



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

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



September 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 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

Office Hours: 8:30am-4:00pm Monday-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.

Welcome
New Members
Photos: Gary Kennedy, Ruth Blum



Lynn Biel
Joined: July 27, 2024



Gloria Davis
Joined: July 28, 2024



Roger Davis
Joined: July 28, 2024



James Dunsmore
Joined: July 28, 2024



Greg Zarnoch
Joined: July 28, 2024

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>



September

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday—8:30am—4:00pm

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 Manley—Worship Musician

Nicholas Capatch—Live Stream

Russ Koan—Lay Leader

Dr. Linda Reese—Staff Counselor



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

- Donna Barr
- Helen Barton
- Richard Ceser
- Dennis Lopic
- Lois McCrea
- Avanti Senior Living
- Dana's Loving Care
- Highland Park Asst. Living
- Cami Assisted Living
- Doc's Place



On Tuesday, June 25th, St. Mary's Food-bank held a grand opening for a new concept, their **NEIGHBORHOOD CHOICE FOOD PANTRY**.

Previously, all clients received a prepacked shopping cart full of food. However, many people couldn't use all the food given to them due to allergies or dietary restrictions. Because of this, food was needlessly going to waste.

The Neighborhood Choice Pantry provides food for approximately 100 clients each day. The pantry is set up in a large room that feels like a mini grocery store. As clients arrive, they are paired with a personal shopper (a volunteer) who helps them with their food choices. When finished, the client has about 80 pounds of food which is worth about \$200.

This new pantry concept has been positively received by St. Mary's clients. They appreciate the fact that they have more control over the food they are



receiving, that they have a personal interaction with a volunteer, and that they feel like they are in a grocery store rather than a foodbank.

Willowbrook volunteers will be heading down to St. Mary's on Thursday, September 26th from 9:45 – 12:15. If you would like to join us, contact Liz Peck or look for sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Give A Little Time. Make A Big Difference!



Share Faith Simply and Honestly

"Young children can ask the most amazing questions about God and Heaven! And when they do, we shouldn't ignore them or act like their questions aren't important—because they are."

"When children ask you about God, do your best to answer simply and honestly in terms they can understand. Of course, they don't need deep and complicated answers, but just because they can't understand everything about God doesn't mean they can't understand something about Him. I don't understand electricity, but that doesn't mean I can't turn on a light switch."

—Wisdom - Dayspring Publishing

So, if your grandchild comes to you and asks you about God and Heaven, keep the above statement in mind. Their questions about God or why you go to church are important. If your teenage grandchild comes to you with questions about why you go to church, treat their inquiry with the same respect. Be honest and don't feel like you need to give them the answer they want. Share your heart! Tell them about God, your faith and why you go to church.

Now if your adult neighbor comes to you and asks why you go to church, why not approach the conversation with the same straight honesty. Tell them, be honest, simple and answer with straightforward truth. They may not agree with your thinking and may push back at your answer, or they may be asking with the same sincerity as your grandchild. Many adults today just don't understand Christianity as you do. In fact, maybe, the majority of adults you encounter outside of church may not have your insight to issues of faith, God and church. Don't be afraid to share. Don't be afraid to invite them to church for worship or fellowship.

Many adults who used to go to church, don't go anymore. Some may have been turned off by a pastor who had a strong or opposing political agenda. Some may have not felt welcomed, or some may have never understood God's purpose in their lives. Some may have bought into outside negative opinions about the church being out of step or behind the times.

Perhaps they never experienced a "Willowbrook!" Perhaps they never understood the wisdom of scripture, the comradery of fellowship, and seen a church that works hard to make our world a better place through community service and outreach.

"For the first time in the eight decades that Gallup has tracked American religious membership, more adults in the United States do not attend church than attend church. This is not a gradual shift; it is a jolting one."
—The Great Dechurching

Over the years, I have heard many visitors to our church say things like, "I finally found my church home!" or "Wow, this feels like how a church should feel like!" or "I feel the Spirit here, I'll be back!" Trust yourself to share your faith. Be honest, sincere and speak with love. God will join you in the conversation! So many folks out there need to be introduced or reintroduced to a wonderful church experience!

See you in church directly or indirectly through livestream!

Rev. Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



The Significance of Patriot Day

Three months after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 as Patriot Day. Every year, we pause to remember the lives lost and changed on that autumn morning.

The resolution requests that each year the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities. Those include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence and flying the U.S. flag at half-staff.

In his 2023 proclamation President Biden said, "Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect and preserve our democracy."

Willowbrook choir and other Willowbrookers: Thank you for the many cards and notes I received



to help celebrate my 90th birthday. They were very much appreciated! Looking forward to returning in October. Peace be with you all.

Ted Dumbauld
(choir participant)



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

8	Jack Winemiller
14	Marge Chinn
18	Lois McCrea—104! years
29	Joan Glendon
30	Donna Barr



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

4	Stan & Penny Stevens	64th
5	Roger & Joyce Keslar	60th
12	Roger & Gloria Davis	66th
24	Robert & Dianne Mason	56th



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

- Bill & Shirley Pitzer's daughter, Peggy George on July 22nd
- Richard Meyer's sister, Marilyn on July 31st in CO
- Tom Butcher, Former West District Superintendent, on July 27th in TX
- Phyl Cipolla's grandson, Philip Shainmark on Aug 4th
- Ron Blessin's brother, Bob
- Joyce Chotena Neary's daughter, Laurie Chotena on August 5th in Australia.



Thank you very much for the many expressions of sympathy on the death of Mike's brother. And thank you so much for prayers for our family and their health problems. It's a blessing having multiple church "families."

Betty & Mike Shepherd

New Beginnings



United
Women
in Faith

Fall is always a time of new beginnings, reconnecting and enjoying cooler weather. The United Women in Faith are gearing up for a busy season. Our September meeting will be at noon on September 16th in Wilson Fellowship Hall. A program presented by Virginia FitzPatrick will be about the Methodist connection of the Wyandotte tribe of Ohio and her personal connection to their story. Lunch is provided and donations will be accepted. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

If you are unable to attend the September meeting, remember there are four circles you can attend during the month. Mary and Elizabeth circles meet on the second Monday of the month. Rachel Circle meets on the second Tuesday and Dorcas Circle on the second Wednesday. There are many opportunities to connect and learn with other women. The United Women in Faith have a purpose of focusing on the well being of women, children and youth through their missions.

On October 21st we will meet at noon in Wilson Fellowship Hall. Our service project will be to collect canned foods to assemble food kits for 7-can soup for Valley View Food Bank. Please check with your circle leader for more information.

The Annual United Women in Faith Celebration is October 26th at St Marks in Tucson. The theme is Food, Faith and Fellowship. Our guest speaker is Rev. Jamie Booth. There will be activities, worship, and an annual business meeting. Registration information is in the "Southwest Winds."

Although it's a bit early for Christmas, it is not too early to work on the Christmas tea which will be on December 6. If you are interested in hosting or co-hosting a table, contact Marty Holler. It takes a lot of women to put on the Christmas tea which is the main fundraiser to support our Mission projects.



Maria Luz Saldana, Wesley Community & Health Centers @ Golden Gate Youth Director, and Erica with Golden Gate hold an After School banner which was designed by the children participating in the Golden Gate after school programs.

LEFT: Sue Marshall, Vice President; Marilyn Ledbetter, President; Maria Luz Saldana, Wesley Community & Health Centers @ Golden Gate Youth Director, & Linda Barton showing the school supplies we delivered.



Willowbrook United Women in Faith is open to ALL women in the church and even our visitors. Bring a friend to enjoy time together.

Hopeful Glimpses of Autumn



KRIS KRAFTERS September First is considered the Day of Creation marking the day God began the creation of the universe. The Kris Krafters are busy creating quilts, fidget sleeves, cancer caps, colorful travel bags, holiday wreaths, lap robes and many other projects both to donate to local charities and in preparation for the Holiday Craft Faire.

We have received several donations of fabric, craft books, quilt & embroidery patterns and crafting materials which we truly appreciate. It's so much fun to discover something that can be used in a current or future project. Thank you!

The Kris Krafters meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month, the 5th and 19th in September. Soon we will welcome back our Willowbrook family who left the summer heat of the valley for cooler areas of the country. Join us as we work toward a common goal of helping others. Everyone is always welcome.



LEFT: Table full of donated quilts, cancer caps, mats, scarves and lap robes. Just one meeting's donations.



RIGHT: Close-up of one of a bag made using an embroidered dresser scarf.



Emmaus Reunion Group

Now is the time to connect with others who have experienced the Walk to Emmaus or Cursillo in their Christian journey. One of the primary strengths of Emmaus/Cursillo is follow-up. Join the Willowbrook Emmaus Reunion Group on September 10th at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room.

Upcoming Walks at Christ Community UMC in Avondale.

Men: October 10-13
Women: October 17-20

If you are interested in experiencing the Walk to Emmaus, talk to either Pastor Ruth or Pastor Lois.



Wildlife World Zoo!

Thanks for all your contributions to the August collection for the zoo. We are again collecting newspapers and cardboard toilet tissue/paper towel tubes the weekend of September 7/8. Last month we missed some of the donations because they were put in the Valley View collection bins. Be careful and read the labels on containers.

Holiday Craft Faire

Willowbrook is hosting our annual Holiday Craft Faire Friday and Saturday, November 1st & 2nd. Many vendors are preparing their wares. The committee has been working many months organizing a delightful vendor sale for us all.

Now, the committee needs YOUR help to make this event a total success. October 5/6 and 13/14 we will have sign-up tables to get YOUR help. Men & Women are welcome!

We'll have schedules available for set-up before the sale and for take-down after the sale. There will also be schedules for help in the kitchen, the Patio Café and Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe. Please stop by and pick the best date, location and time that you can help.

Bakers and Candy Makers, we also need your help! We need product to sell in Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe. We have discovered in past years we have some very talented men and women here at Willowbrook. Start your preparation NOW to make your best sweets to sell. We need breads, cookies, cakes, candy (fudge, peanut brittle or your favorite). Dig out your favorite old family recipe or your favorite food which represents your family's country of origin. Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe is one of most popular booths, so make plenty!

August 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

September 2024


October 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
1 COMMUNION; FOOD BANK; WEAR COLLEGE COLORS 9:00 am Summer Singers—MR 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	2 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY Church Office Closed	3 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	4 9:00 am Valley View Volunteers—10771 W Peoria Avenue, Sun City 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	5 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	6 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—WFH	7 COLLECT NEWSPAPERS 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
8 COLLECT NEWSPAPERS 9:00 am Summer Singers—MR 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	9 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	10 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 11:30 am Emmaus Reunion Group—CR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	11 PATRIOT DAY 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 4:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	12 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL	13 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH	14 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
15 CHOIR RETURNS 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class	16 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 12:00 pm UWF Lunch Meeting—WFH 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	17 9:30 am Membership/Education/Evangelism—CR 12:00 pm 3rd Tuesday Lunch—WFH 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	18 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 9:30 am Foundation—CR 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH 1:30 pm Craft Faire Mtg—LL 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	19 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 2:30 pm Outreach—CR	20	21 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
22 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Three Simple Rules Bible Study—LL	23 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm 3rd Tuesday Planning—CR 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	24 9:30 am Church Council—CH 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	25 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 9:45-12:15 St. Mary's Volunteers—13050 W Elm Street, Surprise 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	26 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 12:00 pm Tea Committee—LL 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	27	28 HART PANTRY—NEW MEMBERS 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
29 HART PANTRY—NEW MEMBERS 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Three Simple Rules Bible Study—LL	30 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL					

Pray for West District Churches
 SEPTEMBER

Trinity UMC, Phoenix
 Trinity UMC, Yuma
 Sedona UMC



Feed the Hungry
 Non-perishable Food
 WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED

Next Food Drive:
 October 5 & 6, 2024

