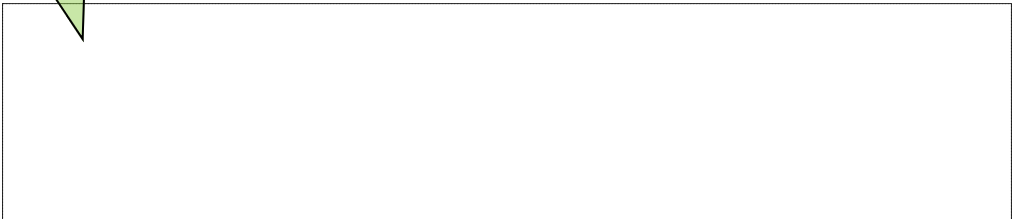




**WILLOWBROOK  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE  
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102

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



**CHECK WITH THE OFFICE TO SEE IF WE ARE BACK IN BUSINESS!**

**WEEKLY PRAYER & STUDY GROUPS**

Online only at this time.  
Check website or call church office for information.  
[www.willowbrookumc.org](http://www.willowbrookumc.org)

**CURRENT OFFICE HOURS**  
Mon-Fri—8:30 a.m.—NOON.



[www.willowbrookumc.org](http://www.willowbrookumc.org)

**CHECK TO SEE IF WE HAVE STARTED UP**

Sunday Worship  
[www.willowbrookumc.org](http://www.willowbrookumc.org)  
or  
Willowbrook Church on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/)



**DEADLINE FOR the February 2021  
Good News is January 8, 2020**

**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**



**January 2021 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](mailto:bev@willowbrookumc.org)

*The church office is open from 8:30 a.m. to Noon Monday-Friday. Other times 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](mailto:prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org).*

*Missing the January 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.*



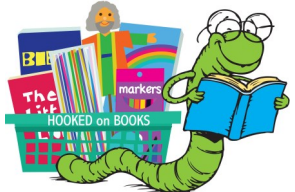
**Eat Healthy in 2021**

We love our volunteers—that goes without saying. But there is another way you can support POWWOW—**be a customer.** For \$12 you will receive up to 70 pounds of produce. That's enough for yourself and probably plenty to share with friends or neighbors in need.

Because of COVID-19 all distribution uses a drive-thru and pick up service. Enter Willowbrook's parking lot off Saddle Ridge Road, contribute \$12 cash, pull forward, and a volunteer will load your produce boxes into your car trunk.

You can even prepay by credit card. Go to: [borderlandsproducerescue.org/drive\\_up\\_and\\_take\\_away/](http://borderlandsproducerescue.org/drive_up_and_take_away/) Click on Willowbrook, and complete the payment information.

Either way, cash or credit we hope to see you at our upcoming markets in 2021. They are always held the first Saturday of the month.



Willowbrook's Book Club has begun meeting on Zoom with a new name! **HOOKED on BOOKS** wants more members! If you are interested, contact Nancy Prevost at [nancybp7@gmail.com](mailto:nancybp7@gmail.com) and she will send you a Zoom invitation before the next meeting.

Below is the list of books we will be discussing in the next few months so you can begin reading!  
January 28—*Camino Winds* by John Grisham  
February 25—*Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini

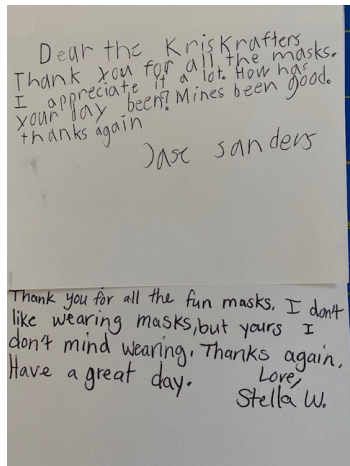


The Kris Krafters end 2020 with a great big "Thank You" to everyone who helped make this past year so unforgettable. Making and distributing over 4,000 face masks helped keep people safe while the Corona virus kept us at home.

Being at home meant time to finish projects, clean out and organize fabrics, yarn, supplies and notions. We received many bags of supplies which were used on current projects or donated to local charities.

We look forward to meeting again in Wilson Fellowship Hall when it is safe to gather again. If Kris Krafters can help or if you have a question, please contact:

Karen DeVerna 623-376-2578, Jane Hager 623-977-6222 or Cathy Hoben-Calhoun 602-702-8375



Left: Rhett & Carol Sears' grandchildren thank the Kris Krafters for their masks.



## Restoring Hope

by Pastor Gary Kennedy

“How can it get any worse?” “After a very challenging 2020, it has to get better in 2021, right?” We have all heard sentences like these. We seem to place a lot of hope on our calendars, that by simply picking up a new calendar, things will get instantly better. Well we all know that a calendar year simply gives us a framework for dealing with 365 days in one block.

Can the next 365 days be better than the last 365 days? Absolutely; and here is why I believe that. We learned a lot last year. We saw a lot of human nature at its best in spite of some pretty terrible circumstances. Christians learned how to be the church without going to church. Our church family learned early on in the shut-down to be the voice of God with neighbors, family and friends. We have learned to share ministry through video, YouTube, the webpage and through good old-fashioned one-on-one conversation.

A recent survey organization published that 2 out of 5 Christians were willing to share their church’s online worship services with a friend. Some of these folks might not have ever invited someone to a church building but have been willing to do some one-on-one, person-to-person outreach. The church is stronger than ever. Through social media many of our folks have invited family members across the country to worship with us on Sundays. Why? Because people find hope in God and when all else seems to disappoint, God offers hope. Scripture invites us to trust in God as we face the New Year.

“Refuse to worry about circumstances beyond your control. Remember, they are still in God’s control.”  
Jim George, article on trust

History witnessed the Communists in China trying to disband the church; they failed. Hitler’s Germany tried to abolish Christmas by creating a Yuletide holiday instead; Hitler failed. When God moves in the hearts of people; people change. When people change, communities change. When communities change, they overcome. I believe that 2021 will bring more opportunities for the people of God to shine. Remember that childhood song. “This little light of mine”, with the words, “this little light of mine I’m gonna let it shine.” Let your light shine a beam of hope. It’s contagious. Others will see and hope will be restored. Bring on 2021! We are looking forward to it!

Pastor Gary Kennedy

**Willowbrook Strong**



January 2021						
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 BIRTHDAYS (We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 4 Bob Bricker
- 7 Betty Failing
- 9 Vicky Pedersen
- 13 Lois Kelly
- 13 Bob Beier
- 13 Vonda Hidy
- 15 Rose Marie Bessant
- 17 Walter Hulden
- 18 Jim Jacobson
- 20 Mary Bailey
- 29 Bill Kozacek
- 29 Marge Greenhalge



Recently Roger Emerson celebrated his 95th birthday with his daughter, Nancy and his son, Hank.

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES (We Celebrate 50 years or more)

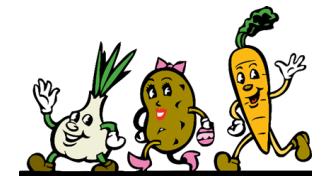
- 11 Aubrey & Louanne Ingles 51st
- 15 George & Cheryl Reed 55th
- 17 Frank & Nancy Stynen 60th
- 23 Robert & Alice Wilber Sr. 76th
- 26 Ron & Lois Leonard 58th
- 26 Bob & Wally Henry 53rd



### Good Samaritan

Did you see the interview with Mary Bailey in Westbrook Village Living magazine? If you have access to it, be sure and read it. If you don’t live in Westbrook Village, she “might” be willing to let you read hers. There is also a lovely picture of Mary with the article. Mary has lived at Westbrook Village for 31 years and she has been a Willowbrook member for 32 years.

(Summary of the article) She was blessed by a Kind Stranger who wound up paying for her order (on the sly) when the system had difficulty accepting her payment with a check. Thank you Kind Stranger for demonstrating kindness to our friend.



## Need a New Year Resolution? Volunteer for P.O.W.W.O.W.

Willowbrook will host our next POWWOW on Saturday, January 2 again using a drive-through pick-up model. We are open to the public from 8:00-11:00am.

We have two volunteer shifts. The early shift is from 7:00-9:00am and the second from 9:00-11:15am. To volunteer, please contact Liz Peck at [e.peck@zona.net](mailto:e.peck@zona.net).



[www.WillowbrookUMC.org](http://www.WillowbrookUMC.org)

## LECTIONARY - YEAR B

JANUARY	LECTIONARY YEAR B (2021)
January 1	Eccl 3:1-13; Ps 8; Rev 21:1-6a; Matt 25:31-46
January 3 Epiphany	Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12
January 10	Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
January 17	1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
January 24	Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
January 31	Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



## Notes of THANKS

Thank you for the beautiful flower delivered to me this morning. What a pleasant surprise. It made my day. I also want to thank all the ministers and office staff plus all those who have given so much of their time and talents and resources to keep the church alive during this trying time. Hope all of you have a blessed Christmas and pray next year will be better for all.

Olive Crowthers.

# OUTREACH



The dedication for the latest Habitat for Humanity house took place on October 17, 2020. The Gebrehiwot family is officially in their new home. Pastor Ann from Scottsdale UMC provided the blessing. There were 3 ceremonies in order to limit numbers for social distancing. Thank you to all who supported this outreach program financially.

The 2020-2021 home build is beginning. Even in these tough times, the Willowbrook Outreach Committee has made a commitment to continue to be part of the Methodist Coalition building program. As always, your continued support of this outreach program is greatly appreciated.



## UMCOR – United States Relief

Over the past few months, members of our congregation have made donations which totaled over \$2,500 to UMCOR's U.S. disaster relief program.

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary of UMCOR wrote:

"The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be –Thank you!"

"Through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms..." Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, and women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors."



Each month throughout the pandemic, our church has continued our tradition of holding a food drive the first weekend of the month. For those who may not be familiar, all food donations are given to the Salvation Army and monetary donations are given to Valley View Community Food Bank.

Jesse Ramirez, founder of Valley View Food Bank recently wrote:

"Thank you –Thank you –Thank you for your support of the Valley View Community Food Bank, we are so appreciative of you!"

"Your support continues to help feed "food insecure" people in our community in this scary unstable time in history, in which we are all living through, and are all affected by it in some way."

"As you continue to support us, as a team, we continue to give people hope. Hope that we all care about them."



This past January, Willowbrook held our first ever "Pillow Drive". Our goal was to donate pillows to homeless veterans throughout the year as the vets were placed into permanent housing. The outpouring of support for this program exceeded our expectations. Not only did we receive hundreds of pillows, we also received monetary donations. This gave us the opportunity to provide additional items to the vets throughout the year; items like, drinking glasses, toasters, cutting boards and silver wear. All of your gifts are so appreciated. On behalf of the Outreach Committee, we wish to again thank you for participating in the Pillow Drive.



**St. Mary's Food Bank** On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I participated in a telephone "zoom" meeting held by the CEO of St. Mary's Food Bank. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> zoom meeting I have participated in—I learn so much with each meeting. Here are just some of the highlights:

- St. Mary keeps about 22% of what they receive. The other 78% goes to local and regional food banks, agencies, and other outreach programs like Andre House. All agencies/ food banks receive donations free of charge.
- St. Mary's has a home delivery service for home bound seniors. Currently they service 12,000 households. Deliveries are completed by St. Mary employees.
- The requirements to receive assistance is set by DES (Dept. of Economic Security).
- The 3 days before Thanksgiving, St. Mary's distributed 11,000 food boxes. Each food box had 100 pounds of food.
- St. Mary needs volunteers. Volunteers need to register in advance in order to keep social distancing.
- They distribute "overnight" bags to the homeless. The bags contain food that can be consumed immediately—sandwiches, fruit, food in pop-top cans.
- They continue to service the Navajo Nation. There are 57 chapter houses on the reservation. Prior to the pandemic, St. Mary's only had relationships with 14 of those chapters. Now they service 53 of those chapters. This was the first Thanksgiving St. Mary's was able to supply turkeys to the reservation.
- There will be drop off locations during citrus season (January—March). They still will be gleaning fruit on the west side.
- Each year, on the First Tuesday of December, Barro's Pizza donates 100% of their proceeds (not profits) to St. Mary's. This year Barro's donated \$330,000 from their first Tuesday event. Something to remember the next time you order a pizza.

Liz Peck, 2020 Outreach Chairperson



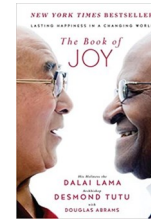
[www.willowbrookumc.org](http://www.willowbrookumc.org)



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

### JANUARY

Staff of Desert Southwest Conference  
Wesley & Golden Gates Community Centers  
Justa Center, Phoenix



## The Book of JOY

*"The world needs joy and compassion more than ever before—and who better than Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama to show us how it is done. This beautiful book takes us on the journey of their friendship and gives us the gift of their wisdom. A bright spot of hope and love in this world."*

—Sir Richard Branson

Join us for an 8 week discussion group on Zoom each Tuesday at 2:00 pm beginning January 12. Register by sending an email to [ruthblum49@gmail.com](mailto:ruthblum49@gmail.com). Once you register you will receive a class reading outline. You will need to order your own book available at Walmart for \$12.90.



## Christmas at UMOM

Thank you to the Willowbrook family for \$500 in donations to UMOM Auxiliary for Halle Center for Women during the month of November. There were also several donations of pajamas and throws. There have been more donations in December. I will report the total when I have one. We are truly blessed by the kindness and support from our Willowbrook family. Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year!

Ann Martin  
UMOM Ambassador & UMOM Auxiliary  
Questions: 480-215-5735



Please remember our local food pantries with your donations of non-perishable food and financial gifts. Remember, water is always needed.

**Our next food drive will be Saturday, January 2, from 8 to 10 in Fellowship Hall.**

**Many thanks to Ron Leonard who continues to be the point person in collection of food.**

## Angel's We Have Heard On High!



The Angel that is on top of the new Chrismon tree on the altar is in memory of Debbie Burmeister beloved daughter, sister and aunt.

Marilyn Burmeister,  
Pam and Troy Sanchez

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

### STAFF EMAILS

**SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO:**

[prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org](mailto:prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org)

## MEMORIAL WALK



The First Memorial Walk for Willowbrook was put together by Rev. Ruth Blum and assisted by Laurie Lineberry.

It was well received by family members and friends of those of our congregation who passed away in 2020.

A private family service was held following the Memorial Walk. Some family members flew in to be here for it.



## UMW Christmas Elves at Work!



Since they could not have the annual tea this year, the United Methodist Women busily prepared baskets and boxes of delicious (yes, I tasted some) cookies for sale to support mission projects. They also distributed many baskets and boxes to many of our shut-in members and friends. Thank you, ladies for all your hard work. You blessed many people with your selfless efforts.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION  
GOOD NEWS ARTICLE DEADLINES**

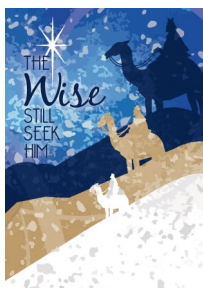
MONTH OF ISSUE	DEADLINE
January	December 4
February	January 8
March	February 8
April	March 8
May	April 8
June	May 7
July	June 7
August	July 8
September	August 6
October	September 7
November	October 8
December	November 5
January 2022	December 6

The United Methodist Women will continue to have their program on email. We may try a short ZOOM meeting. January is Pledge month so we will have the pledge service as well as a program from the program book.

The email program will be sent out January 18, 2021. The program titled *Knit Together Against Violence* will help us learn about the structural sin of racism and how it affects young women and girls through the experience of a young unnamed woman in scripture. We are then led to respond to God's call to love justice with our lives and action. This program counts towards our commitment to study LIVING THE CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE.

Pray that we can be together again soon. If anyone wants to receive the UMW program, please contact Nancy Prevost or Sue Marshall. ALL women are welcome to participate in whatever way they like.

**The Magi's Story—And Ours**



The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

—Travis Cunningham, tvresources.net



*Justa Note . . .*

Thank you for your on-going support of Justa Center. Stop by the center with donations twice a month between 8-11 AM.

The next collection drives are as follows:  
**For safety reasons, all NEW items.**

**Jan. 2nd & 16th** - January Needs Are As Follows:

8oz Styrofoam Cups, Regular Body Wash, Bath Towels, Washcloths, Ground Coffee, Individually-wrapped flatware kits, Toilet Paper, Shower Cleaner w/Bleach, Adult Activity Books, Men's Boxers & Briefs (Lg to 4X), Winter Coats and Cardigans, Rain Ponchos, Winter Hats & Scarves, Hoodies (all sizes), Leggings/Yoga Pants (all sizes)

If you do not wish to drive to Justa Center, collection boxes are available in the Willowbrook parking lot on Wednesdays between 10 AM & Noon. (the same time as our mid-week meal distribution).

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Justa Center has been selected as a charity beneficiary for the Birdies For Charity program at the 2021 Waste Management Phoenix Open! Simply pledge one cent or more for every birdie that will be made by the PGA TOUR players at the tournament, and Justa Center will receive 100% of the collected pledges. Make your pledge by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 7, 2021. Thank you for your support!

*I realized that no one can discover everything God is doing under the sun. Not even the wisest people discover everything, no matter what they claim.*



*Ecclesiastes 8:12 NLT*

**2021 Offering Envelopes**



Your 2021 offering envelopes are now available. You may pick them up in the church office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

Remember to start using the NEW envelopes January 3, 2021.



**MIDWEEK MEALS  
Continue in January.**

January 6	Ham & Cheesy Hashbrowns
January 13	Spaghetti & Meatballs
January 20	Ham & Bean Soup
January 27	Sloppy Joe

**Pick-up time changed to 10 am. to Noon**



Many of our congregation have lost loved ones this year and have asked about our GriefShare program.

While it is still not safe for our weekly GriefShare meetings we want you to know there are still resources available to help you through your grief.

Go to: [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) and sign up for FREE daily email devotions. These daily emails can be very comforting and supportive during this difficult time. While you are in the website, it is possible you will find other resources that will help you navigate through this process.

You wish to see; listen. Hearing is a step toward vision."  
—St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)



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

- Arminta Bye's son, Robert on November 4 in Portland OR
- Peggy Vise on November 25
- Steve Marshall's sister-in-law, Caroline on November 26
- Ken Mowry on November 27
- Janet & Jack Leach's daughter, Shawna O'Brien on November 15 in NC
- Doris Brann-Andrews on July 12
- Claude Elton on December 6 in TX



**Address/Email/  
Phone Changes**

Corinne Spicer

Ed Davey

Leroy & Verla Johnson

Martha Stromgren

Billie Gordon

John & Lori Wiggs

Jim & Lucille Jacobson

Dennis Arend

Irma Vance

Maxine Laun

Contact the church office to update your records.  
623-974-5637



**Food  
Collection**

**Saturday, January 2, 2021**

In Wilson Hall from  
8:00-10:00 a.m.  
Non-perishable food  
& water or cash



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

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Helen Duke        | Amethyst Arbor           |
| • Richard Ceser     | Amethyst Gardens         |
| • Mary Dutka        | Amethyst, The Inn        |
| • Dorothy Zimmerman | Anna's Assisted Living   |
| • Martha Stromgren  | Annie's Care Home NEW    |
| • Doris Olson       | Beatitudes               |
| • Dot Habkirk       | Brookdale Union Hills    |
| • Judy Neiman       | EnClave@Chandler         |
| • Robert Nelson     | Family Matters Care      |
| • Mary Banks        | Freedom Plaza, The Inn   |
| • Alice Bacon       | Legends Senior Living    |
| • Fern McKnight     | Sagewood Assisted Living |
| • Hazel Probio      | SC West Assisted Living  |
| • Dennis Arend      | NEW                      |
| • Larry Hudson      | Woodmark                 |