



**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



February 2025 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.



No matter the language, the message is clear, THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have volunteered at St. Mary's Food Bank in 2024. Before every volunteer shift, a St. Mary's staff member reminds us that the food bank could not operate without volunteers. As

they put it, "volunteers are the life-blood of the food bank".

This past Thanksgiving, Willowbrook divided our Thanksgiving offering between three food banks who serve the west valley. On December 20th, Willowbrook volunteers presented St. Mary's with a check to help support the work they do.

Pictured with William McQueen of St. Mary's, are Michael & Darla Teske & Liz Peck Willowbrook volunteers go to the food bank the 4th Friday of the month. **COME JOIN US!**



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>



♥♥♥♥♥
FEBRUARY

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

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
Debb Pearson—Lay Leader
Russ Koan—Lay Leader Emeritus
Dr. Linda Reese—Staff Counselor

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday—8:30am—4:00pm



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

- Donna Barr Avanti Senior Living
- Richard Ceser Highland Park Asst. Living
- Mylan Gruber Peoria Acute Rehab
- Lois McCrea Carefree Assisted Living

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

COLOSSIANS 3:17, NIV

**CONFIDENT CHRISTIANITY
The Book of Colossians**

When the new year began, as we reflected on 2024, we found ourselves asking, "What is happening in our world? How should we handle future situations that may arise?" This is probably not the first new year you have felt that way. It happens more often than we think.

Let's be proactive and take a closer look at *Confident Christianity—the Book of Colossians*.

This Bible study benefits everyone including those new in faith to those who need to be reminded of their focus.

We will meet in the Library on Sundays at 11:00am February 2nd through March 2nd.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall and get your book for \$5.60. Bring your Bibles and read Colossians chapter one and do lesson one before the first meeting.



Energy!

Winston Churchill said, "The world is being run by tired men." He meant that those who really make a mark for God or for history cannot afford to function without sufficient energy. Those who make a difference are those who take the extra step, walk the second mile, and give their very best to a situation, even when it doesn't look promising.

Perhaps this statement by Churchill can apply to the men and women in our church. The work of the church takes energy, commitment and work by all of us together. I find it quite interesting that Scripture describes the Body of Christ as being like a human body where every part of the body has its own important function. Each one of us can make a difference by doing what we feel called to do and by choosing to do our part.

Sometimes, when we see other energetic God-inspired people doing wonderful things at church, we use it as an excuse, saying, "Well, somebody else has that covered; perhaps I don't need to do my part." But everyone has a role to play. In our Andrew Ministry at the church, I constantly remind our folks who are unable to get out in the world that their role in this church is still vitally important. As Prayer Warriors who can encourage others, their testimony is loud and well-heard, especially since it comes from someone who struggles with physical limitations, yet can make a big difference in someone else's life through their prayers.

It was interesting to me that on Thanksgiving weekend our church set an all-time record by collecting 99 turkeys for the Food Bank and those 99 turkeys represented Thanksgiving meals for 495 people. But remember the shepherd with 99 sheep who spent his time thinking about the one that was missing? My first thought was, "Why couldn't we have hit one hundred? If we had given just one more turkey, 500 people would have had Thanksgiving meals. Now, this is just me—but did one person feel a need to buy a turkey and then change their mind? Or did one person who thought about getting two turkeys decide to only give one? The answers to questions like this are not for me to know. But these are the kinds of questions that we need to be open and honest with God about. Let us celebrate the 99 turkeys and let's also encourage others to join us. Let's listen to God, let's hear our call, let's give God the best of our energy and celebrate together with other people in the church what God is doing in this place. I am excited about the year ahead. God bless you!

NOTE: It has come to my attention that one more turkey DID come in before Thanksgiving! Praise God for hitting ONE HUNDRED! With that we helped feed 500 people!

See you in church in-person or through livestream!

Rev. Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



A Prayer for President's Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

7 Jean McPherson
18 Austin Tingley
23 Jane Quinn



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

8 Peter & Phyllis Lee 68th
8 Carl & Jean Stalowski 50th
19 Russ & Lynn Koan 70th
19 Steven & Lana Williams 53rd
24 Mylan & Joanne Grubor 59th

Willowbrook E-News

The E-News is an Email that is sent out every Thursday morning and every Sunday morning. You can subscribe to it to see if you want to keep it. If you decide you do not want that email, simply unsubscribe and you will receive an email asking if it was intentional or accidental. I will then follow your instructions.

To subscribe, go to:
<https://willowbrookumc.org/e-newsletter-signup/>



Come join the Emmaus Reunion Group!

Anyone who has completed a Walk to Emmaus at any time in the past is welcome! The group meets the second Tuesday of the month and will meet on February 11th at 11:30a.m. in the conference room.

Christ is counting on you.

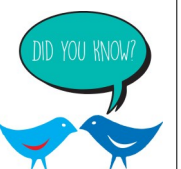


Our condolences to family and friends on the death of the following Willowbrook members and/or family & friends:

- Former member Corinne Spicer on Dec 25
- Marilee Marshall on Dec 28
- Jerry Vaughn on Dec 29 in Kansas City, MO
- Marilyn Burmeister's cousin, Brenda, during Christmas week in England
- Marilyn's niece, Yvette's father-in-law, Mike Hart in OK on Jan 1
- Bill Jesson on Dec 21
- Aubrey Ingles on Jan 3
- Arlene Davidson's sister in CO
- Ann Pavin on Dec 25 in FL
- Former member, Jody Hill
- Diane Perez' mother, Helen Barton on Jan 18
- Marian Wittenberg on Jan 21

Willowbrook Foundation

The goal of the Willowbrook Foundation is to educate, empower and provide resources to support the faithful funding of Willowbrook's ministry.





St. Mary's Food Bank Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Did you know that St. Mary's Food Bank was the first food bank in the United States and is currently the second largest food bank in the US?

Although large, it is also a local, neighborhood food bank. The main distribution center is located at 31st Avenue and Thomas, but the St. Mary's Food Bank most of us are familiar with is located at 13050 W Elm Street—on the border of Surprise, Sun City and El Mirage.

Thanksgiving is behind us and the number of families served by St. Mary's is nothing short of astounding. For the two weeks prior to Thanksgiving, St. Mary's distributed 8,000 Thanksgiving meals to areas in northern Arizona, tribal lands, and Flagstaff. Then on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Thanksgiving week, with the help of over 1,000 volunteers, more than 12,000 families received a turkey with all the "fixings". Of the 12,000 families served, the Surprise location distributed 5,800 Thanksgiving meals. Yes, the Surprise location really is a neighborhood food bank available to all West Valley residents.

As you can imagine, the distribution lines were long. One fellow waiting on line at the 31st Ave site, said he was picking up a Thanksgiving dinner, not for himself, but for a single mom living in his neighborhood. He knew she wouldn't have the opportunity to pick up the meal for her family, so he was getting the Thanksgiving meal for her. Another man said that he had been homeless and now has his own place to live. He was picking up a Thanksgiving meal so that he could cook it and share it with seven of his friends who were still unhoused. St. Mary's Food Bank—yes, it is a large food bank, but in the end, it is a local food bank with neighbors helping neighbors.

Working on New Year's resolutions? Consider adding volunteering to your list. In 2025, Willowbrook volunteers will be going to St. Mary's the 4th Friday of the month. If you're interested in going or would like more information, contact Liz Peck.

LOVE
your neighbor
AS YOURSELF.
Mark 12:31



Retirement Party for Pastor Gary Kennedy

Friday, March 21, 2025—5:00pm

Wilson Fellowship Hall

FIRST TUESDAY AT NOON

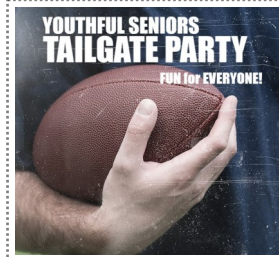


1st Tuesday
at
Noon

IT'S BACK, food, fellowship, information! Third Tuesday @ 12 has morphed into FIRST TUESDAY AT NOON! On March 4th at noon, we will be catering Fettuccine Alfredo with Chicken and Brownies from Banner Olive Branch. A salad will be included.

Following lunch, Steph Arnold, Fire Prevention Inspector, Sun City Fire Department, will share about the department's various programs and services available to the community.

Please sign up February 15/16 or 22/23 so we order enough food. There is no charge, but donations are always appreciated.



Friday, February 14th
5:00 p.m.
\$10 per person
Appetizers,
Hot Dogs, Baked Beans,
Chips 'n Dip,
Salad, Dessert
Sign up
Feb. 1/2 or Feb. 8/9

Fill your plate and your belly
and sit back to enjoy tonight's movie:



"GREATER"

Brandon Burlsworth is perhaps the greatest walk-on in the history of college football. Brandon had always dreamed of playing for the Arkansas Razorbacks, but was considered too short and too fat to play Division I. Undeterred, Brandon took a big risk and walked on in 1994.

Written off by fellow teammates and coaches, Brandon displayed dogged determination in the face of staggering odds. An extremely devoted Christian, Brandon never cursed or drank. He was genuinely humble and low-key. He worked harder than anybody, on and off the field, becoming the first Razorback to earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree while still playing. The overly-fat kid who was once an embarrassment to his teammates and an annoyance to his coaches, ended up becoming the most respected player in the history of the program, changing the lives of all he touched.



**Big
Thank
You!**

A HUGE THANK YOU & HUGS!

To everyone who donated kitchen items for the Veterans Warehouse collection for our annual Youthful Seniors Christmas Charity Drive.

We had 4 truck loads of items!!

Blessings,
Marilyn Burmeister
Chairman

Please join me this month in a daily prayer of praise. Lord, I praise you. I praise you for your kindness, your goodness, your peace, your joy, your patience and for your forgiveness. I praise you for your unconditional and unfailing love. I praise you for your never-ending presence. I praise you for your grace in giving me the good things I don't deserve. And, Lord, I praise you for your mercy to not give me the bad things I do deserve. Lord, I praise you.



In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.



Changing of the Guard!

After a combined number of years of servant-leadership no one wants to count, Jane Hager, Cathy Hoben-Calhoun, and Karen DeVerna, are passing the baton or (needle) to Gloria Schilling, Diane Perez, and Gerri Joncas.

Kris Krafters will continue to be an organization making vital contributions to Willowbrook and our community through craft items made for the annual craft fair and for donations to many local charities. All are welcome to attend on the first and third Thursdays from 9-11 AM in Wilson Fellowship Hall.



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!



Many of us celebrate Valentine's Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine's Day can be, it's also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

- “When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be.” —Leo Tolstoy
- “You don't love someone because they're perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they're not.” —Jodi Picoult
- “Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.” —Ann Landers
- We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine's Day, if you don't remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:
- “We love because God first loved us.” —1 John 4:19 (NCV)



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

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. The second book in 2025 is shown below:

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.



United Women in Faith

Staying Busy!

By Sue Marshall

The United Women in Faith will host Rudy Soliz from *Justa Center* in Phoenix at the February 17th salad bar lunch meeting in Fellowship Hall. I am sure you have heard *Justa Center* mentioned as a mission outreach. Come and learn all that *Justa Center* does for seniors. We will be collecting microwavable food stuffs or individual packets like tuna, applesauce, and crackers.



The UWF conference is hosting a day apart retreat on March 15, 2025 at First United Methodist Church located at 5510 North Central, Phoenix. Mary Hollan will be the presenter. We know Mary from our Christmas teas and she previously did a retreat for us. The theme is *Tools for the Soul* including the Seven Pillars of Self Care and Self Compassion. Music is always fun with Mary. If you don't get the Southwest Winds, please contact Sue Marshall for the registration form.

Our spring salad luncheon will be held on March 24 at noon. (Date change to 4th Monday of the month). This is a potluck, so please bring enough for you and 4 others. We invite several other Sun City area churches to attend. Entertainment will be provided by Timeless, a singing duo sharing songs from the 60s, 70's, and 80s. All ladies of Willowbrook are invited to attend any of our unit meetings and/or circle meetings. Please especially make every effort to attend when we have guests.



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.



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.

- February—5 Grief & Your Friendships
- February—12 Questions for God
- February—19 Stuck in Grief
- February—26 Hope & Resilience
- March —5 What Do I Live For Now?

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
★ January 27 ★ Jeremiah 1:4-10 ★ 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	★ February 2 ★ Psalm 71:1-6 ★ Luke 4:21-30
★ February 3 ★ Isaiah 6:1-13 ★ 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	★ February 9 ★ Psalm 138 ★ Luke 5:1-11
★ February 10 ★ Jeremiah 17:5-10 ★ 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	★ February 16 ★ Psalm 1 ★ Luke 6:17-26
★ February 17 NO CLASS ★ Genesis 45:3-11, 15 ★ 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	★ February 23 ★ Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 ★ Luke 6:27-38
★ February 24 ★ Exodus 34:29-35 ★ 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	★ March 2 ★ Psalm 99 ★ Luke 9:28-43

January 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

February 2025


March 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
<p>2 COMMUNION—GROUNDHOG DAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Bible Study—LL 11:00 am Girl Scout Cookies available in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>3 10:00 am UW Faith Team—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>4 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>5 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>6 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR</p>	<p>7 8:00 am Kitchen Cleaning—Kitchen 1:00 pm Nominations—CR 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—WFH</p>	<p>1 7:30 am Food Prep for Justa Center—Kitchen 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>9 SUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Bible Study—LL</p>	<p>10 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm First Tuesday Planning—CR 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH</p>	<p>11 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 11:30 am Emmaus Reunion Group—CR 1:00 pm Prayer Packet Stuffing—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>12 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</p>	<p>13 9:00 am Trustees—CR</p>	<p>14 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH</p>	<p>8 SUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE 12:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>16 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Bible Study—LL</p>	<p>17 PRESIDENT’S DAY—CLOSED 12:00 pm UWF Lunch Meeting—WFH</p>	<p>18 9:30 am Membership/Education/Evangelism—CR 11:30 am 2024 New Member Luncheon—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>19 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 The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>20 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 11:30 am Winsome Widows—Olive Garden, 7889 W Bell Road 2:30 pm Outreach—CR</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Kitchen Training—WFH</p>	<p>15 10:00 Pitzer Memorial 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>23 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Bible Study—LL</p>	<p>24 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 1:00 pm Barton memorial—CH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>25 9:30 am Church Council—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>26 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>27 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>22 11:30 am Winsome Widows—Olive Garden, 7889 W Bell Road 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>

Pray for West District Churches



FEBRUARY
 Faith UMC, Phoenix
 First UMC, Glendale
 First UMC, Phoenix

SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 21—5:00 PM
RETIREMENT PARTY FOR
PASTOR KENNEDY



Feed the Hungry
Non-perishable Food
WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED

Next Food Drive:
March 1 & 2, 2025