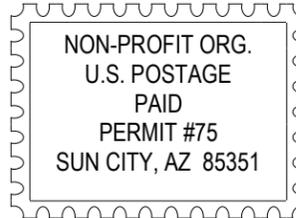




**WILLOWBROOK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102



WORSHIP SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
SATURDAY at 5:00 p.m.
Not meeting at the time



Check with the office to see if we are back in business!

WEEKLY PRAYER & STUDY GROUPS

SUN	Pray w/Stephen Min	10:30 am—Prayer Room
MON	Intercessory Prayer	2:00 pm—Library Lounge
TUE	Pastor Academy	2:30 pm—Wilson Fellowship Hall
WED	GriefShare	9:30 am—Library Lounge
WED	Art & Soul	9:30 am—Wilson Fellowship Hall

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri—8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. ????
Closed for lunch—12:00-12:30 p.m.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday Sabbath Celebration
5:00 p.m.—Chapel
...
Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.—Sanctuary
...
Sunday Mosaic Worship
11:00 a.m.—Chapel



**DEADLINE FOR the July 2020
Good News is June 7, 2020**

www.willowbrookumc.org

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
Steve Marshall—Associate Pastor
Ruth Blum—Associate Pastor
Rev. Jon Ierley—Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Robb Butler—Music Director
Carol Virolainen—Organist
Laurie Lineberry—Director of Laity
Russ Koan—Lay Leader

June 2020 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 - 12:30 p.m. for lunch)
(623) 974-5637 FAX: (623) 933-5466
Internet: <http://www.willowbrookumc.org>
E-mail address: bev@willowbrookumc.org

Even though the office is not open, we are monitoring the phones and the prayer chain daily. Leave a message on the main phone number, 623-974-5637, and we will get back to you!

Missing the June Calendar? Because at the time of printing we were unsure what activities, (if any) would go on, we thought it best not to include a calendar. Please check with the office or the E-News for the latest information.

Face Mask Project

The Kris Krafters of Willowbrook have been measuring, cutting, pinning, searching for elastic and sewing at home for the past few weeks with amazing results. On Friday, May 8, the Kris Krafters had almost 500 face masks ready to be sent to help the Navajo community. Four boxes containing 327 masks were sent to Rev. Evelene Navarette in Shiprock, New Mexico to be distributed by the Four Corners N A Ministry. This was in response to a request from District Superintendent Nancy Cushman on April 30. In addition, 150 face masks were donated to the Navajo community in Window Rock, Arizona through the Sun City Rotary Club. Thanks to the generous donations of Willowbrook members and friends, the Kris Krafters have been able to purchase needed fabrics and supplies. They continue to provide masks to Willowbrook members, friends and family on Wednesday’s Soup Day Drive-By. The Kris Krafters have also donated many face masks to workers at Banner Thunderbird Hospital, the Justa Center, and Habitat for Humanity volunteers. If the Kris Krafters stopped sewing long enough to tally up the number of face masks made and donated so far, the total would be well over 1,500 since the end of March.

A Birthday Drive-By

Willowbrook’s Nancy Prevost and Ann Martin organized a “Wave, honk and drive by” party for Anne Tingley’s 85th birthday on May 7, as everyone observed social distancing.

Over 20 cars and about 33 people participated in the drive-by honking, singing and just being silly. Cards and gifts were left for Anne to open at a later time.

Hope your birthday was a memorable one, Anne!



Pictured are Austin and Anne Tingley



l to r: Nancy Stynen, Karen DeVerna, Cathy Hoben Calhoun



A huge thank you to Jim Dodd and Sandy Gustafson for our “Wednesday drive-through soup pickup”, to the Kris Krafters for making masks available on those days and to Pastor Ruth for handing out prayer cards and making Upper Rooms available for those who drive through the line.

We will continue the “drive-through soup pickup” through June. Mark your calendars and get in line June 3, 10, 17, 24, and July 1 from 8 to 10 a.m.

On May 27 Rhett and Carol Sears provided “Runza’s”, a Nebraska delicacy, in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary. Thank you Rhett and Carol.



**SHELTERING IN LOVE
UMCOR
A COVID-19 RESPONSE**

*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

Ever since I was a little boy, I was taught at home and at church that God "loves a cheerful giver." I have always understood that God blesses those who help others who are in need. This has been a part of the experience of every church I have ever been a part of. This is part of being a Christian. Throughout the history of the United States Christian churches have acted on this principle and have built hospitals, schools, student unions on colleges, libraries and so on. At Willowbrook United Methodist Church, that cheerful spirit exists. Our church has always supported those ministries and organizations that faithfully, efficiently and responsibly work hard to help and assist those in need. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has always been one of those organizations at the top of our list. They operate with a simple principle that gains trust. That principle is that every dollar given for relief is used for relief. Every dollar given to help others, helps others directly. All administrative dollars come from other sources. With that confidence, we have supported UMCOR in the past and will in the future. I once served a church in Avondale, Arizona where that community was hit by flooding of the Agua Fria River. What church and community folks shared was that UMCOR was the first relief agency on the site to give help and they were the last agency to leave. They ran a lot of their relief work through the church to help the community. So now with the Covid-19 pandemic we find UMCOR at the heart of relief aid once again.

Since the outbreak of the Corona virus, UMCOR has worked through churches, missionaries and ministry partners in the U.S. and around the world. Already a half a million dollars has come in and been spent on food pantries, sanitation equipment, toilet paper, water, hygiene products, diapers and water in the U.S., Africa, the Philippines and Latin America. Our church has and will support this work of compassion. If you would like to support UMCOR, you may do so by making a check out to Willowbrook UMC and memo it UMCOR Covid-19 Response, Advance 3022612; for UMCOR to get it directly (and faster) www.UMCOR, click on top ribbon that says COVID-19 donate now or mail your check directly to The Advance, 458 Ponce De Leon Avenue NE, Atlanta GA 30308 and again memo Advance 3022612.

See you in Church! (when it is safe)

Pastor Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Stong

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS
(We celebrate 90 years or more)**

- 2 Ed Davey
- 6 Helen Woodward
- 8 Dick Roth
- 11 Helen Duke
- 12 Jeanne Brubaker
- 17 Bill Bowers
- 19 Peggy Johnson
- 23 Helen Hunt
- 24 Barbara Hall
- 25 Tom Shultz

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES
(We Celebrate 50 years or more)**

- 1 Dale & Marjorie Barton 56th
- 1 Raymond & Sherri Langhammer 63rd
- 3 Dave & Priscilla Funk 54th
- 4 Rhett & Carol Sears 60th
- 6 Bill & Shirley Pitzer 66th
- 10 Mike & Jo Allen 53rd
- 11 Lee & Sharon Stacey 59th
- 14 Ed & Loretta Allen 62nd
- 17 Steve & Lorraine Arend 53rd
- 17 David & Pat Shontz 53rd
- 18 William & Nancy Wilkins 60th
- 19 Ron & Kathryn Laumann 55th
- 22 Tony & Karen Anthony 57th
- 24 Lawrence & Eleanor Verwers 64th

Each month we join other churches in prayer for churches of the West District in the Desert Southwest Conference.



June
Fort Yuma UMC
Gila Mountain UMC, Yuma
Haven UMC, Jerome



Thanks to All!
There are not enough words to express my deep appreciation for all the prayers, cards, calls and all those many words of encouragement during my hospital stay, and now at home. Thanks also to the Kris Krafters who sent some puzzle books to keep my mind going. With God's help, I hope to recover and be active once again.

Nancy McVey



ATTENTION PRAYER WARRIORS!

 **PRAYERS** Pray about joining the Intercessory Prayer Team which meets at 2:00 p.m. Monday afternoons in the church library. Watch for information to see when this group will begin meeting once again.

 **Our Condolences**
Our condolences to family and friends on the death of the following Willowbrook members & family & friends:

- Imogene Calhoun, April 4
- Myrna Taft, April 17 in California
- Norma Erf, May 12

Stephen Ministry FEAR Let's get rid of it!

Fear has no place in our Christian lives, so how do we "Get rid of it?"

We drive fear from our families and friends by loving one another so supportively that every one feels safe inside the group (John 4:18). This safety allows us to bring our humanity into the open, including all our pain and joy, our ups and downs or our victories and defeats. It means that you give to others the same uncommon safety Christ gives to you...to be real, to be sad, to be messed up and confused...yet to be LOVED.

Loving the fear out of one another requires that we develop:

TENDER HEARTS—God gives us support and encouragement and we're to do the same for others. We strengthen one another by extending love, rather than fostering fear. That's done by offering relationships that are safe and sympathetic. We exhibit tenderness when we say to one another:

It's OK to:

Have a bad day
Be tired
Admit your mistakes
Say your marriage is failing
Confess your addiction
Share that you're scared
Grieve a loss
Doubt, to be confused or to cry.

Don't forget the positives in your life also.

It's OK to:

Be happy you got a new car
Celebrate that you got a raise
Joyfully tell us you lost 17 pounds
Say you won a competition
Shout "hallelujah!" because God's presence in your life is so good.

All of the above can be told to a Stephen Minister in the strictest of confidence and we'll be right beside you as you experience good times or bad. Then, when bad times are over, we'll join you in hearty celebration!



News From Wesley Community Center

Many of you have not had the opportunity to visit Wesley Center's west valley location, Golden Gate Center. The center is located at 1625 N 39th Avenue. From this location, they offer many programs to their clients. Due to the pandemic, regular programs have had to be modified. Here is an example of how they continue to serve their community. They are now offering free child care for first responders. here is the email they sent out announcing this wonderful outreach program.

"Dear Friend,

Wesley is now providing free day care for children 6-12 years old of eligible FIRST RESPONDERS at its west valley Golden Gate site.

Eligibility; COVID-19 critical frontline personnel are persons, who do not have access to child care, who work in categories of essential function as defined in Executive Order 3020-12 that ensure the delivery of healthcare, public safety, and essential governmental operations including child safety and adult protective services personnel."

The Chief Development Officer just sent Willowbrook a thank you which reads:

"Thank you so much for your very generous gift of \$1,000." (this donation came from the Outreach Budget) Your gift during this pandemic is appreciated now more than ever." Frank Nagy, CDO

Supporting Outreach at Justa Center

So much good news to share. . .

As you probably know, Willowbrook put together a lunch for the clients of Justa Center on Sunday, April 19. But Willowbrook had also dedicated our Easter offering to Justa Center. On behalf of the Outreach Committee, we cannot begin to thank you for your ongoing generosity. Earlier this month, Willowbrook forwarded \$7,000 from this special collection to the Center. But we continued to receive contributions for the Center after Easter. It now looks like our Willowbrook family has contributed over \$10,000 to Justa Center. All I can say, besides thank you, is WOW!!!

Liz Peck
Outreach Chairperson



Not Just for UMW

The United Methodist Women are needing additional recipes for their cookbook. Not part of UMW? It doesn't matter, they are looking for everyone's favorite family recipe or one that you may have brought to a potluck or coffee chat. You can add it yourself by going to typen-save.com, username; smarshall92; password; granola216. Or send your recipe via email to smarshall92@cox.net and of course there is always snail mail.

The plans for Mission U have not been finalized for this summer. It will most likely be online so more people could attend. As details are available, there will be some information sent out.

Water for the Reservation

COVID-19 is present in every state of our country. Hot spots flare up and are continuously changing. One of the hardest hit areas in the country is literally in our own backyard. The virus is devastating the Navajo. As of April 29, there have been 1,977 positive case of COVID-19, with 62 deaths. These numbers rise daily.



The greatest deterrent, simply washing hands frequently, for many is impossible. It is hard to wash hands without running water. There are few hospitals in the region and those that exist are not easily traveled to.

We are a people of faith who care for the vulnerable. We cannot at the present time do much about the hospital access, but we can help with water. Please consider supporting this year's Annual Conference Mission Project. Donations that will be used to provide water where needed on the reservation.

While we understand that many of us have experienced furloughs or job lay-offs, we also understand the mission heart of the Desert Southwest Conference. Your donation can be made electronically or by post mail.

- To donate electronically, go to: <https://dscumc.org/secure/payments/> In "Purpose of Payment", enter AC Mission Project 2020-Water. In "Other Details", enter Willowbrook UMC
- To donate by check, make your check payable to: Desert Southwest Conference. In the memo section write: Mission Project Water: Willowbrook UMC. Mail To: Desert Southwest Conference
PO Box 32830
Phoenix AZ 85064

Please do not make your checks out to Willowbrook or mail them to the church.

Worship Me

"Thank Me in the midst of the crucible. When things seem all wrong, look for growth opportunities . . . Worship Me by living close to Me, thanking Me in all circumstances."

I was given the opportunity to write an article for the June newsletter several days ago and I have been pondering and praying since then with what I might say. I received my answer this morning as I read my daily devotion from "Jesus Calling" by Sarah Young, part of which I have quoted above. Yes, one of Pastor Sande's favorite devotionals, which quickly has become mine.

Life these past few months very easily has felt like a severe, searching test or trial. But just think of the opportunities.

We have all had a greater opportunity to put into actual practice the fact that our church is not the building, but the people. Our pastors have taken worship to a whole new level. They have stepped up to the challenge by using our existing technology to give us sermons that we can watch online. I know that I am not alone when I sit at home to watch the messages and tears (liquid prayers) come to my eyes.

We have had the opportunity to slow down and live in the present. I know this truly has been testing for so many. Some more than others. But just think of what you have accomplished that you may not have otherwise gotten done. And usually at a much slower pace. I have heard so many wonderful stories, and they are so individualized.

And we have seen so many who have taken the opportunity to make and distribute masks, meals, prayers and love.

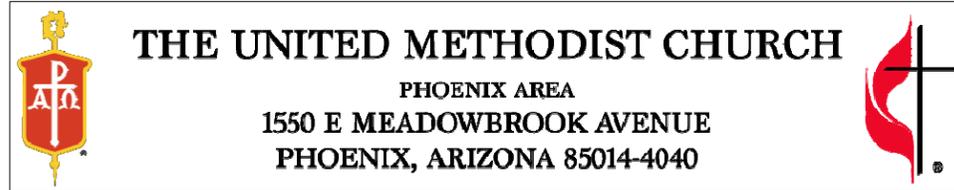
It is amazing how I had taken for granted seeing folks at church and greeting them with a smile, hug, or wave. But what a great new opportunity to call so many of those same folks and actually visit with them on the phone and see how their lives are going. These nudges from God or God-winks to call and check on somebody are invaluable opportunities.

I truly believe that all of our growth opportunities were given to us as ways to worship God by living close to Him and to thank Him in our given circumstances.

As I write this in the middle of May and we look forward to being physically together at some point, we can anticipate more growth opportunities. As we begin to congregate, we may not be able to physically greet one another or even stand or sit next to each other. We may not be able to actually sing hymns. We may not be able to take communion as we have in the past. Or for that matter, have greeters or ushers in the usual sense. And how will we present our offerings? And no fellowship hour? We certainly will have to ease into a new process of worship. But it won't last forever. and oh, just think of the opportunity to worship God in sight of each other.

Many of you who know me, know that if I see you from a distance, I will smile and wave. Not a big wave, but a rapid little wave of my hand. (Think of the emoji hand wave.) This will be our opportunity to greet one another with a smile, albeit under a mask, and wave.

Blessed with opportunity,
Debb Pearson, Worship Committee Chairperson



May 13, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,

As we watch how the world is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, there are some encouraging signs for us in the Desert Southwest Conference. Some indicators suggest that the “curve” of the spread of the virus may be flattening. Many who have been negatively impacted by the economic distress may see some relief as governments relax restrictions. News is emerging that the research into a vaccine is progressing. These signs hint at hope on the horizon.

At the same time, one of the key indicators cited by the CDC for a reopening has not yet been met. We have not seen a “downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period.” In fact, the numbers in both Nevada and Arizona demonstrate daily increases in the numbers of confirmed cases. As one would expect, the numbers of persons who are dying also continues to rise. There is concern that reopening too quickly may result in new outbreaks of infections.

This tells us that although we see hope on the horizon, we must continue to practice safe distancing, and we must continue the precautionary measures to protect ourselves, our families, our loved ones. These measures are making a positive difference in our effort to slow the devastation of COVID-19. We will continue the suspension of in-person worship gatherings of any size, including small groups to produce worship.

This suspension creates challenge for us, as we are by nature persons who practice our faith in community. We love to greet, hug, gather. So, it is difficult for us. But we are also persons of deep love for one another, and by continuing to observe the suspension, we are helping to get us to the moment when we can resume some gatherings. That day will come, but it is not yet here. Please continue to observe safe practices: stay at home, work from home, care for yourself if you do not feel well, practice physical distancing when you must be out of your homes, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently.

I celebrate that during this time of suspension a wide range of creative efforts has emerged. I ask you to keep finding ways to connect with each other to be the church in action. Some of these learnings will be critically important to us for the future. Keep checking for [resources](#) for help and support. Please continue to be patient and care for each other. Reach out into the community as you are able, especially to those in need. Participate in worship, invite others to share the joy of being the body of Christ, even at a distance.

Pray for safety for your families and loved ones, for those on the front lines who serve us in many ways, for the vulnerable at risk, for our children and families, for researchers and scientists rushing for a cure and a vaccine. Pray for those who are economically devastated.

And after prayer, let’s do whatever we can to bring hope, healing, and help in these most challenging times. We are called to be the church in these days. We are called to be a courageous church, loving like Jesus. May it be so!

In Christ’s love,
 Bishop Bob



Food Drive

Please remember our local food pantries with your donations of non-perishable food and financial gifts. With the arrival of hot summer temperatures, remember, water is also needed.

Our next food drive will be Saturday, June 6, from 8 to 10 in Fellowship Hall.



Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.

-1 Peter 5:7 (TLB)

LECTIONARY - YEAR A

JUNE	LECTIONARY YEAR A (2020)
June 7	Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
June 14	Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8
June 21	Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Psalm 17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
June 28	Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42



Rev Gary revgary@willowbrookumc.org
 Rev Steve revsteve@willowbrookumc.org
 Pastor Ruth ruthblum49@gmail.com
 Laurie Llineberry@dscumc.org
 Bev bev@willowbrookumc.org
 Betty betty@willowbrookumc.org
 Robb robb2mus@gmail.com
 Carol carol.virolainen@gmail.com

STAFF EMAILS

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO:

prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org

From the Valley View Food Bank Newsletter:

“At the end of October, Valley View’s food pantry moved to 10771 W. Peoria Avenue in Sun City. The location is along a bus route which makes it easier for people to access. The food bank is seeing as many as 500 clients per day, many of them who have never asked for help before. With the sudden cancellation of school and the shutting of many businesses for an unknown length of time, many people are struggling to provide basic survival necessities for children, grandchildren and themselves.

“But there is hope all around us! People have come forward with donations of resources of every description, from cash to canned goods, offers of trucks to use for deliveries and countless other goods and services. We are blessed, we are grateful and we are all in this together!”

There are many ways to help Valley View. As a church, all cash donations received during our monthly food drives are given to Valley View. If you shop on Amazon, you can go to “Smile.amazon.com” and choose Valley View Community Food Bank through the drop-down menu. A percentage of your purchase will be donated to Valley View.



www.WillowbrookUMC.org