

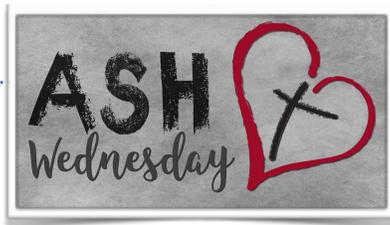
# THE WILLOW WORD

God's Family Growing Through Caring,  
Sharing and Serving



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**JOINT ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE -  
March 6 at Almaden Hills UMC**

Willow Glen joins Los Gatos, Almaden Hills and Cambrian Park UMC's to debrief about the actions of our General Conference in Saint Louis and to begin our Lenten journey together.

**Sunday Worship**

**10:00 a.m.**

Worship

**11:00 a.m.**

Fellowship Time

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

Read this invitation from Rev. Mariellen Yoshino at Almaden Hills:

The Special Session of the General Conference of our denomination has met. 864 delegates from all over the world gathered in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26. This historic Special Session was called together by our Council on Bishops "to receive and act on a report... concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church." Let's get together to talk about what took place at the General Conference. Let's get together to share with one another and to support one another and our Church. Then, after our discussion, let us go to the altar of the church in all humility and repentance to receive the ashes amidst our Ash Wednesday service of worship.

Sharing and Support gathering, **Wednesday, March 6, 6:00 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday service of worship, **Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.**

**Other Opportunities to Receive Ashes on Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is the last day of the shelter, so Pastor Rebecca will bring ashes to Woodhaven in the morning for any guests or volunteers who want them. They will also be available at **12:00 noon** for anyone who wants to stop by for prayer and a blessing.

**Lenten Pulpit Exchange**

As the pastors of Los Gatos, Almaden Hills, Cambrian Park and Willow Glen UMC begin to gather with our circuit to explore the prospect of a new young adult ministry, we want to get to know each other's churches better. That's why we are taking the opportunity during Lent to preach from each other's pulpits on a common theme, The Seven Last Words of Jesus. The preaching schedule for Willow Glen will be as follows:

**March 10:** Rev. Amy Beth Durwood from Cambrian Park UMC

**March 17:** Rev. Jennifer Murdock from Los Gatos UMC

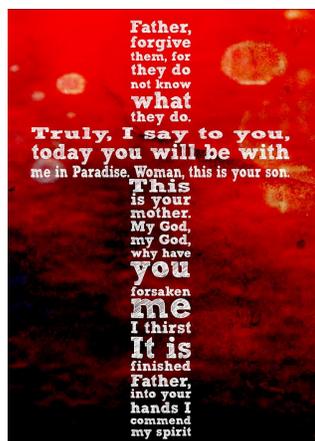
**March 24:** Pastor Rebecca preaches

**March 31:** Rev. Mariellen Yoshino from Almaden Hills UMC



## Lenten Devotional: The Seven Last Words

To go along with the preaching theme for Lent, our daily devotional this year will be dedicated to meditations, stories and poems inspired by the seven last words of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels. What do these words invoke in you? Here are the scripture passages and some questions to get you thinking, but feel free to let your thoughts go elsewhere. Just write them down and send them in an email to Pastor Rebecca.



1. "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." [Luke 23:34] Can you tell us a story of forgiveness from your own life?
2. "Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." [Luke 23:43] Have you ever been with someone on their death bed? What was it like? How do you imagine heaven?
3. "Woman, here is your son...Here is your mother." [John 19:26-27] When a loved one dies, the work of loving the ones who are grieving begins. Share with us a story of caring or grieving.
4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" [Matthew 27:46] Can you relate to Jesus? Can you describe a time when you felt forsaken? What strength can you draw from the suffering of Jesus?

5. "I thirst." [John 19:28]

What do you do when your spirit is thirsty? Where is your living water?

6. "It is finished." [John 19:30]

What did Jesus mean? What is finished? What do his words mean for us and the work we are called to do?

7. "Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit." [Luke 23:46-49]

Have you ever surrendered to a kind of death in order to experience a new life? Prior to commending our spirit to God in death, how can we practice surrendering to God in our life?

## Village House

We are finishing up our fourth year in the Village House program. This has been the smoothest operation yet thanks to God's grace, your prayers and our solid team of shelter supervisors, dedicated overnight staff and wonderful new and veteran volunteers. It is amazing that our little church can do what much larger churches struggle to do.



This year, we want to say a cheer for our co-directors (Liz Pense and Jan Leonard, and their faithful assistant, Jim Leonard); our morning and evening supervisors (Gerri Hodson, Yin Mei Lawrence, Gwyne Grubb, Sherri Raia, Amy Yee, Neil Fissel, Liz Pense, Mindy George, Michelle & Torsten Partsch, Lois Moore, Kami Tomberlain); our grocery guy (Tony Raia); our paid overnight staff (Betty, Gina, Gabbie Fall and Mika Manuel); our evening and overnight volunteers; meal and transportation providers; breakfast hosts; and furniture movers. We are very grateful for the folks from other churches and other organizations who filled many of our volunteer spots. A special thank-you goes to Troop 233 for helping us move the furniture out of Woodhaven and clean the kitchens.

We still have a major lift at the end of the shelter, so we need your help moving the cots and storage trunks to St. Francis Cabrini on Wednesday morning, **March 6** and moving the furniture back into Woodhaven on Saturday morning, **March 9**.

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

## Pastoral Letter

As I write this, I am following the actions of General Conference, and it is as unclear what will happen on this last day as it was on the first day. From the perspective of those who support the unity of the United Methodist Church and the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in its life and ministry, the voting has so far been depressing. I find myself wondering if what I'm feeling and what my LGBTQ sisters and brothers are feeling is something like what Moses felt when he saw God's people suffering in slavery or what Jeremiah felt when he saw them sent into exile or what Jesus felt when the religious authorities condemned him or what Paul felt when the church in Corinth was tearing itself apart. Lord, this has been going on a long time. Too long.

John Wesley's rules for his Methodists were simple. There were only three of them: Do good; do no harm; stay in love with God. In light of all the good that the United Methodist Church does and continues to do, it breaks my heart that we, nevertheless, are continuing to do harm by excluding, shaming, and punishing people for being who God created them to be. To be honest, it is sometimes hard for me to stay in love with God in the church I dedicated my life to over thirty years ago.

What this means for the denomination or for you and me, I don't know. But I do know that we are not alone. All the bishops of the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC (roughly the Rocky Mountains and everything west) are united in support of the One Church Plan that would keep the UMC together and allow for Methodists across the theological spectrum to be true to their conscience and their faithful understanding of God's Word on these matters. Even if that plan is voted down as it seems likely now and some version of the Traditional Plan or no plan is adopted by this General Conference, we Methodists out west will stand together and work together with an unshakeable passion for Christ and compassion for all.

The only clarity I have is the knowledge that this Special Session will NOT settle the issue one way or the other. There will most certainly be much legislation and probably many lawsuits in our future as annual conferences, local churches, pastors and parishioners decide how to respond to the actions/inactions of General Conference and the demands of our faith in a just and loving God.

For those of us who need some help in processing all of this, our Bishop will be itinerating around the Annual Conference to talk with clergy and lay people about the path forward.

The first (and most convenient) of these discussions will take place at 2:30 p.m. this coming Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Los Altos UMC. Since you will not be alone with your questions and concerns, it would be a good idea to carpool and, even if you can't make it on that day, to pray.

Remember the song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." And remember that it wasn't written at the height of the Civil Rights movement, after the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. It was written by James Weldon Johnson in 1921 at the height of Jim Crow. And I leave you with his words: "God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land." Amen.

*Pastor Rebecca*

## Church Staff

**Rebecca Ireland**

*Senior Pastor*

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**Robert Birnstihl**

*Organist & Director of Music Ministries*

**Tom Mounts**

*Director of the Willow Glen Ringers*

**Roxanne Kohlin**

*Office & Facilities Manager*  
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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

### Lifted Spirits Lunch is Wednesday, March 6th

Your donations of funds to help with food purchases are greatly appreciated. As always, the Willow Glen UMW welcomes everyone's involvement and support of this ongoing local mission. We will take lunch to the Lifted Spirits Drop-in Center on **Wednesday, March 6**, and we will assemble all donated items left in the boxes in the Wesley Room for the Lifted Spirits ladies. Socks, gloves, and coats are especially needed. We meet at church at 11 a.m., and then carpool to Lifted Spirits. If you would like to participate in this mission, please let Patricia Madsen know (408-289-1989).



### UMW Celebrates Our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 31



We are planning a special worship service followed by a 150-candles-strong Birthday Cake on Sunday, March 31st. This celebration honors the period from 1869 to 2019 when UMW started worldwide mission work. We will have Pastor Mariellen Yoshino from Almaden Hills UMC leading worship as we highlight both our achievements in addressing the injustices imposed on women and girls over the past 150 years and our plans for advances in carrying the mission of faith, hope, and love-in-action forward for the next 150 yrs.

### See's Candy Sales

Mission Giving is the foundation that provides funds, which enables the work of the United Methodist Women to reach beyond the walls of the church and unto the lives of women, children and youth. Women prayerfully make pledges to the local unit each year. These funds journey on to the El Camino Real District and eventually to the Conference UMW so that we can support over 100 Missions around the world. We in CA/NV Conference have two missions within driving distance - Gum Moon and Elizabeth Inn in San Francisco. Our local unit sells See's candy each spring to help raise funds for Mission and purchase candy bunnies or chickens for children residing in shelters Easter morning. Donations are always accepted to help buy the children's candy. **Sales will start March 24** and delivery will be in time for Easter. For more information call Patricia Madsen at 408-298-1980.



### Register Now for Mission Springs Spiritual Retreat

**Bold Discoveries: God's Not Finished with Me Yet!** is the El Camino Real District UMW Spiritual Retreat on March 15-17 at the Mission Springs Conference Center in Scotts Valley, California. Retreat leader, JoAnne Neish, will provide an enthusiastic program designed to bring us to a discovery of who we are in Christ. Registration forms are available on the UMW bulletin board in the church office hallway or online at [elcaminoalumw.org](http://elcaminoalumw.org). Scholarships are available to cover a portion of the cost.. <https://elcaminoalumw.org/retreat-2019/>

## 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  
Pastor Susan Smith

### Friendship Circle

Third Tuesday  
12:30 p.m. in  
Woodhaven  
Sue Johnson & Ruth  
Granfors

For more information, call Patricia Madsen at 408-289-01989

## UMW Legacy Fund

Our UMW members support our **Legacy** to carry the mission of faith, hope, love-in-action forward for the next 150 years. You can become a part of this **Legacy** with your donation of \$18.69. (or more) 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 212-870-3705 or [legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

## United Methodist Women 2019 Calendar

- March 6** UMW, Lifted Spirits Meal
- March 10** UMW Executive Board Meeting, 11:45 in the Library
- March 15-17** Spiritual Retreat at Mission Springs, Mission Springs Conference Center, Scotts Valley
- April 20** El Camino Real District UMW Leadership Team Meeting, Almaden Hills UMC, in San Jose



## Get Ready for an "Afternoon at the Country Fair"

March 24 at Almaden Hills UMC 2:00pm-5:30pm



The event 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!

- A delicious array of snack foods, desserts and drinks
- A fabulous auction
- An amazing talent show

Youth will be selling tickets at church beginning **Sun, March 3**.

**Two Weeks Only!** Adults: \$15, Students and Children being babysat: \$15

**Starting March 17** Adults: \$20, Students and Children being babysat: \$20

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

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 "Afternoon at the Country Fair" 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!

## High School Mission Trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota

June 14-23 for Current 9th-12th Graders

When: We will begin our drive June 14th at 7am and return sometime on June 23rd.

Where: Staying at churches/hotels on the way up and down in various cities/states but spending our days in Pine Ridge, South Dakota at the facility Next Step lives at for the summer.

Cost- \$1050- This includes transportation, food, rental cars, gas, mission trip payment to Next Step, activities, shirts and much more.

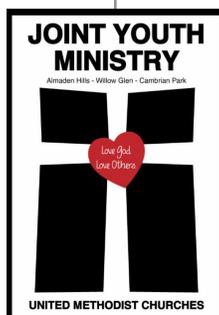
The JYM can pay up to half for students trip if needed for each student attending. Every hour a student and parent volunteers at upcoming fundraising events counts as \$10 off your trip. If you need more help financially with the trip we can work that out also. We have never needed to turn someone away for lack of finances and we don't want to do that for this trip either. Please talk with us. We want this opportunity for your student and for our JYM family.

Deposit of \$300 due March 3.

Students joining us on the trip are required to attend two of the four education nights offered to better prepare us for our time in South Dakota. Additionally all families need to help at the Evening at the Country Fair on March 24th in some capacity.

You can sign up for the trip today with this [link](#) and pay your deposit by March 3rd. [We have 8 spots available.](#)

## Junior High Camp at Hartland Christian Camp from July 7-12



Current Junior High Students - Join us for an amazing week! We will travel to Hartland Christian Camp located in Badger, CA (Near King's Canyon National Park). Hartland has amazing opportunities for students, such as high ropes activities, paint ball, swimming pool, canoes, crafts and crazy games! They also have a strong focus on Jesus and student faith development. Hartland is also a great place for students to create friendships with fellow JYM students, and learn to trust their cabin leaders, as well as Lisa & Kat. I hope you will join us!

**Who: Current 6th - 8th grade students**

**When: July 7th at 8:00am - July 12th at 2:30pm**

Where: Hartland Christian Camp <http://www.hartlandcamp.com/programs/jr-high-summer-camp#overview>

Why: Because it is awesome! And the best way for students to get to know each other better and create lasting bonds.

Cost: \$575 - financial aid is available!

First Deposit of \$25 is due upon sign-up, Second deposit of \$250 is due April 28th, Final Deposit of \$300 is due June 9th.

You can turn in your volunteer hours as payment with one or both deposits. If you drive to or from camp we can deduct those hours from your student's trip cost.

[CAMP SIGN UP](#)

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)

## Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

Have you ever wondered how to pray? When they ask, Jesus teaches his disciples the Lord's prayer which not only gives us the words we sometimes need, it also can serve as a guide for our prayers. During Lent, our Sunday School children will be learning the Lord's prayer and studying what it means for their prayer lives.



Sunday School meets each Sunday after the children's time in worship (about 10:20am) in the preschool building. Come to worship with your family and then join us for Sunday School to engage your faith in a new way each week.



**Friday, March 8**

**7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Wesley Room & Kohlstedt Hall**

**Theme: Beach Day!**

It's the middle of winter but we're going to have some beach-y fun at CrossWalk. Come for sandcastles and beach games. We're still exploring the wisdom of the Bible so there will be scripture treasure too as we discover the rocks and pebbles and sand in our lives and how we make time for everything that is important to us. Bring a beach towel!

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

The deadline for the April  
*Willow Word* is **March 24**.  
Please send your story ideas  
and submissions to  
[Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

## Vacation Bible School

### Making Summer Plans...

#### Vacation Bible School 2019

**June 24-28**

Mark your calendars... It's always a faith-filled adventure at VBS! You won't want to miss it! Registration begins March 17.



**Toyon Kids Camp 2019**

**July 7-13**

**Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA**

Each year, some of our CrossWalk friends (entering 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades) go to summer camp together at Monte Toyon in Aptos. Sponsored by the California-Nevada conference of the United Methodist Church, this is a great way to meet other kids of faith and enjoy the great outdoors together as we learn about our God and ourselves. You can find more information and register online at the Conference Camping website: [www.calnevypm.org](http://www.calnevypm.org)

Willow Glen UMC has financial assistance available for your kids to go to camp. If you need it, please talk to Pastor Susan.

*General Church News continued from Page 2...***Financial Update - We Need to Catch Up**

Hi everyone! Hopefully by now all of our Christmas bills are paid and we can get back on track with our giving. Unfortunately, from a giving perspective, January was one of the lowest months we've had in a long time, which is putting us behind early in the new year. If you have pledged to the church this year please make sure your pledge is up to date. If you forgot to turn in your pledge card, this would be a great time to do so. We had a great December, so we would hate to let a poor January stop our momentum. Thank you for your continuing commitment to Willow Glen UMC!

*Your Finance Team*

**Lift Update**

The infrastructure for the new lift is coming along. If the weather cooperates, maybe we can get this all done in time for Easter!

**Building Hope Mission Trip to Mexico**

**July 27-August 3, 2019**

Join our team as we build houses for working families in Mexico this summer. No matter your age, physical capability or skill, you can make a difference in the lives of a family in need.

This is an intergenerational mission project and we invite anyone ages 5-85 to consider joining the team. Working with Amor Ministries, we will build two-room houses for impoverished, working families. For most of this week-long trip, we will sleep in tents pitched in a basic campground, work full days in the Mexican sun, rain or wind and shower with a bucket of water warmed only by the sun. This trip will change your life as you get to know and fall in love with the people of Mexico who live in these conditions every day. Amor Ministries has been building in Mexico for almost 40 years. Find out more about their work at [www.amor.org](http://www.amor.org)

The cost of the mission trip covers all mission expenses including transportation, lodging, food and the cost of the building materials (\$750 for adults, \$450 for children under 10). Your deposit of \$250/adult and \$150/child will be due by March 31, 2019.

**Come find out more** at our first team meeting on **Sunday, March 31 at 1:00pm** in Kohlstedt Hall.

We hope you will join us this summer to build houses instead of walls.

Contact Pastor Susan Smith ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) for more information.



**Remember These Folks in your Prayers:**

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Sara Zwingman & Family  
Tom Farrow  
Jane Plane  
Dorothy Mauseth  
Lynne Hosack  
Eva Fisher  
Mary Pierson  
Kay Champion  
Kay Dahl

Barbara Hawkins  
Russ Kintner  
Norm Brustrom  
Peggy Schlosser  
David & Tom Forderer  
Joyce Osborn  
Barbara DeWit  
Alma Taylor  
Helen Ball

Bobbie Corson  
Jolene's sister, Jacqui  
Women of Village House  
Yoshiko Buchanan  
Kyle Mastrolia  
Christine Ryczkowski  
Karen Haight



**Willow Glen United Methodist Church**

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