Night

**Sunday, October 8, 5 - 7 p.m.**

This is an event for teens, parents and siblings! We will have a professional speaker for parents, and activities for our students. We will end with a potluck dinner together. Please bring a dish to share with eight people if you are able. JYM will provide drinks. Students are welcome to come without their parents, and vice versa!



### “The Princess Bride” Interactive Movie Night

**Sunday, October 14, 5 - 7:15 p.m.**

Teens! Join us for an interactive viewing of the classic film: “The Princess Bride.” We will have themed snacks, a big screen, and actions to go along with the movie. Want to dress in a costume? Awesome! Whether you have never seen the film, or have seen it hundreds of times, join us for a fun and relaxed evening. We promise everything will be “as you wish.”

## Women's Groups

### Heart and Hands

Come to the Self-Care Retreat on October 20-21  
See page 7 for details

### Friendship Circle

Third Wednesday  
12:30 p.m. in Woodhaven  
Sue Johnson

### UMW Executive Board

Sunday, November 12  
11:30 a.m. in Woodhaven.  
Ruth Granfors

UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Ruth Granfors.

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

## Lifted Spirits

### Women's Drop-In Center Lunches

The Willow Glen United Methodist Women (UMW) will serve lunch to approximately 30 women at the Lifted Spirits Women's Drop-In Center Wednesday, October 4. We welcome and appreciate your donations and support of this mission. We still need green salads 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 21, at Loomis UMC in Loomis, California. The Annual Celebration is a joyful gathering with sisters celebrating this year's accomplishments 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. For carpool information please contact Ruth Granfors at 408-444-0702.

## District UMW Celebration Is October 28

### Exploring How We Build Bridges

The El Camino Real District Annual Celebration will be Saturday, October 28, at St. Paul UMC in Fremont. This event is a celebration of the work we have done throughout the year, and we 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 [elcaminorealumw.org](http://elcaminorealumw.org).



El Camino Real District  
United Methodist Women  
California-Nevada Conference





## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Doug and Gina Dionne on the birth of their first child, Brooklyn.

## Thank You!

Thank you again to our Mission Possible Team members: Brian Ganz, Dave Freeman, Jeff and Leslie Chamberlain, Kyle Mastrolia, Peggy Schlosser and Jose Soler for getting us to our goal. And thank you to a loyal crew of helpers for the fundraisers: Kindra Ahrens, Michelle Unger, Linda Russo, and Jim and Jan Leonard.



# Self-Care Workshop Woodhaven Retreat Center



**October 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm-8pm &  
October 21<sup>st</sup> 9am-8pm**

***If the Plane Is Going Down, Put On Your Own 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 this Fall Retreat dedicated to reminding and empowering you to take care of you!

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

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

The retreat will include experiential learning, group discussion, and debriefing. Skills and topics include: 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.

**Space limited to 10 persons. \$25 for both days.**

**Call or email the Church Office at [info@wgumc.org](mailto:info@wgumc.org) to register.**

# Celebrate 150 Years of Women Organizing for Mission

**“The Power of Bold” UMW 20th Quadrennial Assembly May 18-20, 2018**

Come and join women from around the country and world in Columbus, Ohio, for a faith-filled event launching into the future with bold mission action addressing the needs of women, children, and youth. Assembly2018 will focus on biblical texts surrounding the story of Jesus’ mother, Mary. Mary was a teenage mother, wife, sister and migrant refugee. Her life demonstrates what it means to boldly answer “yes” to God’s call despite life’s challenges. Plan now to experience the “Power of Bold” moving worship and riveting workshops. Together we can change the world as part of a daring and compassionate 150-year and counting movement. Find out more at [www.UMWAssembly.org](http://www.UMWAssembly.org).



## **Willow Glen United Methodist Church**

1420 Newport Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

408-294-9796

[www.wgumc.org](http://www.wgumc.org)

