



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



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
willowbrookumc.org



OFFICE HOURS
Mon-Fri—8:30am—4:00pm



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

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • David Alspach | Morning Star Arcadia |
| • Richard Ceser | Garden Ridge |
| • Joanna Lynn | Guardian Care Home |
| • Lois McCrea | Doc's Place |
| • Fern McKnight | Sagewood Assisted Living |
| • Dorothy Zimmerman | Anna's Assisted Living |

**DEADLINE FOR the JANUARY 2023
Good News is DECEMBER 4, 2022**



**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 Jerley—Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Robb Butler—Music Director
Carol Virolainen—Worship Musician
Loretta Nash—Sabbath Musician
Nicholas Capatch—Live Stream
Russ Koan—Lay Leader
Linda Reese—Staff Counselor



December 2022 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

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.*



**The Doorway to
Christmas!!**

So often, we find that we tire of the hustle and bustle that the Christmas season connotes for our scheduled lives. We complain about the commercials, and music that began playing before Halloween. We get caught in the trap of decorating with the 3 B's (bigger, better, brighter).

This year we invite you to come to the doorway and decide if this year it will be the same ol' same ol' or are you ready to cross a threshold and bring new meaning into this season of your life.

There will be many opportunities to focus and bring joy into your daily life.

Here are some special opportunities:

Advent Pauses—11:00am in the Conference Room on December 4, 11, 18 & January 1. It is a time to pause and ponder and enter into the presence of all that Advent is meant to be for your life.

During this time, we prepare our spirits to grasp the delight of a Savior born to bring new life and hope to a disheartened world. Sign up by emailing Pastor Ruth at ruthblum49@gmail.com. Purchase books on Amazon or at a local bookstore. **Words of Wonder Pauses for Advent** by Trevor Hudson.

Chrismon Creations—Wednesday, November 30, and December 7, 14 at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. We will gather for a devotion and then create your very own chrimson for you tree. Jill Zitt and Debby Mitchell will have kits prepared and are very helpful. Everyone can make a beautiful decoration.

Registration will be in Fellowship Hall. You'll need to bring your own scissors and \$3 for supplies.

Christmas Cookies & Karaoke—is a time of fun and fellowship. You can sing along with everyone or sing your favorite karaoke Christmas carol.

Thanks to Laurie Lineberry we will have a great karaoke machine to use. The staff will provide refreshments.

Advent Service of Light—This annual opportunity to light a candle for loved ones we have lost since the last Service of Light will be observed in the Chapel on Sunday, December 11th at 3:00pm.

Weekend Worship—5:00pm, Saturdays in the Chapel & 9:30am Sundays in the Sanctuary.

November 26/27— *"Entrances, Thresholds and Doorways"*—Pastor Ruth

December 3/4— *"Prepare the Way"*—Pastor Gary

December 10/11— *"Jump for Joy"*—Pastor Ruth

December 17— *"They Called Him Jesus"*—Pastor Gary

December 18—

"Holly & Ivy"

A musical presentation by the Chancel Choir
 Director, Dr. Robb Butler
 Accompanist, Carol Virolainen

December 24

Christmas Eve

"Good News of Great Joy"

4:00pm Pastor Ruth 6:00pm Pastor Gary

December 25

Christmas Day—9:30am

"It Was A Silent Night"

Pastor Lois



Rest and Food

"Don't let your house be the focus of your Christmas"

I heard these words recently on a Christian radio station. The speaker was making a simple point about the holiday season from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The point being to focus on Christ, the reason for the gratitude of Thanksgiving and the joy of Christmas rather than all the details related to the season like cleaning house for visiting relatives, the pressure of Christmas hosting, Christmas parties, expensive gift giving and all the rest of it that takes away from the notion of "peace on earth." We hear these words in some form or another every year and yet anxiety and depression soar to new heights every year at this time of the year. Yes, even Christians who understand the focus on Jesus Christ in the gratitude of Thanksgiving and the joy of Christmas often fall prey to the details of the season taking over from the reason for the season. Simple words yet so true.

My advice to all of us this year is to "Take Care of Yourselves during the holidays! Be sure to get rest and eat well during this busy season." My advice stems from the story of Elijah in the Old Testament. He was one of God's most faithful prophets. He went from standing up for God against all forms of evil in his day to running away from God and feeling like a failure. The obstacles that made him feel like a failure were nothing compared to the greater opposition that he had already defeated. What changed? Listen to Elijah's words of distress.

"(Elijah) came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die, 'I have had enough Lord', he said." 1 Kings 19:4

God first responded to Elijah by providing rest and food. This is important for us to see. Rest and good nutrition are so important, especially at this time of year. God then took care of Elijah emotionally and called him back to serving God. He was able to return to serving God after a time of "rest and food". My advice to all of us this year is to take care of ourselves by getting enough rest and good nutrition. God takes care of the rest when we remember to put the focus on the love of God as revealed through Jesus Christ.

See you in church and on livestream!

Pastor Gary

Willowbrook Strong



Address/Email/Phone Changes

Donna Cuning
11510 W Laurelwood Lane
Avondale AZ 85392-3823



KRIS KRAFTERS

The Kris Krafters have knitted and crocheted many beautiful prayer shawls which are available to give to anyone who you know could benefit from one, someone in the hospital, a shut-in, a child or an elderly person, or anyone needing the comfort of knowing we care. We also are in need of yarn to make more shawls and other projects for giving to local charities. If you have extra yarn, full skeins or partial ones, hiding in closets or under beds, the Kris Krafters could definitely use them! A huge thank you to everyone who donated yarn and other supplies during the past year!

During December the Kris Krafters will have just one meeting on Thursday the 15th in Wilson Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. We'd love to see you there! Everyone is welcome.



Cathy Hoben-Calhoun, Diane Perez and Karen DeVerna at the Kris Krafters fund raising table during the Holiday Craft Faire. Money raised goes toward new supplies for projects which are donated to local charities. Thank you to everyone who purchased items, those who made items and everyone who volunteered their time behind the tables.



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

2	Jean Birkett
3	Doris Cooley
4	Flo Hyink
11	Peggy Siebert
13	Robert Christie
22	Eileen Harrison



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

14	Jack & Janet Leach	65th
23	Jack & Regina Winemiller	71st
31	John & Sharon Van Orman	61st



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

- Edward Jones on October 23
- Alberta Jarboe on October 23
- Mary June Fisher's husband, Harold "Chap", on November 4
- Helen Duke, likely in July 2022

Willowbrook Readers Club!



Hooked on Books is for you if you like to discuss books you are reading! We welcome new people! We meet in the church library at 1:30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month (Third Thursday in November).


Check out this exciting slate of books for the next few months!

- | | |
|----------|---|
| * Dec 22 | <i>The Noel Letters</i> by Richard Paul Evans |
| * Jan 26 | <i>The Personal Librarian</i> by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray |
| * Feb 23 | <i>Doc</i> by Mary Doria Russell |
| * Mar 23 | <i>The Madness of Crowds</i> by Louise Penny |


advent CALENDAR

1  Perform a random act of kindness	two  Donate food to a local food bank	three  Color a Christmas picture	four  Buy socks for a homeless shelter	5  Watch a favorite holiday movie
6  Make or buy a new Christmas ornament	seven  Let someone go in front of you in line Help someone wrap a Christmas present	8  Clean out and donate outgrown clothes	9  Build a snowman out of cotton balls	10  Take cupcakes to your local fire department
eleven  Decorate a gingerbread house	twelve  Send a Christmas Card to a Shut-In	thirteen  Leave a happy note for someone to find	14  Have a game night in your PJs	15  Make paper snowflakes
16  Drink hot cocoa	17  Send a Christmas Card to a Shut-In	18  Bake Christmas cookies	19  Sing Christmas carols	twenty  Take a family photo in front of Christmas Tree
21  Read your favorite Christmas story	22  Take a car tour of light displays	23  Deliver Christmas cards to neighbors	twenty-four  Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service	25  Read the Nativity story

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



Please join us on Sunday, December 18th at 9:30 a.m., when the Chancel Choir of Willowbrook United Methodist Church under the direction of Dr. Robb Butler will present "Holly & Ivy, A Service for Hanging of the Greens," as part of our traditional Sunday service.

This special musical presentation written for SATB choir and instrumental ensemble by John Purifoy is rich in music, symbolism, readings, and prayers. Purifoy bookends the musical with the familiar "The Holly and the Ivy," and in between, are several well-known seasonal songs to include: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Angels We Have Heard on High" and other familiar Advent and Christmas songs.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this much-anticipated seasonal musical presentation.




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 needed to come, talk, and learn

★★


★ The weekly readings for **DECEMBER** are: ★

★ CLASS DATE		★ DATE USED
★ November 28	★ ADVENT 2	★ December 4
★ Isaiah 11:1-10		★ Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
★ Romans 15:4-13		★ Matthew 3:1-12
★ December 5	★ ADVENT 3	★ December 11
★ Isaiah 35:1-10		★ Luke 1:46b-55
★ James 5:7-10		★ Matthew 11:2-11
★ December 12	★ ADVENT 4	★ December 18
★ Isaiah 7:10-16		★ Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
★ Romans 1:1-7		★ Matthew 1:18-25
★ December 19		★ December 25
★ Isaiah 52:7-10		★ Psalm 98
★ Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)		★ John 1:1-14
★ December 26 (NO CLASS)		★ January 4
★ Isaiah 11:1-10		★ Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
★ Romans 15:4-13		★ Matthew 3:1-12

★★

Enjoy the enclosed Advent calendar as it works for you.





United Women in Faith

Willowbrook Women!

As this year winds down with our Christmas Tea on December 2 and circle December meetings, we reflect on what we have accomplished this year and look forward to serving in 2023. This year United Methodist Women changed their name to United Women in Faith. This is not the first time in our history the name has changed. Some of you may have belonged to Women's Society of Christian Service prior to becoming United Methodist Women. This new name reflects an all inclusiveness in the midst of changing times.

We have some exciting plans for next year. Our January 16 meeting will be our pledge service as well as a program on UMCOR and what this organization does and how it responds to disasters. At the end of the program we will be assembling feminine hygiene packs that will be sent to UMCOR for distribution. Check with your circle chairperson to find out what items can be donated or money is always useful.

Each monthly unit meeting is held on the third Monday of most months. Each person may bring their own lunch and each meeting has a circle hostess providing beverages and dessert. All women are invited to this meeting as well to any of the four circle meetings. Circle meetings are held as follows: Dorcas: second Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall; Elizabeth: 2nd Monday of the month in the library at 9:30; Mary: 2nd Monday of the month in the fellowship hall and Rachel: 2nd Tuesday of the month in the library.

There is a program presented at each meeting and unit meetings often have a mission emphasis. One of the activities we enjoy is the Mission Symbol moment.

Look who showed up early in the week and set up tables and racks for the Holiday Craft Faire! Thanks fellows!



Willowbrook Women, continued

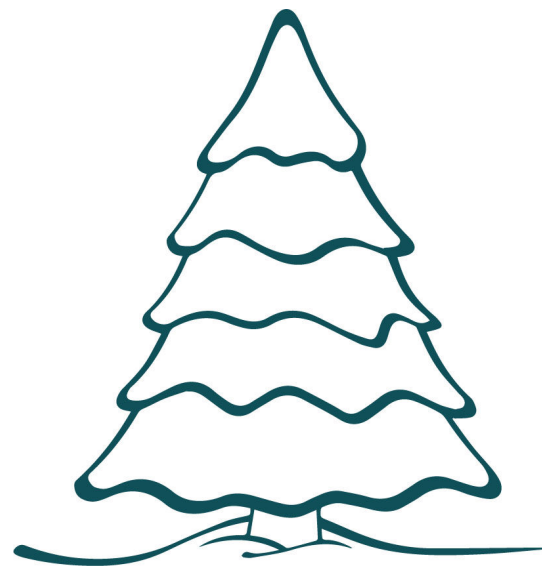
currently, Louanne Ingalls makes a small token (i.e., bookmark) to highlight the meeting theme. This token can be given to someone at the meeting to recognize them for something special. It can also be given to someone outside of the meeting as a remembrance or you might just want one for yourself. The money donated (usually \$1) is added to our mission giving.

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!
SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 18 MARCH 18
MARCH 18

We are having another retreat (or Day Apart) at the Lake Pleasant Recreation Center. We had a wonderful time last year and are planning one for this year. The theme is "Just Breathe." More information and details to follow next month.

New books from the 2023 Reading Program will be added to the library in January. Look for more information on this.

It is my understanding that Willowbrook has added many new members this past year. If you have not been personally invited to attend a circle or unit meeting, please know that we would love to have you join us. Sometimes Sundays get busy and we are not always thinking of all the activities you could be invited to. If you are a member of a circle, please ask one person you may not know well if they would like to attend with you. Remember United Women in Faith is a supportive, creative fellowship and sisterhood of women in faith. Blessings for a wonderful Christmas season and a New Year.



Puzzle!

Although the Bible doesn't mention turkey feasts, the gospels do describe a miracle dinner that made thousands of hungry people thankful (see Matthew 14:13-21). Fill in the words to complete a poem about that meal.

Hint: Each pair of line endings should rhyme.



ate	faces	quest	then
began	late	ran	ton
bunch	lunch	rest	true
done	men	spaces	you

Jesus was tired and went to find _____.
 So away from the crowd he started his _____.
 It came to an end before it _____.
 The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and they _____.
 His boat pulled ashore, and he looked at their _____.
 Five thousand men, plus families, filled all open _____.
 And so Jesus spoke, and he taught until _____.
 The disciples told him it was time they all _____.
 Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____.
 And feeding this crowd is now up to _____."
 Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____.
 What would they do? They'd need a whole _____.
 But then a young boy came and offered his _____.
 Five loaves and two fish to feed this big _____?
 Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____ ...
 it fed all the women, the children and _____.

Answer: rest, quest, began, ran, faces, spaces, late, ate, true, you, done, ton, lunch, bunch, then, men



The Odd Couple Coming to Willowbrook!

Friday, December 9, 5:00 pm

Movie & Meal \$5

Menu: Pizza, Cookies & Soda

Sign-up Nov. 26/27 or Dec. 3/4



"Take your requests and questions to the Lord in prayer and supplication."

Our Intercessory Prayer Group meets every Monday at 2:00pm in the Library. Come and join us as we pray together.

All are welcome!
Carolyn Dearen



Willowbrook Handbells



Meet every Tuesday
1:30 pm—Music Room
Info: Carolyn Smith



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.

There are 13 sessions in the cycle. You don't have to attend in sequence. No matter when you begin, you will find encouragement. You don't have to be a member of, or attend the church to be a part of the GriefShare program.

Dec 7	The Journey of Grief: Part One
Dec 14	The Journey of Grief: Part Two
Dec 21	Grief and Your Relationships
Dec 28	Why?

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

December

November 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			

January 2023						
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
<p>Each month we join other churches in prayer for churches of the West District in the Desert Southwest Conference.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>DECEMBER Mingus Mountain Camp Justa Center, Phoenix Wesley Community & Health Centers</p> </div> </div>						
<p>4 COMMUNION/NEW MEMBERS ADVENT 2 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 3:00 pm Cookies & Christmas Karaoke—WFH</p>	<p>5 10:00 am UWF Team Meeting—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH</p>	<p>6 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR</p>	<p>7 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Chrimsons for You—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple IV—LL</p>	<p>8 9:00 am Trustees—CR 1:00 pm Stewardship Committee—CR</p>	<p>9 5:00 pm Youthful Srs. Board—LL</p>	<p>3 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>11 ADVENT 3 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 3:00 pm Advent Service of Light—CH 4:00 pm Reception for Service of Light—WFH</p>	<p>12 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 8:30 am Disciple IV—CR 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Chrismons for You—WFH 5:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH</p>	<p>15 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 1:30 pm Foundation—CR 3:30 pm Outreach—WFH</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>10 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>18 CHOIR PRESENTATION ADVENT 4 9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p>19 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>20 9:30 am Evangelism, Education, & Membership—CR</p>	<p>21 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>17 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>25 CHRISTMAS 9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p>26 HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27 9:00 am Church Council—WFH</p>	<p>28 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 pm Worship Service—Sanc 6:00 pm Worship Service—Sanc</p>
						<p>31</p>