

BACK to SCHOOL

Do you remember those horrible words? They meant an end to summer vacation and return to school. I could never understand why my mom seemed so happy whenever she saw those words. Signs all over the department store, "Back to School", served as a reminder. Buying pencils and lunch boxes all added to the misery of thinking about what was ahead.

There were those kids, you know, the nerdy, smart ones who were happy that school was going to start. They use to say that summer was boring. Oh my goodness, what was wrong with them? Didn't they have any creativity or imagination to come up with things to do? Then there was Labor Day. It was sort of the last hurrah. One last long weekend and then it happened; "The first day of school!" School clothes, lunches, and meeting your new teacher and the worst of all were those teachers who assigned homework on the first day. What was wrong with those teachers! I still get a knot in my stomach when I think back on all that!

Well, if you live in Arizona, all that happens earlier this year. Kids start school in August, some as early as August first! School, when it's so hot! There was a new school that just opened up across from where we live. On the first day of school, I thought to myself, oh, those poor kids!

In thinking back, I have to ask myself why I didn't like school so much. I think that it wasn't that school was so bad; it was that summer vacation was so great. You see, we had a river in our town. There is a lot to do for kids down near the "river bottom." We had nice California weather and the beach just one town over.

Here in Arizona it seems to be just the opposite. We wait for the summer to be over and we welcome the fall. We wait for those first cool days when we step out of the house and it isn't hot!

Church activities pick up in the fall as well. Even though we have had summer activities and events this year, the fall brings new opportunities. In September and October, we will have Homecoming Weekend, Invite-a-Friend Sunday, Youthful Seniors and a musical World Day of Communion.

Best of all, our winter residents return. We get to welcome back friends we have missed. In the fall we also resume the fullness of church ministry. All our committees resume meeting and ministry opportunities increase here at Willowbrook.

I guess what I want to say is remember to look for the best of each season of your life. We may complain when things change, but look for the good. I made some of my best friends in school and I learned a lot. I guess school wasn't so bad.

See you in church!

Pastor Gary

Willowbrook Strong



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 8 Jack Winemiller
- 10 Ruth Pappas
- 14 Marge Chinn
- 18 Lois McCrea
- 29 Joan Glendon
- 30 Dorothy Zimmerman



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- 4 Stan & Penny Stevens 62nd
- 5 Roger & Joyce Keslar 58th
- 7 Dick & Carol Songer 54th



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.



Hooked on Books!

Join others who are reading the same books. Then Hooked on Books is for you! We are always looking for new people.

We meet in the church library at 1:30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month (except November).

What are we reading?

September 22: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

December 22: *The Noel Letters* by Richard Paul Evans

October and November—TBD



Bring your own Bible, your favorite translation, to the Monday morning Lectionary Bible study in the Library Lounge. Everyone is welcome; each time is unique, so come when you can. We will read and discuss the lections for the upcoming Sunday. We study for one hour, so we will be done at noon. No special Bible knowledge necessary to come, talk and learn



The weekly readings for **AUGUST** are:

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
August 29 th	September 4 th
Jeremiah 18:1-11	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
September 5 (NO CLASS)	September 11
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Psalms 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
September 12	September 18
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Psalms 79:1-9 or Ps 4
1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
September 19	September 25
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31
September 26	October 2
Lamentations 1:1-6	Psalms 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10



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

- Doris Frazier on July 27 in Derby KS
- Nancy Stokely's father on July 29 in FL

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



SEPTEMBER
Trinity UMC, Phoenix
Trinity UMC, Yuma
Sedona UMC



Willowbrook Outreach Committee wants to honor the Willowbrook congregation for all the support they have given UMCOR in the past and now. Ukraine has received thousands of dollars through Willowbrook and from individuals in the church.

When responding to a national disaster UMCOR works with the conference disaster response ministries to provide the following:

- Financial assistance—emergency grants may be sent when a bishop of the affected conference contacts UMCOR.
- Expertise—UMCOR's disaster response experience and knowledge are made available to those in need.
- Networking—Connections with volunteers, experts, local government, and other organizations can help communities recover from disaster.

International Disaster Response:

When a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the United States, UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. In the short-term, UMCOR provides funds to our partners to distribute food, hygiene supplies, shelter and other basic needs to ease human suffering. In the long-term, we work with local partners towards recovery and reconstruction.

(for more information go to: www.umcor.com)



Willowbrook Feeds the Hungry
Non-perishable Food and WATER
Next Food Drive:
 September 3 at Sabbath Service
 September 4 in Fellowship Hall



Caregivers Support Group

1st & 3rd Thursday of the month
 9:30-10:30am
 Willowbrook Library Lounge
 Hybrid in-person and on ZOOM

This group is for caregivers of loved ones with various diagnoses who want to connect with other caregivers for support. It is a safe place to share, learn and support others who are experiencing the challenges of being a caregiver.

Registration is not required. Facilitator Stephanie Lamb of Benevilla leads the group. Call Benevilla 623-584-4999 or check E-News for ZOOM link.



**GET READY!
 A HOOTENANNY IS COMING!**

September 30—5:00 p.m.
**A Hootenanny with
 Monday Group Jammers Band**

Plus a Potluck

**\$5 at Sign-up
 September 17 & 18 and
 September 24 & 25**

It's hot ~ hot ~ hot!

**But don't despair.
 Around the corner is**



**Friday & Saturday
 November 4th & 5th
 Mark your calendars.
 Spread the word!**

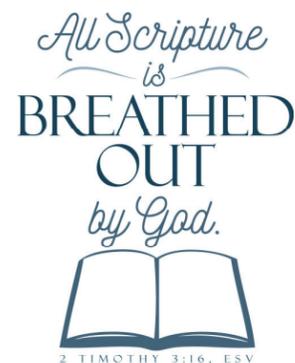
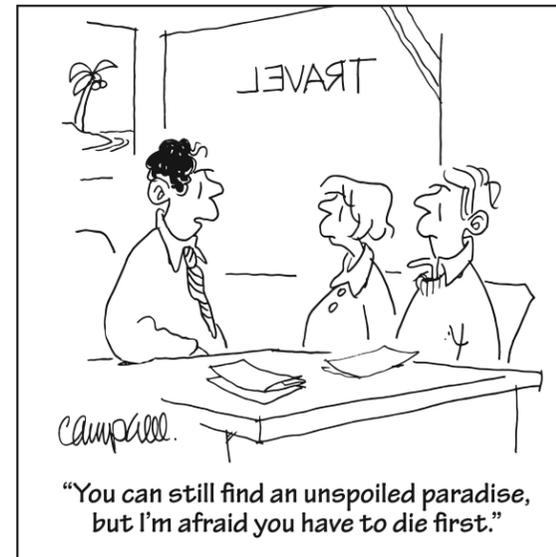
**WANTED!!!
 Bakers and Candy Makers**

The Holidaze Craft Faire is returning November 4 & 5. Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe needs your help again making baked goods and candy to sell.

Before the pandemic we had a great turnout of food to sell. We want to return bigger and better than before.

Sure it is too hot to bake right now, but now is when you need to start planning what you will fix.

Questions? Contact Janet Sjoberg



KRIS KRAFTERS

Below: Kris Krafters Linda Kresl, Carol Sears, and Jill Zitt show the sleep mats made from strips of plastic grocery bags and crocheted into 2 1/2 by 6 feet long mats. These mats are then donated to Justa Center and the Four Corners Navajo Nation.



United Women in Faith

UWF Activities Resume!

September 19—12 noon
 Wilson Fellowship Hall
 Bring your lunch and join us!
 Program hostess—Elizabeth Circle

Program: UWF initiative on *The Criminalization of Girls of Color in School*.
 PLUS: A fun "Jeopardy" style game to test your knowledge.

We are looking forward to our time together in the fall. Upcoming programs will include "Breads of the World", The World Thank Offering, a Thanksgiving potluck, and of course, the always fun and popular, Christmas Tea.

**What is Lefse?
 Scandinavian Bread!**

Want to learn how to make it? Or if you already know how, we need your help in making some to sell at the Craft Faire. There will be two opportunities to work in the church kitchen.

One date in late September and another in October. Dates will be determined by how many sign up. You can come for half day or all sessions. Watch for updates in E-News.

Contact Janet Sjoberg for more information.



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 nor do you 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 Thirteen-week repeating *GriefShare* schedule at Willowbrook is:

- Sep 7 The Journey of Grief: Part Two
- Sep 14 Grief and Your Relationships
- Sep 21 Why?
- Sep 28 Guilt and Anger
- Oct 5 Complicating Factors
- Oct 12 Stuck
- Oct 19 Lessons of Grief: Part One
- Oct 26 Lessons of Grief: Part Two

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

September

August 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			

October 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
				1 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 12:30 pm Craft Faire Meeting—CR 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	2 2:00 pm Youthful Srs Board—CR	3 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
4 COMMUNION 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	5 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY 10:00 am UWF Team Meeting—WFH *Moved to August 29	6 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR	7 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH	8	9	10 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
11 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	12 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 2:30 pm Homecoming Committee—LL	13 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL	14 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 4:00 pm Dorcas Circle—In member home	15 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 2:30 pm Outreach Committee—CR	16 10:00 am Robert Nelson Memorial Gathering—WFH	17 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
18 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL *Sign up for Hootenanny	19 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 12:00 pm UWF Lunch & Program—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	20 1:30 pm Membership, Evangelism & Education—CR	21 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—CR	22 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	23 5:00 pm Non-member Wedding Rehearsal—CH	24 2:00 pm Wedding—CH 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
25 NEW MEMBERS 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Retired Pastor Brunch—WFH *Sign up for Hootenanny	26 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 11:00 am Good News Prep—CR 1:00—4:00 pm Band Practice—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	27 9:00 am Church Council—WFH	28 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH	29	30 5:00 pm Hootenanny & Potluck—WFH	