



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

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SUN CITY, AZ 85351

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
In person and Live Stream  
**SATURDAY WORSHIP**  
In Person only



June 2024 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.—12:00 p.m. Friday**  
(closed 12:00-12:30 p.m. for lunch)

**(623) 974-5637 FAX: (623) 933-5466**  
Internet: <https://willowbrookumc.org>  
E-mail address: [bev@willowbrookumc.org](mailto:bev@willowbrookumc.org)

*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](mailto:prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org).*

**"In the good old summer time . . .**

**. . .the Willowbrook staff will be serving ice cream floats."**



Join us on Thursday, June 20th (the first day of summer) at 2:00 p.m. as the Willowbrook staff serve ice cream floats in Wilson Fellowship Hall. What a great kick-off to the summer activities planned for those who have stayed to weather the heat! No cost for the "floats" so dress in your favorite summer outfit (no bikinis, please) and join us for a cool afternoon.

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Saturday Worship**  
5:00 p.m.—Chapel

**Sunday Worship**  
9:30 a.m.—Sanctuary AND  
9:30 a.m. Sunday Live Stream  
Worship available on  
<https://willowbrookumc.org>



**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday—8:30am—4:00pm  
Friday—8:30—12:00pm

**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
- Laurie Lineberry**—Director of Laity
- Rev. Jon Ierley**—Pastor Emeritus
- Dr. Robb Butler**—Music Director
- Carol Virolainen**—Worship Musician
- Nicholas Capatch**—Live Stream
- Russ Koan**—Lay Leader
- Dr. Linda Reese**—Staff Counselor

**Emmaus  
Reunion Group**



If you have been on the Walk to Emmaus or Cursillo in your Christian journey, even if it was a long time ago, you are invited to join the Willowbrook Emmaus Reunion Group June 11th at 11:30am. We will meet in the Conference Room and we look forward to meeting you and sharing memories of our spiritual journeys.

*Christmas in July*

- ◆ Gather together
- ◆ Remember who we are
- ◆ Remember why we worship
- ◆ Sing Christmas Hymns
- ◆ Make special gifts & more

This year in July, we will celebrate Christmas with special services, music, a skit, Christmas cookies, 3rd Tuesday @12 Christmas ham with potluck and singing Christmas carols. Youthful Seniors Christmas movie, and more! Nativities furnished by the congregation will be on display. Watch for more information and signup tables in June.



**TWO EVENTS EACH MONTH!**

In June and July the Youthful Seniors offer two events each month to help break up Summer boredom.  
**JOIN THE FUN!**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**5:00pm—Wilson Fellowship Hall**  
**\$10 per person (each event)**

**Friday, June 14, 2024**  
Join us as we kick off the summer with Sloppy Joe Sandwiches, Chips, Coleslaw & Dessert

**Followed by BINGO**

(with prizes)  
Sign up June 1/2 or June 8/9  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday, June 28, 2024**  
It's HOT! Let us do the cooking!  
Soup 'n' Subs, Salad, Dessert  
Followed by MOVIE

**SOUND OF FREEDOM**

Based on the incredible true story of a federal agent who rescued a young boy from child traffickers—then he journeys deep into the Columbian jungle to rescue the boy's sister from a fate worse than death.

Sign up June 15/16 or June 22/23

**DEADLINE FOR the JULY 2024  
Good News is June 4, 2024**



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

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • Donna Barr    | Avanti Senior Living       |
| • Helen Barton  | Dana's Loving Care         |
| • Richard Ceser | Highland Park Asst. Living |
| • Dennis Lopic  | North Park Skilled Rehab   |
| • Lois McCrea   | Doc's Place                |
| • Fern McKnight | Sagewood Assisted Living   |



## Let your Yes Be Yes!

*"But above all, my brothers, do not swear either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation." - James 5:12*

*"Oaths were allowed in Israel, but the person was required to fulfill them, especially because they so often involved invoking the name of God. James's prohibition of oaths builds on Jesus' prohibition in Matt. 5:33-37. And the point in both cases is that one's word should be enough." - ESV Study Bible*

*"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn. But I say to you, do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil." - Matthew 5:33-37*

*"Jesus disciples are not to swear at all. Instead, their character should be of such integrity that their words can be believed without an oath." - ESV Study Bible*

The above four paragraphs illustrate a process used when studying scripture and using a study Bible. The passage in James had a corresponding footnote on the bottom of the page which use a passage from Matthew to illustrate. This verse in Matthew then had a corresponding footnote of its own to help explain the corresponding verse. This process gives more insight and description to the original verse. This process has been used by the Men's Tuesday afternoon Bible study group. It helps to understand verses in context. Our study of verses often led us to research in commentaries, church history books or, as in this case, other verses. It makes for interesting and deeper study of the Bible in context. We have discovered that often the simple truth of a scripture verse is all we need. In this case we see that if we simply are people of our word, that life would be much better. Life lessons from parents or Sunday School to be truthful, honest, and fair pay life dividends. We see that in James or from the words of Jesus. I once heard a Christian high school football player say, "I just want to someday grow up to be a man of integrity. That's what I want!" We can all be people of integrity by listening to Jesus and to remember to let our "Yes" be yes and our "No" be no!

God Bless You!

Rev. Gary Kennedy

# Willowbrook Strong



### (We celebrate 90 years or more)

6	Helen Woodward	
15	Dora Mowry	
18	Regina Winemiller	
19	Peggy Johnson	
19	Joan Koster	
23	Helen Hunt	102 Years!
26	Ed Allen	



### (We Celebrate 50 years or more)

3	Dave & Priscilla Funk	58th
4	Rhett & Carol Sears	64th
6	Bill & Shirley Pitzer	70th
10	Mike & Jo Allen	57th
10	Jon & Robbie lerley	52nd
14	Ed & Loretta Allen	66th
17	Steve & Lorraine Arend	57th
19	Ron & Kathryn Laumann	59th
22	Tony & Karen Anthony	61st

It's hard to believe we are already talking about the back-to-school drive, but many school districts begin their school year very early. This year, the Outreach Committee is ordering over 70 backpacks for Wesley Community Center's back-to-school drive.



We are happy to accept donations if you want to help defray the cost of the backpacks. You can donate via the offering plate or look for the Wesley table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Donating by check? Make it payable to Willowbrook and write "backpacks" in the memo section.



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

- Sharon Lythgoe on April 21st
- Cosimo "Casey" Pacione on April 20th
- Roy Meyer on July 13, **2023**
- Marilyn Burmeister's cousin, Betty Stenson in England, the last week of April 2024
- Mary June Fisher on May 4th
- Mel Sorensen on May 5th
- 



Thank you to my Willowbrook family for your prayers over the last three years, but especially over the last couple of weeks of my husband, Bill's life. The support that was shown to me and my family during this time was overwhelming. The cards, the words of comfort and the many that attended the celebration of Bill's life meant so much to all of us

Words are just not enough,  
**Bev Ampersé & family**



Once again, the Willowbrook United Women in Faith is collecting back-to-school supplies for children. These supplies will accompany the backpacks purchased by the Outreach Committee and be delivered to Wesley Community & Health Center at Golden Gate Center and the Salvation Army in Surprise. Your continued support of this mission project is just one way to assist children in need.



**Suggested items:** Black/Blue pens, #2 pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, school scissors, rulers, crayons, school glue, glue sticks, rulers, erasers, folders/binders, composition books, spiral notebooks, and notebook paper.

Please bring the school supplies to the noon luncheon Monday, June 17th at George's Lakeview Café, 10502 W Thunderbird Blvd, Sun City or to the noon luncheon on Monday July 15th at The Links, 18823 N Country Club Parkway, Peoria. If you are unable to attend one of the luncheons, contact your circle leader or Linda Borton with your donation.

Another possibility for your donations is the United Women in Faith table will be set up in Wilson Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 23 and June 30 to collect school supplies. The final deadline for collections is July 15th.

Thank you for your supporting these children for going back to school!

PS: The noon luncheon on August 19th is at Lou's Tivoli Gardens, 12555 W Bell Road, Surprise.



Left—May 1st Valley View Community Food Bank volunteers front row Barbara Pawlikowski, Linda Borton, Jesse Ramirez, Jr., Valley View Community Food Bank, Paula Condit, Janice Caron, Lee and Glenn Allinger. Back Row Judy McGinty, Sue Richmond, Dave Kresl, Linda Kresl, Fran Triguero.

Above- April 3rd Valley View Community Food Bank volunteers Marilyn Ledbetter, Linda Borton, Loren Littlefield, Fran Triguero, Marilyn and Ted Dumbauld, Ellen Glatz, Jesse Ramirez, founder and president of Valley View Community Food Bank, Judy and Mike McGinty, Dale Lenderts, Melissa Cole, Lee Allinger, Dave and Linda Kresl. Kneeling Glenn Allinger, and Janice Caron. (Bruce Cole not pictured.)



The Church Council is composed of the chairs of each committee or a committee representative in the absence of the chair, who vote on actionable items. Everyone from the church is encouraged to attend and join in discussion.

Points of interest from the April 23, 2024 meeting:

- ◆ Willowbrook will be 50 years old in 2026. A 50th Anniversary team will be formed to plan a celebration.
- ◆ Carol Virolainen Manley is staying on as worship musician.
- ◆ Worship Committee is planning Christmas in July for July 7 & 14. We will sing Christmas Carols and nativities will be on display. Theme: "A Weary World Rejoices."
- ◆ Outreach Committee Presented \$3,800 to Camp Genesis. In June we will be collecting items for Justa Center. We will also be seeking cash donations for backpacks. We are not collecting items for HART while school is out.
- ◆ United Women in Faith's guest speaker for the May 20th Sunset Appetizer night is Rev. Steve Marshall who will be doing a chalk art story. EVERYONE is invited to attend.
- ◆ Kitchen Committee is updating instructions for using the kitchen. Included will be groups need to wash their own dishes and put them away and DO NOT TURN OFF ELECTRIC BREAKERS!



### THANK YOU, WILLOWBROOK!

Dear Members of Willowbrook Church, Thank you, thank you for the generous outpouring of support for our Camp Genesis Ministry to the children affected by the incarceration of a loved one. Father Phil Shaw let me know about the \$3800 raised at your Easter offering. I am so sorry I could not be there but Father Phil had such a great time at the Third Tuesday lunch that I'm actually glad it worked out the way it did.


The monies donated by Willowbrook will be instrumental in making this year's camp extra special for our campers. We try to show these impressionable and at risk kids that the love Jesus has for them is unconditional and that they are not defined by mistakes in the past. As far as I know, we are the only camp like this in AZ and one of the few camps nationwide. There are over 200,000 kids affected by incarceration of a parent living in AZ. The need is great and your donation will help us continue to expand our efforts to serve these children.

With gratitude and blessings,  
Rev. Kim Crecca  
Director, Camp Genesis

Above picture of check being presented to Fr. Phil Shaw, at the 3rd Tuesday @12 on April 16th. Camp Genesis provides summer camp for children of incarcerated parents. They received a portion of the 2024 Easter offering at Willowbrook.

Left to right: Fr. Phil Shaw, Rev. Lois Hedden, Rev. Gary Kennedy, Rev. Ruth Blum.





On the first Wednesday of every month, Willowbrook volunteers gather at Valley View Community Food Bank for a morning of service.

Many of our winter resident volunteers have gone to their summer homes. If you are interested in volunteering, you can sign up at the Valley View Community Food Bank table on the two Sundays prior to the first Wednesday of the month, or you can call or email Linda Borton.

Helping others and doing good deeds brings fulfillment and joy to the heart! It can make a positive impact while spreading kindness to those in need!

(See photos of some of our volunteers on reverse page.)



A **GriefShare** support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

At Willowbrook **GriefShare** meets each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Library Lounge. You don't have to be a member, or attend the church, to be a part of the **GriefShare** program.

June 5	Your Grief Journey
June 12	Loneliness & Sadness
June 19	Self-Care
June 26	Fearful & Overwhelmed



The Revised Common Lectionary—a three-year cycle reading through the Bible based on the synoptic gospels of (A) Matthew, (B) Mark and (C) Luke. If you read the lections for all three years, you will read 85% of the Bible. Join us Monday mornings at 11:00 am to read the following Sunday's lectionary and talk about it and end at noon.

★★★ The weekly readings for **MAY** are: ★★★

CLASS DATE	NO CLASS	DATE USED
May 27	NO CLASS	June 2
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)		Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
2 Corinthians 4:5-12		Mark 2:23-3:6
June 3		June 9
1 Samuel 8:4-20 (11:14-15)		Psalms 138
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1		Mark 3:20-35
June 10	FATHER'S DAY	June 16
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13		Psalms 20 OR 72
2 Cor. 5:6-10, 11-13, 14:7		Mark 4:26-34
June 17		June 23
1 Sam 17:1, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49		Psalms 9:9-20
2 Corinthians 6:1-13		Mark 4:35-41
June 24		June 30
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27		Psalms 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15		Mark 5:21-43



**Sharing God's Love**

*"It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold on the grassy hillside."*  
Maud Hart Lovelace. The Kris KRAFTERS are enjoying the June sunshine as they create beautiful prayer shawls to be given to anyone in need of a comforting reminder of God's love.

Karen Anthony shared this personal story. "Shortly before the holidays some years ago I read in our church newsletter that a friend was diagnosed with cancer. Since I was involved in our prayer shawl ministry at my home church, I quickly sent her a shawl and let her know we were all praying for her. After she passed, her sister wrote me thanking me for sending the shawl and letting me know how much her sister used it especially during her daily naps. A short time later, her daughter requested a couple of shawls so she could surround her friends with love. I sent them to her. When I returned to Willowbrook, the Kris KRAFTERS welcomed this special ministry. I pray many of us will utilize these special shawls to spread God's care and love."

Representatives from Solace visited the Kris KRAFTERS to do blood pressure checks and left with fidget sleeves and lap robes. The Humane Society has benefited with numerous cat cozies made by one of our dedicated Kris KRAFTERS.

If you would like to sew cat cozies, knit or crochet prayer shawls, lap robes, fidget sleeves or other projects for local charities, join the Kris KRAFTERS in Wilson Fellowship Hall. We meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9 am. Everyone is welcome!



**3rd Tuesday @ 12**

This month's 3rd Tuesday @ 12 will be on June 18th at noon.

Following lunch, Sue Royer from AAA Senior Placement will discuss hospice and palliative care needs.

There is no charge for the lunch; however, donations are always appreciated. Please sign up June 8/9 or June 15/16 so we know how much food to prepare.

**Willowbrook Readers Club!**



If you enjoy reading books on a variety of subjects, fiction and non-fiction, join us on the 4th Thursday of each month at 1:30pm in the church library. "Hooked on Books" members recommend great reads and then we agree on books for the next several months. Discussions are a great opportunity to review books and get to know other church members. Here are the books we plan on reading and discussing during the next several months

June 27	The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post	by Allison Pataki
July 25	The Spy and the Traitor	by Ben Macintyre
August 23	The Stolen Book of Evelyn Aubrey	by Serena Burdick
September 26	The Wager	by David Grann



Recently, Jesse Ramirez, the founder and president of Valley View Community Food Bank, provided volunteers with a sneak peek at the former Wells Fargo building next door, which will become their new location. Purchasing the Wells Fargo building will save Valley View money compared to leasing their current space. The new location presents a great opportunity for Valley View to redesign the interior and provide more space for their client needs. Plans are in place for additional volunteer space, and the bank's drive-thru will be used for Valley View clients to pick up their supplies. No date is scheduled for the opening, but Valley View Community Food Bank plans to have an open house when the space is renovated. Keep watch for updates.

Willowbrook continues to support Valley View Community Food Bank through your generous monetary donations throughout the year. Jesse Ramirez appreciates the financial support, which helps Valley View purchase food in bulk for clients who are in desperate need. Thank you!

Willowbrook is fortunate to have faithful volunteers who generously give their time to help. We enjoy ourselves and make new acquaintances while knowing we are making a difference in people's lives. Valley View Community Food Bank starts their workdays with prayer for the volunteers and, more importantly, their clients, regardless of what is happening around them.

\*Search elsewhere in this paper for pictures of some of our volunteers at Valley View.



**Caregivers Support Group**

The Caregiver Support Group offered at Willowbrook is a community of caregivers that share the struggles and successes of constantly caring for a loved one. New caregivers attending a group usually feel great relief knowing they are not alone. Periodically, professionals from different disciplines are invited to provide much-needed information and services.

Caregivers acknowledge that the group has made them feel less alone on the journey, and are relieved to learn that anything shared in the meeting stays in the meeting. The group is for those who are dealing with general caregiving needs and for caregivers with loved ones who have various diagnoses. Willowbrook is blessed to have trained facilitators from Benevilla oversee the meetings. The group meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Library Lounge.



**Justa Center: Alternative 5th Sunday Recipient! June has a 5th Sunday!**

Since HART has requested we not bring food this month, We are collecting items for Justa Center instead. As you know, they provide services to homeless Senior Citizens and Veterans. The Justa Center nursing services request:

- ◇ Ensure nutrition drinks
- ◇ Reading glasses in 2.50 to 4.00 diopters (available at Dollar Tree)
- ◇ Nail Clippers
- ◇ Body Wipes



Outreach will have a donation box available at both services June 29/30.

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# June 2024

July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

CH—Chapel  
 CR—Conference Room  
 CT—Courtyard  
 LL—Library Lounge  
 MR—Music Room  
 PR—Prayer Room  
 Sanc—Sanctuary  
 WFH—Wilson Fellowship Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 25%;"> <p><b>Pray for West District Churches</b>  <b>JUNE</b></p>  <p>Haven UMC, Jerome          Lakeview UMC, Sun City          Liberty UMC, Buckeye</p> </div> </div>						
<p><b>2</b> COMMUNION—FOOD BANK            9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p><b>3</b>            11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL            2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p><b>4</b>            2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>VOLUNTEERS TO VALLEY VIEW</b>  <b>FOOD BANK</b></p> <p>9:30 am GriefShare—LL            9:30 am Art &amp; Soul—WFH</p>	<p><b>6</b>            9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH            9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> FOOD BANK            5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p><b>9</b>            9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p><b>10</b>            11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL            2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p><b>11</b>            11:30 am Walk to Emmaus—CR            2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p><b>12</b>            9:30 am GriefShare—LL            9:30 am Art &amp; Soul—WFH</p>	<p><b>13</b> ANNUAL CONF TUCSON            9:00 am Trustees—CRWFH            9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL</p>	<p><b>14</b> ANNUAL CONF TUCSON  <b>OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</b>            5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH</p>	<p><b>8</b>            5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p><b>16</b> ANNUAL CONF TUCSON  <b>FATHER’S DAY</b>            9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p><b>17</b>            11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL            2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL            3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR            4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH</p>	<p><b>18</b>            12:00 pm 3rd Tuesday @12—WFH            2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p><b>19</b>            9:30 am GriefShare—LL            9:30 am Art &amp; Soul—WFH            9:30 am Foundation—CR</p>	<p><b>20</b>            9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH            9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL            2:00 pm Ice Cream Floats—WFH            2:30 pm Outreach—CR</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> ANNUAL CONF TUCSON            5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p><b>23</b>            9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p><b>24</b>            11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL            2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL            2:00 pm 3rd Tuesday Planning—WFH</p>	<p><b>25</b>            9:30 am Church Council—Chapel            2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p><b>26</b>            9:30 am GriefShare—LL            9:30 am Art &amp; Soul—WFH</p>	<p><b>27</b>            9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL            1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</b>            5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH</p>	<p><b>22</b>            5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p><b>30</b>            9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>						<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <p><b>Feed the Hungry</b>  <b>Non-perishable Food</b>  <b>WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED</b></p> <p><b>Next Food Drive:</b>  <b>July 6 &amp; 7, 2024</b></p> </div>