

# 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)

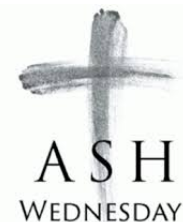
**Mountaineering with the Messiah**

This Lenten season during worship, we will be taking the trail with our sister churches in Almaden and Cambrian Park and exploring the mountains around Jerusalem on our way to the cross on the mount of Calvary. Many of the important moments in the story of Jesus take place on mountains and here in San Jose, we are surrounded by them. Our three churches have some hills to climb this year, so we will take the time in Lent to get our faith in better condition. Once again, we will do a pulpit rotation, and Willow Glen will have a guest preacher on March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Daily Lenten Devotion**

We will also be doing our daily Lenten devotion, so everyone who loves mountains or has a story to tell about them that they can relate to their faith, get ready to write!

**Joint Ash Wednesday Service February 26th at 7:00pm. Watch for more details.**



**Bible Basics Anyone?**

For Lent, we are starting a new small group for those who would like to get to know the Bible but don't know where to start or how to read it. The Bible has a lot of wisdom for living but it can be intimidating and confusing, so this class will be about taking down the barriers to Bible study and opening up a window for insight and inspiration. During Lent, this class will take the place of Kaleidoscope - Fridays at 2:30pm.

**Village House - How Can You Help?**

Village House is an interfaith women's homeless shelter network comprised of Faith Community Partner Organizations who work collaboratively to provide evening shelters and daytime centers on a rotating basis using compassionate volunteers in our faith communities.



WGUMC is a committed, dedicated Village House partner and will be hosting the Village House in Woodhaven from Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> to Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is our 5<sup>th</sup> year supporting this ministry, and it's only possible because of our compassionate, dedicated volunteers! We need your help again this year to continue to make this program a success. Please consider how you can help this year, and maybe try a new role:

- Can you volunteer in the late evening from 9:30 pm to 12:30 am? I know it's a late shift, but if you could fill one of these shifts once a week it would be awesome!
- Are you a morning person? If yes, we could use your help to host breakfast or provide transportation to the Day center.
- Can you volunteer overnight from 12:00 am to 3:30 am or 3:30 am to 7:00 am? These are the hardest spots to fill, and we would be grateful if you could fill 1 or more of these spots and serve along with the paid staff to keep the VH women safe.
- We still have openings for Intake volunteers and meal providers too!

You can sign up at [shelter.wgumc.org](http://shelter.wgumc.org) or by contacting Liz Pense at 408-768-6507 or [eapense@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eapense@sbcglobal.net) or Jan Leonard at 408-267-0637 or [jscrahl@pacbell.net](mailto:jscrahl@pacbell.net). Please contact Liz or Jan with any questions too. Thank you!

## Confirmation class begins in March

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



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

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

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

## Update from your Finance Team

There's good news on our financial front. We finished 2019 within budget! Thank you all for your generous giving that helped us get through the year without having to rely on special giving like we have in other years. However, unlike last year, we did not have enough money left at the end of the year to start 2020 with some reserves. Last year we had to use all of our reserves, so we will need to be very cautious with our spending this year and pray that our giving is higher in 2020. If you haven't already, please review your pledge and give a little more in 2020 if you can. Every extra dollar helps! You can update your pledge at any time at [www.give.wgumc.org](http://www.give.wgumc.org). Thank you! God is good!! All the time! ~Your Finance Team



## Men's Group – The Heart of Men – Meeting every Tuesday evening @ 7:00PM



The Heart of Men men's group is now meeting every Tuesday evening at 7:00PM at Willow Glen United Methodist Church. There are now well over 20 guys that have signed-up for the group and we have had at least 12 men at each of our meetings so far. The theme and agenda for each meeting is set-up so that you can easily pick-up and connect with the group even if you miss a week or two. Make it a point to check it out this next Tuesday. The Heart of Men meet weekly, adventure often, volunteer regularly and retreat annually. Most importantly, we have become a Band of Brothers and hold each other accountable. RSVP on [www.theheartofmen.org](http://www.theheartofmen.org) to let us know you are coming or to find out even more information.

## Equal Exchange Chocolates, Teas and Coffee are Back!

Thanks to Roxanne and Jeanette, we have re-stocked, and even have some new chocolate bars, coffees, & teas available for purchase from the cart. Look for it in the Wesley Room during Coffee Fellowship time on Sundays. Satisfy your cravings while supporting the co-ops of small-scale farmers from over 40 farmer organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States.



## Pastoral Letter

Sisters and brothers in Christ, grace and peace to all of you.

The year 2020 makes me think of the eyesight I have lost and the insight that we are all going to need as we give and live for God at Willow Glen this year. Last year, the folks on Trustees, Finance and SPRC were hard at work on several infrastructure projects. We contracted with a payroll service to help us better comply with new labor laws. We hired an outside accountant to streamline our books and an IT specialist to upgrade our computer network and secure our data.

While those projects are not easily seen, the renovation of the Willowmont parsonage and Woodhaven apartment and replacement of the sanctuary lift are a different story. These improvement projects were all costly, and we thank you for your generous contributions. We also got an on-bill financing loan from PG&E to replace all of our old lighting with energy-efficient LED lights.

Now that we can literally see better, our Vision Team took the time to survey the congregation to discover what areas of ministry we may have been overlooking and where we need to train our focus in the year ahead. Along with the building upgrades, we are due for some Body upgrades, so in 2020 we will concentrate on ways that we can deepen connections and strengthen community life here at Willow Glen.

That's why we thank God for Curt Moore and his calling to start a new men's ministry on Tuesday evenings. "The Heart of Men" kicked off in January with a barbecue, and he is inviting all men to join him on an adventure to rediscover what it means to be a man of faith and to reclaim a sense of purpose for one's life and one's relationships.

We give thanks for the opportunities to connect with other believers, but we are also grateful for our deepening connections with our sister churches in Almaden and Cambrian Park. In November we voted to go forward with plans to create a cooperative parish and to support a new young adult church in the South Bay and we have now sent a draft of that proposal to the Bishop and Cabinet and await their response.

In a time of rapid cultural and climate change, our churches are realizing that we have to change, too. So, as wonderful as it is to have 2020 hindsight, we are praying for 2020 foresight as we flesh out our cooperative parish proposal in the months ahead. Though change can be unsettling, it is also exciting. And we are ready to embrace it because we know that God is good. All the time!

If you think so, too, we invite you to come along to see some new sights and experience new birth. You can do that by renewing your commitment to support in any way you can what God is doing at WGUMC. Look for the stewardship book that will come to you (I promise!) in the month ahead and take the time to read through the pages about all the ways that you can love God and neighbor through your church. Then have each member of your family fill out a commitment form and return it to the church in the envelope provided.

And may grace and peace be yours in abundance,  
*Pastor Rebecca*

Link to the Draft Cooperative Parish Agreement, new Church Start Proposal & FAQ:  
[www.tinyurl.com/coop-parish-new-church](http://www.tinyurl.com/coop-parish-new-church)

Link to the Bishop's message with UMC Separation Protocol document & FAQ:  
[www.tinyurl.com/umc-protocol](http://www.tinyurl.com/umc-protocol)

## 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)





**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:**

**Recap of UMW Christmas Party & General Meeting on Dec 5th**

On December 5, a short business meeting set the budget for 2020 and approved the recommendation that our pledge to Mission be the same as 2019, and approved 5 cash awards to Gum Moon, Next Door, Family Shelter, Mary Elizabeth Inn and to WGUMC, of \$582.00.

Election of officers for 2020-2021 are as follows:

- Co-Presidents Ruth Granfors and Gwyne Grubb
- Vice President Mary Dee Dickerson
- Secretary Gwyne Grubb
- Treasurer Becky Morgan
- Program Resources Alice Singh
- Education and Interpretation Jane Vivian
- Membership Nurture and Outreach Heather Pham
- Spiritual Growth Sherri Raia
- Social Action Carmen McBride
- Communications Ruth Granfors
- Historian Joyce Osborn
- Sunshine Ruth Lines
- Nominations Sherri Raia, Janet Ehrke and Linda Russo
- Sierra Leone Liaison Jan Leonard
- UMW Booklet Editor Roxanne Kohlin

The new officers will have training on February 1 at St Paul's UMC at 9:30am on 405 S. 10th Street San Jose. If you want to carpool meet at WGUMC about 8:15 as doors open at 8:30am for refreshments. Meeting is scheduled to last until 12:30pm. There is no cost. You can register online. Reverend Jennifer Goto is the guest speaker.

Susan Smith was the recipient of the Mission Recognition Pin for 2019. Well deserved! In memory of Patricia Madsen we had a glass etching project that resulted in a personal soap bottle to take home in her memory. She provided all the bottles. A potluck dinner followed with "Foods Around the World" as the theme hosted by the members of Heart and Hands circle. It was delicious.



**On December 22 ladies of the Willow Glen UMW hosted the annual Cookie Sunday.**

Thanks to all the members who donated cookies, and a special thanks to friends of UMW, especially some of the younger church members that helped make and donate cookies just because! Keep it up!

**On January 5 Willow Glen UMW held a planning meeting.**

We will continue to furnish monthly meals to Lifted Spirits at 4th Street Presbyterian Church downtown San Jose. The next meal will be February 5. We only planned for the first six months of the year, due to the changes that may be happening in July at our church. New officers were installed January 26 during church service. Becky Morgan will be the Chairperson for the Sees candy fundraiser with sales starting March 15 and March 22 and ending with the last delivery on April 5. Next Executive Board meeting Sunday February 16, following church.



**Cambrian Park UMW is hosting a speaker meeting on February 8 at 10 am.** The guest speaker is Deb St Julian. The topic is "School to Prison Pipeline". She has been a speaker at the JYM. Registration for the event is to Betty Dickey at [bespensord@icloud.com](mailto:bespensord@icloud.com)

## JYM in February

All events are at **WGUMC** unless otherwise stated – 1420 Newport Way

### February 2020 is our Month of Service

Throughout the month we will focus all our events on either

1. Education about justice and the world
2. Hands on projects to serve others in our community, specifically the women shelter that will be at WGUMC as well as other shelters in San Jose
3. Hands on projects to clean up the earth
4. Service project/fundraiser to help parents get a night away from their little ones with your babysitting skills!

Our plans include: Babysitting Night, Feed the Need, Cooking for the Rotating Women's Shelter two times, Park Clean up at Historic Iris Garden on three creeks trail, Education nights about justice issues

### Saturday, February 1st at WGUMC-Babysitting Night and Ice Skating!

Students can earn 4 hours of service/scholarship hours by coming to help babysit!

4-8pm- Babysitting Night for 1 year olds to 5th graders. Crafts, movies, projects, dinner and chaos! if you know of a little one you normally babysit for, or someone in your neighborhood, please invite them. RSVP for little kids here. [KID SIGN UP](#)

8pm-10pm- Ice Skating for 6th-12th graders after babysitting night. \$15 [RSVP for Feb 1st here](#)

### PARENT HELP

Parents, we need adult help at the babysitting night on Saturday. Would you be willing to help with checkin/setup, food prep, a station or check out? They can count for trip scholarship hours.

3:30-5pm- 2 parents

5-7pm- 2 parents

7pm-8pm- 2 parents

8pm- Drive to ice skating and pick back up and drive to WG- 4 parents

Please email if you can help [lisa3cyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa3cyouth@gmail.com)

### Southern California Trip February 15th-17th

We will visit Magic Mountain on Saturday and then head to a church near Disneyland to spend the night. On Sunday

we will go to Disneyland into the evening. We will sleep at the same church and head back up to San Jose that Monday! Its a jam packed, amusement filled weekend and we hope you hop on the bus with us! Scholarships available. We have 17 spots left. You must sign up and pay deposit ASAP. [SOCAL DETAILS AND SIGN UP](#)

### High School Summer Mission Trip

Are you in High School Currently?

We want you to join us on our annual summer mission trip! This year we are going back to one of our favorite places, The Navajo Nation in Crownpoint New Mexico to learn alongside other youth groups, build, worship and serve. It is time to get your name on the list for our trip! All the trip logistics are being worked out and the plan being set in place and will be shared in the next few weeks.

What we know for sure is we are gone- **Friday, June 12th-Saturday, June 20th**. We will be traveling by van. We will have some adventures along the way and it will change your life. If you plan on joining us this summer, please click below to register.

Our first education night/opportunity for \$30 off trip is this Sunday at the Just Mercy Movie screening.

[REGISTER FOR MISSION TRIP](#)

### Junior High Camp at Sugarpine

Current Junior High Students - Join us for an amazing week! We will travel to Sugarpine Christian Camp located in Oakhurst, CA. Sugarpine has amazing opportunities for students, such as high ropes activities, paint ball, swimming

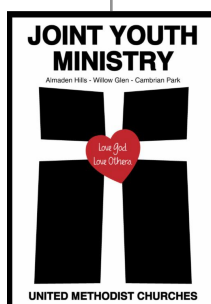
pool, canoes, crafts and crazy games! They also have a strong focus on Jesus and student faith development. Sugarpine is also a great place for students to create friendships with fellow JYM students, and learn to trust their cabin leaders. I hope you will join us!

Who: Current 6th - 8th grade students

When: July 5th at 11:30am - July 10th at 2:30pm

Where: Sugarpine Christian Camp: <http://www.sugarpine.org/youth-summer-camps>

Why: Because it is a ton of fun! And the best way for students to get to know each other better and create lasting bonds and friendships, as well as develop in their own faith life. [SIGN UP HERE](#)



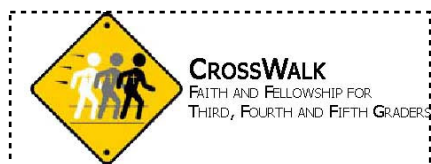
## Blessed by Faith: The Apostles' Creed



In February, our Sunday School children will be exploring the different pieces of the Apostles' Creed as an outline of the tenets of our Christian faith in God. We will consider the different aspects of the Trinity (God, Jesus and Holy Spirit) and how they fit together into our experience of God. We will also

consider the role of the church in connecting us to one another and our faith.

While we may not all be old enough to memorize the creed now, we are always ready to explore our faith in Sunday School and hope you will join us. Sunday School meets each Sunday after the Time for the Child.



## CrossWalk

*Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders*

**Friday, February 7**

**6:30 - 8:30pm**

Wesley Room and Kitchen

Theme: Serving and Sharing with Others

It's our turn to serve at the shelter. We will meet a little early to make the final preparations to our meal, have dinner with the shelter guests, wash the dishes and hang out a little for some games and conversation. Watch your e-mail for more details about what you can bring for our meal, or contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

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

## Making Summer Plans...

### Vacation Bible School 2020

**June 22-26**

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

### Toyon Kids Camp 2020

**July 6-12**

Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA

Our conference offers summer camps for children and youth beginning in third grade. CrossWalk kids are planning to attend Toyon Kids Camp at Monte Toyon in Aptos, July 6-12. There is nothing like camp to bring you closer to God as you make new friends and try new things! Consider a week of faith, friends and fun at camp this summer. Registration opens online in February. If you have questions, check out the website at [www.calnevypm.org](http://www.calnevypm.org) or contact Pastor Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

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

## Bishop Carcaño Statement on UMC Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation

A Word from Bishop Minerva G Carcano – January 3, 2020

Friends,

Grace and peace to you in this New Year. May Christ our Lord bless you and keep you throughout the days to come.

Early this morning the work of a group of faithful leaders of our United Methodist Church pertaining to the division that we continue to experience over whether LGBTQ+ persons will be fully included in the life and ministry of The UMC was released. While it is not solely the work of the Council of Bishops, it is work that has had the full support and engagement of the Council.

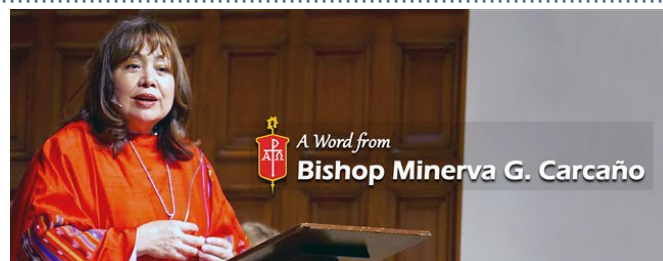
Just yesterday the Council of Bishops held a conference call at which time we received an updated report on what is being called the [Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation](#). While a conference call of 90 bishops connecting from places around the world can be difficult, the response was hopeful and thankful to God for a process that has been done carefully, respectfully and lovingly.

The Protocol is the work of a diverse group of United Methodist bishops and other leaders from across the connection which allows for traditionalist churches to form a new denomination while preserving The United Methodist Church. It also calls for holding in abeyance all administrative or judicial processes addressing restrictions in the *Book of Discipline* related to self-avowed practicing homosexuals or same-sex weddings beginning January 1, 2020. The authors of the Protocol referred to this abeyance as “...one expression of reconciliation and grace through separation...”

Approval of the Protocol would also initiate the process of organizing the US jurisdictions into a region alongside regional bodies in Africa, Europe, Eurasia, and the Philippines with flexibility to adapt the *Book of Discipline* to enable each region to better serve in their social contexts. Provisions for continued funding to eliminate racism within the UMC and support for racial-ethnic ministries is another integral and critical piece of the Protocol. You can find the full press release by journalist Sam Hodges at [UMNews.org](http://UMNews.org)

I want to ask that all of us take time to prayerfully consider the Protocol document and pray for our General Conference delegation and all the delegates who will gather in Minneapolis in May for the 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. May they too be Spirit-led as they consider the work before our beloved Church. I strongly believe that this Protocol document deepens our work of Christian conferencing on the matter of the full inclusion of ALL God’s Children. May it bring us healing as we work together in God’s mission for the transformation of the world.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño



### Remember These Folks in your Prayers:

Village House guests and volunteers  
Our cooperative parish conversations  
the UMC and the upcoming General Conference  
Ingrid Quigley, scheduled for surgery  
Sara Zwingman, no sign of cancer!  
Mary Dee Dickerson, recovering from knee surgery  
Barbara DeWit, recovering from hip surgery  
Tom Mounts, recovering from heart surgery  
Dick and Dianne Oswald, on their move to Arizona  
Those caring for aging parents  
Continued prayers for:  
Lynda Hutcheson  
Dorothy Mauseth  
Eva Fisher  
Mary Pierson

Kay Champion  
Kay Dahl  
Barbara Hawkins  
Russ Kintner  
David & Tom Forderer  
Joyce Osborn  
Alma Taylor  
Helen Ball  
Bobbie Corson  
Yoshiko Buchanan  
Kyle Mastrolia  
Barbara Stone  
Tom Farrow



## New Books in the Library

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The library has new books for your perusal. Please come and take a look!

Archer, Jeffrey. Nothing Ventured  
\_\_ Introducing the making of a detective, William Warwick.

Cloud, Henry, Dr. Boundaries in marriage.  
Helps you to understand friction points in marriage.

Follett, Ken. Notre-Dame  
Short history of the meaning of cathedrals.

Gray, Shelley Shepard. The patient one.  
Story of friendship and love in Amish community.

Grisham, John. The guardians  
Guardian Ministries takes on the case of wrongfully convicted Quincy Miller.

McCain, John. The Restless wave.  
\_\_ Good times, just causes, great fights, and other appreciations.

Mccall-Smith, Alexander. To the land of long lost friends.  
Another case for Precious Ramotswe.

Pagels, Elaine. Why religion?  
Explains her passion for religion.

Roberts, Nora. Shelter in place.  
\_\_ High-stakes suspense and romance.

Schachter-Shalomi, Zalman. From age-ing to sage-ing.  
\_\_ Shows you how to create an aging process for yourself

Strobel, Lee. The case for Christ updated and expanded.  
Journalist's personal investigation of the evidence for Jesus.

# THE WILLOW WORD

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February 2020