



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

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January 2022 Issue

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

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.



WEEKLY PRAYER & STUDY GROUPS		
MON	Lectionary Study	11:00 am—Library Lounge
MON	Intercessory Prayer	2:00 pm—Library Lounge
WED	GriefShare	9:30 am—Library Lounge
WED	Disciple 4	1:00 pm—Fellowship Hall
WED	Write Your Story	2:00 pm—Conference Room
SAT	Disciple 1	3:00 pm—Library Lounge

CURRENT OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday—8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

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 YouTube WillowbrookUMC



DEADLINE FOR the FEBRUARY 2022
Good News is January 4, 2022



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
Lois Hedden—Pastor of Visitation
Laurie Lineberry—Director of Laity
Rev. Jon Ierley—Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Robb Butler—Music Director
Carol Virolainen—Worship Musician
Loretta Nash—Sabbath Musician
Nicholas Capatch—Live Stream
Russ Koan—Lay Leader



Fidget Mats?

KRIS KRAFTERS What kind of help do people with Alzheimer's or dementia need? The Kris Krafters invite anyone interested in finding out to come to their meeting on Thursday, January 6 in Wilson Fellowship Hall.

The guest speaker at 10:00am will be Carly Keenan, who will share her expertise and will answer questions about the many forms of dementia with us.

Carly is a dementia and Alzheimer's patient advocate employed by Solace Hospice. She has a Master's Degree in Dementia and Aging Studies in addition to another Master's Degree in Psychology. She has worked in health care for over 15 years. Her emphasis is on helping reduce anxiety and frustration for those dealing with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

She will bring examples of "fidget mats" and "twiddle sleeves" that can be knitted, crocheted, and sewn. What a wonderful project to start the new year!

Our Church Family

It has been an especially exciting time at Willowbrook over the past three months as we have been able to come back together as a congregation to worship God. In October we enjoyed a wonderful homecoming celebration where we began to welcome familiar faces and for the first time in nearly two years, welcome new members.

During November, our month of thanksgiving, we gratefully greeted more familiar faces and added more new members. We also took time to thank our pastors for their dedication and ministry.

Throughout December, we celebrated coming home for Christmas and we enjoyed welcoming even more familiar faces. We invited new folks to join us, and continued to grow with the addition of more new members.

Willowbrook is blessed with a church family that comes from all over the United States and Canada. We invite you all to "flag" your "home" on the church family map located in Wilson Fellowship Hall.

As 2022 begins, let's continue our excitement as we gather with our growing church family to praise our Lord who has brought us all together to form Willowbrook Strong!

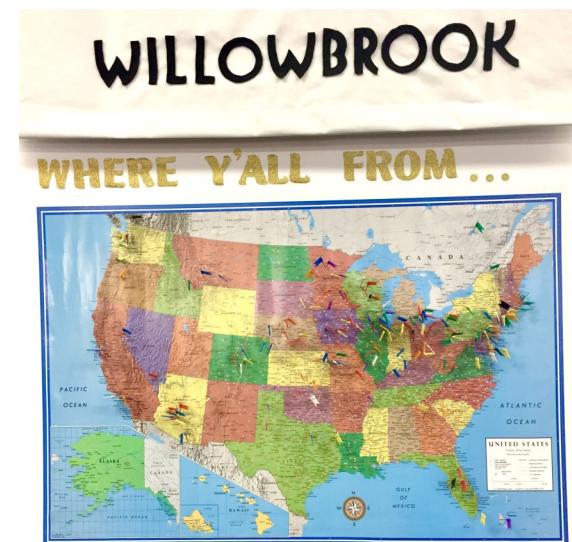
Writing Your Life Story



Join this class to meet people, have fun and write your special story. Generations to come will appreciate reading family history rather than a history text book.

Come to Willowbrook United Methodist Church Conference Room Wednesday afternoons 2:00-4:00 p.m.

For more information contact Marge Starkey.





Gems for the New Year

New Year's resolutions and goals are not necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes you might hear someone say something like, "resolutions only lead to failures," or "resolutions are only good for about two weeks." Well, perhaps we speak out of experience. Sometimes by the end of January we have forgotten what our resolutions were. They don't have to be actions of failure however. Maybe with some structure around our resolutions we can use goals to help measure positive steps. Think about this quote:

"People with clear, written goals, accomplish more in a shorter period of time than people without them could ever imagine." -Brian Tracy

In the book, *The Daniel Plan* someone said this about Pastor Rick Warren:

"As Pastor Warren often says, you cannot manage what you do not measure. Journaling your progress is practical, and as you make progress, you will be motivated to continue." -Daniel Plan p. 259

Other motivational quotes that we might use in starting out a new year come from the sports world and from some pretty successful people.

"Success is never final, failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts." -John Wooden

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships." -Michael Jordan

Thomas Edison once said, *"There is no substitute for hard work."* This may be true, but to all of these quotes I want to add the importance of including God in whatever plans, goals or resolutions we come up with. I think the Spirit of God just might be the "nudge" we feel to step out and tackle something new. Let me leave you with this one verse that needs to be added to whatever plan we choose to pursue. It is from Proverbs 3:6.

"In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success."

Happy New Year!

See you in church,

Pastor Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong

BYOB in your favorite flavor. . .

That is **Bring Your Own Bible** in your favorite translation to the Monday morning Lectionary Bible Study. This is in the Library Lounge, and everyone is welcome.

Each time is unique, so come when you can. We will be reading and discussing the Lections for the upcoming Sunday. The Study is for one hour, so we will be done at noon. Everyone is welcome, no bible knowledge necessary to come and learn. Those with great knowledge are also welcome to come and share with the group.

MONDAY 11:00am



Hooked on Books

Join us in the Library Lounge at 1:30 pm usually on the 4th Thursday. [Except November.] Wear a mask if you are more comfortable.

Books we are discussing:
Jan 27 *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis
Contact Nancy Prevost for more information.



The weekly readings for January are:		
January 3rd	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Acts 8: 14-17	Psalm 29 Luke 3:15-17 Luke 3: 21-22
January 10th	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Psalm 36:5-10 John 2:1-11
January 17th	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 30 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Psalm 19 Luke 4:14-21
January 24th	Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Psalm 71:1-6 Luke 4:21-30
January 31st	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Psalm 138 Luke 5:1-11



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

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



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- 11 Aubrey & Louanne Ingles 52nd
- 15 George & Cheryl Reed 56th
- 17 Frank & Nancy Stynen 61st
- 26 Ron & Lois Leonard 59th
- 26 Bob & Wally Henry 54th

Many thanks to all who helped make our Christmas tea a success which helps with our mission donation. It takes many hands to make this come together but it was truly gratifying after the last year of losses and separation.

We awarded six mission pins to women who exemplify service to UMW and the Church. We had a few years to catch up on. Pins were presented to Marilee Reetz, Shirley Fisher, Cheryl Reed, Nancy Prevost, Roberta Kemper and Barb Christie

January 9th will be United Methodist Women Sunday. Our guest speaker will be Christine Jones. Christine is a full-time mother, a full-time teacher, and a full-time follower of Christ. She is the Vice President of the West District United Methodist Women and is working to become a local pastor. Her interest in UMW comes naturally as she is the granddaughter of Olive Norris, who once worked at Willowbrook and may be remembered by many of you.

January 17th will be our first unit meeting of 2022. The Pledge to Mission service will be conducted after a bring-your-own lunch at 12 noon hosted by the Martha circle. We will recognize Martin Luther King, Jr. and enjoy some fellowship time with games.

The retreat we worked on for March 2020 is finally coming to fruition! Come enjoy a spiritual, fun, exciting day filled with singing, crafts, beautiful scenery for reflection and prayer. And we will learn the significance of how flowers are portrayed in scripture!

What: Willowbrook UMW Retreat

When: March 19, 2022

Where: The Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant, 41402 N 87th Avenue, Peoria, AZ

Times: 9:00am-4:00pm

Theme: Promise of Flowers

Facilitator: Rev. Ruth Blum

Cost: \$40.00 per person (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Cut-off date is Friday, March 7, 2022

For Information contact Cheryl Reed: or Nancy Prevost

All church women are welcome.

Happy New Year ♥ *Happy New Year* ♥ *Happy New Year*

Feed the Hungry



Justa Center, located in downtown Phoenix, provides life-sustaining resources, services, and support to homeless seniors. On Friday, January 28th, Willowbrook will be providing a hot lunch for Justa Center clients.

Starting January 15th, there will be volunteer sign-up sheets following Saturday and Sunday services for those who would like to serve the meal. We will meet at the church at 9:30am to form car-pools and leave by 9:45am.

Purchase the altar flowers for a worship service to honor the life or memory of a loved one.



1. Find the Flower Book in the narthex
2. Write your name, your loved one's name, the occasion and the date you would like to have the altar flowers presented.
3. Bring or mail your check for \$45 marked "flowers" to the office or place in the offering plate.



Ministry of Acolytes

The Holy Spirit is symbolized by the flame. It is based upon the Acts 2 description of the Holy Spirit residing on the Apostles as tongues of fire. When the fire enters or leaves the Sanctuary, it is a symbolic declaration that God's Holy Spirit is moving in or out of the place of worship. An Acolyte is a carrier of the light, a herald of the Holy Spirit, a leader of worship, an example of holiness; a garbed symbol of church leadership, and a member of a team of dedicated women and men.

Perhaps God is nudging you toward this ministry for one Sunday each month, except summer. If so, please contact Thelma Muse.

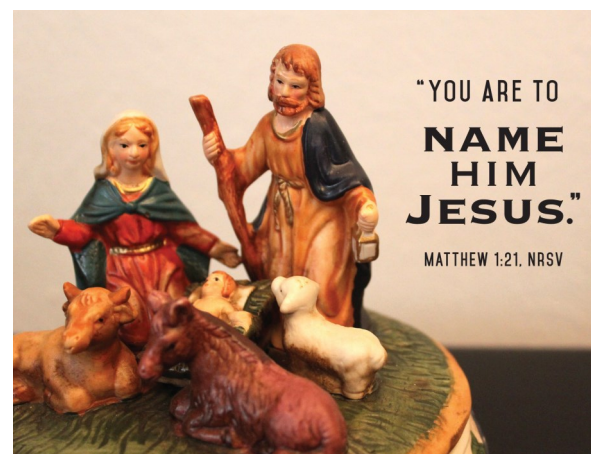
What's in a Name?

As the U.S. evacuated thousands from Afghanistan in August 2021, an Afghan woman gave birth on a plane. She named her daughter Reach — the name of the aircraft that brought her family to safety.

Many people name their children after loved ones or special events; a child born on Christmas might be called Noel or Holly. In Bible times, too, names often had meanings: Eve likely means "mother of all living"; Abraham, "father of many"; Isaac, "laughter." Moses is a play on words with the Hebrew for "draw out" because Pharaoh's daughter drew him from the Nile.

Of course, the most important biblical name is Jesus, which means "The Lord saves." As the angel told Joseph, "[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21, ESV). The Christian church traditionally celebrates Name of Jesus on January 1. But every day, as we pray in Jesus' name, we remember that what's in this name is the salvation God offers to all.

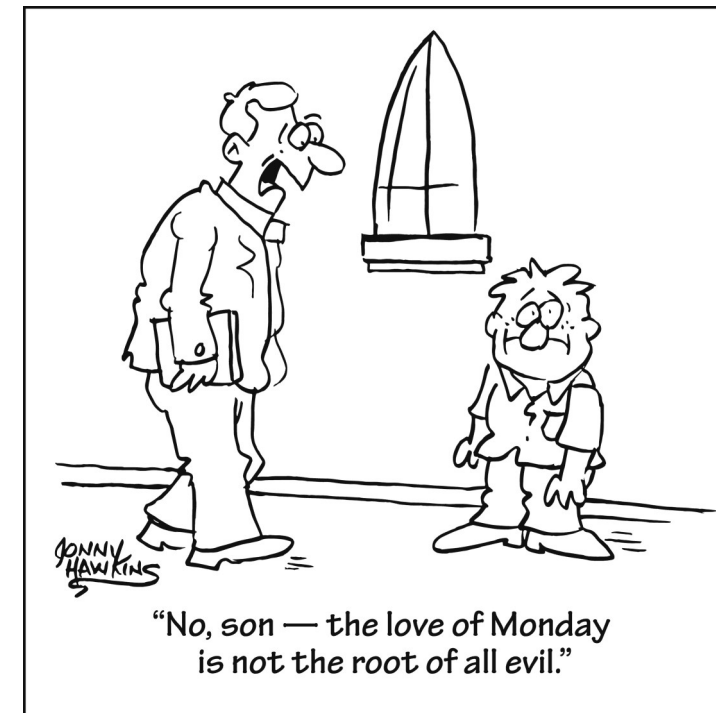
—NewsletterNewsletter



The first weekend of each month we collect food for Salvation Army and cash for Valley View Community Food Bank.

Our next food drive will be January 1 at the Sabbath Service January 2 in Fellowship Hall.

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



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

JANUARY

Ajo Federated Church, Ajo
Calvary UMC, Phoenix
Chino Valley UMC

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO:

prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org



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

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Richard Ceser | Garden Ridge |
| • Helen Duke | Arbor Ridge |
| • Dot Habkirk | Brookdale Union Hills |
| • Joanna Lynn | Guardian Care Home |
| • Fern McKnight | Sagewood Assisted Living |
| • Judy Neiman | EnClave@Chandler |
| • Robert Nelson | Family Matters Care |
| • Doris Olson | Beatitudes |
| • Martha Stromgren | Annie's Care Home |
| • Dorothy Zimmerman | Anna's Assisted Living |

DISCIPLE BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Disciple I

- A thirty-four-week study for adult groups
- Moves through the Biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem (Genesis – Revelation)
- Features small-group discussion of Scripture based on careful study and preparation
- Aims at transformation, not just information
- Completion of Disciple I is the prerequisite to all other Disciple Bible Studies

DISCIPLE INTO THE WORLD, INTO THE WORLD

Disciple II

- A thirty-two-week study of Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts
- Continues the familiar Disciple format
- Teaches basic study skills for going deeper into Scripture
- Links Bible study to witness and service in the world
- Emphasizes the practice of spiritual disciplines & keeping the Sabbath

DISCIPLE REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Disciple III

- A thirty-two-week study of the Prophets and Paul's letters
- Identifies God's people as a community of memory
- Sets the Prophets and Paul's writings in historical and geographical context
- Includes helpful maps and charts to make Biblical history come alive

DISCIPLE UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE

Disciple IV

- A thirty-two-week study of the Writings (Old Testament books such as Psalms, Proverbs, etc.) and the Gospel of John and Revelation
- Final study in the four-phase Disciple Bible Study
- Addresses community and the individual life
- Taps into the power of the Psalms with a psalm of the week
- Shows the distinctive character of the Gospel of John

Disciple Classes Beginning!

Many of you have been waiting for the opportunity to learn and be involved in Disciple classes. They are finally beginning in January! Don't miss out!

Disciple I facilitated by Laurie Lineberry, will begin meeting on Saturdays at 3:00pm. Books will be ordered after registration. The book cost is \$16. Orientation meeting is on January 8th at 3:00pm.

Disciple IV facilitated by Patricia Ross, will be meeting on Wednesdays at 1:00pm. Orientation meeting is on January 5th at 1:00pm. Books will be ordered after registration. The book cost is \$33.

You will receive your book at your orientation meeting.



HAND OF GOD—This symbolizes God the Father, as well as his ownership and care of all creation. During the Christian church's first 800 years, the hand was about the only symbol used for God. Many Bible verses speak of God's loving, protective hand (Psalm 138:7; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 1 Peter 5:6). In heaven, Jesus sits at God's right hand (Mark 16:19).



The clergy staff at Willowbrook would like to thank the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Willowbrook Congregation for the wonderful expressions of appreciation for the "pastors" on Sunday, November 28th after the worship service. The kind words, cards and donuts were all appreciated.

* * * * *

Rev. Gary and Debbie Kennedy express their appreciation to the Willowbrook congregation for all the expressions of care while they both had COVID. Gary is especially grateful for the clergy, staff and church members who filled in for him in various ways during his absence.

* * * * *

To All My Prayer Warriors:
What a wonderful surprise to find all your beautiful cards in my mailbox over the past few months.

I am feeling much better & I permanently moved here the end of October. What a blessing to be here with my family!

Thank you again for all your prayers & concerns.

Much Love ,
Pam Sanchez
* * * * *

Thank you from the heart to the Willowbrook congregation and friends who donated monetary gifts, needs, and clothing to Justa Center, Wesley Center, HART Pantry, & UMOM Halle Center for Women. What a joy just to know that so many people from kids to seniors, were smiling during the holiday season.

Blessings to all of you for a Happy & Healthy new year,
Ann Martin
Outreach Committee



Kris Krafters Have Been Busy!

If you were in Wilson fellowship one of the weeks prior to the holidays, you would have seen 25 Kris Krafters hard at work knitting, crocheting and sewing. But the most effort went to packing up a year's work of handcrafted items.

Nineteen large black bags were stuffed full of hats, sweaters, scarves, blankets, quilts, and much more.

Arrangements were made to deliver the bags to these eight charities in time for Christmas giving:

- Navajo Nation
- UMOM
- Justa Center
- Habitat for Humanity
- Luke Air Force Base child development center
- Veterans furniture center
- Benevilla daycare and adult daycare
- Alzheimer's care and support

Thank you again for your help and support! Each charity appreciates the gifts provided by the Kris Krafters and the members of Willowbrook.

Kris Krafters meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:00am in Wilson Fellowship Hall. They welcome new members!



We are familiar with the General Caregivers Support group sponsored by Benevilla that meets live and on ZOOM at Willowbrook on the 1st and 3rd Thursday.

Did you know there are many more support groups offered by Benevilla?

Memory Care Caregivers meet every Tuesday at Faith Presbyterian Church, in Sun City.

Parkinson's Caregivers meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at Bellevue Heights Church in Sun City.

Adult Children Caregivers meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Church @ Cactus Road, Peoria.

Royal Oaks General Caregivers meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Royal Oaks Life Plan Community Chapel, Sun City.

Bereavement meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Sun City West.

Ambiguous Loss/Grief meets on Wednesdays at St. Clement of Rome Church in Sun City.

For meeting times and ZOOM information call Stephanie Lamb at 623-584-4999.



GriefShare is a nationally known support group for people grieving loss through death. Using a video featuring experts on grief, along with

a workbook and group discussion we help each other sort through those erratic emotions and peaks and valleys.

Each session is "self-contained" so you can attend any time you want and you do not have to attend in sequence. No matter when you begin, you will find encouragement. You do not have to be a member of, or attend, the church to be a part of the *GriefShare* program.

The repeating *GriefShare* schedule at Willowbrook is:

Jan	5	Complicating Factors
Jan	12	Stuck
Jan	19	Lessons of Grief—Part One
Jan	26	Lessons of Grief—Part Two
Feb	2	Heaven
Feb	9	What Do I Live for Now?

GriefShare meets each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Library Lounge.

January

December 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	

February 2022						
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 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
2 COMMUNION 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	3 NEW YEAR HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am UMW Team Mtg—WFH	4 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	5 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple 4—WFH 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	6 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregivers—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	7 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—CR	8 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
9 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—CR	10 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 9:30 am Martha Circle—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	11 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	12 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	13 9:00 am Trustees—CR	14 5:00 pm Youthful Srs Event—WFH	15 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
16 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—CR	17 MLK HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 pm UMW Unit Meeting—WFH	18 9:30 am Evangel/Membership—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	19 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 11:30 am Kitchen Committee—CR 1:00 pm Disciple 4—WFH 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	20 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregivers—LL 1:30 pm Book Club—LL 2:30 pm Outreach Committee—CR	21	22 NEW MEMBERS 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
23 NEW MEMBERS 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 4:00 pm Indian Wells FG—WFH	24 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	25 9:00 am Church Council—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	26 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple 4—WFH 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	27	28 9:00 am Finance Committee—CR	29 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
30 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	31 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL					