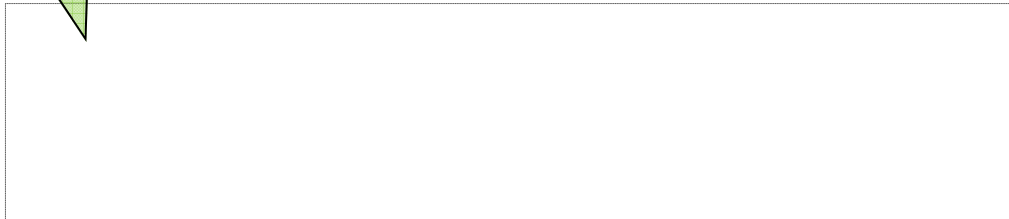




**WILLOWBROOK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #75
SUN CITY, AZ 85351

SUNDAY WORSHIP
In person and Online
See Information
Below



WEEKLY PRAYER & STUDY GROUPS

MON Intercessory Prayer 2:00 pm—Library Lounge
WED GriefShare 9:30 am—Library Lounge

Check with office for information about resuming activities.

www.willowbrookumc.org

CURRENT OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday—8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Friday—8:30 a.m.—Noon

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday Worship
5:00 p.m.—Chapel
Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.—Sanctuary

Live Stream worship available

www.willowbrookumc.org or
YouTube WillowbrookUMC



**DEADLINE FOR the September 2021
Good News is August 6, 2021**



www.willowbrookumc.org

Willowbrook United Methodist Church

OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER

*The ministers of this church are its members
Those who assist them are:*

Dedicated Lay Ministry—Stephen Ministry

- Gary Kennedy**—Senior Pastor
- Ruth Blum**—Associate Pastor
- Lois Hedden**—Pastor of Visitation
- Rev. Jon Ierley**—Pastor Emeritus
- Dr. Robb Butler**—Music Director
- Carol Virolainen**—Worship Musician
- Loretta Nash**—Sabbath Musician
- Laurie Lineberry**—Director of Laity
- Nicholas Capatch**—Live Stream
- Russ Koan**—Lay Leader



**Kris Krafters
Help Missions!**

Kris Krafters at Willowbrook United Methodist Church have been sewing for charity for many years. This group crochets, knits, quilts and crafts at home and at the church two days a month. They have made blankets, hats, aprons, adult bibs, lap quilts, layettes, and children's clothing for various charities around the valley. They occasionally make something they choose to raffle and use funds received to purchase supplies for new projects or to donate to mission projects.

The pandemic did not slow them down. They quickly started making masks to donate to hospitals, rehab facilities, people in the community and reservations. And they continued making other items for donation to the community.

Barb Sepiol was one of many others in the group who worked on a project at home during the Covid-19 Quarantine. She followed directions to crochet an intricate work of art. The pattern has an array of colorful flowers, fruit and foliage. Originally designed to be a British Fruit Garden, Barb adapted the pattern to a Southwestern color scheme by using acrylic yarn she had at home. The 64" x 64" piece has hollyhocks, chrysanthemums, forget-me-nots and other intricately made flowers set in a garden with delicate borders. The pattern was designed by noted crochet expert Jane Crowfoot. It can be accessed for free on the Stylecraft-UK website. After ten months of work on her Fruit Garden Blanket, she donated it to the group. Her project will be raffled at the Willowbrook United Methodist Church *Holidaze Craft Faire* on November 5-6, 2021. The blanket will be on display at the church before the Craft Faire. We thank her for this generous gift of time and talent to benefit the Missions and Outreach programs of the church.

Kris Krafters meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall



ABOVE: Rev. Gary Kennedy admires the Fruit Garden blanket crocheted by Barb Sepiol.

Blanket will be included in the raffle during the Holidaze Craft Faire November 5th and 6th, 9am-2pm.



LEFT: Enlarged view of blanket edge.

August 2021 Issue



GOOD NEWS

Willowbrook United Methodist Church
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
19390 North 99th Avenue
Sun City, AZ 85373-1102

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday
8:30 a.m.—Noon Friday
(closed 12 - 12:30 p.m. for lunch)
(623) 974-5637 FAX: (623) 933-5466
Internet: <http://www.willowbrookumc.org>
E-mail address: bev@willowbrookumc.org

Summer Office Hours: 8:30am-4:00pm Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-12:00pm Friday.
Outside office hours leave a message on the main phone number, 623-974-5637, and we will get back to you.
Send prayer chain requests to prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org.



Willowbrook Strong

Reflections on 2020-2021

Today's article will conclude my reflections on the pandemic of 2020-21 prior to our reopening for worship. Some folks are tired of hearing about the past couple of years because they carry reminders of isolation, fear and challenges. They do help shape our future however and remind us how we had to get stronger to overcome many of those challenges. It is my desire to look ahead after this article is written, at some of the exciting opportunities already planned for our future.

We were closed for worship! The offices were initially closed and committees were not meeting. Our world was trying to figure out if we could meet in person, should we meet in person and what were the risks. We simply did not know. Our beautiful church building was not being used as we stopped meeting for worship. We adapted! The pastors and staff reached out to the church through phone calls. We learned how to use Zoom. Our business manager came by daily to check on mail and the office. Our trustees came by to check things and fix things that needed attention. Security Committee and others checked doors and buildings regularly. We learned how to manage. We began to post video sermons and music. We learned how to maintain the office operations and building maintenance. Our church folks continued to send in their pledges by mail or to drop them off in our mail slot. We adapted to ministry in the name of Jesus Christ through new means.

In the midst of all this our Trustees were talking about a plan to fix our parking lot. They had talked for years of the deferred maintenance liability of our deteriorating parking lot and quickly proposed action since we weren't using the parking lot for worship attendance. They talked to our Finance Committee and the Church Council. We decided to move ahead. Engineering analysis was done and a performance bond secured. In addition to the base price of \$256,420 for redoing the parking lot, we decided to add handicap ramps and new concrete sidewalks that brought the property into compliance with current ADA standards. We also replaced two damaged light poles and bases. A major addition to stabilize the underlying base which did not meet compact standards was added to the project, and finally when electrical wiring and conduit to light poles and trenching were added; the final project cost was \$396,650. Trustee and building reserve funds were used to pay for this project. We already are working to direct some funding to rebuild those accounts. In summary, the only solution to eliminate our liability exposure was repaving our parking lot. Thank you to all who invested so much time into this project. Thanks especially to Trustee Chair and committee and Finance Chair and committee and to every member of the church whose regular giving and second-mile giving contributed to getting this project done.

Also we were forced to make some technical adjustments. As mentioned we learned to video worship and utilize U-Tube and do new things with E-mail. We applied for an Annual Conference Grant to fund the purchase of our live-streaming equipment. We received the Grant and with that we say thank you to the Annual Conference for making possible the purchase and installation of our system to send our worship live and recorded. Thank you to our Lay Leader for his tireless efforts in technological support.

We also applied for and received a PPP government loan of \$76,190 to assist with administrative costs and salaries during the Covid-19 shutdown. That loan has been forgiven by our government. Thank you USA! Thanks also to our Finance Chair, Accountant and Business Manager for working to secure the loan and its forgiveness.

Before the forced shutdown we had a clergy staff of 2 full-time pastors, one half-time pastor and one quarter-time pastor. With the passing of Pastor Kimbel and the retiring of Pastor Marshall, and until our church returns closer to normal, we have now shifted to one full-time pastor, one half-time pastor and one quarter-time director of laity and one quarter-time pastor of visitation. We are blessed with the pastoral team and staff that we have, who have seen us through the shutdown. Now they and our committees are well on the way to rebuilding our church worship and ministries. This current configuration of staff is a financial saving that helps as we rebuild.

The transition to video and now livestreaming allows our church to minister to those who cannot or choose not to attend a live service at this time. We have a growing number of viewers both locally and in other states. Our Willowbrook family is in a good place post-shutdown. My reflections conclude with this, "Once Willowbrook Strong, Always Willowbrook Strong!"

See you in church

Pastor Gary Kennedy

AUGUST Birthdays

(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 4 Lucille Jacobson
- 8 Jean Johns
- 11 Glennis Fuller
- 12 Robert Nelson
- 12 Howard Smucker
- 14 Virginia Vandenberg
- 27 Olive Crothers
- 28 William Shackelford
- 31 Crystal Rollf

AUGUST Anniversaries

(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- 1 Ron & Liz Byers 51st
- 1 Chap & Mary Fisher 62nd
- 3 Steve & Marian Roberts 52nd
- 4 Terry & Carolyn Smith 53rd
- 9 Steve & Sue Marshall 52nd
- 18 Bill & Trudy Merle 59th
- 23 Bill & Sharon Sullivan 53rd
- 25 Don & Jean McPherson 65th
- 26 Dale & Sharon Bachler 60th
- 28 Jim & Lucille Jacobson 73rd
- 29 Mary & Richard Wright 67th

LECTIONARY - YEAR B

AUGUST	LECTIONARY YEAR B (2021)
Aug 1	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
Aug 8	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
Aug 15	1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
Aug 22	1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
Aug 29	Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Thank you! To My Willowbrook Family
Thank you for your prayers, cards and phone calls, before, during and after my surgery. Thanks be to God, all went well. I am home recuperating and on the way to a full recovery. God is good and prayers were answered. Before I left the hospital, I asked the doctor, "Now that my arteries are fixed and the blood is flowing like it should, will it now help me with my FORGETFULNESS?" *SMILING* He just looked at me and smiled. Oh, well, what can I say, growing old is part of life, it's just a hard time for me to catch up with my young spirit. *SMILES*

Much love,
Thelma Muse

Dear Friends,



I really appreciate you remembering my birthday and also sending get well cards. I am now living in an assisted living home very close to my daughter, which means I am seeing her more often. I am grateful for so many beautiful cards and prayers from my friends at Willowbrook. Your prayers lift me up.

Hazel Prather



Hello!
I thank you for the many cards, well wishes and prayers you have sent to my mom. (Hazel Prather) Each time a card arrives it brightens her day. She tells me a little bit about each of you when she sees the return label. Today she said, "Where do people find such beautiful cards?"

Mom has always spent a long time picking out cards for family and friends, looking for the words that exactly express how she feels about them, even underlining the most important words. When packing up the things at Desert Winds, I found a shoebox full of greeting cards she had bought, waiting for just the right person. She also had phrases written down that she could use to give others God's encouragement.

Thank you so much for praying for her and encouraging her. It is beautiful to see God's people caring for others.

Julie Supplee



We want to thank everyone for the lovely cards, phone calls and notes for our 67th wedding anniversary. All of you are special to us and we couldn't be happier with our wonderful church and friends.

Bill & Shirley Pitzer



DID YOU KNOW?

By: The Personal Assistance Program "PAP"

*Do you know what causes Mental Confusion in persons over 60 years of age

Dr. Arnaldo Liechtenstein, physician, states there are three common causes of mental confusion:

1. Uncontrolled diabetes
2. Urinary infection
3. Dehydration

He states, in part: People over 60 constantly stop feeling thirsty and consequently stop drinking fluids. When we forget to drink fluids, we quickly dehydrate. Dehydration is severe and affects the entire body. It may cause abrupt mental confusion, a drop in blood pressure, increased heart palpitations, angina (chest pain), coma and even death.

In conclusion: Dehydration begins at age 60 when we have just over 50% of water in our bodies as a result of the natural aging process.

Therefore, people over 60 should establish the habit of drinking liquids. Liquids include water, juices, teas, coconut water, soups, and water-rich fruits such as oranges, peaches, pineapple and watermelon.

***REMEMBER: It is important to drink some liquid every two hours.**



Hooked on Books

Willowbrook Book Club meets on Zoom! Usually we meet on the fourth Thursday at 1:30pm! If you are interested in being a part of HOOKED ON BOOKS, contact Nancy Prevost and she will send you a Zoom invitation before the next meeting. Nancybp7@gmail.com

Below are the books we are discussing:

- Aug 26—*The Underground Railroad*
by Colson Whitehead
- Sep 23—*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant

We have a great group and we are looking forward to meeting the new people face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) in September.



The United Methodist Women invite ALL women to the August luncheon at noon on Monday, August 16th at Good China.

Good China is located at 9180 W Union Hills Drive, Peoria AZ 85382.

Reservations due by August 14:
Sue Marshall—smarshall92@cox.net
Call—623-546-6400
Text—623-363-7239



Save the Date!

Holiday Craft Faire

Friday and Saturday

November 5th and 6th, 2021



Friends with Binoculars

At a beautiful outdoor wedding reception in the Colorado foothills, a group of us noticed a family of black bears on the next hill. We were so excited because we'd never seen them in the wild! When some friends grabbed binoculars from their car, however, we realized the creatures were merely grazing cows.

Now I tell this story whenever I'm asked what exciting wildlife I've encountered in the mountains. It gets a good laugh but also reminds me that I desperately need friends with binoculars. Instead of surrounding myself with people who automatically agree with me and don't challenge my perceptions, I need friends in my life who search with me for answers, accuracy and truth. Let's all be on the "lookout" for friends with binoculars!

—Janna Firestone
NewsletterNewsletter

Sunday Best



Throughout the pandemic, 82-year-old La Verne Ford Wimberly of Tulsa, Oklahoma, donned her Sunday best — emphasis on best — to worship online from home every week. The retired educator, who coordinates her colorful outfits and hats (she owns at least 50!), didn't want to "get in the habit of just slouching around" during lockdown.

To uplift fellow church members, Wimberly posted weekly selfies and encouraging words. The goal, she says, was to let people know "that if we continue to believe in ourselves, network together, trust in God, keep the faith, then we will be okay."

Though Wimberly's style is impeccable, friends say she's even more beautiful on the inside. Her fashion sense "is merely an outer expression of her inner wisdom, wit and grace," says her pastor, Ray Owens. Church staffer Robin Watkins concurs, saying Wimberly's "heart is as beautiful as each outfit she has shared with us."

—NewsletterNewsletter



ATTENTION PRAYER WARRIORS!

Pray about joining the Intercessory Prayer Team which meets at 2:00 p.m. Monday afternoons in the church library.

THANK YOU FROM THE
OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Outreach Committee would like to thank all members and friends who have helped with so many needs at UMOM, Justa Center, Hart Pantry, and Salvation Army, so far this summer.

We continue to ask for donations as we let you know changing needs. Look at the tables in fellowship hall for more information.

We also serve Habitat for Humanity, Wesley Center, Valley View Community Food Bank, St. Mary's Food Bank, Retired Veterans, Meals on Wheels, and others. Thank you for your kindness.

If you have questions, contact
Outreach Committee Chairperson,
Ann Martin 480-215-5735 or
nissyann64@hotmail.com



Justa Note . . .

Thank you for your continued support of *Justa Center* either with monetary or physical donations. **For a complete list of current needs please call 602-254-6524.**

August Heat Relief Needs Are:

- Individual packets of Propel
- Powder Gatorade or Propel
- 1 & 2.5 gallon water
- Bottled Water
- Lip Balm
- Hats, umbrellas, sunscreen, shoe innersoles—M/W
- Pocket tissues
- Pocket hand sanitizer
- Stick Ink Pens
- Pocket notepads
- Envelopes—#10 and 9x12 Kraft
- Lined pads
- 2-pocket folders
- Bulk Toilet Tissue
- Plastic party cups
- Shower towels
- Shower wash cloths
- Cleaning supplies—Toilet bowl w/bleach, Comet, Window Cleaner, Shower Cleaner w/bleach, Liquid laundry HE Detergent, Liquid Bleach

You may bring donations to the Church fellowship hall and the Outreach Committee will deliver them to *Justa Center*.

August Calendar

(Items listed come from the main church calendar.)

Saturday Sabbath Worship	5:00 pm
Aug 7, 14, 21, 28	CHAPEL
Sunday Traditional Worship	9:30 am
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	SANCTUARY
Monday Intercessory Prayer	2:00 pm
Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	LIBRARY
Wednesday GriefShare	9:30 am
Aug 4, 11, 18, 25	LIBRARY
Wednesday Kitchen Committee	1:30 pm
Aug 18	CONFERENCE ROOM
Thursday Kris Krafters	9:00 am
Aug 5, 19	WILSON FELLOWSHIP HALL
Thursday Care Givers	9:30 am
Aug 5, 19	WILSON FELLOWSHIP HALL
Thursday UMM Board	9:00 am
Aug 26	CONFERENCE ROOM
September Good News Deadline—August 6	



GriefShare is a nationally known support group for people grieving loss through death. Using a video featuring experts on grief, along with a workbook and group discussion we help each other sort through those erratic emotions and peaks and valleys.

Each session is "self-contained" so you can attend any time you want and you do not have to attend in sequence. No matter when you begin, you will find encouragement. You do not have to be a member of, or attend, the church to be a part of the GriefShare program.

The repeating GriefShare schedule at Willowbrook is:

August 4	What Do I Live for Now?
Aug 11	Is This Normal?
Aug 18	Challenges of Grief
Aug 25	The Journey of Grief: Part One
Sep 1	The Journey of Grief: Part Two
Sep 8	Grief and Your Relationships
Sep 15	Why?
Sep 22	Guilt and Anger
Sep 29	Complicating Factors
Oct 6	Stuck
Oct 13	Lessons of Grief: Part One
Oct 20	Lessons of Grief: Part Two
Oct 27	Heaven
Nov 3	What Do I Live for Now?

GriefShare meets each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Library Lounge.

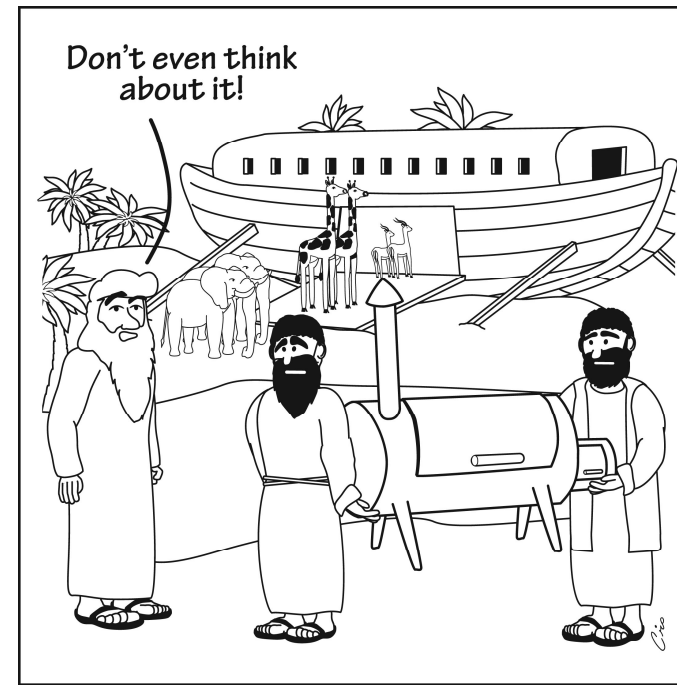


BENEVILLA SUPPORT GROUP MEETS LIVE AND CONTINUES ON ZOOM !!

We understand the stress that this pandemic has put on our caregivers and we want you to know we are here to support you. We know the needs of caregivers do not pause as this pandemic continues.

9:30AM - 10:30AM (Every 1st and 3rd Thursday)
Join us in Willowbrook Library Lounge.
General Caregiver Support Group
This group is for those who are dealing with general caregiving needs and for caregivers with loved ones who have various diagnoses.

For more information about Zoom, please call our Benevilla Support Group Facilitator, Stephanie Lamb at 623.584.4999.



Rev Gary revgary@willowbrookumc.org
Rev Ruth ruthblum49@gmail.com
Rev Lois loishedden@yahoo.com
Laurie justlaurie@roadrunner.com
Bev bev@willowbrookumc.org
Betty betty@willowbrookumc.org
Robb robb2mus@gmail.com
Carol carol.virolainen@gmail.com
Cynthia bev@willowbrookumc.org

STAFF EMAILS

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO:
prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org



Our condolences to family and friends on the death of the following Willowbrook members &/or family & friends:

- Lee Stacey on July 10
- Carolyn Johannsen on July 16
- Larry Williams on March 11
- Mel Borton on July 16



Each month we join other churches in prayer for churches of the West District in the Desert Southwest Conference.

AUGUST

- Mission Bell UMC, Glendale
- Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood
- New Church Start, Yuma
- New Song UMC, Surprise



Pray for the following members in a Group Home or Care Facility:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Juanita Braemer | Avista Care Home |
| • Richard Ceser | Garden Ridge |
| • Helen Duke | Arbor Ridge |
| • Dot Habkirk | Brookdale Union Hills |
| • Joanna Lynn | Guardian Care Home |
| • Fern McKnight | Sagewood Assisted Living |
| • Judy Neiman | EnClave@Chandler |
| • Robert Nelson | Family Matters Care |
| • Doris Olson | Beatitudes |
| • Hazel Probio | Sun City West Assist Living |
| • Martha Stromgren | Annie's Care Home |
| • Dorothy Zimmerman | Anna's Assisted Living |



Honor the life or memory of a loved one. Purchase the altar flowers for a worship service as a beautiful expression of your love.

In the Flower Book in the narthex, write your name, your loved one's name, the occasion and the date you would like to have the altar flowers presented.

Bring or mail your check for \$45 marked "flowers" to the office or place in the offering plate.



The first weekend of each month we collect food for Salvation Army and cash for Valley View Community Food Bank.

Our next food drive will be
August 7 at the Sabbath Service
August 8 in Fellowship Hall.

Many thanks to Ron Leonard who continues to be the point person in collection of food.

Scripture of the Month



www.WillowbrookUMC.org