



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

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January 2023 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.

Welcome To Willowbrook!

Photos Courtesy of Laurie Lineberry



Barbara Blow
Joined: Dec 4, 2022



Charlotte Bowens
Joined: Dec 4, 2022



Gary Rich
Joined: Dec 4, 2022



Judith Rich
Joined: Dec 4, 2022

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

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
- Linda Reese**—Staff Counselor



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

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

**DEADLINE FOR the FEBRUARY 2023
Good News is JANUARY 4, 2023**



**Ring Out the Old
Ring In the New!**

January 2023 will be a month of new beginnings for the Kris Krafters because the Kris Krafters cleaned out their closet!. Numerous bags of brand new items were distributed following the Holiday Craft Faire to several appreciative local charities!

A new supply of colorful acrylic yarn is now available to be crocheted or knitted into warm lap robes, prayer shawls, baby blankets, caps and sweaters. We will also be creating a new supply of cancer caps to keep bare heads warm and cozy.

The Kris Krafters will begin working to provide new pillowcases for many weary heads. Even if you do not sew, knit or crochet, we can use lots of help cutting and ironing fabric, trimming seams and clipping threads to make the pillowcases.

Kris Krafters welcome new members! Stop in Thursday, January 5 or 19 from 9:00am to 11:00am to see if Kris Krafters is a good fit for you.

New Member Class



Our next new member class is scheduled for January 8 & 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 sign-up table during coffee hour or at our Sabbath services.



Welcome 2023!

*He who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5
Be strong and of good courage. Deuteronomy 31:6
I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Joshua 1:5*

*A Prayer for the New Year
-Book of Worship 1964*

O Thou who are from everlasting to everlasting, without beginning or end of days: Replenish us with heavenly grace, at the beginning of this year, that we may be enabled to accept all its duties, to perform all its labors, to welcome all its mercies, to meet all its trials, and to advance through all it holds in store for us, with cheerful courage and a constant mind. O Lord, suffer us not to be separated from thee, either by joy or sorrow, or by any sin or weakness of our own; but have compassion upon us, and forgive us, and keep us in the strong confidence of thine eternal love in Jesus Christ; that as thou hast called us to immortality through him, so we may pass the remainder of our years in the power of an endless life; and to thy name shall be all the praise. Amen.

As I look toward the New Year, I consider that since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, people have been saying, "We pray that next year will be better!" Here we are on the verge of beginning a new year and with war overseas, economic struggles at home and Denomination conflict within our own United Methodist Church, we must consider that the coming year will be more difficult. But we are stronger as a church and as Christian people. We have the resolve to be a witness to our world. I selected the above verses and prayer from 1964 to illustrate that every generation had challenges and understood the need to seek God to help them in the upcoming year. Our biggest challenge will be to remain strong in God, when our world says in a very loud voice, "we don't believe that stuff anymore!" When the difficult times come, people still seek God! People come back to God during times of fear and disaster. Our stance continues to be, "Be Strong! Be Willowbrook Strong!"

*"Don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too.
Live one day at a time." Matthew 6:34*

See you in church and on Livestream! Peace!

Pastor Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



Address/Email/Phone Changes

Helen HUNT
17233 N Boswell Blvd #21
Sun City AZ 85373-2091

Dora MOWRY
6621 W Alice Avenue #51
Glendale AZ 85320-7305

Jane QUINN
14630 W Parkwood Drive #204
Surprise AZ 85374-4592
602-339-1880

Eileen HARRISON
4225 N 36th Street #25
Phoenix AZ 85018-4753

Marilyn GUDITH
18172 N 91st Avenue #21
Peoria AZ 85382-3003
623-974-5847
Senita Ridge

Mary BAILEY
623-533-5663 (Land Line)

Loren LITTLEFIELD
623-826-4910 (Cell only)

Florence REGO
602-292-9589 (Cell only)

NEW MEMBERS

Barbara BLOW
18622 N 93rd Avenue
Peoria AZ 85382-3617

Charlotte BOWENS
15418 N Bolivar Drive
Sun City AZ 85351-1773
cbowens@cox.net
623-451-8040

Gary & Judith RICH
12755 W Caraveo Place
Peoria AZ 85383-8058
garyrich@esedona.net
G—928-300-9223
J—928-300-3977

JANUARY Birthdays

(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 7 Betty Failing
- 9 Vicky Pedersen
- 13 Bob Beier
- 13 Lois Kelly
- 13 Vonda Hidy
- 15 Rose Marie Bessant
- 20 Mary Bailey
- 29 Marge Greenhalge

JANUARY Anniversaries

(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- 11 Aubrey & Louanne Ingles 53rd
- 15 George & Cheryl Reed 57th
- 17 Frank & Nancy Stynen 62nd
- 26 Bob & Wally Henry 55th
- 26 Ron & Lois Leonard 60th



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

- Willowbrook friend, Sandy Thruston on November 27th
- Irma Frederick on December 13th



I would like to thank Pastors Kennedy and Blum for their help, counsel and service during the loss of my husband. To all those who sent cards, flowers, memorials and called, I want to say thank you for making the loss of my husband of 74 years easier. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Lucille Jacobson



Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to Marilyn Burmeister for her faithful service in providing the beautiful centerpieces on the tables in Wilson Fellowship Hall for Sunday morning coffee hours.

Marilyn has dedicated her time and talent to this task for almost ten years. As she retires from this ministry we thank her for sharing the lovely and colorful additions to our fellowship time each week.

THANK YOU, MARILYN!

Willowbrook Worship Committee

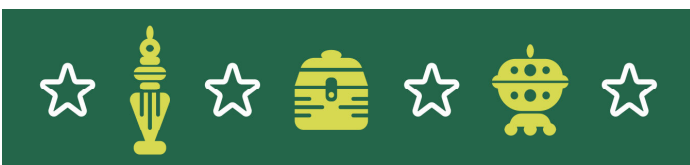


Benevilla™ Caregivers Support Group

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 Sherry Griffin of Benevilla leads the group. Call Benevilla 623-584-4999 or check E-News for ZOOM link.



Proof of Light

On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, “It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven’s ‘Hymn to Joy’ is joyous. If a man were to say, ‘It is not joyous to me,’ he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself.”

—ChurchArtPro

Church COUNCIL 2023

Each year in September the Nominating Committee meets and takes on the task of placing persons on the various committees of the church. The new appointments become effective January 1st. The Church Council is the group of leaders that guides and furthers the ministry of Willowbrook. The council establishes objectives, adopts goals, authorizes action, determines policy, receives reports, evaluates the church’s ministries, and reviews the mission and ministry of the church. The council meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in fellowship hall. All the council members, as part of their leadership roles, have agreed to attend and participate in these monthly meetings. However, everyone from the church is encouraged to attend.

The people listed in the following column have agreed to act as lay leaders, chairpersons and coordinators for Willowbrook in 2023:

- Andrew Ministry—Peter Lee
- Audio, Video & Lighting—Russ Koan
- GriefShare—Diane Nelson, Billie Kay Gordon
- Personal Assistance Program—Saundra Core
- Winsome Widows—Arlene Davidson
- Stephen Ministries—Diane Nelson
- Lay Members to Annual Conference—Russ Koan, Lynn Koan, Debb Pearson, Esther Lloyd, Laurie Lineberry
- Alternate Lay Members to Annual Conference—Don Pleinis, John Wiggs
- Lay Leader—Russ Koan
- Financial & Membership Secretary—Bev Amperse
- Director of Lay Ministry—Laurie Lineberry
- Treasurer—Linda Borton
- Assistant Treasurer—John Calhoun
- Membership Auditor—Roberta Kemper
- Council Members at Large—Jen Brown, Saundra Core, Austin Tingley
- Council Chair—Debb Pearson
- Church Historians—Marge Starkey, Marty Kerns
- Finance & Stewardship—John Calhoun
- Holiday Craft Faire—Janet Sjoberg
- Kitchen & Food Service—Cheryl Reed
- Youthful Seniors—Marilyn Burmeister
- Metho Travelers—Carol Cooper
- Membership, Evangelism & Education—Ruth Blum
- Nominating Committee—Gary Kennedy
- Offering Recorders—Roberta Kemper, Cheryl Reed
- Outreach & Missions—Ann Martin
- Reception Coordinators—Wally Henry & Cheryl Reed
- Sanctuary/Chapel/Narthex Management—Janice Caron
- Staff-Parish Relations—Cheryl Reed
- Trustees—Ross McCollum
- United Women in Faith—Nancy Prevost
- Willowbrook Foundation—Gene Ambrosion
- Worship—Debb Pearson



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.

- Jan 4 *Guilt and Anger*
- Jan 11 *Complicating Factors*
- Jan 18 *Stuck*
- Jan 25 *Lessons of Grief: Part One*

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



Thank You Tea Servers!

A special shout out to all the Capable and Handsome servers for the United Women in Faith 20th Annual Christmas Tea. You rolled with the punches as I moved you around. I heard only high praise for my team of servers. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. See you NEXT YEAR!

(whispered) Did I forget to tell you?
It’s a Lifetime commitment.
Janet Sjoberg



YOUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE
WISHES TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

WE WERE ABLE TO BLESS MANY CHILDREN
AND YOUTH WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS.

WE ARE WILLOWBROOK STRONG!



United Women in Faith

Willowbrook Women!

We are blessed to begin another year as United Women in Faith. Our theme for 2023 is Excite-Invite-Unite and there are exciting programs coming this year.

Our January meeting will be held on January 16 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and Dorcas will be the hostess. The program will be on the work that UMCOR does and we will be preparing personal feminine hygiene kits to ship to UMCOR to use in disaster areas. The annual pledge service will be presented at the January meeting as well. Your circle chair will give further details on how we are preparing the kits.

There are four circles to which all women are invited: Mary Circle—2nd Monday, usually in Fellowship Hall. Elizabeth Circle—2nd Monday, usually in Library. Rachel Circle—2nd Tuesday, usually in the Library. Dorcas Circle—2nd Wednesday, usually at the church. Watch church calendar for calendar confirmation. Circles have a devotional time, a sharing time and an opportunity to learn about UWF and its mission to help women and children in the U.S. and globally.

We are making plans for our Day-Apart Retreat on March 18 at Lake Pleasant Outdoor Center. If you attended last year, you will remember what a beautiful spot that was. Our worship leader will be Mary Hollan who was guest entertainer at the Christmas Tea. The cost will be \$45 per person but there is a scholarship available, if needed. The theme is "JUST BREATHE" and after the last few years we all just need the opportunity to take a step away and breathe. You will have the opportunity to sign up soon.



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

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

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



Willowbrook Feeds the Hungry
Non-perishable Food and WATER
Next Food Drive:
Dec 31, 2022 at Sabbath Service
Jan 1, 2023 in Fellowship Hall

If you are not familiar with the UWF reading program, there is information in the library. You do not have to be a member to participate. There are some excellent books in the library for the 2023 reading program. Reading is connecting. Share the books you have read. Pray about the concerns raised in the books.

One of the 27 new books added to the library this year is
Phoebe: A Story, by Paula Gooder [Intervarsity Press, 2018]
"When the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome around 56 AD, he entrusted his letter to Phoebe, the deacon of the church at Cencreae. But who was this remarkable woman?"

In this, her debut novel, biblical scholar Paula Gooder tells Phoebe's story—who she was, the life she lived, and her first-century faith—and in doing so opens up Paul's theology, giving a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped Paul's thinking, and the faith of the early church.

"It cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will be a knowing people." John Wesley

MAY GOD FILL YOUR NEW YEAR
WITH LAUGHTER, HEALTH AND LOVE.
Sue Marshall

Willowbrook Handbells

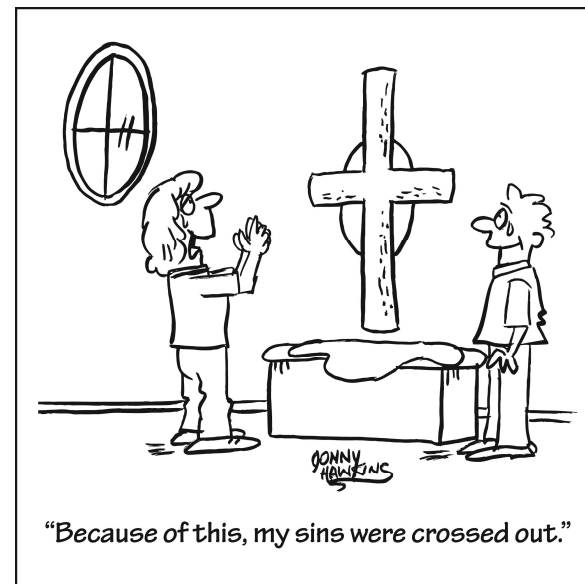


Meet every Tuesday
1:30 pm—Music Room
Info: Carolyn Smith



I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



JANUARY 13TH—5 PM TEMPLE GRANDIN (the movie)

Dr. Grandin became a prominent author and speaker on both autism and animal behavior. Today she is a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University.

MENU:
Baked Potato Bar
Dessert & Soda

\$5 at sign-up

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 **JANUARY** are:

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
December 26 (NO CLASS)	January 1
Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 2 (NO CLASS)	January 8
Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalms 29
Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
January 9	January 15
Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalms 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
January 16 (NO CLASS)	January 22
Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalms 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
January 23	January 29
Micah 6:1-8	Psalms 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
January 30	February 5
Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Psalms 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20

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!

- * Jan 26 *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray
- * Feb 23 *Doc* by Mary Doria Russell
- * Mar 23 *The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny

January


December 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

February 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				

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 COMMUNION 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Advent Pauses—CR	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEAR HOLIDAY	3 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 1:00 pm Joyful Bells—MR	4 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	5 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	6 8:00 am Kitchen Cleaning—WFH/ Kitchen 2:00 pm Youth Srs. Board—LL	7 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
8 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	9 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 3:45 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	10 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 1:00 pm Joyful Bells—MR	11 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm Writing Class—The Palms 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	12 9:00 am Trustee Committee—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL	13 5:00 pm Youthful Srs. Event—WFH	14 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
15 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 12:00 pm UWF Unit Meeting—WFH	17 9:30 am M.E.E.—CR 11:30 am New Member Lunch—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR	18 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple IV—CR 2:30 pm Foundation Committee—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	19 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 3:30 pm Outreach Committee—WFH	20 9:00 am Kitchen Seminar—WFH/ Kitchen	21 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
22 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	23 REPLACING CARPET 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL	24 REPLACING CARPET 9:00 am Church Council—CH 1:00 pm Joyful Bells—MR	25 REPLACING CARPET 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple IV—CR 2:00 pm Writing Class—The Palms 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	26 REPLACING CARPET 9:00 am Finance Committee—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	27 REPLACING CARPET	28 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
29 NEW MEMBERS 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	30 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL	31 1:00 pm Joyful Bells—MR				

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



JANUARY
 Ajo Federated Church
 Calvary UMC, Phoenix
 Chino Valley UMC