

WILLOWBROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102 NON-PROFIT ORG.
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PERMIT #75
SUN CITY, AZ 85351

#### **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 1:00 pm—Library Lounge Disciple 4 WED 2:00 pm—Conference Room Write Your Story 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 APRIL 2022
Good News is March 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 lerley—Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Robb Butler—Music Director

Carol Virolainen—Worship Musician
Loretta Nash—Sabbath Musician
Nicholas Capatch—Live Stream

Russ Koan—Lay Leader



#### 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.

#### **Welcome New Willowbrookers!**

(Photos Courtesy of Laurie Lineberry)



Sandra Bacs Joined: January 23, 2022



March 2022 Issue

Dale & Janice Caron Joined: January 22, 2022



Margaret Chinn Joined: January 22, 2022



Barbara Dodd Joined: January 22, 2022



Joyce Kahland Joined: January 23, 2022



Donna Lease Joined: January 23, 2022



Casey Pacione & Ellen Glatz Joined: January 22, 2022



Carl & Jean Stalowski Joined: January 22, 2022



Steven & Lana Williams Joined: January 23, 2022

We are going to try and get the Fletcher Appreciation Dinner in before our winter visitors go back home. It will be the traditional rummage sale dinner. (All you can eat Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans and Dessert)

The dinner will be held Friday, March 25 at 5:00pm with a cost of \$5. Tickets will be on sale following church services Saturday, March 5 through noon March 20. Also, during the week, tickets will be available in the church office..

We have kept the cost of the meal low for a reason. We ask you to bring your check book for an offering to the Outreach Committee in the name of Bud and Nancie Fletcher.

Hope to see you all on March 25th! Iim Dodd



#### What is Lent?

"Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter."

-United Methodist Book of Worship

Lent basically is how a congregation chooses to adequately prepare themselves for Easter. Over the decades many different approaches have been used. Long ago this time of year was used as a preparation for Baptism. In some decades the emphasis has been on fasting or prayer. The study of the temptation of Jesus has been at the root of some of what the church has done over the years. Here at Willowbrook we will explain the historical ties of Lent as well as current practices of spiritual growth. Look for more explanation on Saturdays and Sundays.

This year we will begin our season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday March 2 at 3 pm in the chapel at Willowbrook. Ash Wednesday is a Christian day of prayer and marks the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is observed by Western Christians and has historically been practiced by Methodists, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, and many of the Reformed traditions like, Congregationalist, Continental Reformed and Presbyterian traditions. Ashes are placed on one's forehead simply as a reminder of the historical use of ashes or the rending of clothes in ancient acts of repentance. This service is not biblically mandated, but rather is a tradition that some Christians have used over the years to kick off the season of preparation for Easter! Come learn about the past as we look to the future in our celebrations and plan our own spiritual disciplines for spiritual growth.

This year during Holy Week we will have a Maundy Thursday program on April 14 at 3 pm, a Good Friday service on April 15 at 1 pm, and Easter services on both Saturday April 16, and Easter Sunday. Please watch for details. We will not be offering Wednesday night programs as in past years.

See you in church or on livestream!

Gary Kennedy





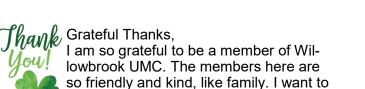
#### (We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 1 Joyce Chotena Neary
- Betty Jones
- Viola Seibel
- Robert Siebert
- 7 Mary Ruth Linde
- David Monk
- 12 Jo Kozacek
- 15 Mary Rearick
- 17 Irma Vance
- 19 Joanna Lynn
- 21 Irene Dusenberry
- 23 George Hoffman
- 23 Phyllis MacTough
- 28 Mary Moore



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

10 George & Jan Caruso25 Ron & Norma Hamilton60th66th



thank all the friends who sent me get well

cards, Happy Birthday cards, and plenty of chocolate cakes and candy. I surely appreciate the visits from our pastors.

Love & God bless you all,

Mary Bailey



Thanks for the many cards and prayers during my recovery. It's taking a little longer than expected. The prayers do make a difference and they are comforting. Your prayers are very much appreciated.

Blessings to you all, Raymond Langhammer



Bring your favorite translation of the Bible to the 11:00am Monday morning Lectionary Bible Study in the library lounge. Everyone is welcome; each time is unique, so come when you

can. The study is for one hour, so we are done at noon. No special Bible knowledge necessary to come talk and learn

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The weekly readings for Mar	rch are:	
March 6th Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1	Psalm 27 Luke 13:31-35	
March 13th Isaiah 55:1-9 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Psalm 63:1-8 Luke 13:1-9	
March 20th Joshua 5:9-12 2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 11 <i>b</i> -32	
March 27th Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4 <i>b</i> -14	Psalm 126 John 12:1-8	<b>发</b>
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This is a reminder that here at Willowbrook there is a Lions Club box in Wilson Fellowship Hall where you can deposit prescription and non-prescription eye glasses, sun glasses, cell phones, and hearing aids. The Lions Club refurbish

glasses and distribute them to countries around the world to be fitted to less fortunate individuals.

In the early 2000s the Lions Club launched the Hearing Aid Recycling Program, which collects and refurbishes donated hearing aids for distribution to those who lack funds to buy them. The hearing aids are remade, then a hearing professional works with the "income qualified" individual to create an ear mold which is attached to the rebuilt hearing aid.

Cell phones in this area are recycled, and the monies collected are used by the Arizona Lions Vision and Hearing Foundation to perform eye and ear surgeries.



### **Four Corners Native American Ministry News**

Excerpts from a December 11<sup>th</sup> Thank You Note

"First and foremost, we appreciate each and everyone of you. Thank you so much for your partnership... Your partnership helps us to save lives and make a difference. Because of you we can bless the community and beyond and because of you we too are blessed. May you have a wonderful amazing time at Christmas and a joyous New Year in the name of the living Christ."

Blessings Always,

Rev. Tweedy Navarrete

Willowbrook members have always been strong supporters of outreach efforts. As the pandemic began, the Four Corners area and the Navajo nation were particularly hard hit by COVID-19. The Desert Southwest conference's mission project in 2020 was, "Water for the Nation". And Willowbrook responded by financially supporting this program.

Then in 2021, as schools started to reopen and back-toschool drives began throughout Arizona, the Four Corners area was no exception. In August, Rev. Tweedy held a Kid Fest where she distributed school supplies to 100 children. Unfortunately, over 400 children showed up for the event.

Upon hearing of the shortage, Willowbrook's Outreach Committee purchased 50 backpacks. The committee also decided to more actively support Four Corners Native American Ministry. Because of donations received as part of our Thanksgiving offering, our church was able to forward over \$3,800 to this ministry.

None of this could have happened without you. Your Outreach Committee is grateful for your ongoing support. Thank You!

# New Member Class



Our next new member classes are scheduled for March 13 & 20 at 11:00 a.m. in the Library Lounge. This twosession class covers United Methodism and the history of Willowbrook UMC. Watch for a sign-up table during coffee hour or at our Sabbath services.



#### **Behind the Scenes** Tour

Wednesday, March 9 10:00am—12:00pm

St. Mary's Food Bank was founded by John Van Hengel in 1967. Van Hengel came up with the idea of a "Food Bank," where individuals and companies with excess food could "deposit" it, and those in need could "withdraw" it. He went on to become the founder of several other food banks across the country and even founded the national organization America's Second Harvest (known today as Feeding America).

John van Hengel is referred to as "the father of food banking" and it all started right here in Phoenix, Arizona. Today, St. Mary's is the second largest food bank in the United States.

Would you like to learn more? Join members of the Outreach Committee for a "Behind the Scenes Tour" of St. Mary's on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at the main complex on 31st Ave. Call Liz Peck if you are interested in going or look for signup sheets in Wilson Fellowship Hall after services starting February 13<sup>th</sup>.



## **Complete serenity**

Many of us have heard the first part of what's called "The Serenity Prayer," attributed to theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. But we would do well to learn the rest of it as well:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it: trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen."

-NewsletterNewsletter

#### **Wounded Healers**

"Nobody escapes being wounded," writes Henri Nouwen. "We all are wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually. The main question is not 'How can we hide our wounds?' so we don't have to be embarrassed, but 'How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?' When our wounds cease to be a source of shame, and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers." He continues. "Jesus is God's wounded healer: through his wounds we are healed. Jesus' suffering and death brought joy and life. His humiliation brought glory; his rejection brought a community of love. As followers of Jesus, we can also allow our wounds to bring healing to others."

How might viewing Jesus as a wounded healer affect your relationship with him? What roles have wounds and healing played in your own faith life? How can you minister to other people from a place of brokenness?



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

- Dave Arkwright on January 28
- Doris Olson on June 24, 2020



GRIEF SHARE GriefShare is a nationally known support group for people grieving loss through death. Using a video featur-

ing 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:

	March 16 March 23 March 30 April 6 April 13 April 20 April 27 May 4	Why? Guilt and Anger Complicating Factors Stuck Lessons of Grief: Part One Lessons of Grief: Part Two Heaven
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GriefShare meets each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Library Lounge.



#### **Willowbrook Feeds** the Hungry

**Next Food Drive:** 

March 5 at Sabbath Service March 6 in Fellowship Hall



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

#### **MARCH**

Dove of the Desert UMC. Glendale Maryville Bridge UMC, Phoenix Faith UMC. Phoenix



Join us in the Library Lounge at 1:30 pm usually on the 4th Thursday. Sometimes our discussion can get pretty lively. We would love to see some new people here. Please wear a mask if you are more comfortable.

Books we are discussing:

March 24— The Day the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede Shared by Jane Johnson April 28— The Rose Code by Kate Quinn Shared by Jill Zitt 26— Destiny of the Republic by Candice Millard Shared by Sue Marshall May



#### **Excerpts from an UMCOR notice** dated December 22, 2021

"UMCOR appreciates the tremendous outpouring of support for those impacted by the December 2021 tornadoes. As with any disaster, it is important not to travel to an affected area without an invitation from Conference Disaster Relief Coordinators. Currently, disaster supplies are at capacity. Leaders will communicate when additional help is needed throughout the long recovery process ahead.

In the interim, we invite you to show your support through UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery. Please continue to pray for the communities, survivors, and pastors in these areas.

Solidarity grants to provide immediate funding are being released and UMCOR will work with impacted areas to journey from the chaos of response on through longterm recovery. Please continue to hold victims, survivors and relief workers in your prayers."

This has been a particularly tough year for the United States as our country experienced one disaster after another: hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes. Many of you have independently contributed to UMCOR while others contributed to UMCOR though our church. This year, our Willowbrook family has donated over \$9,100 to UMCOR's US Disaster Relief Fund.

As Methodists, we believe in the importance of giving our time and talents and helping those in need. It is hard to measure just how many lives have been touched by your support and generosity. On behalf of the Outreach Committee, THANK YOU!



#### **Promise of Flowers UMW Retreat**

Come enjoy a spiritual, fun, exciting day filled with singing, crafts, and beautiful scenery for reflection and prayer. And we will learn the significance of how flowers are portrayed in scripture!

When: March 19, 2022

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

9:00am-4:00pm Times: Promise of Flowers Theme: Rev. Ruth Blum Facilitator:

Cost: \$40.00 per person (includes continental breakfast and lunch) Check payable to Willowbrook UMW.

Cut-off date is Friday, March 7, 2022

Carpool from church parking lot leaves at 8:00 am. For more information contact Nancy Prevost

#### All church women are welcome.

**Upcoming**: April 18—Salad Luncheon





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

- Richard Ceser
- Helen Duke
- Dot Habkirk
- Joanna Lynn
- Fern McKnight
- Judy Neiman
- Robert Nelson
- Martha Stromgren
- Dorothy Zimmerman

Garden Ridge Arbor Ridge

Brookdale Union Hills Guardian Care Home Sagewood Assisted Living

EnClave@Chandler **Family Matters Care** 

Annie's Care Home

Anna's Assisted Living

## **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 along with that 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.



#### **Can You Say Crochet?**

Some people say that learning to crochet is easier than learning how to knit. Twirling yarn around a hook and pulling through a loop results in a chain of loops. That chain (and many more repetitions) can lead to the creation of caps, sweaters, lap robes and prayer shawls.

Crocheted "Fidget sleeves" are being made and decorated to be donated to those with Alzheimer's living in memory care, group homes or private homes. The sleeves provide a distraction without medication that can calm behavior and increase concentration. Come join the Kris Krafters as they crochet these and many other colorful items. If you would like to see the Kris Krafters in action,

stop by Wilson Fellowship Hall from 9—11 am on Thursday, March 3 and March 17. If you are lucky there may even be some emerald green cookies on March 17!



Everyone is welcome! Displayed on the bulletin board are many examples of the work the Kris Krafters are doing. \*Donations of medium-weight varn are always welcome for these and future proiects.



Church The church council is composed of the Council chairs of each church committee or a committee representative in the absence of the Chair, who vote on actionable items. Everyone from the church is encouraged to attend and join in discussion.

Points of interest from the January 2022 meeting

- Willowbrook added thirteen new members in January.
- Pastor Gary is excited about the leadership at the church. We can now send six delegates to annual conference in addition to the pastors.
- Lay servant classes are being offered on zoom and anyone is eligible to take them.
- ◆ The 2022 budget was presented for a vote and passed.



# Hands-on reflection

While preparing props for a church photo shoot, I had to make a crown of thorns. In the woods, I found a long, wild, prickly plant that seemed promising. Just cutting a bit to bring home proved difficult, making me quickly question my decision to do this project sans gloves.

Once home, I worked the vines so they'd be flexible and not break when curved into a circle. That required finding multiple spots to grasp. Again, numerous finger pricks ensued. It wasn't until I formed the vines into a crown, however, that thorns started sinking into my skin and taking hold. Each shock of pain was an accident, but my focus remained intentional: I purposely tackled this endeavor bare-handed to glimpse what Jesus suffered on my behalf. The torn skin on my fingers was nothing compared to the gashes on my Savior's head. Working with thorns for a few minutes reminded me to be humbly grateful for what Jesus sacrificed to win my eternal salvation.

> —Julie Lee NewsletterNewsletter



Purchase the altar flowers for \$45 to honor the life or memory of a loved one.

In the Flower Book in the narthex write your name, your loved one's name, the occasion and the date you would like to have the altar flowers presented.

Bring or mail your check for \$45 marked "flowers" to the office or place in the offering plate.

# March

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

April 2022						
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 25	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

CR—Conference Room
CT—Courtyard
LL—Library Lounge
MR—Music Room
PR—Prayer room
Sanc—Sanctuary
WFH—Wilson Fellowship Hall

CH—Chapel

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 1:00 pm SEEP—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple 4—LL 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 3:00 pm Ash Wed. Service—CH 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregivers—LL 12:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—CR	3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>6</b> COMMUNION	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	10:00 am UMW Team Mtg—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple 4—LL 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	9:00 am Trustees—CR	5:00 pm Youthful Srs Event—WFH	3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 NEW MEMBERS
9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	9:30 am Evangel/Membership—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 11:15 am Kitchen Committee—CR 1:00 pm Disciple 4—LL 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregivers—LL 2:30 pm Outreach Committee—CR		9:00 am UMW Retreat—Lake Pleas- ant 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>20</b> NEW MEMBERS	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 am Worship—Sanc 4:00 pm Indian Wells FG—WFH	11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	9:00 am Church Council—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple 4—LL 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	1:30 pm Book Club—LL	12:00 pm Agape FG—LL 5:00 pm Fletcher Appreciation Din- ner—WFH	1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30 am Worship—Sanc	11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple 4—LL 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc			