

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

Advent Worship

We are seeking and celebrating a many-splendored hope this season. We hope you will join us each Sunday.

Dec 1 First Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 2:1-5
Hope Deferred: Will Things Ever Get Better?

Dec 8 Second Sunday of Advent - Matthew 3:1-11
San Jose State Choraliers will sing in worship!
Hope Embodied: Singing in the Wilderness

Dec 15 Third Sunday of Advent - Luke 1:46-55
Hope Enjoyed: There is Joy in the Not Yet

Dec 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Matthew 1:18-25
Hope Fulfilled: Ready or Not, Here Comes Hope!



Advent Devotional: Our Many-Splendored Hope



Our Advent theme this year is what the whole world needs now: HOPE. For our home-grown daily devotional, we invite you to think about what HOPE means to you. What is HOPE? What gives you HOPE? What keeps you from feeling hopeless? Send your stories, reflections, or poems to Pastor Rebecca at rebecca@wgumc.org so that she can post them daily on Facebook and send them out via email.

Christmas Eve Services

Christmas is a wonderful time to worship with your church family, and we hope you will join us on Christmas Eve for one of our two candlelit celebrations.



Our **5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service** is designed for families with children, but it is delightful for worshippers of all ages. Our praise band will lead us in familiar and contemporary Christmas carols, and our children will sing some special Christmas music of their own and share the Good News of Christ's birth with energy and hope and peace at this service.

Our **9:00 p.m. service is a peaceful candlelit service.** The Hope of the World comes to us through the familiar words of Scripture and in the beauty of traditional carols. We will tell the old, old story that still has the power to give us new life to take into the new year.

Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas Eve Offering will go to support two outreach efforts at Willow Glen UMC. We will split the offering between our Village House shelter in February and a new and as-yet-to-be-created young adult ministry. While the three churches are making decisions and we await pastoral appointments next July, Pastor Susan is going ahead to gather young adults and we'd like some funds to buy them some food! Even if you can't make it on Christmas Eve, we hope you'll contribute to this offering.



Christmas Poinsettias



Again this year, Darrin and Charla Bunton-Johnson are generously providing poinsettias for the sanctuary, so we are asking those who would like to give a gift in memory or in honor of someone to make a check out to our We Care Fund that we use to buy groceries, gas and sometimes clothing for people in need throughout the year. Please make your check out to WGUMC with "We Care in memory/honor of..." in the memo line and we will publish their names in the bulletin.

Blue Christmas Workshop - December 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrains about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost, don't have or just don't have the emotional strength to endure. All these things can make us feel alone in the midst of the celebrating and joy. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.



Come join us on **December 10th at 6:30 in Woodhaven** to be with others who are also weary and carrying their own burdens to do some spirit work through art, scripture and writing. Spend an evening caring for yourself so that you can carry through the season of miracles.

*For all we know, for at least a moment and probably longer,
Mary was bewildered, distraught and lost.
The miracle we celebrate this time of year may somehow seem more impossible
than the idea that Mary got pregnant or that God became human.
It's that in the face of devastation and from deep within
the truth of heartbreak and desolation
there might still come
unbidden
a moment of joy.*

– adapted from Cheryl Lawrie

Village House Planning

It's time to start planning for the February overnight shelter at WGUMC. The leadership team is forming, and we'll have planning meetings **each Sunday immediately after church - in the Library**. We'd love additional leaders to join the team! Of course, we will need everyone's help in February. It takes the amazing WGUMC family to make the Village House ministry a great success. It is incredible how we care for our Village House guests. If you can help, please contact Liz Pense at 408-768-6507 or eapense@sbcglobal.net or just come to the Library on Sunday after church for our next meeting! *Thanks for your support!*



Update from your Finance Team

The good news is our giving has kept up with our budget throughout the entire year! This is an amazing accomplishment, so thank you all! Unfortunately, due to the renovation needs of our Gardendale parsonage and our apartment over the garage, we have lost several months of rent that has caused us to run behind our needs. So please make sure your pledge is up to date and consider whether you can give a little more before the end of the year (and deduct it on your taxes).

If you recall, our theme in worship in November was "being grateful". Staying with that theme you can be grateful that we didn't have our usual November stewardship campaign so you didn't have to hear about our financial needs during worship. Since we spared you the campaign, we ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year. Our church, with your help, has done some amazing things this past year, from our Village House shelter and Mexico Mission trip, to our new wheelchair lift.

And this next year will see even more opportunities and new approaches to our ministry. But we can't do it without your help, both personally and financially. So please consider increasing your pledge for the coming year. We will be getting you new pledge information soon. Thank you for all you do for WGUMC! ~ *Your Finance Team*

Pastoral Letter

In November, we spent the whole month giving thanks and kept getting more reasons to be thankful. Our church family gathered to care for one another through a very difficult season of memorial services, and it reminded me that there is something very special about this kind of loving community that you really can't get anywhere else. At our recent church conference, we also gathered with Almaden Hills and Cambrian Park UMC's to discuss and vote on a covenant of shared ministry, and Kohlsiedt Hall was filled with new possibility and palpable energy. Perhaps it wasn't just a scheduling coincidence that also that same weekend, for the first time we not only participated in but hosted the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, the theme of which was "Connected in Love." Through praying and eating pie together, we got to spend an evening basking in the good feelings, sharing our different faiths, and giving thanks for our love-connected humanity.

All of these things give me hope for what is coming. When the national news we get is so disheartening, when the stories about fires and other natural disasters are so frightening, we get desperate for any news that is enlightening. Every year, it seems, Advent comes just in time, so that we can retell the story about the birth of Hope. It's an old story, but one that reliably speaks in ever-new ways to our ever-changing needs. This year, let's invite that story to live in us and change us, so that we can become beacons of hope for a world that is longing for something better.

Pastor Rebecca

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Special Advent Worship Sunday, December 8th

On **Sunday, December 8th**, the SJSU Choraliers and Director Dr. Jeffrey Benson will be with us in Worship.

The Choraliers will sing from their holiday repertoire, and the WGUMC Singers will join them in singing John Rutter's *Joy to the World*.

Be sure not to miss this special service!

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS:

UMW Christmas Party & General Meeting

Thursday, December 5
5:00 pm UMW meeting
5:30 pm Holiday craft activity and dinner



Heart and Hand will host a Christmas party for the United Methodist Women and friends on **Thursday, December 5** in Woodhaven. Come at 5:00pm for the UMW annual meeting with a holiday craft activity in honor of Patricia Madsen and "Christmas Around the World" dinner to follow.

Please RSVP for dinner to Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) and let us know if you will need help with transportation or childcare that evening

Lifted Spirits Lunch is Wednesday, December 4th

For the past almost 4 years, the ladies of the United Methodist Church have been providing meals for a program called Lifted Spirits at the 4th St., Presbyterian Church.



The November meal had helpers: Jane Vivian, Jean Ann Luckhardt, Barbara Lecus, Alice Singh, Ruth Lines, Ruth Granfors and Sue Johnson. 28 beautiful ladies enjoyed a chicken casserole, cranberry Jell-O salad, sodas and Pumpkin dessert.

Plans are being completed for the **December 4th** meal which will consist of oven baked ham, macaroni and cheese, green salad and bread pudding. If you are willing to help with soft drinks please let Ruth Granfors know. If you would be willing to assist in the preparation and serving at the Presbyterian Church, please let Ruth Granfors know at 408-444-0702.

Our January meal falls on New Years, and the church is closed. We may need to reschedule for later in the month.

We of the UMW really appreciate your donations of money to help cover the cost of these meals. The ladies are also very thankful for a warm meal, and safe, dry place for the afternoon. We hope to continue into our 5 year.

Annual Planning Executive Board Meeting - January 5th

On **Sunday, January 5, 2020**, shortly after church, the United Methodist Women will hold its annual planning executive board meeting in the Woodhaven retreat center. Due to the length of the meeting it is suggestion that you bring a sack lunch. We will set some goals, and start to develop a sketch of what we would like to complete in the new year.

Officers of the UMW will have training by the District on **February 5**, place TBD.

We would like to thank Ruth Granfors, members of the UMW, and others who stepped up to help with all the receptions for memorials and special services that we have had in the months of October and November. What a blessing you are to our church family!



JYM in December/January

All events are at **Cambrian Park UMC** unless otherwise stated – 1919 Gunston Way

JYM Serve-A-Thon

Please keep collecting your Serve-a-thon donations! We want to actually bring in the promised total so send your reminder emails to family who said they'd pledge and ask at church for those promised donations.

MALL NIGHT SERVICE PROJECT

Friday, December 6th

Every year our students generously bring their money and go shopping for over 80 people in need of groceries and gifts for Christmas. This year we are again partnering with the WG cares community to serve families in need of that support. We hope to be able to provide a generous Christmas surprise for so many.

*When: 6:00-11:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6th. Meet at church. When all money organized and students gathered we leave for the mall...about 6:30pm we hope. We return to CPUMC about 9:15pm for wrapping.

*Where: Meet at CPUMC 1919 Gunston Way. Leaders will drive over to Oakridge mall and back to CPUMC for wrapping and parent pick up.

*Why: Students often love this event because they can give of their own money, and often some from their parents, shop specifically for a person or family to brighten their Christmas, take ownership in selecting a gift or and do so with friends. It teaches teens about budgeting, generosity, intention and much more.

*Who: Our 6th-12th grade students and their friends.

*What: We sponsor "hopefully" over 80 people for groceries and Christmas gifts this holiday season. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP Students bring money they are able to donate to put in a pool for all the families we sponsor. Then we evenly distribute all the donated cash (and online donations) to the people we are shopping for.

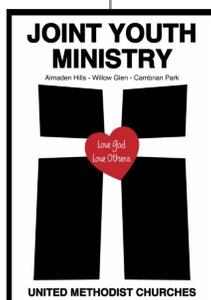
Each teen shopping group (of 3-6 teens) will have multiple people to shop for with cash and gift list. They will pick out the gifts at the mall and then come back to CPUMC to

wrap and label. Every family in the JYM donates differing amount so there is not a "requirement" of what you give to participate. Do what you can. We can give you a tax donation receipt.

Ideally we want to sponsor each person for \$50 for gifts and \$15 per person per family for groceries. We also want students to not only have their parent give a little for this shopping night, but have them contribute some of their working, chores or allowance money as well, to make more personal them.

Sometimes students bring \$10 to donation to the general fund and some bring \$300. Anywhere and anyway you can give is fine with us whether its time or money. Give what you are able. Additionally we are collecting gift cards to grocery stores. We want to be sure each family has enough to purchase groceries for Christmas dinner and beyond. Donation receipts can be given on night of event.

YOU MUST RSVP BY THURSDAY SO WE HAVE ENOUGH ROOM IN THE CARS
[MALL NIGHT RSVP](#)



BIG DATES in the 2019/2020 school year

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

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 sign up to make a one time, or monthly donation here: [DONATE](#)

News of Hope and Joy

Audition workshop and mandatory parent meeting on Sunday, December 8th at 1pm. Cast and choir rehearsals each week in Sunday School.

There is breaking news in Bethlehem. Join the news team as they report on the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and the arrival of the Messiah in a stable outside Bethlehem. There is hope and joy for all in the events unfolding this Christmas eve.



Choir: All of our Sunday School children become the Christmas choir. Rehearsals begin Sunday, November 24 during Sunday School each week. Practice CDs are available from Pastor Susan, or songs may be downloaded from playlist on Google drive.

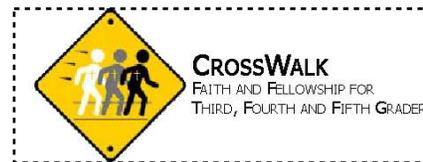
Cast: Auditions for acting and speaking roles will take place on Sunday, December 8 at 1pm. All parents of those children interested in auditioning must attend a parent's meeting at the beginning of the audition workshop. Solos are not determined by casting role, but will be decided by the cast and choir as a whole during choir rehearsals.

We need your help! We will need a photographer and videographer for the service, and stage assistance (especially with sound). We may also need help gathering costumes for our reporters. Please e-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) if you can help in any of these areas.

Woodhaven Preschool Open House

**Saturday, January 25th
10am-12noon**

Interested families are invited to tour the school, talk to parents and teachers, and learn more about registration for the 2020-21 school year. Come on by yourself or pass the information to a friend or neighbor. We love sharing our school



CrossWalk

Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders

Friday, December 13th

3:00 - 6:00pm

***please note earlier time**

We're heading to the Family Giving Tree warehouse for a shift serving as elves. We'll sort and wrap gifts to be sure that everyone has a special Christmas. Please contact Pastor Susan to make arrangements to attend with us. We need RSVPs by December 8 so we can arrange transportation.

Friday, January 10th

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Kitchen, Wesley Room & Kohlstedt Hall

Theme: Cooking for Others

Start the new year off right with friends and faith, continuing to find ways to shine our light in the world. We'll be preparing a meal to serve in the Village House women's shelter in February, and as always, there will be fun and friends, food and fellowship. CrossWalk is for all third, fourth and fifth graders. Bring a friend!

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

The deadline for the February *Willow Word* is **January 24**. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Janissa.Dayrit@gmail.com

Young Adult Christmas Gathering on December 14th

Who? JYM alumni and friends. All young adults welcome!
Saturday, December 14 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Woodhaven at WGUMC (1420 Newport Ave, San Jose, CA 95125)



Come join us for a make-your-own Gingerbread House Christmas event. We will have snack food, drinks (including Egg Nog and Hot Apple Cider), sugar cookies to decorate, Christmas-themed Mad Libs, and games to play! Come hang out, listen to some Christmas music, and reconnect with other JYM alumni and friends!

What to Bring: Gingerbread House making kit (You can get one at Trader Joe's for around \$10), any extra candy decorations you want for your house, and Christmas cheer!

Wreath Decorating Craft & Movie Night at CPUMC December 13th

Cambrian Park UMC invites you to join a Holiday Event on Friday, December 13th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 1919 Gunston Way, San Jose 95124 in the Fireside Room. The evening will consist of wreath decorating and the movie "A Christmas Carol", and dinner will be provided. Please rsvp to cambrianparkumckids@gmail.com



New Men's Group – The Heart of Men



The Heart of Men
Saving men one heart at a time.

Beginning Tuesday, January 7th, 2020

There is a new men's group coming to WGUMC! Our church will be hosting a new men's group that will meet regularly on **Tuesdays from 7:00pm to 9:00pm** in Woodhaven starting January 7th. As a group, The Heart of Men will meet weekly, adventure often, volunteer regularly and retreat annually. Most importantly, we will become a Band of Brothers and hold each other accountable.

Go to www.theheartofmen.org to reserve a spot and to find out more information.

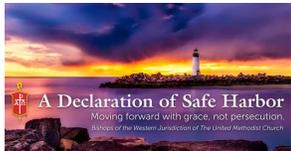
Remember These Folks in your Prayers:

The homeless in San Jose as the winter rains begin
The Village House shelter women, volunteers and participating congregations
For unity in our country
Jolene Jones' sister Jacqui undergoing experimental treatment for cancer
Lynda Hutcheson undergoing more tests
Roger and Timothy Madsen, on the loss of Patricia
Barbara Brustrom, Jeff and Jennifer, on the loss of Norman
Tom Mounts, recovering from open heart surgery
The Hosack Family, on the passing of Lynne
Ingrid Quigley and Sue Lopez, for peace and strength
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
Yoshiko Buchanan
Kyle Mastrolia
Barbara Stone

WJ Bishops Pledge Safe Harbor for LGBTQ+ UM Clergy, Seek Support



By *Western Jurisdiction UMC* – LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C., Nov. 6 – As new restrictions loom against LGBTQ+ persons in The United Methodist Church, the five active bishops in the Western Jurisdiction (region of the United States) are offering a Safe Harbor to LGBTQ+ clergy and are urging bishops and other United Methodists to join them. For more, click here: <https://www.cnumc.org/news/wj-bishops-pledge-safe-harbor-for-lgbtq-um-clergy-seek-support-13008605>

Shared Ministry Covenant Approved

Almaden Hills, Cambrian Park, Willow Glen UMC's have all approved the Shared Ministry Covenant presented at our Joint Church Conference on November 23rd. At the Conference we affirmed that we have already been in shared ministry for nearly 19 years. Based on the success of our joint youth and mission efforts, we are ready and eager to take the next step, exploring ways that we can share pastoral leadership and other resources to do better ministry together than our three churches can do separately.

Now that the first vote and first step toward cooperative ministry have been taken, the next step is to draft a recommendation to the Bishop and Cabinet regarding our plan for shared pastoral leadership and the resources we are willing to commit to a new ministry. A small group including pastors and lay people from each church will be meeting through the holidays to work on a plan that we hope to present in January. Watch for updates.

Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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