

# The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

## Holy Week Services

Holy Week begins on Sunday, April 17, with a service that starts with Palms and ends with the Lord's Passion. This will be in both the 8:45 and 11:00 services.

On Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m., there will be a Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary. This service reenacts the Last Supper Jesus had with the disciples in the Upper Room.

Friday, April 22, is Good Friday. We will have a service in the sanctuary beginning at noon. We will hear the scriptures read of Jesus' arrest, trial, death and burial. It is a very thought-provoking service to help each of us prepare for Easter day.

Easter Sunday, April 24, both of our services will have beautiful, joyful music to celebrate this very special day in the Christian year. Both services will be held in the sanctuary. Between services there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

Everyone is invited to attend all of these services and to invite friends, neighbors and family to join you!

## Help Us Build Hope and Houses in Mexico!

We have assembled an incredible team of all ages that will make the trip to Mexico this summer to build houses for families living outside of Tijuana. Even if you can't make the trip with us, you can help us get there by offering your financial support. Make a donation to our Mexico Mission Team this month at fellowship time and add a shingle to our "roof."



To thank you for your generous donation, we will send each of you a postcard from our trip. Those donating \$50 or more will be invited to a Fiesta dinner when we return to hear about our experiences. Donations of over \$75 will also receive a trip t-shirt. Your financial donation will help fund scholarships for team members, purchase some group tools and equipment, and offset the rising cost of gas. Thank you for helping us Build HOPE!

## Join the Hunt for Eggs on Easter Sunday, April 24

Who doesn't love an Easter egg hunt? On Easter Sunday, we invite all children and their families to an Easter extravaganza at 10:00 a.m. in Kohlstedt Hall. We will share the resurrection story and celebrate with family games, crafts, refreshments and, of course, an egg hunt.

We will need volunteers to help coordinate, prepare or lead activities at this festive event. We will also need donations of individually wrapped Easter candies to fill our Easter eggs in advance, and healthy Easter refreshments for our children to enjoy after the hunt. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Susan soon (extension 30 or [susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

### April 2011

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## Sunday Worship

**8:45 – 9:45 a.m.**

Contemporary Worship

**9:45 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Time**

**10:00 – 10:45 a.m.**

Christian Education/Sunday School

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Traditional Service

**12:00 – 12:30 p.m.**

Fellowship Time

## Church Staff

Nancy Danson

Senior Pastor

Susan Smith

Pastor of Children & Family Ministries

Lisa Jacobs

Director of Joint Youth Ministries

Ingrid Quigley

Director of Adult Spirituality

Lorene Sheridan

Director of Weekday Ark Ministries

Robert Birnstihl

Organist & Director of Music Ministries

Barbara Brustrom

Conductor, the Chancel Choir

Mason Hutchinson

Director, the Praise Band

Tom Mounts

Director, the Willow Glen Ringers

Susan Barscheski

Office & Facilities Manager

Karen Kwon

Wedding Coordinator

## Embracing Change

At the Lay Leadership Council meeting in March, church leaders voted to combine our worship services this summer, having just one service at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday morning from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to conserve our resources during the summer months and to greet Pastor Rebecca as a family each week, celebrating our community as we praise God together.

The morning after the Leadership meeting, I awoke thinking of the possibilities that this summer schedule opens up for activities either before or after worship on Sunday mornings, as well as new options for children's programming during the summer months. As I have pondered the ideas swirling around in my head, I have been keenly aware of how change can often help us see things in new ways.

When Nancy announced her retirement, she started us into a season of transition that will include saying goodbye to our beloved pastor of 12 years and welcoming a new pastor to guide us into the next phase of our ministry together. This transition is not as simple as cleaning out an office and moving new boxes in. Instead, this transition provides us all an opportunity to take a good look at our church and our involvement in it. What new ideas does this change bring up for you? What are your hopes and dreams for Willow Glen UMC and for your spiritual growth here? What ideas are swirling around in your head as the possibilities open before us?

Many of you have told me that you don't like change, and you are right – it is a disruption to the way things are. By definition, things are already different around here. During the next few months, I hope that we will grow more closely together as a church family as we consider who we are in ministry and how we care for one another in this community. The summer worship schedule gives us a chance to be together in worship. How else do we want to spend our time this summer? Do we want to be in mission and service to our community? Perhaps we can feed the hungry before or after worship on Sunday. Do we want to play together as a church family and strengthen our fellowship? Perhaps we have a BBQ lunch and volleyball tournament. Do we want to welcome our neighbors? Perhaps we invite the neighborhood to a pancake breakfast one Sunday before worship. Do we want to learn more together? Perhaps we design a Bible class or two before or after worship. The opportunities are endless. Change can bring a new sense of creativity and adventure to our life together. Let's embrace it! The possibilities are endless!

Peace,

*Susan*

## Garden Work Party on April 9

Spring is here and it's time to make the Woodhaven garden safe for the children's Easter Egg Hunt and neat and attractive for the renters and guests who will soon be using the newly renovated Woodhaven Retreat Center. Winter storms and standing idle since September have created a need for a clean-up and we want to be ready for the big celebration when Woodhaven opens!

Let's make it a Work Party on Saturday morning, April 9, from 8:30 to 12:30. Of course there will be snacks and refreshments!

Bring your labeled tools such as clippers, gloves and plastic rakes. Wheelbarrow and chain saws make the job go faster and buckets for collecting weeds would be a help too. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated. You can call Dorothy Mauseth if you need more information.

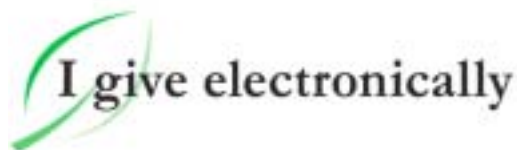


## April 23 is WGUMC Night at the Family Shelter

Would you like to help prepare or serve the Saturday evening meal at the San Jose Family Shelter on April 23? If so, Jane Vivian would like to hear from you as soon as possible. Available jobs are: preparing spaghetti sauce (we have a recipe that serves about 75); providing materials for a salad; preparing garlic bread – oven ready; baking cupcakes (20-24 each or one cake mix); and/or serving the meal at the Shelter, which means being there from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our church has provided this service to the Shelter for many years – for as long as the Shelter doors have been open. This is one way in which church members can fulfill their vows to support the church with their service. It's also a great way to get to know other members or friends of WGUMC.

If you can help, please contact Jane Vivian (email and phone number available through the church office.)



## eGiving Now Available!

Do you keep meaning to give, but forget? We now make it easier for you as we accept electronic donations. Electronic giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. You may make a one-time or recurring donation, and you can designate the purpose of your donation (Operating Budget,

Capital Campaign or Other). To set this up, get an EFT Authorization form from the church office (Ingrid Quigley) or go online to [www.wgumc.org](http://www.wgumc.org) and click on "Give Now" from our home page.

## At the Carwash!

Mark your calendars! CrossWalk will be holding a carwash on Sunday, June 5 to raise money for mission projects in our community. Bring your car through the parking lot after worship for the clean treatment. Enjoy goodies at our bake sale and lemonade stand, too! All monies raised will be donated to a project in the community that serves those in need. Thank you for supporting our children as they reach out to others.



## Wizards and Wonders

### Revisiting the Hero's Journey with Harry Potter

Vacation Bible School 2011 – June 20-24

Willow Glen UMC and St. Francis Episcopal Church invite every child between the ages of 3½ years through fifth grade to Vacation Bible School, June 20-24. This year, we will join Harry Potter and his friends at Hogwarts to explore the hero within each of us, and the role our Christian faith plays in preparing us for adventures. Children will hear biblical stories about hearing and answering God's call to live as people of truth and light. Throughout the week, children will enter the fantasy of Harry Potter through crafts, science projects and games. With Bible exploration, songs, the camp community experience and a little imagination, children will discover metaphors of grace, love, forgiveness and the divine in Harry's story and the world we live in today.



Priority registration for church members and their invited guests ends April 3, so get your forms in soon! If you would like to volunteer at Vacation Bible School this year, or help create Harry's world here for our kids to experience, please be in touch with Pastor Susan (extension 30 or [susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)).

## UMC Summer Camps for Children and Youth



You can register now for summer camp! Check out the conference website ([www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org)) for camp dates, information and registration. Children entering grades 3-6 should consider going to Toyon Kids Camp with Susan and their CrossWalk friends (July 11-16). There are also camps at Lodestar for all ages, and opportunities for leadership training and counselor positions. Willow Glen UMC makes the commitment to pay one-half of camp registration costs for all of our kids and youth. Please e-mail Susan ([susan@wgumc.org](mailto:susan@wgumc.org)) to let her know of your camp plans so she can make campership arrangements.

## CrossWalk

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

Friday, April 1

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Wesley Room and Kohlstedt Hall

Theme: Hope for the World



Let's think about people around the world who do not have all that we have, especially those who have lost everything in earthquakes or tsunamis or the like. What would that be like? Can we even begin to put ourselves in their place? What can we do to help? Let's see how we can get involved helping others. Bring your ideas for bringing hope to hurting world.

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

## Women's Groups

### Heart and Hands

Monthly on Thursdays  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
With Child Care  
Call Meg Kau

### Friendship Circle

Third Monday  
12:30 p.m. for lunch  
Le Boulanger  
Call Sue Johnson

### Wesley Women

Fourth Tuesday  
1:00 p.m. for dessert  
Call Harriet Hosack

The UMW Executive Board will meet Monday, April 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Wesley Room.

UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Ruth Granfors

The deadline for the May Willow Word is April 20. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain

## UMW See's Easter Candy Sale to Benefit Local Charities

Whether you purchase See's Candy for your own family's use, or to be delivered to the children at San Jose Family Shelter and Next Door Solutions, you will still be benefiting a local charity through your donation.

The profits from our fundraising efforts each year go to support mission projects of the church and/or to local charities such as those named above.

Orders taken by April 3 will be ready for pick-up on April 10 and April 17. The selection this year includes chocolate bunnies, chickie boxes and various regular See's candy items. Please see the UMW members taking orders following the worship service on April 3. Checks should be made to United Methodist Women or UMW.

## UMW Legislative Event in Sacramento

A delegation of Willow Glen UMC members will be taking part in the annual California/Nevada Conference Legislative Event in Sacramento on Monday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's theme is "A Place to Call Home" and the focus will be on the issue of immigration. Guest speakers are the Reverend Brenda Vaca, Belinda Robinson and Elizabeth Sholes. Those looking for new ways to put faith into practice will include Gerri Hodson, Sue Johnson, Patricia Madsen and Leslie Fisk.

## Memorial Service for Retired Missionary Judith Newton

A memorial service will take place on Saturday, May 21, at 1:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church of Santa Cruz, 250 California Street in Santa Cruz. Judy was known to many in the California-Nevada Conference, and was a visitor to Willow Glen church on a number of occasions. More about the life work of Dr. Judith Newton can be found at [http://calnevumc.org/news/detail\\_2596](http://calnevumc.org/news/detail_2596).

## All Around Willow Glen

**Retirement Party on June 1** - Please join us in a celebration of Pastor Nancy and her contributions to WGUMC at her retirement party on Saturday, June 11, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Woodhaven. Write it on your calendar!

**Willowmates** - Will it be April showers or rainbows when Willowmates gather on Friday, April 15? Come at 1:30 p.m. for dessert and a program being planned by Grace Praisewater and Ruby Goodnight. The Reverend Ernie Cockerell, retired director of St. Andrews Church and a former vicar in England, will present a program on brass rubbings. This should prove to be an interesting and informative presentation, and the group will enjoy our usual combination of food, fun and fellowship as we meet together.

**Save the Date!** - Save the date of Saturday, May 7, for the Music Concert. Look for more details in a future issue of the *Willow Word*.

# Looking Ahead to Summer and Fall

## Make Time for God!

Spiritual Development is one of the Five Faithful Practices that Willow Glen UMC members commit to in order to fulfill the church's mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We are already planning classes for this coming Fall – and it's not too early for you to start thinking about which classes YOU will be taking.

Beginning in September, we'll again offer courses from the full-year *Disciple* series, including the *Disciple I* bible study. Time spent on this class pays dividends many times over. Many members have already taken it – ask someone who has and find out how life-enriching this class is! We'll also be offering classes on Christian living, including the very successful Financial Peace University, which is well underway this winter.

All members are encouraged to take at least one class each year. Start planning now to join us this Fall and look for more information to come!

Your Spiritual Development Team  
*Stan Praisewater and Kristin Kufeldt*



## The Willow Word Needs You!

The *Willow Word* is looking for an Editorial Assistant - someone who can provide short articles on a monthly basis about church happenings. Proofreading assistance would also be helpful.

Working on the newsletter is a fun way to stay involved and serve our congregation. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Leslie Chamberlain.



## Willow Glen United Methodist Church

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