

# THE WILLOW WORD

## God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving



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### Sunday Worship

**10:00 a.m.**

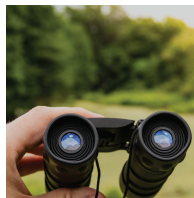
Worship

**11:00 a.m.**

Fellowship Time

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

### Vision Team Reflections

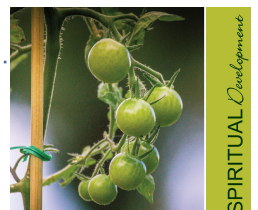


At our meeting over the summer, the Vision Team studied the results of the survey we did last spring. Of the many good suggestions and honest reflections contained in the survey, the team focused on the need for more small groups and the desire for more connection and sense of community. That's why we asked the leaders of all of our current small groups to talk about who they are and what they do at our September congregational meeting. But we also want to start new small groups and take on new projects to promote community through sharing and working together.

But while we were thinking about planning it, the Holy Spirit got busy doing it. Since we heard that you were looking for more community, Yin Mei Lawrence has come to us as our new intern for Adult Spiritual Development. Linda Yepiz has been exploring starting a new meditation group for people in recovery. And Curt Moore is hearing a call to create a men's ministry. That tells us that there is both a hunger for spiritual growth here and people who are ready to respond to the One who said, "Feed my sheep." You'll hear more about these initiatives in the months ahead, but we want you to know that there is something going on around here, something good. Check it out.

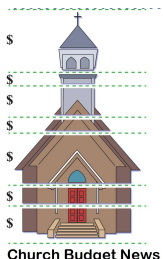
### A New Intern for Adult Spiritual Development

Among the many things that the Holy Spirit has been doing at Willow Glen lately, she has brought Yin Mei Lawrence to us as our new "intern" for Adult Spiritual Development. We have not had someone dedicated to this ministry since Ingrid Quigley left that part-time position on our church staff in 2011. To help us get to know her, here is a bit about her background and her passion for ministry:



Yin Mei is our new penguin - don't worry, if it doesn't make sense, ask someone who was there that Sunday morning when she shared from the pulpit her background and why she's here in our church. Yin Mei comes from a teaching background, she taught chemistry at the College of San Mateo for the last 16 years but is now a full time "God-seeker". She does this formally through classes with Fuller Seminary and the Renovar é Institute, but really through participation in congregational life. She's a member of the Campbell Church of Christ but will be here at WGUMC "as often as possible" as the Intern in Adult Spiritual Development. In her own words, her love language is food, her spiritual gift is eating, her ministry is "togetherness", as in "eating together, praying together, working together, weeping together, celebrating together". She's particularly interested in spiritual healing, growth and renewal and would love to get to know us individually and as a church family. We welcome Yin Mei as a member of the Body of Christ and our new companion in faith at Willow Glen.

### Financial Update



There is good news and not so good news on the church financial front. First, the good news - we have almost completed our large unexpected projects and as a result of some memorial funds and other special giving it looks like we have weathered the storm without impacting our operating budget. With regard to our ongoing operations we still have a slightly positive cash flow, however, we have had to use all of our reserves for the year to keep even, so we are definitely going to need some extra giving before the year is out. We will keep you updated on our financial situation during these last few months of the year. In the meantime, please make sure your pledge is up to date and if you have the ability to give a little extra this fall we could really use the help. Thank you for your continuing commitment to Willow Glen UMC. ~ Your Financial Team

Continues on Page 2...

## Book Study

We are continuing our discussion of Rohr's book, *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe*. The group will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, at Woodhaven at 7 pm.



## Stewardship



Have you ever wondered how much of a difference your financial commitments really make to our ministry? Unlike many UMC's, Willow Glen does not sustain itself on rental income because we use our buildings for our own ministry. That's a good thing! That's a sign of life and health. But it means that more than most, we are a member-supported church. We need to raise about \$350,000 each year from pledges and other giving. With a membership of around 300 and less than 100 families, you get an idea of what a challenge it is and how remarkable it is that we have managed to meet that challenge year after year. God is good!

This year, we have incurred a number of unbudgeted expenses. Grappling with a large number of employees and changing labor laws, we hired a payroll service. We also hired a CPA to help us with some accounting upgrades. We renovated the Willowmont parsonage and are fixing up the Woodhaven apartment, in addition to replacing the sanctuary lift. We also are continuing to raise salaries to meet the state minimum requirements for our full-time youth directors. All of these expenses align with our ministry priorities, but they have increased the strain on our church budget. So, we ask that you support all the new things that are happening and new opportunities that are opening and, if you possibly can, increase your financial support of your church family. In the coming weeks, you will be receiving a stewardship book that describes all of our ministries and the many ways you can support them. But you don't have to wait for the book. You can increase your giving at any time. Go to our website, [wgumc.org](http://wgumc.org), or ask our financial secretary, Ingrid Quigley, for instructions in how to give.

Do you have recent photos of church events or groups that you are involved in? We are updating our stewardship book for 2019-2020 and would like to include photos of this year's ministries. Please send your pictures to [rebecca@wgumc.org](mailto:rebecca@wgumc.org).

## Village House Day Shelter Wrap-Up

We would like to thank all those who volunteered to provide day shelter for the Village House women four days a week during the month of September. The women were grateful to have a place to rest and recuperate away from the street and the heat. We especially thank our day shelter director, Mindy George, and our shift supervisors: Jim and Jan Leonard, Liz Pense, Amy Yee, Gerri Hodson, Sherri Raia, Yin Mei Lawrence, and Leslie Chamberlain.



If you ever wonder why we put so much time and effort into this ministry, listen to Mindy's story: "The most memorable experience for me was when one of the guests received a phone call letting her know she had lost her job. She had recently become sober and she told me that she really wanted to just leave Woodhaven and go get drunk. Instead, she came into the dining room to talk to me. We had a nice long chat, sharing our stories, struggles and current journey. Then she told me, "you know, I don't feel like drinking anymore". That's exactly why I work at Village House. I want to be there to serve and share with another soul that needs it. And-it completely takes me out of myself, my problems, etc."

## Getting Ready for Lift-Off

The company that sold us the lift is here installing it today, October 1st. If everything goes smoothly, we should be fully functional by October 13th, and we will try to be patient if we have to wait until the week after. It will be so wonderful to have those who have been watching the worship service from our "satellite campus" in the church library join us in the sanctuary for a dedication ceremony celebration. We want to be ready to party after we get the OK from the contractor and Trustees. If you can bake a cake, blow up balloons, and help us put on a big wonderful party, please contact Pastor Rebecca or Pastor Susan. We will send out an all-church bulletin as the date is confirmed and plans are developed.

**Pastoral Letter**

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it? [Isaiah 43:19]



Our "Isaiah 43:19" group that includes pastors and lay people from AHUMC, CPUMC and WGUMC met with our district superintendent on September 22nd. Mariellen Yoshino, pastor at AHUMC, made some charts of different models for cooperative ministry, and we took a straw vote on which model the group members thought that we should be working toward.

We then heard from Luke Hamm who is the pastor at Church of the Wayfarer in Carmel and Monterey about how those two churches are going about forming a cooperative parish. In meeting together, they discovered a critical need for more preschools in their community. So now lay people from Carmel are providing the leadership to start a Methodist preschool on the campus of Monterey UMC with an intentional outreach to the families of those preschool children.

After asking Luke a lot of questions, our group decided to draft a covenant for our three churches that would provide us with a process for discerning whether or not to form a cooperative parish and what that would mean beyond what we are already doing cooperatively through the Joint Youth Ministry and Mexico Mission. This covenant will be presented to our three churches at our church conferences this fall.

If the covenant is adopted, we will begin in earnest and meet frequently to explore options and deepen relationships that already exist between our three churches. On the strength and quality of those relationships, we would then build a strategic plan for how to do new ministry together and, God willing, support the creation of a new church of young adults in San Jose.

In the meantime, Susan Smith has offered to reach out to the young adults who are graduates of our JYM program or connected to our churches and are still in the area. In the next several weeks, we will be gathering them to listen to their stories and to listen for their spiritual needs and ask them about their dreams of what church could be.

This next year promises to be very exciting and there are so many opportunities to be a part of something that could be incredibly life-giving. I pray that you will feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to offer your spiritual gifts for God's great work among us in the months ahead

Rebecca

**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)

From Children's Time



From the workshop with Sophia Jackson on racial injustice and mass incarceration

## 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 Wednesday  
12:30 p.m. in  
Woodhaven  
Sue Johnson &  
Ruth Granfors

For more information, call Patricia Madsen at 408-289-1989.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

### Lifted Spirits Lunch is Wednesday, October 2



Special thanks for the September Lifted Spirits meal go out to Patricia Madsen, Alice Singh, Ruth Lines, Mary Dee Dickerson, Sue Johnson, Sherri Raia, Barbara Lucas and Jane Vivian. The old saying "many hands make light work" surely apply to that meal.

**THANKS!!**

Our regular date is **October 2** for the meal at Lifted Spirits so we will again be taking a meal to the ladies at the 4th St., Presbyterian Church. While many of the actual Church vestments are being removed and stored at another location, they still want to continue doing the back door and lifted spirits. If you would like to participate in the serving or the preparation of the meals contact Patricia Madsen president of United Methodist Women at 408 -289-1089 or Ruth Granfors at 408-444-0702.

This month we will be serving a spinach lasagna, roasted root vegetables, French bread, and cupcakes. We prepare them early in the morning on Wednesday, October 2 and carpool to the downtown church leaving Willow Glen United Methodist Church at 11 AM. We generally return by 2 PM. If this sounds like something you'd like to do please let us know. We can always use donations of money to help purchasing the items for the menu.

A special thanks to those of you who have contributed in the past to help this project continue as a community service project to the homeless. As part of the side of the lifted spirits we also take used donations of clothing or other objects to the women on that same day when we deliver the meal, so if you have some usable clothing items that you would wish to donate please drop them off at the Wesley room by Wednesday, October 2 and we will see that they get delivered.

### Merced UMW's Annual Celebration October 19

On **October 19** the Merced United Methodist Church UMW will be hosting the annual celebration for the United Methodist women. Program runs from 8:45 till 3 PM. Registration deadline is October 12 and includes lunch, and the cost is \$23. They are encouraging you to wear the color purple. You are encourage to bring a donated hand made items that will be used as a fundraiser that day. We are Celebrating the holy spirit by recognizing the 150 years of existence. The Reverend Deborah

Brady a Central Valley's Superintendent will be the speaker for the day. Registration forms are on line.

### El Camino Real District UMW Annual Celebration October 26



El Camino Real District United Methodist Women Annual Celebration will be held Saturday, **October 26, 2019** at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church on Homestead Road in Cupertino. Check-in begins at 8 AM and then music and gathering in the sanctuary will start at 8:45. The theme is " The power of bold: rescuing our earth".

Guest speaker that day is Susan Stephenson. She's the executive director of the re-generational project in California interfaith power and light she has a BA in English literature. Susan has over two decades of experience developing and implementing issue advocacy and electoral campaigns for environmental and other public interest organizations.

Lunch is provided including a vegetarian option if you pre-register by Saturday, October 19. The cost is \$12 per person. Registration forms are available online or a paper form is posted at the UMW bulletin board in the hallway at the Willow Glen United Methodist Church. At the recent board meeting it was determined that the local unit of United Methodist women will carpool leaving the parking lot at 7:45 AM. If you have questions about attending the annual celebration contact the local president Patricia Madsen at 408-289-1989.



## JYM in October & November

All events are at **Almaden Hills UMC** unless otherwise stated – 1200 Blossom Hill Road

### Donate to the JYM

Do you like what is happening in the JYM? Do you think it's important and you want it to continue? How do you donate?

We'd love a small or large monthly contribution to the JYM to help be sure all our programming, events and scholarships for events are able to happen this year.

You can click here to make a one time, or monthly donation [DONATE](#)

### Feed the Need

**Tuesday, October 1st**  
6:00-8:00pm



We will be cooking Mediterranean food! Pitas, hummus, falafel, chicken, salad, butter cookies and much more! We will need your chopping, prepping, cooking and cleaning help!

We need two more parents to help us this evening (Earn two scholarship hours for your student) Please email [lisa3youth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3youth@gmail.com) if you can help

We would be happy to deliver a meal to someone you know who might need a boost. Email Lisa the name, address, small amount of situation details and how many people in the family [lisa3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com)

### Have you followed us on Social Media?

Pictures, up to the minute reminder and lots of fun to be found by-

- Liking us on Facebook  
[JYM FACEBOOK](#)

- Following our JYMrocks page on insta  
[Follow us on Instagram](#)

- Checking out our snapchat  
Jointyouthministry or JYMrocks3



## BIG DATES in the 2019/2020 school year

October 13th - JYM Family Night!

October 27th - JYM Halloween event

Nov.2nd-3rd - Serve-A-Thon Fall Fundraiser & Lock-In

November 15th-17th - High School SF Mission trip

Fri Dec. 6th - Mall Night Christmas service project

2020 - Confirmation Class!

"February Month of Service"

February 15th - 17th - SoCal Trip

March 29th - Afternoon at the Ball Park

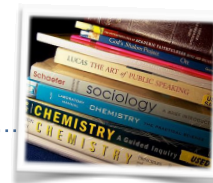
June 12th - 20th - Sr. High Mission Trip

July 5th - 10th - Jr. High Camp

July 30th - Aug 1st - Magical Mystery Tour

### Help a JYM Alumni

A few years ago one of our JYM students went away to college and needed help with book fees. She is a DACA student and has continued to work hard academically to continue her studies. Many generously gave to make sure we could stick with our commitment. We have just been sent her book fees for this year and our designated fund for that is on empty. If you are interested in making a specific contribution for this alumni, please donate any amount here, and in the notes mark "Book scholarship fund"



[DONATE FOR BOOKS](#)

Thanks for considering ways to support our students once they leave the JYM!

## Studying God's Blessings in Sunday School

*God blesses those who...*



Beginning late in October, our Sunday School children will be reading and studying the blessing statements from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Often called the Beatitudes, which means blessing, these statements challenge us all so we look at them in all sorts of ways to find the teaching Jesus is offering. What kind of amazing love do these statements highlight for us? Jesus is turning the world upside down. He's overturning the social hierarchy of his day - proclaiming that the last will be first, and the least are as important (if not more so) than the most. By studying these teachings, we will begin to understand how radical Jesus was to his contemporaries and why they would be threatened by his ministry, but we will also consider how we can make them our own in attitude and lifestyle.

We're celebrating God's blessings in Sunday School and hope you'll join us. Our Sunday School class leaves worship together after the Time for the Child and walks to our classroom in the preschool building. Lessons for children in preschool through fifth grade are taught by dedicated volunteer teachers in a one-room schoolhouse format with activities designed for a variety of ages, interests and abilities. There is always something to learn with friends in Sunday School!



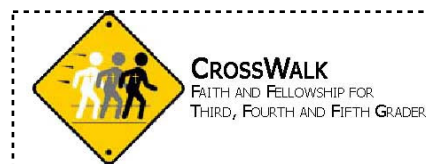
## It's time to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF!

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!

## The Gift of a Bible



It has been said that giving a child a book will open the world to them. If that book is a Bible, the stories of God's love and power will allow them to step out into the world with a personal foundation of faith and hope. It is our tradition to give each third and fourth grader a Bible of their own that will guide their faith journey into adulthood. We will give these gifts in worship on **Sunday, October 20** and celebrate the spiritual growth of our children.



## CrossWalk: Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders

**Friday, October 18**

**7:00 - 8:30pm**

Theme: Sharing our Treasure with Others

Scripture: Matthew 19:16-24

It's Halloween time and that means trick-or-treating for UNICEF! We'll have lots of fun playing together as we learn about how we can share the bounty of Halloween with others.

CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders who want to grow in faith. Feel free to bring a friend!

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

The deadline for the November *Willow Word* is **October 23**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to [Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com](mailto:Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com)

## Books & Buddies

### Literacy Problems: Did You Know?

- Literacy is crucial to success in school, future earning potential, and the ability to contribute to the nation's economy.
- The best way to develop children's literacy is to encourage kids to read at home.
- 45 percent of students in San Jose Unified School District qualify for free and/or reduced lunch (which means annual income for a family of 5 is less than \$55,000).
- 70 percent of children living in poverty have no books at home.



### Literacy Problems: The Solution

- Become a Books & Buddies Sponsor!
- The mission of Books & Buddies is to support Silicon Valley school age children through a partnership where an individual sponsors a child in need of books.
- As a Sponsor, you will be paired with a child who needs books and you will receive detailed information about your child and how to select and send the books.

For more information or to sign up, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BooksandBuddies/> or Contact the Founder: Sarah Zwingman at [sarah.zwingman@yahoo.com](mailto:sarah.zwingman@yahoo.com)

## "What's New About Growing Older" Seminar at LAUMC on October 12

*Creative Aging is an educational program designed to make the process of aging easier, less stressful and more meaningful*

Seminar will be held on **October 12, 2019 from 8:30-11:30am** at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena, Los Altos Creekside Center. *Don't put up with the Same Old Same Old!* Register at [www.creativeagingacademy.com](http://www.creativeagingacademy.com)

### - Can we prevent the symptoms of dementia?

Dr. Grace Nadolny, geriatric psychiatrist, will discuss the latest research on how simple lifestyle changes can significantly diminish the chances that Alzheimer's will affect your mind and limit your life.

### - Can we have more control of our future?

Dr. William Buchholz will help us explore—and change—our beliefs about old age so we are empowered to grow older gracefully and not just get old.

## 21st Century, here we come! ONLINE CHURCH MEMBER DIRECTORY ACCESS

Very soon, you will receive an invitation via email (if you have an email listed in our online Directory/Database) to create your own member account login to the church's online directory/database. If you do not have an email listed with us and would like access, please email [info@wgumc.org](mailto:info@wgumc.org).



When you create an account, you will have access to view (and edit some of) your information in the church's member database. You will also be able to view contact information of other members who have allowed directory access. There is no other use of this information, we do not share or allow third-party access. However, if you do not want to have your contact information included, just check the [unlisted] box on your Gift of Presence slip on Sunday morning, or send an email to [info@wgumc.org](mailto:info@wgumc.org).

So that you know this is not spam or a phishing threat, an example of the email invitation that will be sent directly from the system (known as Breeze Church Management System) is shown below:

"Hello [first\_name] [last\_name]!

Willow Glen United Methodist Church has invited you to create your own member account login to the church's online directory/database. You may click the button below to create your username and password to log into the system. Try it out!

You will then be able to view (and edit) your own profile as well as see the public contact information for other members. Look to the left for "Giving." Select that and you'll see that you can view your contributions and your current pledge.

If you have any issues with logging in or creating your own account, please email [roxanne@wgumc.org](mailto:roxanne@wgumc.org) for assistance. If your issue is with your giving or pledge, please contact our financial secretary at [ingrid@wgumc.org](mailto:ingrid@wgumc.org).

In Peace,  
WGUMC Office"

**Remember These Folks in your Prayers:**

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Tom Mounts, recovering from open heart surgery  
Norm Brustrom, now on hospice care  
The Hosack Family, on the passing of Lynne on 29 Sept  
Ingrid Quigley and Sue Lopez, for peace and strength  
Those caring for aging parents  
Yin Mei Lawrence, our new intern  
Janet Ehrke's niece Wendy and her husband Ben as they grieve  
the loss of their newborn  
Family/Friends of Jane (Janelle) Plane who passed 28 Sept  
Natalie Thornton  
Sarah Thornton  
Jolene Jones  
Anita Layman, in the death of her sister, Karen  
Sara Zwingman & Family  
Tom Farrow  
Dorothy Mauseth  
Eva Fisher  
Mary Pierson

Kay Champion  
Kay Dahl  
Barbara Hawkins  
Russ Kintner  
David & Tom Forderer  
Joyce Osborn  
Barbara DeWit  
Alma Taylor  
Helen Ball  
Bobbie Corson  
Village House  
Yoshiko Buchanan  
Kyle Mastrolia  
Barbara Stone  
Refugees from Central America  
Migrant children in detention

**Willow Glen United Methodist Church**

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1420 Newport Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125  
(408) 294-9796  
[www.wgumc.org](http://www.wgumc.org)

