



# THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,  
Sharing and Serving

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## Sunday Worship

### 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

### 10:00 a.m.

Worship

### 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to like WGUMC on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/WillowGlenUMC](http://www.facebook.com/WillowGlenUMC)

## Parents' Night Out - February 3

Come drop your children off for a few hours with the capable students of the Joint Youth Ministry!

*When:* Saturday, February 3, 5:00-8:30 p.m.

*Where:* Willow Glen UMC, 1420 Newport Ave, San Jose

*Who:* Children ages 12 months through fifth grade are welcome to be babysat by our teenage students.

*What:* We will play games with children, have a couple of craft activities, and serve them dinner



Cost: A LITTLE DIFFERENT! In March, our youth group is holding a large fundraiser which includes a silent auction. Instead of money, we want donations of items and gift cards that we can auction off! So, if you are bringing a child, here are some things we would love to receive from you: • Tickets to any local sporting event • Gift cards to any local restaurants, gyms or spas that are valued at \$25 or more • A stay at a vacation home you may have access to • Bottles of wine • Gift baskets • Electronics • Interesting items • New items that are valued at \$25 or more • Gift certificate for a service you provide: Gardening, photography, airport shuttle, handyman, babysitting, etc. Any donation you make is tax-deductible!

RSVP by [clicking here](#) or email [katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:katrina3cyouth@gmail.com). You are welcome to invite neighborhood friends and pass this on to other people as well. Anyone who registers is welcome to participate.

## Help Ready Woodhaven for the Shelter!

### Saturday, February 3, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

We need all hands (and strong backs) on deck to help us move furniture and clean kitchens in getting ready for the Village House to move in on February 7. The Boy Scouts can't help us this year, so we need you! If you can give us just an hour on Saturday, that will be great. RSVP to [rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@wgumc.org).

Tasks for ALL ages - ALL are invited - many hands make light work!



## Village House Shelter Network Grows Up

Three years ago, Willow Glen UMC hosted some gatherings for people who were concerned about their brothers and sisters who lived on the streets. We called ourselves the Winter Faith Collaborative. Out of those efforts came a couple of different sheltering programs. Willow Glen banded together with three Roman Catholic Churches in San Jose to provide four months of emergency shelter to 15 medically fragile women referred to us by Valley Med's Homeless Healthcare Clinic.

My, how the network has grown! Going into our 3rd year of the rotating shelter, we have over a dozen churches (and one synagogue) providing overnight and daytime shelter year-round. We have a network team that meets monthly to make policies and to support shelter operations at each site. We have a fund-raising team that has enabled the network to pay for the rental of a shower truck and to provide smaller churches with financial help. This year, Village House will reimburse Willow Glen for 50 hours of overnight supervision. We also now have a volunteer caseworker who is working with Libby Echeverria from Valley Medical Center to provide onsite resources during the week.

We are far from the largest church in this network, but you can be very proud that you have played a very large part in growing this ministry in our community. And need I say that the women consistently tell me that getting to stay at Woodhaven makes Willow Glen their favorite church in the rotation!



## Village House - February 7 to March 7

The rotating women's shelter returns to Willow Glen in February. Let's get ready:

### TRAINING FOR SHELTER VOLUNTEERS ON FEBRUARY 4 - 11:45 a.m. (IN THE SANCTUARY)

If you have never been to a training to volunteer for the shelter, we suggest that you come. Even if you have been trained in the past, you will want to learn about the changes to our operations this year. We also have new policies put in place by the Village House Shelter Network.

### Signup for Village House [HERE](#)

You have many opportunities to be blessed and to be a blessing:

- Provide a hot breakfast or set out a continental breakfast (5:45-7:30 a.m.)
- Be a morning shepherd and help the women get ready for the day (6:00-7:30 a.m.)
- Wash and dry linens and towels, check schedule at the link below
- Provide transportation from Willow Glen to Almaden Hills' day warming center, 7:00 a.m.
- Provide hospitality to the women as they arrive in the evening (6:15-9:45 p.m.)
- Make the women feel safe so they can sleep (9:45 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. or 2:00-6:15 a.m.)

If you love your neighbor and have a heart that is open and ready to be transformed by God working through our women guests, you have all the qualifications you need. To get more information about specific duties, to find out about background screening requirements and to sign up for available volunteer slots, go to

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

## Church Staff

**Rebecca Irelan**

*Senior Pastor*

[rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@wgumc.org)

**Susan Smith**

*Pastor of Children &  
Family Ministries; Director,  
Woodhaven Preschool*

[susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)

**Lisa Jacobs**

*Director of Joint Youth  
Ministries*

[lisa3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com)

**Katrina Kraynick**

*Associate Youth Director*

[katrina3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:katrina3cyouth@gmail.com)

**Robert Birnstihl**

*Organist & Director of  
Music Ministries*

**Tom Mounts**

*Director of the Willow  
Glen Ringers*

**Roxanne Kohlin**

*Office & Facilities Manager*

[info@wgumc.org](mailto:info@wgumc.org)

## Pastoral Letter

Every year the president gives a State of the Union address, so this year, your pastor wants to write you a brief State of the Communion letter. But instead of looking back at last year, I'm looking forward to this year. We have a lot of reasons to believe that 2018 is going to be a great year.

- We're following Jesus! This will be our third year of making Woodhaven a temporary home to 15 medically-fragile homeless women. They made a Christmas dinner and spent Christmas Day there late last year and one of the women said, "This space is so peaceful. It really lowers the stress level and makes everyone treat each other better." Our buildings are a blessing, to say nothing of the people that are in them.

- We're making disciples! It's a confirmation year, and we have a great confirmation program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders that we do through our Joint Youth Ministry. Each of our teens will be matched with an adult mentor so that not only our teens grow in grace.

- We're growing the congregation! In January, we received four new families. Welcome Mark and Kelly Smith and their children, Gavin and Alaina from Austin, Texas; Catherine Miettinen Ames (her husband is Henrik) and her kids, Sebastian, Zachariah and Azalea from Gilroy UMC; Sue and Efen Lopez and their two kids, Mika and Alex from San Jose First UMC; Connie O'Ruanaidh (pronounced O'Rooney, whose husband is Joe) and Grace who have moved here from New Jersey. We are blessed to have new friends coming from all over the country!

- We're renewing our vision! We have weathered many changes and faced many challenges in the past five years. We are in a different place and this is a different church than the one I was appointed to in 2011. Lots of new faces; lots of new possibilities. So we need to know: Who is God calling us to be and where is God leading us to go? To put these questions to the Holy Spirit and listen for her answers, we need a group of people who want to be a part of the good work that God is doing in Willow Glen. If you have a love for God, a heart for mission and a call to serve, we want you!

- We're opening our doors! I have great faith that worship will be more accessible in 2018. Our Lift Fund is nearing its goal and the city has just taken a first look at the architect's plans and the engineer's numbers. So far, no major red flags. Keep praying!

- We're paying our apportionments! Now that our renovation debt has been paid, we have made a commitment to try our very best to pay our full tithe (10% of our operating income) to support the ministry we do in connection with all other United Methodist

churches. Why would we want to give so much? As one of my clergy colleagues said at a recent gathering, "This is what we do because this is who we are."

Some people say that 2018 is going to be The Year of the Women. Maybe so. But I have hope and faith that it will also be The Year for the Methodists in Willow Glen.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

## February 14 - Ash Wednesday Service - 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day! With our Village House guests in mind, we will do a special "Valentine's from God" service to kick off the season of Lent. There will be special music and informal prayer time. We hope you will come. But if you are looking for a more traditional service of ashes, a few of our circuit churches are holding a joint Ash Wednesday service at Almaden Hills UMC at 7:00 p.m.



## Daily Devotional Theme for Lent: Spiritual Pilgrimage

For our daily devotion during Lent, I invite you to think about pilgrimage as a spiritual discipline. Going on a spiritual pilgrimage is becoming quite popular these days. In 1985, just under 2500 people did the 500-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain. In 2010, 270,000 people did! But we don't have to go all the way to Spain to be a spiritual pilgrim. Some of us have been on a faith pilgrimage our whole lives, and I invite you to write a story from your faith journey to share with the congregation. Or you may want to send us a picture of a sacred place that you have journeyed to and then tell us what happened there. You can send your stories and photos to [rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@wgumc.org).

If you want to read about going on a pilgrimage, here are a few books that you might like to check out from the library or buy at your local bookstore:

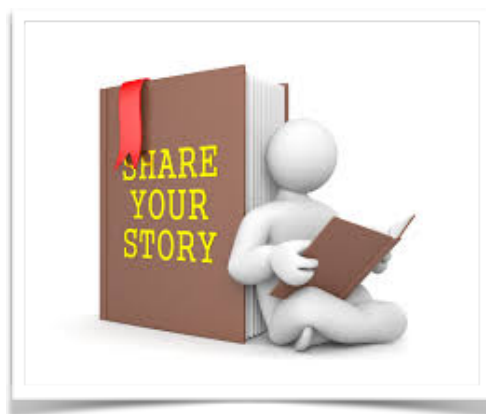
*Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

*Walking* by Henry David Thoreau

*Jesus: A Pilgrimage* by Roman Catholic priest and author, James Martin

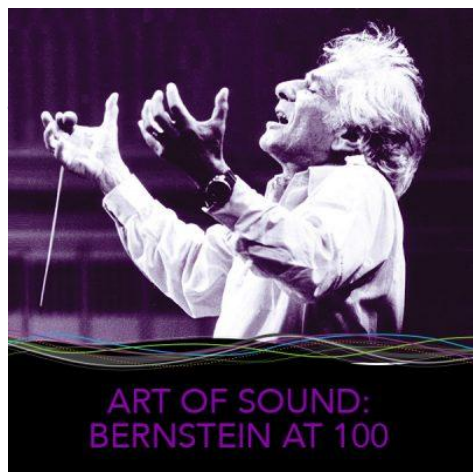
*The Art of Pilgrimage: The Seeker's Guide to Making Travel Sacred* by Phil Cousineau

*Backpacking with the Saints: Wilderness Hiking as Spiritual Practice* by Belden C. Lane



### Bay Area Pilgrims

I have found several spots close by in the Bay Area that could be pilgrimage sites, and I'm interested in planning some field trips to places like the labyrinth at Land's End, Prayer Mountain in Felton, the rock cairn "temple" in Santa Cruz, the relatively new Roman Catholic Cathedral in Oakland or the Tiffany windows at Lake Merritt UMC. There are so many possibilities! If you would be interested in going on one of these trips, please send me an email and indicate if you are available during the week or on a Saturday morning.



## THE CHORAL PROJECT

### Concert: Bernstein at 100

The Choral Project (who rehearse at WGUMC) joins the worldwide centennial celebration of the life and music of America's own Renaissance man, Leonard Bernstein.

This celebratory performance includes Bernstein's most famous choral work, *Chichester Psalms*, featuring world-class organist Angela Kraft Cross, virtuoso harpist Dan Levitan, percussion, and boy soprano Nick McKee (Ragazzi Boys Chorus).

Additional repertoire includes choral music from Lillian Hellman's play *The Lark*, a sublime arrangement of "Somewhere" from *West Side Story*, and several solo and chorus selections from Bernstein's comic operetta, *Candide*.

You are invited to join what will be an exceptional evening of choral music at Mission Santa Clara de Asis on the Santa Clara University campus, and Peace United Church of Christ in Santa Cruz.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10 at 8:00 p.m.**

Mission Santa Clara, Santa Clara

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11 at 5:00 p.m.**

Peace United Church of Christ, Santa Cruz

Tickets range from \$10-\$25 and can be purchased online at the link below.

<http://www.choralproject.org/categories/art-of-sound/>

for 20% discount, enter the code, "feb2018"

Choral Project VISION: To heal and transform through music and words.

At the heart of its vision and mission, The Choral Project aims to educate young singers and expand awareness and appreciation of choral arts.

"But true giving is not an economic exchange; it is a generative act. It does not subtract from what we have; it multiplies the effect we can have in the world."

[Kent Nerburn](#)

from Simple Truths

The deadline for the March *Willow Word* is **February 20**.

Please send  
your story ideas and  
submissions to

[Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

## Women's Groups

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

### Heart & Hands

Thursday, February 8  
7:00 p.m. in Woodhaven  
*Susan Smith*

### Friendship Circle

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

### UMW Executive Board

Sunday, March 11  
11:45 a.m. in Woodhaven  
*Ruth Granfors*

UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Ruth Granfors.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

### Lifted Spirits is a Thriving Mission of Willow Glen UMW

What a wonderful group of appreciative women have enjoyed the luscious lunches we serve each month. The February lunch will be a ham dinner with "all the fixins". As always, the Willow Glen UMW appreciate everyone's involvement and support in this ongoing local mission. We meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to assemble all donated items and then carpool to Lifted Spirits. Please contact Ruth Granfors, 408-444-0702, with any questions.

### WGUMC UMW Extend Mission Projects Near and Far

Looking back over the last 30 years, it is remarkable to discover all the accomplishments of Willow Glen UMC's United Methodist Women. Going back to the 1990s, we supported our local church Volunteers in Mission (VIMs) to Africa, Bolivia and Russia. Church families especially appreciate the Memorials hosted by our Willow Glen Women as well as the beautiful Prayer Shawls they create. Some UMW members have worked as officers here at WGUMC as well as holding District Offices in the El Camino Real District of the California-Nevada Annual Conference for multiple terms. **Patricia Madsen** has served so many terms of office that she was recognized and honored at this year's District Celebration as having "maxed out" her terms of service. This culminates her eight years of service. Once again this year the Willow Glen UMW earned two important honors: Recognized as a 5-STAR UNIT FOR 2017 and a MISSION TODAY UNIT. These honors signify our fulfilling our Pledge to continue to fund ministries with women, children and youth in over 120 countries in the name of God's son, Jesus Christ.

### Installation of 2018 UMW Officers will be February 4

Our officers for 2018 are as follows: President - Ruth Granfors, Vice President - Pat Farrow, Secretary - Carmen McBride, Treasurer - Becky Morgan, Education and Interpretation - Patricia Madsen, Social Action - Gwyne Grubb, Membership, Nurture & Outreach - Sherri Raia, Program Resources - Alice Singh, Historian - Joyce Osborn, Spiritual Growth - Jane Vivian, Sunshine - Linda Russo and Nominations - Patricia Madsen, Sherri Raia and Jane Vivian.

### District and Conference UMW 2018 Calendar

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>February 3</b>  | Leadership Training at Watsonville First UMC<br>Ruth Granfors will attend this event. |
| <b>March 16-18</b> | Spiritual Retreat at Mission Springs, Scotts Valley                                   |
| <b>April 14</b>    | California-Nevada Conference UMW Social Action Event<br>Sacramento First UMC          |





## Get Ready for an "Evening at the Luau"

March 25 at Almaden Hills UMC 5:00-8:30 p.m.

The night you have been waiting for is almost here! An incredible time for families, church members and neighbors to come together to support our Joint Youth Ministry teens!

"Evening at the Luau" is an event you cannot miss!

- A delicious catered dinner
- A fabulous auction
- An amazing talent show

Youth will be selling tickets at church beginning Sunday, March 4th. You can also buy tickets online at <http://www.jointyouthgroup.com/donations--payments.html>

**Two Weeks Only!**  
**Starting March 19**

Adults: \$25 Students and Children being babysat: \$15  
Adults: \$30 Students and Children being babysat: \$20

Even though teens are working at the event, they still need a ticket as they will be eating dinner.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year! With the support of local businesses and the community, we were able to raise more than \$20,000 last year. All proceeds from an "Evening at the Luau" go directly to Youth Ministry program needs, such as funding scholarships for camps for middle and senior high school students, leadership camps and mission trips, as well as enabling other year-round programming events.

Please consider making a donation to our auction! We'd love gift certificates, theme baskets, vacation homes, wines, parties hosted at your home, homemade treats, sporting event tickets and much more. Download the donation form at [www.jointyouthgroup.com](http://www.jointyouthgroup.com) to fill out and attach to your item before you drop it off at the church office. All items are due by March 14.

Thank you for your support!



## JYM Summer Dates!

Summer will be here before we know it. Save these dates on your calendar!

**June 23 - July 1:** High School mission trip to South Carolina with Next Step Ministries

**July 8 - 13:** Jr. High Camp! We travel by bus with our 6th to 8th grade students.

**Aug. 2 - 4:** Magical Mystery Tour! We will travel to a destination unknown to all but Lisa & Kat!

## Making Summer plans...

### Vacation Bible School 2018

June 25-29

Mark your calendars... It's always a faith-filled adventure at VBS! You won't want to miss it!

### Toyon Kids Camp 2018

July 8-14

Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA

Our conference offers summer camps for children and youth

beginning in third grade.

CrossWalk kids are planning to attend Toyon Kids Camp at Monte Toyon in Aptos, July 8-13. There is nothing like camp to bring you closer to God as you make new friends and try new things! Consider a week of faith, friends and fun at camp this summer. Registration opens online in February. Check out the Cal-Neve Youth Camp [website here](#) or [email Pastor Susan](#) with questions.



## Sunday School



Uncovering Kindness in Sunday School

A little bit of kindness can go a long way to change the world around us. Even the

smallest act can inspire another small act, and just like a snowball rolling down a hill, kindness grows and grows. Perhaps that's why a version of the Golden Rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31, NIV) is found in most world religions. It serves us well in life and as our memory verse this month as we explore the value of kindness.

Our simple acts of kindness reflect something bigger - our faith in the goodness of God to care for all people. Jesus teaches us how to how

kindness throughout his life. In many ways, he actually flipped the whole idea of kindness on its head and redefined it for the disciples and for us when he showed kindness to ALL people.

This month, everyone is talking about how to show their friends and family how valuable they are with cards and candy and flowers. The simplest way we can make a difference, however, is to show kindness the way Jesus did, so we will spend this month showing others they are valuable by how we treat them - and not just our friends and family - EVERYONE!

Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

See you there!



**CROSSWALK**

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP FOR  
THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS

Friday, February 9

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 ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

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



## Confirmation Class begins in February

Confirmation Class is that time in a teenager's life when they look closely at what it means to be a Christian in general, to be a United Methodist in particular, and to be a member of this church precisely. It is a great time to explore their faith, to grapple with some of the tough questions facing them individually and as a generation (and facing all people of faith), to get to know themselves and their church a bit better.



All seventh and eighth-graders (and any high schoolers who have not yet been confirmed) are invited to join our Joint Youth Confirmation class which will regularly meet one evening per week (February through April). Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated in May.

If you are interested in confirmation this year, please contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) or Katrina Kraynick ([kat3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:kat3cyouth@gmail.com)).

Parent Meeting will be on Sunday, February 11 from 7:00-7:45 p.m. (right after youth group at WG).

As part of the confirmation experience, Lisa, Kat and I ask that each youth find a mentor. This should be a member of the church (preferably not a family member) who is willing to spend some time sharing with a teen about his or her faith and church experience. Mentors will be expected to join us for two or three classes, stand up with their teens when they are confirmed, and spend several hours with the teens outside of class talking about various faith-related issues. If you would be interested in serving as a Confirmation mentor, please contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

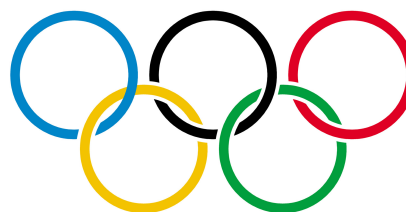
## Family Game Night

Friday, February 23  
6:00-9:00 p.m.  
in Woodhaven

Join us every Fourth Friday 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.



## Bible Olympics to be held on February 25

Just like Olympians headed to PyeongChang, our Bible Olympians have been in training for these events all year (with their attendance in worship and Sunday School). During Sunday School on **Sunday, February 25**, Kohlstedt Hall will be our Olympic Village and we invite everyone to come and try their skill at Curling, Hockey, Luge, Figure Skating and more. With a little biblical knowledge and some coordination, all ages can compete. Opening ceremonies begin at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to help by supervising an event, please contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

A big **“THANK YOU”** goes to

**Leslie Chamberlain**

for having done a wonderful job with the  
Willow Word newsletter for some 15+ years!  
We were blessed to have you!



### **Willow Glen United Methodist Church**

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