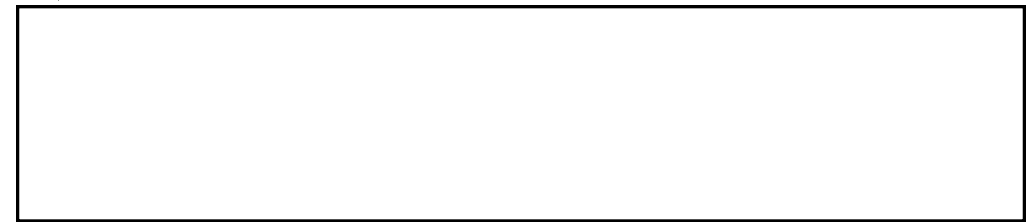




**WILLOWBROOK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP
In person and 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

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.



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
2025—Super Bowl Food Drive**

By Liz Peck

Vote For Your Favorite Team!

Our February food drive collection has been moved to the **SECOND** weekend in February (Feb 8/9) which is **Super Bowl** weekend. We have a fun competition for the February food collection.

After we know which two teams will be playing in the Super Bowl, we'll set up two collection points in Fellowship Hall—each identified with a team name. You can **ROOT** for the team you want to win with your food donations. Each item is a vote for your team.



Feel free to stuff the ballot boxes!

On Sunday, February 9th, we will try to count your donations and give you the **SUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE SCORE** before you leave coffee fellowship. No matter which team wins the Super Bowl challenge, we know the **REAL** winner will be the Food Bank!

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>



**DEADLINE FOR the February 2025
Good News is January 4, 2025**

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

Pillows for Veterans!

On January 25 & 26 Willowbrook will be collecting pillows for veterans who are moving into permanent housing. The pillows do not need to be expensive. (Walmart has pillows for around \$4.00) but they **MUST BE NEW**.

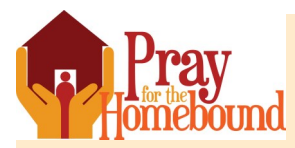
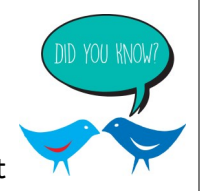
Place your donated pillows on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not wish to shop, we are happy to accept your donation and do the shopping for you! Make checks payable to Willowbrook with **PILLOWS** on the memo line.

Let's build a **MOUNTAIN** of pillows for our Veterans!



Willowbrook Foundation

The Willowbrook Foundation accepts outright gifts, including cash, stocks, and bonds. For more information please contact Gene Ambrosion or Sam Haroz.



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

- Donna Barr
- Helen Barton
- Richard Ceser
- Lois McCrea
- Avanti Senior Living
- Dana's Loving Care
- Highland Park Asst. Living
- Carefree Assisted Living



“What, Me Worry?”

It was years ago, beginning in 1954, that Alfred E. Neuman, the red-haired character on the cover of Mad magazine was famous for the phrase, “What, me worry?” The satirical magazine featured Alfred E. Neuman on most of its covers. That’s all I know about that magazine since my parents never allowed me to actually buy a copy when I was younger. So, the cover pictures and the saying are all I know about Mad magazine. “What, me worry?” is memorable but, to most of us, not practical.

Life brings problems and concerns. There are worrisome things that we deal with all the time. But does that mean that we shouldn’t ever worry? The book of Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” God has given this formula for us to deal with our worries and concerns.

I believe that the word worry means to be concerned as we deal with difficult matters. Turning to God is a way to share our worries with God and to then allow God to guide us as we deal with things. Perhaps the word that comes to mind is trust. Do we trust God to walk with us and help us? We should! I believe that God wants to share life with us and for us to grow into a trusting relationship with him. E. Stanley Jones once wrote this on the matter.

“A Portland lawyer is still practicing at ninety. His formula for living long is ‘light eating and as little worrying as possible.’ He remarked, ‘I’m ready to go when my time comes, but in the meantime, I don’t intend to worry myself into the grave.’”

Worry is a reality in life. Being overly consumed with worry is unhealthy. Being incapacitated by worry is wrong. I believe that the Philippians passage encourages us to share our worries and to trust God. Do you have a friend that you can share with, to confide in, and to pray with? Do you have a prayer chain to invite others to pray with you? Do you have a counselor, pastor, Sunday School teacher or relative who you can trust and talk to? Don’t go at it alone. Trust God. Trust people God has placed in your life.

Alfred E. Neuman always seemed irresponsible to me. Trusting God always has meant to me that Jesus Christ helps bring peace of mind when dealing with the problems of life. What, me worry? Certainly not alone, I won’t. Thanks be to God.

See you in church in-person or through livestream!

Rev. Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



MLK on What Really Matters

Exactly two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. preached his final sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, the civil-rights icon spoke about how he wanted to be remembered at his funeral. He preferred that people recall not his education or achievements but that he “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.”

Adapting a 1952 homily by J. Wallace Hamilton, King decried the “drum major instinct — a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade.” Humans often want to be great and first, as evidenced by the disciples James and John requesting prime seats in paradise. But King urged listeners to focus on the “reordered priorities” of Jesus, who wants us to “be first in love.”

As Jesus showed, “everybody can serve,” King said. Your background or status doesn’t matter, as long as you have “a heart full of grace” and “a soul generated by love.”

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

- Penny Stevens on November 20th
- Richard Condit on November 24th
- Cheryl Halderman, Olive Crowthers’ daughter on November 2nd
- Paul Lawrence on November 28th



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- | | | |
|----|------------------|------|
| 9 | Vicky Pedersen | 101! |
| 11 | Evelyn Russell | |
| 13 | Lois Kelly | |
| 13 | Vonda Hidy | |
| 20 | Russ Koan | |
| 20 | Mary Bailey | |
| 29 | Marge Greenhalge | |

HOOKED ON BOOKS



Do you enjoy reading? Would you like to discuss what you are reading with others? Come join us at “Hooked on Books.” We meet in the church library on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1:30. Here’s what is on our reading schedule for the start of 2025:

January 23, *The Last Year of the War* by Susan Meissner. This is the story of a German American teenager from Iowa whose life changes forever when her immigrant family is sent to an internment camp in Texas during World War II.

February 27, *The Book Woman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson. In a follow-up to *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, we are introduced to Honey Lovett, the daughter of the beloved *Troublesome book woman*, who struggles for her own independence with the help of other Kentucky mountain women and the books in her life.



Wildlife World Zoo gives a huge THANK YOU to the many Willowbrookers who donated newspapers and cardboard tubes for the animals. At this time the zoo has a good supply of both but they may ask for more help in the future.

The zoo is now requesting old towels and sheets. We will be collecting them the second Sunday in January. Please do not bring them before January 12th

Thank you very much for helping the animals!



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|------|
| 11 | Aubrey & Louanne Ingles | 55th |
| 17 | Frank & Nancy Stynen | 64th |
| 26 | Bob & Wally Henry | 57th |
| 26 | Ron & Lois Leonard | 62nd |



We Did It!
By Linda Borton

Many blessings were bestowed this November, as Willowbrook continued its tradition of supporting Valley View Community Food Bank. Each year, Willowbrook requests turkey donations to help those who are less fortunate, and a key part of this tradition is the presence of Jesse Ramirez, President, CEO, and Founder of Valley View, at Willowbrook to personally collect the turkeys and monetary contributions.

With a goal to surpass last year’s total of sixty turkeys, Willowbrook rose to the occasion. This year, an impressive ninety-nine turkeys were collected, enough to provide meals for 495 people. Your generosity has a profound impact on the lives of those who are having a hard time. Pastor Ruth Blum offered a heartfelt blessing over the turkeys, praying for those who will receive them and for those whose generosity made the donations possible.

Jesse Ramirez extends his heartfelt gratitude for your kindness, love, and respect toward individuals facing challenging times. He is already looking ahead to next year, marking his calendar for both Saturday and Sunday before Thanksgiving to join us again at Willowbrook.

Thank you for your continued support of Valley View Community Food Bank. Together, we are making a difference in people’s lives.



Pictured above: Jesse Ramirez with part of the turkeys as he loaded his truck.

Valley View volunteers on December 4th pictured Left are Larry Varga, Barbara Schuellein, Janice Caron, John Herman and Paul Condit, Marci Christensen, Linda Kresl, and Lee Allinger. Not pictured: Mike & Judy McGinty.

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation . . .
By Donna Lease

Enjoying coffee and cookies while visiting with friends is an important part of Sunday services. The friendly, caring and welcoming gathering is one reason Willowbrook is special to all of us.



The same groups have been making the preparations as well as providing the goodies. All church committees should have the opportunity to take a turn which helps keep the responsibility minimal for each committee.

The schedule for 2025 is posted in the kitchen. Committee chairpeople will be contacted and provided printed instructions. Thank you in advance for your help and participation.

Questions? Contact Donna Lease.



Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts and cards that were sent to me while I was out of the office for 4 weeks following surgery. Special thanks to those who helped Betty while I was gone. It is always a challenge when one of us is gone for any length of time.

Bev Amperse’



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 who are facing the challenges of being a caregiver of loved ones.

The group is Facilitated by trained personnel from Benevlla. 623-585-4999



United Women in Faith

Happy New Year!

By Sue Marshall

United Women in Faith is gearing up for 2025. We have lots of things planned. The third Monday of the month is our unit meeting. All Willowbrook women are encouraged to attend. There are also four circles for a time of fellowship, spiritual growth and learning. The circles meet during the second week of the month.

January 20 will be our next unit meeting. We will have a fellowship time to celebrate another year around the sun and will have a birthday party, remembering our mission staff with birthday cards and play some fun games. Come and enjoy some soup and decorating birthday cupcakes. The pledge service will be held in each circle this year. Remember that our money goes to projects that benefit women, children and youth here and around the world. We also have local projects that we support. Each circle collected their project money and donated to Valley View Community Food Bank, Family Promise, House of Refuge, and The H.A.R.T. Homeless Youth Connection among others.

All women of Willowbrook and friends are invited to participate and share time, make new friends, visit with others and participate in the global ministries of the church.

Many thanks for all who helped make our Christmas tea a success. It takes quite a group of people to pull this off each year.



Emmaus Reunion Group

Now is the perfect time to join the Willowbrook Emmaus Reunion Group! Anyone who has completed the Walk to Emmaus at any time in the past is welcome! The group meets the second Tuesday of the month and will meet on January 14th at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room. Christ is counting on you. Debb Pearson



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.

- January 1 Fearful & Overwhelmed
- January 8 Anger
- January 15 Regrets
- January 22 Grief & Your Household
- January 29 Grief & Your Friendships



Willowbrook Handbells
Meets every Tuesday 1:30 pm—Music Room
Info: Carolyn Smith



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 **JANUARY** are: ★

★ CLASS DATE ★	★ DATE USED ★
★ December 30 ★	★ January 5 ★
★ Isaiah 60:1-6 ★	★ Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 ★
★ Ephesians 3:1-12 ★	★ Matthew 2:1-12 ★
★ January 6 ★	★ January 12 ★
★ Isaiah 43:1-7 ★	★ Psalm 29 ★
★ Acts 8:14-17 ★	★ Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 ★
★ January 13 ★	★ January 19 ★
★ Isaiah 62:1-5 ★	★ Psalm 36:5-10 ★
★ 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 ★	★ John 2:1-11 ★
★ January 20 ★	★ January 26 ★
★ Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 30 ★	★ Psalm 19 ★
★ 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a ★	★ Luke 4:14-21 ★

★ ★

December 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				


January 2025

February 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	

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 NEW YEARS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	3 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—WFH	4 FOOD BANK 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
5 COMMUNION—FOOD BANK 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	6 10:00 am UW Faith Team—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	7 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	8 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 3:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanc	9 9:00 am Trustees—CR	10 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH	11 1:00 Pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
12 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	13 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	14 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 11:30 am Emmaus Reunion Group—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	15 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 9:30 am Foundation—CR 1:00 pm Kitchen Committee 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	16 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 2:30 pm Outreach—CR	17 8:00 am Kitchen Cleaning—Kitchen	18 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
19 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	20 MLK HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 pm UWF Lunch Meeting—WFH	21 9:30 am Membership/Education/Evangelism—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	22 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	23 9:00 am Finance—CR 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	24	25 NEW MEMBERS 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
26 NEW MEMBERS 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	27 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	28 9:30 am Church Council—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	29 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	30	31 9:30 am Kitchen Seminar—WFH	5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH

Pray for West District Churches



JANUARY

Ajo Federated Church
 Calvary UMC, Phoenix
 Chino Valley UMC



Feed the Hungry
 Non-perishable Food
 WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED

Next Food Drive:
 February 8 & 9, 2025