



**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



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

Send prayer chain requests to prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org.

*Advent & Christmas
at Willowbrook UMC*



Service of Light-Dec 8

Looking towards Christmas through the eyes of our childhood brings innocence, hope and joy. The theme for our thoughts, learnings and prayers this year is *A Weary World Rejoices*.

In ancient times the Israelites had been promised a Messiah to change the world around them. Our world, over 2,000 years later still struggles with issues similar to those days. We carry a feeling of weariness in our lives. But we rejoice in the coming of the Messiah!

The movie, "O Holy Night", helps us acknowledge our weariness as we rejoice in the coming of our Messiah.

Look around this page and mark your calendar for events of celebration.

- December 8—3:00pm Service of Light—Chapel
- December 18—2:00pm Movie Matinee—WFH
- December 22—Christmas Carol Gallery—Sanctuary
- December 24—Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesdays—2:00pm—*A Weary World Rejoices*, Women's Bible Study—WFH



Popcorn
Cranberry Punch

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday Worship
5:00 p.m.—Chapel

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



December

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

**DEADLINE FOR the January 2025
Good News is December 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 |
| • Lois Kelly | Moon Valley II Assisted Living |
| • Lois McCrea | Doc's Place |

**Christmas
Eve**



4:00pm



On Sunday, **December 22nd**, the Willowbrook Chancel Choir will present 'A Christmas Carol Gallery' at our 9:30 service. Drawing upon the rich resource of Christmas carols, acclaimed composer Larry Shackley has created a sumptuous musical tapestry titled "A Christmas Carol Gallery."

It is comprised of four suites or portraits of the season. Each suite features a narrative and a medley of four carols for choir accompanied by instrumental ensemble. Each narrative also contains historically-based texts. 'A Christmas Carol Gallery' lasts approximately 25 minutes and is a part of the entire worship service.



Advent 2024

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."
New Revised Standard Version

"Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us. They left running..."
The Message

Two accounts! Two translations of the New Testament of the Bible. One, the traditional version that we are familiar with. The other, a newer paraphrase that speaks in more familiar terms. Both share a sense of urgency! Something has happened! Angels have proclaimed the arrival of a "Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

We Christians in the Church know this story. It speaks to us year after year. It is the story of Jesus, our Savior, our Lord. We have invited Jesus into our hearts and into our lives. We serve our community by helping others in His name! We hold worship experiences in His name! Through the Church, we support relief for natural disasters in His name! We have fun through fellowship in His name! We help and encourage each other in His name! We visit the hospitals in His name!

The birth of Jesus is just the beginning of the greatest story ever told! It is life-changing! It brings revival! The Christmas carols remind us of the story with familiar words of Christmas. These songs, the Christmas decorations, the cooler weather, the gathering of families, the warm special television stories, the wonder of the season, all bring back memories and create new ones every year!

"Memories are gifts-treasures that we keep in our hearts. They will never collect dust or rust or be stolen. They will be with us forever-even into eternity."
---Godwink Christian Stories

I invite you to experience the Joy of the season through Advent and Christmas at Willowbrook United Methodist Church. Come feel Hope for our world because of Jesus. Feel the Love of the Church which connects people far and wide. The result? The Jesus of Christmas then uses you to be "channels of Peace." Come to church and bring a friend or family member. Watch on livestream and invite friends or family to sit down with you. Come experience Christmas again! Invite others to experience Jesus like this for the first time.

See you in church or on Livestream!

Rev. Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



Look Upon Love

Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.

—Martin Luther



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 2 Jean Birkett
- 3 Doris Cooley
- 4 Flo Hyink
- 7 Shirley Pitzer
- 11 Peggy Siebert
- 12 Vianna Fieser
- 20 Betty Smucker
- 27 Larry Johnson
- 29 Sally Sherman

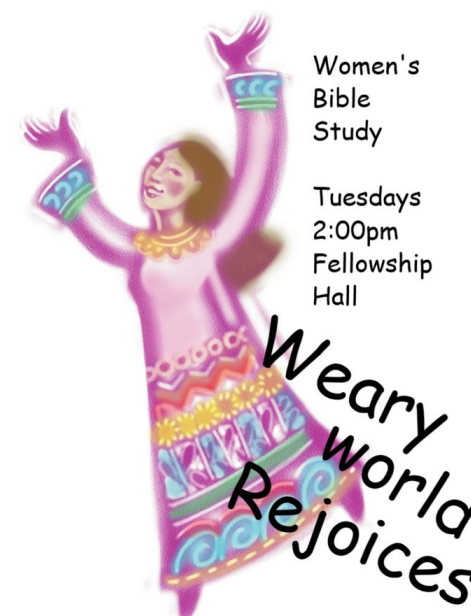


(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- 23 Jack & Regina Winemiller 73rd
- 31 John & Sharon VanOrman 63rd

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

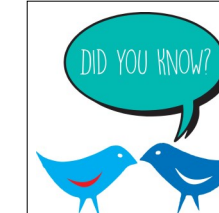
- Marilyn Burmeister's sister, Nancy Stenson in Texas on October 24th
- Cindi Johns—Jean Johns' daughter on Nov. 5th
- Billie Kay Gordon's friend Barbara Earhardt
- Former attender & friend of Ron & Norma Hamilton, Fay Beck
- Former attender, Alice Peters, friend of Crystal Ferreira passed away in hospice care Nov. 19th



Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays
2:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Willowbrook Foundation



How are the funds of the Willowbrook Foundation of Sun City invested? They are allocated into a diversified portfolio that has achieved a growth rate of 10.85%.

Church COUNCIL

2024 Annual Church Conference

Our Annual Church Conference was called to order by District Superintendent Rev. Javier Olivares on October 24, 2024. The routine business of the church was conducted. Pastor Gary reported on the ministry plan for the upcoming year.

A video was presented reflecting the congregation's active involvement this past year. Thank you to the Treasurer, Linda Borton for gathering and organizing the photos and thanks to Dr. Robb Butler, Director of Music, for adding musical enhancement.

Following the meeting, the Youthful Seniors provided a delicious Famous Dave's box lunch to all attendees. Thank you to everyone who attended!

We honored Lay Leader Emeritus, Russ Koan. Retired Pastor Jon Ierley led us in praying for our pastors who have been reappointed to Willowbrook. Praise God!



Benevilla™

Caregivers Support Group

This group meets every Thursday—9:30-10:30am in the Library. It is a safe place to share concerns, exchange ideas and support others also facing the challenges of a caregiver of loved ones.

The group is facilitated by trained personnel from Benevilla.
623-585-4999

WILDLIFE WORLD ZOO



Thanks to all who brought in newspapers and cardboard toilet tissue /paper towels tubes for the past few months. We have been informed by the Zoo they no longer need these supplies for now.



United Women in Faith



L/R: Sue Marshall, Eileen Kendig, Mary Bailey, Margaret Davis, Debb Pearson, Donna Lease, Debby Mitchell, Gerri Joncas, Marilyn Ledbetter, and LuAnn Sloan. Many others participated in creating the Valley View blessing bags and Halloween treat bags for Justa Center. Notes of encouragement were included with each of the bags.

Not Pictured: Cheryl Reed

United Women in Faith worked on mission projects on October 21, 2024 and created blessings bags for Valley View Community Food bank filled with 7 Can Taco Soup fixings. Pictured Jesse Ramirez, President, CEO, and Founder of Valley View Community Food Bank, Linda Borton and Marilyn Ledbetter.

Merry CHRISTMAS

You are invited to join us at our **2nd Annual Fun-Filled Holiday Celebration!**

Youthful Seniors will provide baked ham & beverages. There will be **no charge** for this event

BUT

We ask you to please bring:

♥ a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

AND

♥ Small kitchen utensils, dish cloths, dish towels, To be donated to

The Veterans Furniture Warehouse for distribution to Veterans in need

There is no charge for this event, but we need to know how many will be joining us. We want to make sure we cook enough ham!

Sign-up sheets are available **Nov 30/Dec 1 & Dec 7/8** in the Chapel or Wilson Fellowship Hall.



We hope to see you there. Bring a friend — or two!



HART Pantry is extremely grateful for Willowbrook's support through our Fifth Sunday food drives. December has a fifth Sunday this year, so it is time for another food collection drive. HART Pantry provides food items to "at-risk" teens so they can continue to focus on school. Here's what you can bring to church on December 28th and 29th

- Pudding cups
- Ramen Noodles Soups
- Jif to Go
- Pop Tarts
- Protein Bars with 3 grams or more protein
- Tuna or Chicken salad packets
- Austin/Lance type crackers
- Easy-open canned chicken
- Individual cereal cups
- Individual fruit cups
- Canned Pasta with pop-top lids
- Easy open Tomato or Chicken Noodle soup

They are in desperate need of 10 to 16 oz jars of peanut butter. It is hard to find and anything larger is too big for the weekend bags HART provides. These small jars are usually available at the Dollar stores.

GRIEF SHARE

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.

- December 4 Is This Normal?
- December 11 Your Grief Journey
- December 18 Loneliness & Sadness
- December 25 Self-Care
- January 1 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 **DECEMBER** are:
YEAR C

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
November 25 ADVENT 1 Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	December 1 Psalm 25:1-10 Luke 21:25-36
December 2 ADVENT 2 Malachi 3:1-4 Philippians 1:3-11	December 8 Luke 1:68-79 Luke 3:1-6
December 9 ADVENT 3 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7	December 15 Isaiah 12:2-6 Luke 3:7-18
December 16 ADVENT 4 Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10	December 22 Luke 1:46b-55 Luke 1:39-45
December 23 1 Samuel 2:18-20 Colossians 3:12-17	December 29 Psalm 148 Luke 2:41-52
December 30 Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12	January 5 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Matthew 2:1-12



Jesse Ramirez, the President, CEO, and Founder of Valley View Community Food Bank reports they expect to move into its new location by the end of December. I had a sneak peek tour with Jesse, and it's exciting to see the walls going up and the space designed with volunteers in mind, shelving for food products and improved operations. The former bank vault is being transformed into a cooler, capable of holding a semi-trailer load of food.

An open house will be scheduled after the first of the year, and further information will be shared as it becomes available.

Valley View serves a client base so large that if everyone gathered in one place, they would fill Cardinal Stadium, which holds over 100,000 people. The food bank provides services to over 1,700 individuals daily — an increase of over 16,000 compared to this time last year. Starting in December, Valley View will expand the hours at its Sun City location from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It's incredible to see the high demand for assistance in providing food for families.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Valley View Community Food Bank. Jesse says, "Without the volunteers at Valley View, we could not accomplish everything we do." You, too, can make a difference — whether by volunteering the first Wednesday of the month, monetary donations, providing egg cartons and grocery bags, or contributing in other ways. During the Christmas season, let's keep those who are less fortunate in our prayers and remember their need for assistance. As we say, WE are Willowbrook Strong!

Emmaus Reunion Group



Willowbrook's Reunion Group meets December 10th—11:30 a.m. in the conference room. Christ is counting on you. Debb Pearson

Willowbrook Readers Club



Most of the year, the book club meets on the 4th Thursday of each month. The group will soon be choosing books for 2025. Watch for new selections!

In December: We will each read a Christmas-themed book and will talk about them all at our Christmas luncheon.

Date and Location to be determined.

If you love to read, come and join us for great fellowship and discussion! New members are always welcome!



The Season of

Advent

READING PLAN

Hope

- ◊ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◊ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◊ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◊ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◊ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◊ Day 6: Titus 2:11- 3:8

Joy

- ◊ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◊ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◊ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◊ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◊ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◊ Day 18: John 15:1-11

Peace

- ◊ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◊ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◊ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◊ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◊ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◊ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

Love

- ◊ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◊ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◊ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◊ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◊ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◊ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5
- ◊ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10



November 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


December 2024

January 2025						
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 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	2 9:00 am UW Faith Team—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	3 9:00 am Staff/Parish—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL 2:00 pm Women's Study: A Weary World Rejoices—WFH	4 8:00 am Tea Preparation—Kitchen 9:00 am Valley View Volunteers—10771 W Peoria Avenue, Sun City 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—CR 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	5 8:00 am Tea Preparation—WFH 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	6 1:00 pm Christmas Tea	7 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
8 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 3:00 pm Advent Service of Light—Chapel	9 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 10:00 Condit Memorial—Sanc 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL	10 9:00 am Church Council—WFH 9:30 am Rachel Circle 11:30 am Emmaus Group—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL 2:00 pm Women's Study—WFH	11 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 9:00 am Finance—CR 5:00 pm Christmas Celebration with Youthful Seniors—WFH 	14 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
15 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	16 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 2:00 pm 3rd Tuesday Planning—CR	17 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL 2:00 pm Women's Study: A Weary World Rejoices—WFH	18 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 9:30 am Foundation—CR 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH 2:00 pm Matinee: O Holy Night (The Chosen)—WFH 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 9:45 am St. Mary's Volunteers—13050 W.Elm Street, Surprise	21 10:00 am Choir—Sanc 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
22 Christmas Carol Gallery 9:30 am Worship with music presentation—Sanc	23 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	24 Christmas Eve OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship—Sanctuary	24 Christmas OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am GriefShare—LL	26 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	27	28 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
29 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	30 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	31				

Pray for West District Churches



DECEMBER

Mingus Mountain Camp
 Justa Center, Phoenix
 Wesley Community & Health Centers



Feed the Hungry
 Non-perishable Food
WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED

Next Food Drive:
 January 4/5, 2025