



# THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,  
Sharing and Serving

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## Sunday Worship

**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)

Find the Official Church Calendar at: [www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar](http://www.tinyurl.com/wgumc-calendar)

## Village House

By God's grace, the Village House Steering Committee finally found a host church for November, St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Pruneridge. They have space, but they need our help! The same is true for our December host, St. Paul's UMC. If you want to check up on our friends and give of yourself in this season of thanksgiving, you can volunteer for a shift at <http://signup.com/go/GHibqZF>. Our month is February and it's coming soon. Get ready to join the team. Be a shift supervisor. Apply to be our part-time shelter director. Keep Village House in your prayers. Thank you.



## Advent Theme 2018: Welcome the Child

In preparation for welcoming the Christ child this year, we are going to focus on welcoming children, those we know and those we don't know. For our home-grown daily devotional, we are asking you to start thinking about the children you have welcomed in your life: your children or grandchildren, a neighbor's or stranger's child. Maybe your parents or relatives took in an extra child. Maybe you are a teacher and there was that one extra special student. Maybe you fostered a child or had an exchange student. Maybe you adopted a child or rescued a young person. Maybe you met a homeless child or an immigrant in this country. And then there is your inner child. Who welcomed you? Look for an old photo and be thinking about how that child has impacted your life or what you would like to say to them if you could speak to them today. Send your writings to [rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@wgumc.org) to be included



in our Daily Advent Devotionals. Advent begins December 2nd.

## The Lift Replacement Fund Needs One Last Lift

Help us get over the finish line in our fundraising for the lift. Now that we have a final bid for the construction of the new base, new landing and cover for the lift, we need to raise an additional \$20,000. We can tap into some endowment and memorial funds if necessary, but we'd like to give anyone who hasn't had the chance to donate to do so first. Our Lay Leadership Council voted to go ahead with the project so we will see some action as soon as the contractor can clear his schedule. Thank you for your generosity and your patience.

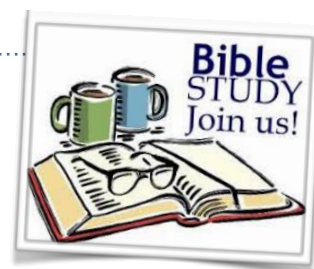
## Adult Faith Formation for the Fall

*Fast But Definitely Not Fake Food for the Spirit*

**Love without Limits Book Study:** We initially decided to meet four times, concluding on October 30. If you would like to continue the group and have another book to suggest, contact Pastor Rebecca.

**Kaleidoscope Bible Study is Back:** Pastor Rebecca and a friend are meeting for an hour mid-day on Thursdays for Kaleidoscope Bible Study twice a month and invite you to join them. If you are interested in participating in this meditative reading of Scripture, please let her know.

**Brown Bag & Bible:** We gather once a month for further reflection on the Scripture for that Sunday's sermon. Our next gathering will be on **November 4**, around 11:45. Look for Pastor Rebecca or Hank at coffee hour.



## 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 Rings*

**Roxanne Kohlin**

*Office & Facilities Manager*  
[info@wgumc.org](mailto:info@wgumc.org)

## Thursday-Morning-Bible-Class-For-All @ 8:00 AM

Come join us as we study the Apostle Paul in a 12-lecture video series by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory University—one of our favorite lecturers. Prof. Johnson says: "One of the most fascinating, important and controversial figures in the religious history of the West, Paul the Apostle continues to find champions and detractors, sometimes in surprising places." The course will explore Paul's religious commitments as a member of the Pharisaic movement, his persecution of the Christian sect, the dramatic experience that changed him into an apostle, and his work as a missionary and church founder. It addresses many questions such as these:

- Was Paul the inventor of Christianity or part of a larger movement?
- Is he best understood from the Acts of the Apostles or from his letters?
- Why does he focus on moral character of the community?
- How do his supporters and detractors depict him?

## Stewardship Books for 2019

If you didn't pick up your stewardship book in worship, one is being mailed to you. Have your whole family read through the book and consider ways to use your gifts for God's glory at WGUMC before you fill out the commitment form in the back. Keep one form for yourself and return the loose-leaf

form(s) in the envelope. We'd like to have them all back by Thanksgiving.

## Well Done Good and Faithful Stewards



We are thrilled to report that we have made it through ten months of this year without a major financial crisis. We're running somewhat behind, but we're paying our bills. AND we got a commendation from our District Superintendent and from our circuit leader for the HUGE increase in our Conference tithe this year. I believe that we have made the biggest improvement of any church in the district! God is good and we are getting better! Bless you and keep it up!

## Tackle-It-Tuesdays - November 15

Every 3rd Tuesday of each Month at 11:00 a.m. Join the Trustees and volunteers on third Tuesday mornings to help tackle those nagging little chores we need done around the church campus! Tasks for all ages and abilities! We can use your help! **Alternatively, if a member has a couple of hours, they can call/text Neil to schedule a weekday or a Saturday early morning instead!** Contact Neil Fissel at [hiltz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hiltz@sbcglobal.net)



## New Stage Curtains

A member of Tokalon, a women's organization that uses our space, gave a donation to replace the old, stained stage curtain in Kohlstedt Hall. It took us a while, but we finally got them ordered and hung. Thank you to Michelle Partsch, Ruth Granfors, Tom Grubb, Kristen Brown, Jeff Chamberlain, Susan Smith, and Tim Fisk and anyone else who had a hand in making this happen. There is enough money left over to get the stage sanded down and refinished which will happen in November. How wonderful to see our space looking good for all who use it.

## Woodhaven Garage Door Repaired

Thank you to Neil Fissel and Efen Lopez for repairing the Woodhaven garage doors that have been so hard to open these past several years. They also repositioned the light so that the space is easier to use. Who says miracles don't happen?

*General Church News continues on Page 7...*

## Pastoral Letter

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Excerpts from "The Good Wine Now" preached on October 7.

If Jesus hadn't come to the wedding [in John 3], no one would have had any good wine. And that's our situation today. Think of our world as a wedding party where someone neglected to send Jesus an invitation, and we have run out of wine...

Living and working in Silicon Valley, it's easy to get sucked into a mentality of scarcity. There's not enough money, not enough time, not enough housing, not enough hope. But that's only because there's not enough Jesus. It's my experience that whenever he shows up, the glass fills up...

That's our job as a church: always to invite Jesus to the wedding. Not only by the way we worship, but also by the way we live and work, we can bring a lot more Jesus into our world...When Jesus is here...everyone will have enough. When we invite Jesus into our lives, water turns into wine and a few loaves and fishes become a feast.

Something I've noticed about weddings. Despite how busy we all are, when the invitation from a good friend or family member comes we always seem to have time to go. We make the time. And no matter how poor we feel, we always manage to bring a gift. My friends, I'm inviting you to a wedding. The Bible makes a couple of references to the Church being the bride of Christ. [Eph 5:25; Rev 21:9] In that case, I'm asking you to make time to show up for the groom and his bride, for Christ and his Church, and to make sure you bring a gift.

Think of your stewardship booklet, your ministry magazine, as a bridal registry. As we prepare for a party, I want you to think about the gifts you are going to bring. This isn't just any wedding. This wedding makes the Brits and their royal nuptials look like the mid-week special at a Vegas wedding chapel. We're talking about the Church getting married to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. So we don't just want to look our very best. We want to be our very best and give our very best!

And when we get to the wedding, remember that the bride and groom aren't the only ones who make vows. We have replaced the old bit about "giving away the bride" with a new bit that asks everyone to promise that they will, by God's grace, do everything in their power to uphold and care for this couple because they cannot hope to love each other very well or for very long without a lot of help. In the same way, the Church will fail to keep her vow to Christ and will fail in her mission to bring his love into the world without all of us keeping our vows to uphold and support her for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health and forsaking all others until death do us part.

When we join Willow Glen United Methodist Church, we vow to pray for this church, to be present with our brothers and sisters here, to offer our gifts for ministry, to be available for service in the world and to be faithful in our witness to Jesus Christ. Our stewardship book/bridal registry has pages and pages of possibilities, ways that all of us can keep our vows. You may think of other ways as well. Just as husbands and wives try to remember and renew their vows every year on their anniversary, every year we need to refresh our commitments to Christ and to his Church.

Another important thing to remember is that the Church is not the Red Cross or Habitat for Humanity or the Humane Society or the Nature Conservancy. Those are all wonderful organizations, and I applaud you for supporting them. But when we ask you to support and care for your Church, we are not asking you to give to a charity. We are asking you to come to a party, to celebrate the abundance of life and of love made possible by Jesus Christ. Your gifts help us expand the guest list and serve the good wine, not after everyone has been here for hours and we have run out of the cheap stuff but right from the start, right now, as soon as you walk in the door.

If you ever wonder what Church is about, hear these words from God's Word in Isaiah [55:1-3a]:

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
 come to the waters;  
 and you that have no money,  
 come, buy and eat!  
 Come, buy wine and milk  
 without money and without price.  
 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
 and delight yourselves in rich food.  
 Incline your ear, and come to me;  
 listen, so that you may live.



And may grace and peace be yours in abundance,

*Pastor Rebecca*



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

### Women's Groups

United Methodist Women is open to all women regardless of church membership. Please call the contact listed below for information.

#### Heart & Hands

First Thursday  
7 p.m. in Woodhaven  
*Susan Smith*

#### Friendship Circle

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

#### UMW Executive Board

Sunday, Nov 18  
11:45 a.m. in  
Woodhaven  
*Ruth Granfors*

For more information,  
call Ruth Granfors at  
408-444-0702.

### IT'S OUR LEGACY: UMW Celebrates 150 Years of Improving Lives of Women, Children, and Youth

United Methodist Women's mission organizations have addressed the injustices imposed on women and girls for 150 years. On March 23, 2019, United Methodist Women will celebrate 150 years of improving the lives of women, children and youth. Please become a part of this **Legacy** with your donation of \$18.69. (or more) to this important Legacy Fund. You, along with today's UMW members, will create our **Legacy** to carry the mission of faith, hope, love-in-action forward for the next 150 years and beyond. You can send your donation to: United Methodist Women, National Office, 475 Riverside Drive, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, ATTN: LEGACY, New York, NY 10115. You can contact the Legacy Fund at [legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org) or 212-870-3705.



### Lifted Spirits Lunch is Wednesday, November 7

We will take lunch to the Lifted Spirits Drop-in Center on **Wednesday, November 7th**. Your donations of \$ to help with the purchase of food items are greatly appreciated. We will assemble all donated items left in the Wesley Room for the Lifted Spirits ladies. As always, the Willow Glen UMW welcomes everyone's involvement and support of this ongoing local mission. The November 7th meal will be roast chicken, rice, corn bread, coleslaw, sweet potatoes, pumpkin cake, and drinks. If you would like to participate in this mission, please let Ruth Granfors know (408-444-0702). We can always use chips, cookies and beverages, etc. We meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to assemble all donated items, and then carpool to Lifted Spirits.



### CA/NV Annual Conference Annual Celebration was held October 20th at Campbell UMC

The California Nevada Conference UMW Annual Celebration at Campbell UMC was an outstanding event. The National UMW President, Shannon Priddy, was the guest speaker. She enthusiastically encouraged us to remember the importance and the power of Invitation. As we approach our 150th year in mission in March 2019 Priddy suggested targeting younger women and creating mentorships to involve women to work through teamwork to build relationships with one another and Christ. Each of the Conference Districts displayed its District Banner. Our El Camino Real District Banner is shown here.

### Save the Date! UMW Christmas Party on December 6

Heart and Hand will host a Christmas party for the United Methodist Women and friends on **Thursday, December 6** in Woodhaven. The evening will be a celebration of the season and our support of women around the world. Bring your joy-filled heart and some friends as we share the promised coming of Christ and the community of love we experience in his name.



### United Methodist Women 2018 Calendar

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Nov. 1     | Heart and Hand Circle, Leslie Chamberlain's House, 7 pm                                |
| Nov. 7     | UMW, Lifted Spirits Meal   |
| Nov. 18    | UMW Executive Board Meeting, 11:45 a.m. Woodhaven                                      |
| Nov. 21    | Friendship Circle, Woodhaven, 12:30 pm   |
| Dec. 5     | UMW, Lifted Spirits Meal   |
| Dec. 6     | Heart and Hand Circle, Christmas Potluck, Woodhaven                                    |
| Dec. 19    | Friendship Circle, Woodhaven, 12:30  |
| Dec. 23    | Christmas Cookie Sunday  |
| Mar. 15-17 | Spiritual Retreat at Mission Springs, Mission Springs Conference Center, Scotts Valley |



## Fall Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser

**Sunday, November 4**

**1:00 - 4:00pm**

The JYM's big fall fundraiser is fast approaching. The Walk-a-Thon is a pretty straight forward fundraiser, where students ask church members, family and friends to donate to the Joint Youth Ministry.

Our goal is to raise \$22,000 this year, without including Lisa/Kat's fundraising efforts which are tallied separately. We hope students can rally and raise that together.

Donations are tax-deductible. Email your family and friends, and ask them to pledge YOU in this Walk-a-thon. We will have our online donation link up by this weekend.

We will start handing out envelopes on Sunday, and at every JYM event after that. We will also have forms available online to download soon.

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

## Adults - We Need Your Help

For the past seven years (at least!) Kiersten Manuel has taken charge of our walk-a-thon event. With her youngest daughter graduating high school this year, **we are in need of someone to fill her shoes!**

We would really love to have someone shadow Kiersten this year, so next year they know exactly what to do. If interested, or if you have any questions, PLEASE e-mail Lisa at [lisa3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com).

## Welcome Annabelle Lynne Kraynick Baker

Kat and CJ welcomed their daughter, Annabelle, on October 12 at 11:33pm. She's doing great and gaining weight! We still have lots of meal drop off gaps in the schedule. If you want to thank Kat and CJ for their years of service to the JYM and making their nights a little easier, consider dropping off a meal in the next few months. Click on the link to see which dates are available and sign up to drop off some food. All instructions about drop off, food restrictions etc are on the link.

[MEAL TRAIN](#)

## November Dates

We are at Cambrian Park UMC -  
1919 Gunston Way, 95124 - in  
November & December

**Sun, Nov 4 from 1:00-4:00pm:**

JYM Walk-a-thon at Cambrian  
Park UMC

**Sat, Nov 10 at 7:00 am to Mon, Nov 12 at 12:00n:**

High School SF Mission trip

Volunteer all over the city, stay at the Waller Center, experience the vast diversity and grow in your understanding of others through service and fun!

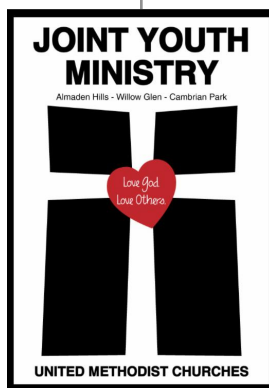
We have 10 spots left. Scholarships can be used but please participate in the Walk-a-thon for those to apply. Parents can volunteer at the WAT and students can raise funds and walk.

Every volunteered hour is \$10 off your trip.

[SIGN UP SF HERE](#)

**Nov 30: Mall Night Event**

Our annual shopping event to sponsor families in need of groceries and gifts for the holidays!



You can always find out what's happening with the JYM by visiting our website: <http://www.jointyouthgroup.com/>

Our contact info:

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

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

Leigh - [leigh3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:leigh3cyouth@gmail.com)



### Christian Community: Advent Family Nights

6:00-8:00 p.m. in Woodhaven

Tuesdays of Advent (Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 & 18)

It has become our tradition to gather as a church family to celebrate the season of Advent with activities and fellowship, food and preparation. We hope you will take a break from the "everyday" and join us each Tuesday for a simple potluck dinner and a little bit of "special" for the season. Drop in at Woodhaven anytime between 6:00 and 8:00pm. You'll find friendly faces, a warm meal, Christmas crafts and activities for the whole family.

If you would like to help plan our Advent Family Nights, please contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) to share your ideas and join the team.

### Looking ahead to Christmas Eve with our children

Our family worship service on Christmas Eve will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our children will once again participate in the early service, serving as the choir for worship and sharing in some of the leadership of the service by helping to tell the Christmas story in an upbeat and lively way. We hope your family will plan to join us for this spirited candlelit service that does find its moments of peace even amidst the chaos and excitement of celebration.



If your children are interested in being part of our Christmas story, please be in touch with Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) soon as we put together our plans.



### CrossWALK

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP FOR  
THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS

Friday, November 9

7:00 - 8:30pm

Preschool Building

Theme: Escape!

We're meeting in the preschool building this evening to see if we can solve the puzzles and find the key to escape. It's an escape room experience just for CrossWalk and we need you to help us get out together.

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!"



### Family Game Night at WGUMC

Saturday, November 24

5:30-9:00 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 for family game night at Woodhaven! Bring your 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.



*General Church News continued from Page 2...***Christmas Giving Tree for Esther's Outreach and the Family Giving Tree**

Esther Jakel, a longtime member of Cambrian Park UMC, started a Christmas outreach program over 15 years ago for needy families whose children attend Lietz or Oster School in the Cambrian Park neighborhood and has expanded to include families at Willow Glen High School as well. Each year, struggling families are selected by the school offices and then supported by this outreach program in Esther's memory.

Willow Glen UMC will be participating in Esther's Outreach through our annual Giving Tree. Gift tags will offer you the opportunity to provide gifts for family members or grocery gift cards for a holiday meal. Tags will be on the tree in the Wesley Room early in November. Come by and choose how you will share some love and hope this Christmas.

We will also be supporting The Family Giving Tree. All gifts and donations need to be returned to the church early in December. Please read your chosen gift tag carefully for specific instructions and deadlines. Thank you for sharing with others during this holiday season. What a wonderful time to surround others with joy and love!



**Family Giving Tree™**  
Bringing Hope and Joy to Those in Need

**Remember These Folks in your Prayers:**

Sara Zwingman & Family  
Pat and Tom Farrow  
Jane Plane  
Dorothy Mauseth  
Harriet Hosack  
Eva Fisher  
Mary Pierson  
Kay Champion  
Kay Dahl  
Barbara Hawkins

Russ Kintner  
Lex Danson  
Ruth Lines  
Mark Menicucci  
Norm Brustrom  
Peggy Schlosser  
Lynda Hutcheson  
Lynne Hosack  
Tom Mounts  
David & Tom Forderer

Joyce Osborn  
Barbara DeWit  
Alma Taylor  
Helen Ball  
Lorene Sheridan  
Bobbie Corson  
Jolene's sister, Jacqui  
Village House women  
Michiko Buchanan



*Save  
the  
Date*

Church Conference 2018  
Saturday, December 1  
1:00-2:00 p.m.

The deadline for the  
December/January issue of the  
*Willow Word* is **November 24**.  
Please send your story ideas  
and submissions to  
[Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

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

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