



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

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
In person and Live Stream  
**SATURDAY WORSHIP**  
In Person only



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

*Introducing...*

Photos Courtesy of Laurie Lineberry.



Jen Brown  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Bruce Cole  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Melissa Cole  
Joined: March 20, 2022

**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—Library Lounge
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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



**DEADLINE FOR the MAY 2022**  
**Good News is April 4, 2022**



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

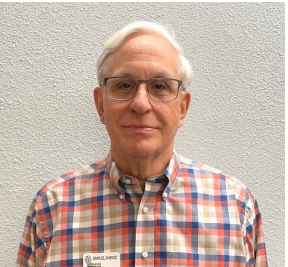
**Willowbrook United Methodist Church**  
**OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER**  
*The ministers of this church are its members  
Those who assist them are:*  
**Dedicated Lay Ministry—Stephen Ministry**  
**Gary Kennedy—Senior Pastor**  
**Ruth Blum—Associate Pastor**  
**Lois Hedden—Pastor of Visitation**  
**Laurie 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**



Ed Davis  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Gloria Gerstenkorn  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Samuel Haroz  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Sharon Haroz  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Mariellen Nagle  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Linda Sherman  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Connie Vaughn  
Joined: March 20, 2022



Jerry Vaughn  
Joined: March 20, 2022



# "and they remembered his words"

Easter falls on April 17th this year. That means you have time to get ready for it! So whether you will be attending the Saturday night Easter service on April 16th or the Sunday morning service on April 17th, you have plenty of time to get ready!

No, I don't mean buying an Easter dress, hat and gloves or getting ready with your "Sunday best" like in the old movie, *The Easter Parade*. I don't mean to suggest that you will need an Easter basket or any of the other trappings of the holiday. So what could you possibly need, you ask? You need to know how the story of Easter, once understood, changed the world! That possibility wasn't entirely understood on that first resurrection morning!

So that we all understand, and are on the same page, I would like to give you a pre-Easter assignment. Read the scripture lesson for that Easter weekend early. Why? So you can remember the words! You'll see what I mean in a minute. The scripture is Luke 24:1-17. You will see that on that first Easter morning, the women who arrived early encountered two men in dazzling apparel! They were stunned by them as they didn't expect anyone to be there I'm sure, and yet what they found were these two who appeared like angels. The men said, *"Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise. And they remembered his words..."* The women remembered his words that they had heard before. The story now made sense. His absent body now made sense. Jesus had told them what to expect! The women became the first to witness the fact that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead! They knew what to expect because they had heard his words of explanation!

We live in a world where so many don't know the "words" of Jesus. They don't know the story. I invite you to read Luke 24:1-17 many times between now and Easter. The story will be explained in the context of an Easter worship experience. Also, for your family or guests who might join you on Easter, read the story to them before you come to church so that the "words" might begin to illuminate them as they did the women that first Easter Sunday.

All the worship experiences at both the 5 p.m. Sabbath Service and the 9:30 a.m. worship time will be using this scripture that helps us prepare for truly understanding the magnitude of Easter. This current church season that we call Lent, helps us get prepared for what comes next! What comes next? Be here on April 16th or 17th and find out the rest of the story!

See you in church or on livestream!

Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



### (We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 9 Roy Meyer
- 28 Betty Beier



### (We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- 9 Ernie & Carole Pearce 62nd
- 12 Richard & Carol Jenkins 59th
- 28 Jerry & Lorna Hermanek 60th
- 27 Richard & Michele Meyer 53rd
- 30 Duane & Cheryl Kurth 56th



To Whomever paid for my Christmas Tea ticket, I thank you! It was my first tea, and I thoroughly enjoyed it—the food, the camaraderie, the servers, the decorated tables—all different and beautiful!

Carole Pearce



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" with date to the office or place in the offering plate.



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. NOTE: Discussion is on the Monday before the Sunday the scripture is used in worship.



The weekly readings for April are:

CLASS DATE	SUNDAY
March 28	April 3
Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
April 4	April 10
Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 23:1-49
April 11	April 17
Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26	John 20:1-18
	Luke 24:1-12
April 18	April 24
Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
April 25	May 1
Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19

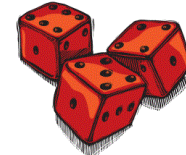


Each month we join other churches in prayer for churches of the West District in the Desert Southwest Conference.

### APRIL

- First UMC, Glendale
- First UMC, Phoenix
- First UMC, Sun City

## Come Play Bunco With Us!



Join the **Youthful Seniors**  
April 8th, 5:00 p.m.  
Wilson Fellowship Hall  
Food: Subs, Chips, Sides, Dessert  
Tickets: \$5 still available April 3.



In recent weeks, a large homeless encampment near downtown Phoenix, known as “The Zone”, has grown to as many as 900 people. The number of homeless seniors has swelled in recent years due to the extreme lack of low-income senior housing.

The Zone encompasses several blocks surrounding Phoenix’s Human Services Campus. And located in the middle of “The Zone” is **Justa Center**, a day shelter for homeless seniors.



Pictured: Judith Kliewer, Judy Arkwright, Lee Allinger, Barb Taylor, & Liz Peck. Missing from picture, our photographer, Glenn Allinger.

On Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, six Willowbrook members served lunch to over 60 *Justa Center* clients. Our group was headed up by Judy Arkwright, who prepared a great lunch consisting of chili, rolls, apples, brownies and soda. It was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning. The clients and the Center’s staff couldn’t have been more gracious. We all came away from our time at *Justa Center* wanting to come back again. The Outreach Committee will be hosting lunches on a quarterly basis. Our next lunch is scheduled for Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please consider joining us.

## New Member Class

Our next new member classes are scheduled for May 1 & 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Library Lounge. This two-session class covers United Methodism and the history of Willowbrook UMC. Watch for a sign-up table during coffee hour or at our Sabbath services.



## Writing Your Life Story



Join this class to meet people, have fun and write your special story. Generations to come will really appreciate reading family history along with that national or international 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.



**Willowbrook Feeds the Hungry**  
Next Food Drive:  
April 2 at Sabbath Service  
April 3 in Fellowship Hall



## Why Christ Calls us to Worship

Easter services are usually well attended, but what about other weeks? What draws you to worship on an “average” Sunday, and what might Jesus have in store for people in the pews?

Consider this from Pastor Charles Aaron: “Did we come to church this morning thinking it was a safe thing to do? Did we come with some expectation of receiving a blessing, a bit of comfort, but no real challenge? Did we think about the possibility that encountering Jesus would rearrange our lives, explode our priorities, cause us to give more than we ever expected? Did we think we could get a little something from Jesus, a dose of grace to help us through the week? Did we come for the fellowship, the music, the spiritual boost? No one can argue with those reasons.”

He continues: “The risen Christ, however, may have had other plans for this worship service. Christ may want to come under our skins and transform us. Christ may see through us so that something we have well hidden comes to the surface. Christ may kick out from under us the things we use to prop ourselves up but that we don’t really need. Are we ready for that? Did we bargain on that when we walked through the door today?”

—from The Wired Word



## Why Friday is Good

To participate in the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ is to live already in his kingdom. This is the essence of the Christian message, the heart of the Good News, and it is why the cross has become the chief Christian symbol.

A cross of all things — a guillotine, a gallows — but the cross at the same time as the crossroads of eternity and time, as the place where such a mighty heart was broken that the healing power of God himself could flow through it into a sick and broken world. It was for this reason that of all the possible words they could have used to describe the day of his death, the word they settled on was “good.” Good Friday.

—Frederick Buechner



*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:

April 6	Complicating Factors
April 13	Stuck
April 20	Lessons of Grief: Part One
April 27	Lessons of Grief: Part Two
May 4	Heaven
May 11	What do I Live for Now?

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



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

- Ron Hamilton on February 25
- Maxine Hooker’s granddaughter Alyssa Hanson on February 25
- Don Hedman on March 20



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      |
| • Martha Stromgren  | Annie’s Care Home        |
| • Dorothy Zimmerman | Anna’s Assisted Living   |



# Holy Week

**Palm Sunday—9:30 am April 10**  
*Use Your Outside Voice*  
Rev. Ruth Blum

**Maundy Thursday—3:00 pm April 14**  
*Walk through 7 Prayer Stations*

Experience each station individually or in pairs. Pause for person ahead, then move to next station. There is a heart for you to write your deepest concern for this Lent and leave in the basket provided. Last station provides opportunity for Communion.

**Good Friday—1:00 pm April 15**  
*Service of Silence and Meditation*  
Rev. Lois Hedden

**Sabbath Service—5:00 pm April 16**  
**Easter Sunday—9:30 am April 17**  
*Our Easter Story*  
Rev. Gary Kennedy



## 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?  
NewsletterNewsletter



## Last One Out . . .

Have you heard that old saying, “last one out turn out the lights” or “if you turn it on, turn it off”? That is something we all need to remember.

Many times when we go through the buildings to check to make sure all the doors are closed and locked we also find lights that have been left on. Our last electric bill was \$1,965.97 in February, but as the temperatures rise, so does our electric bill. Our summer bills in 2021 weren’t bad because there was no activity, but when we opened for activities our September bill jumped to \$3,415.23.

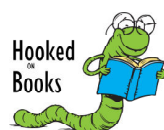
Just remember the last one out needs to turn out the lights and shut the door. Thanks for your help.



## Snacks for Kids Month!



April is Snacks for Kids month. During April let’s fill the large bin in Fellowship Hall several times with small snacks (raisins, crackers, pretzels, Jell-O, pudding, water, juice, etc.) These will be distributed by the Outreach Committee to H.A.R.T. Pantry, Wesley Center, UMOM and 4 Corners Ministries.



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:

- April 28—*The Rose Code*: Kate Quinn  
Shared by Jill Zitt
- May 26—*Destiny of the Republic*: Candice Millard  
Shared by Sue Marshall



## Relax With Cross Stitch



If it feels like you are always rushing around, try Cross Stitch. Sit down, relax and try this form of embroidery. Some say it encourages meditation. It is portable, creative, and fun to do. Cross stitch is comprised of simple

straight X-shaped stitches on a fabric with evenly spaced weave to pass the thread through. The chart for a Cross stitch design is similar to paint by numbers.

You can also create a beautiful embellishment by stitching over little blue printed “X’s” pre-printed on a baby’s coverlet, wall hanging, or fine fabric.

Come join the Kris Krafters to enjoy cross stitching or sewing, knitting or crocheting. The Kris Krafters meet in Wilson fellowship hall on Thursday, April 7 and 21. Everyone is welcome.



## How to Assist the Ukrainian People

United Methodists wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may do so through UMCOR. This fund will provide assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts can be made in the following ways:

1. Online at [umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450](https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450)
2. By phone at 888-252-6174
3. By Check payable to The UMCOR with “Advance #982450-Ukraine” written in the memo line and mailed to: Global Ministries/ UMCOR, GPO, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068
4. Or by check made payable to Willowbrook, with “Ukraine” in the memo.



## Spring is in the Air

The United Women in Faith (formerly known as United Methodist Women) will be celebrating spring with our Annual Spring Salad Luncheon on April 18th at 12 noon. Please bring your favorite salad to share.

There will be some spring gift baskets for raffle and the proceeds will purchase children’s books for UMOM. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!

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## Guest Night

May 16th will be our special evening event at 5:00pm. [home before dark] We invite ALL Willowbrookers to our annual Guest Night for pie and a special presentation by Matthew 25 from Red Mountain UMC. Matthew 25 is a prison ministry that provides education scholarships, pen pals and re-entry assistance.

Please plan on attending. Remember, life is never better than when you are eating pie!



## A Love-filled Victory

It’s tough to read about Jesus’ agony on the cross, where he felt “forsaken” by God (see Matthew 27:46). But as Philip Yancey explains in *Where Is God When It Hurts?* the Father didn’t desert Jesus — and doesn’t desert us:

“God was not ‘up there’ watching the tragic events conspire ‘down here.’ God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,” he writes. “If Jesus was a mere man, his death would prove God’s cruelty; the fact that he was God’s Son proves instead that God fully identifies with suffering humanity. On the cross, God himself absorbed the awful pain of this world.

“To some, the image of a pale body glimmering on a dark night whispers of defeat,” Yancey continues. “But another sound can be heard: the shout of a God crying out to human beings, ‘I LOVE YOU.’ Love was compressed for all history in that lonely figure on the cross, who said that he could call down angels at any moment on a rescue mission, but chose not to — because of us.”

He concludes: “Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God’s scheme ultimately leads back to the cross.”

# April

March 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	29	30	31		

May 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
29	30	31				

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
					<b>1</b> 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—CR	<b>2</b> 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>3 COMMUNION</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	<b>4</b> 10:00 am UMW Team Mtg—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	<b>6</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple IV—LL 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregivers—LL 12:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	<b>8</b> 5:00 pm Youthful Srs Event—WFH	<b>9</b> 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>10 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 1:00 pm Disciple IV—LL 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	<b>13</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	<b>14 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 9:00 am Trustees—CR 3:00 pm Worship—CT	<b>15 GOOD FRIDAY/OFFICE CLOSED</b> 1:00 pm Worship Service—Sanc	<b>16</b> 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>17 EASTER</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	<b>18</b> <u>1976—Willowbrook UMC 1st Service</u> 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 12:00 pm UMW Unit Mtg.—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	<b>19</b> 9:30 am M.E.E.—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	<b>20</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee 1:00 pm Disciple 4—LL 2:00 pm Writing Your Story—CR	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:00 am Finance—CR 9:30 am Caregivers—LL 2:30 pm Outreach Committee—CR	<b>22 EARTH DAY</b>	<b>23</b> 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>24</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 4:00 pm Indian Wells FG—WFH	<b>25</b> 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple 4—LL 7:00 pm Choir—Sanc	<b>28</b> 1:30 pm Book Club—LL	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH