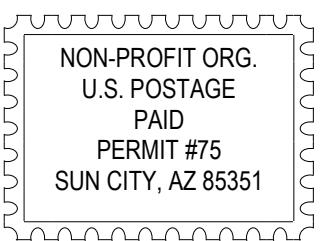




**WILLOWBROOK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102**



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

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

CHECK TO SEE IF WE HAVE STARTED UP

Sunday Worship

www.willowbrookumc.org

or
[YouTube Sun City AZ](#)



**DEADLINE FOR the May 2021
Good News is April 8, 2021**

April 2021

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



April 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

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.

*Missing the April 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.*



KRIS KRAFTERS

**Kris Krafters
Welcome Spring!**

Spring is a glorious time as we celebrate Easter! Spring is also a time for renewal. We are happy to announce that planning has begun for the 2021 Holidaze Craft Faire. It is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 5 & 6, 2021. Mark your calendars and start planning and crafting holiday gifts.

Love to quilt? Do you know someone who does and needs a project? The Kris Krafters have a dozen quilt tops that need to be finished.

Cleaning out your craft area or sewing room? The Kris Krafters are happy to take donations of yarn, thread, sewing notions, cotton and fleece fabric. We share donations with other local charities if we cannot use them for our projects.

If you wish to donate or you have any questions, please contact one of the following Kris Krafter leaders:

Karen DeVerna at 623-376-2578

Jane Hager at 623-977-6222

Cathy Hoben Calhoun at 602-702-8375.

**Holidaze
Craft Faire**

Save the Date!

Holidaze Craft Faire

Friday and Saturday

November 5th and 6th, 2021



REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

The Disciple III class was asked to write a letter to the church in the style of Paul. Here are two examples randomly chosen to bring you all encouragement:

To the Willowbrook congregation, peace be with you.

We thank God for all of His blessings and the opportunities that this church has given us. It is a joy to be involved in His work. May we walk in faith as we continue to face the difficulties of the pandemic. Pray for all of His people and encourage them to stand firm in their faith. Our protection is the armor of God.

Psalm 121, verse 1 and 2 says, “I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from ? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”

Rejoice in the Lord always.

* * * *

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give grace and peace to you the members of Willowbrook Church.

We live in harmony united with love and gentle spirit. We thank God every day and not to worry, but to rejoice in the Lord. God will keep you strong until the end and He offers comfort to all. I ask you to take your faith to another level. Seek the Lord, seek for God and search for God.

Give thanks to God, spread the good news and His love will overflow. Live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns.

In closing, know that God is love and greet everyone with a holy kiss. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



Forever Linked Politics and faith

Luke 2:1

by Pastor Gary Kennedy

E. Michael and Sharon Rusten have compiled a daily devotional based on events in Christian world history. The book is entitled, *The One Year Christian History, A Daily Glimpse into God's Powerful Work*. I highly recommend this book for both its contributions to History/Politics and to Faith. It is a reminder that people of faith and strong conviction have impacted history in mighty and significant ways. It is also a call for people of faith to voice the importance and relevance of faith stories in today's world as well. It is a bold declaration that even though loud voices in our world today declare faith irrelevant, history has shown over and again that, not only do voices of faith speak words of truth for believers, those words of truth bring insight and wisdom for all.

One of the devotions in the book is the story of Julius Caesar. His wife had a dream the night before his assassination where she saw him covered with blood and she begged him not to go to the Senate. Well, you know the story. His “friend”, Brutus urged him to go and Julius Caesar listened to Brutus instead of his wife and was ambushed and killed by Brutus and others when he got to the Senate. What you may not remember is that before his death Julius Caesar had selected his grand-nephew Gaius Octavian to be heir to the throne. Gaius Octavian had earned the admiration of Julius Caesar because of his impressive leadership during a series of Italian civil wars. Julius Caesar adopted him as his son and named him heir. What followed in Roman history was a power struggle, where others attempted to gain control of Rome. Mark Antony and Cleopatra are among those who fought against Gaius Octavian. Gaius Octavian succeeded, and the Roman Senate celebrated his victory by changing his name when they awarded him the title of “Caesar Augustus”. Does that name sound familiar?

“And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.” (Luke 2:1, KJV). All of history would forever link the names of a mighty Caesar with a baby described in Luke 2, that we would come to know as Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is also ironic that Caesar Augustus would never refer to himself as a god or deity, but he declared his adopted father Julius Caesar a deity. The Caesars after Caesar Augustus would declare themselves gods and for that reason, as history reveals, many believers in Jesus Christ would be put to death for not worshipping the Caesars. Christian belief holds that there is only one God and all of Biblical history teaches us to have no other gods.

History saw the most unexpected shift when people of faith not only survived that persecution under the Romans, but eventually saw the first Christian emperor come to the throne when Constantine came to power. History has shown that politics shift, but our God is the same yesterday, today and forever. We had best remember that!

Pastor Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Hazel Probio |
| 9 | Roy Meyer |
| 24 | Les Phillips |
| 24 | Wilber Robert Sr. |
| 28 | Betty Beier |

APRIL

Anniversaries

(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|------|
| 9 | Carole & Ernie Pearce | 61st |
| 12 | Carol & Richard Jenkins | 58th |
| 22 | Larry & Shelby Wilson | 64th |
| 27 | Richard & Michele Meyer | 52nd |
| 28 | Jerry & Lorna Hermanek | 59th |
| 30 | Duane & Cheryl Kurth | 55th |

Thank you

Thank you

How can we thank our Willowbrook family enough for the wonderful send off to our next life's adventure in Wisconsin?! The exciting Hot Air Balloon Ride, so many beautiful cards with kind words, the fun drive-by for a final (for now) farewell, and then such a surprise to receive the most generous remaining money from the balloon ride donations. We will be donating a portion, but will purchase something special to remind us of our Willowbrook friends. We shall miss you all, but look forward to more time with family; and then a trip to sunny Arizona when the weather here calls our names.

Hugs and God's Blessings,
Bob & Barb Christie
2601 Touchmark Drive Unit 131
Appleton WI 54914-8786

April Calendar

(Items listed come from the main church calendar.)

- 3:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
8:00-11:00 a.m. P.O.W.W.O.W.
8:00-10:00 a.m. Food Collection
9:30 a.m. Easter Services
11:00 a.m. Easter Services
9:00 a.m. Staff-Parish ZOOM
1:00 p.m. Worship ZOOM
2:30 p.m. Trustees ZOOM
3:00 p.m. Outreach ZOOM
9:00 a.m. Church Council ZOOM



A Note of Thanks to Willowbrook,

Thank you! I wish to thank everyone who sent me Birthday Cards, who called me on the phone with well-wishes and the many contributions of cakes and prepared food. My 91st birthday was one of Joy and Thankfulness. There is a saying that goes like this, "Lord how time flies." My response to this is, "Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to fly with the time." Love, *Mary Bailey*

Mary Bailey



HART PANTRY

The basic mission of Helping At Risk Teens (HART) Pantry is to provide weekend food bags to teens who are homeless or living in a situation with no adult support. When a teen is barred from their home, where do they go? What a frightening prospect!

If they are in school, we want to keep them in school. Therefore HART Pantry also provides basic clothing, toiletries, school supplies and refurbished bikes to get them to school and work. Working with our community partners, we sometimes help the teenagers find jobs and access to social welfare programs.

When a teen suddenly has no family support, we want to be there to help. We try to make sure they know they are not alone; make sure they graduate and find employment or job training. This involvement with the teens helps not only the teen but society as well.

To this end, HART Pantry works with area churches and Eve's Place (a 501 (c) 3 charity) to reach out to the community. They also work with local school counselors to identify vulnerable teens to aid them with individual needs.

The weekend food bags provide single serving, shelf stable easy open foods. We also provide fresh bread and fruit when possible. In addition, we are able to help At-Risk-Teens find confidence and a sense of belonging in school teams or music programs by providing uniforms, musical instruments or other equipment necessary to allow them to participate in these opportunities.

HART Pantry began in 2011 as a mission of First Presbyterian Church of Peoria, AZ. Now HART Pantry maintains its faith-based connections and partners.

Current HART Pantry Needs:

Peanut Butter (10-16 oz. jars)
Protein Bars
Toaster Pastries
Pudding or Fruit Cups
Juice Boxes
Ramen Noodles
Assorted Canned Pasta

To donate contact Ann Martin: 623-974-3444

Your Church Council at Work



The church council is composed of the chairs of each church committee or a committee representative in the absence of the Chair, who vote on actionable items.

Points of interest from the February 26 meeting are:

- The church is receiving bids on getting equipment to live stream services.
- The resurfacing of the parking lot is almost complete and restriping will begin soon.
- Russ Koan is working on air circulation in the sanctuary for the reopening of services.
- Pastor Gary reported the church has resubmitted a reopening document to the conference. Pastor Gary emphasized Willowbrook is still doing ministry even though the church hasn't been open for services. He stated, "The Lord has worked through our people. We are Willowbrook Strong 2021 and Beyond".

ANDREW PHONE MINISTRY

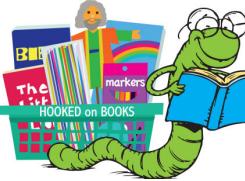
Do you know someone without a computer who would like to receive a recorded message of encouragement from the pastor each Sunday morning on their phone? Simply have them call the church office to ask that their name be added to the Andrew list. 623-974-5637



The first full weekend of each month is Food Bank collection day; food for Salvation Army and cash for Valley View Community Food Bank.

Our next food drive will be Saturday, April 3, 2021 from 8 to 10 in Fellowship Hall.

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



Hooked on Books

Willowbrook Book Club meets on Zoom! Usually we meet on the fourth Thursday at 1:30pm! If you are interested in being a part of HOOKED ON BOOKS, contact Nancy Prevost and she will send you a Zoom invitation before the next meeting. Nancybp7@gmail.com

We have a great group and we are looking forward to being in person where we can meet some of the new people face to face. (or mask to mask)

Below are the books we are discussing for the next few months:

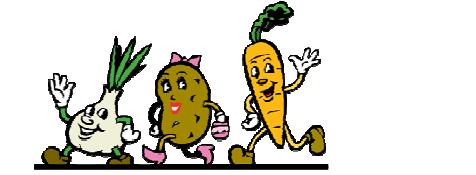
March 25—*The Book of Two Ways* by Jodi Picoult
April 22—*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek: A Novel* by Kim Michele Richardson
May 27—*The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
June 24—*The Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner



www.WillowbrookUMC.org

LECTIONARY - YEAR B

| APRIL | LECTIONARY YEAR B (2021) |
|-----------------------|---|
| April 1 Maundy Thurs. | Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35 |
| April 2 Good Friday | Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Ps 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1-19:42 |
| April 3 Holy Sat. | Job 14:1-14; Ps 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matt 27:57-66 OR John 19:38-42 |
| April 4 Easter | Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 OR Mark 16:1-8 |
| April 11 | Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133; 1 John 1:1-2 John 20:19-31 |
| April 18 | Acts 3:12-19; Ps 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48 |
| April 25 | Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18 |



Volunteer for P.O.W.W.O.W.

Willowbrook will again host a produce market still using the drive-by method from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 3. Remember it only costs \$12 for up to 70 pounds of produce. If you choose the prepay method, the cost is \$13.

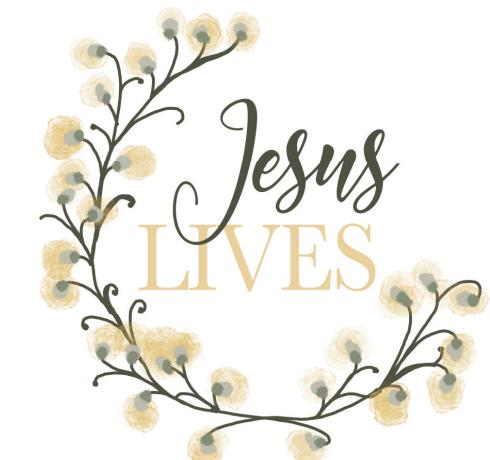
We need volunteers to help with our next POWWOW. There are two volunteer shifts.

The early shift is from 6 to 8:15am and the second from 8 to 10:15am. To volunteer, please contact Liz Peck at e.peck@zona.net.

Produce On Wheels With - Out Waste (P.O.W.W.O.W.)
7th Annual Produce Season
[@borderlandsproduce](https://www.facebook.com/borderlandsmarket)

**The Original \$12 for up to 70 Lbs.
No Income or Residential Qualifications Required**
Fresh Produce
www.borderlandsproducerescue.org

Willowbrook United Methodist Church



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

APRIL

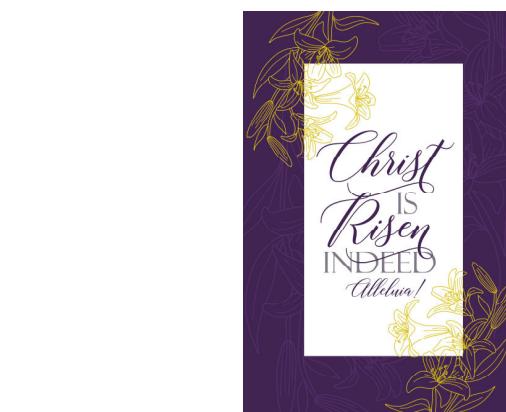
Epworth UMC, Phoenix
Faith UMC, Phoenix
First UMC, Glendale



The United Methodist Women will meet on Monday, April 19th. More information will follow.

Remember, due to popular demand, the United Methodist Women have reprinted the UMW Legacy Cookbook and we have more copies for sale. Check in the church office or contact Sue Marshall for more information. smarshall92@cox.net

The United Methodist Women are still collecting Bibles and devotional materials for UMOM. Bibles for distribution at the center are running low. In fact, the requests for Bibles are higher than their current supply. Are you able to donate a supply of Bibles, including children's Bibles, for UMOM's clients? Also, if you subscribe to the Upper room, consider donating your out-of-date Upper Room resources to UMOM.



*Justa
center*

Justa Note . . .

Thank you for your continued support of Justa Center either with monetary or physical donations. [Bring NEW donations to the center at 1001 W Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007 twice a month between 8-11 AM.](#) If you plan on delivering directly, please call 602-254-6524.

April 8 and 17 bring NEW items:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8oz Styrofoam Cups | Ground Coffee |
| Regular Body Wash | Toilet Paper |
| Shower Cleaner w/Bleach | Bath Towels |
| Adult Activity Books | Bath Washcloths |
| Individually-wrapped flatware kits | Mens' Boxers & Briefs (Lg to 4X) |
| Leggings/Yoga Pants (all sizes) | |

If you have donations but cannot deliver to Justa Center, contact Ann Martin, 623-974-3444.



Good News from P.A.P.!

The Valley of the Sun YMCA in Phoenix now provides free rides for seniors to their COVID-19 vaccination appointments in Maricopa County. You must be aged 65+ and have a vaccine appointment to qualify for a free ride.

Register for your vaccine appointment. Maricopa County seniors can find local vaccination sites at www.maricopa.gov/5659/covid-19-vaccines-locations



WILLOWBROOK E-NEWS & SUNDAY SERMON

Have you been receiving weekly updates from the church during the pandemic? Have you been receiving the online worship service?

If you would like to receive them in your email, send me an email with your request. Provide your email address, phone number and name.

Betty Shepherd betty@willowbrookumc.org



www.willowbrookumc.org

Address/Email/Phone Changes

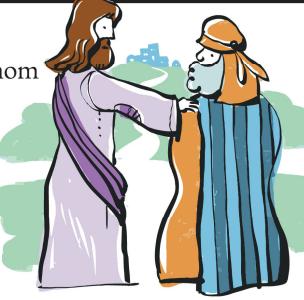


Check with office for changes

Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)



Saturday, April 3, 2021
In Wilson Hall from 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Non-perishable food & water or cash



STAFF EMAILS

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO:
prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org



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

- Mary Banks' sister, Ida Holt on February 18 in New York
- Barbara Hall on February 24



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

- Mary Banks
 - Richard Ceser
 - Helen Duke
 - Dot Habkirk
 - Larry Hudson
 - Muriel Lundy
 - Joanna Lynn
 - Fern McKnight
 - Judy Neiman
 - Robert Nelson
 - Doris Olson
 - Hazel Probio
 - Martha Stromgren
 - Dorothy Zimmerman
- Freedom Plaza, The Inn
Garden Ridge
Arbor Ridge
Brookdale Union Hills
Woodmark
The Palms Assisted Living
Guardian Care Home
Sagewood Assisted Living
EnClave@Chandler
Family Matters Care
Beatitudes
Sun City West Assist Living
Annie's Care Home
Anna's Assisted Living