



**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



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



April

OFFICE HOURS
Mon-Fri—8:30am—4:00pm



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

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| • Richard Ceser | Garden Ridge |
| • Joanna Lynn | Guardian Care Home |
| • Lois McCrea | Doc's Place |
| • Fern McKnight | Sagewood Assisted Living |

**DEADLINE FOR the MAY 2023
Good News is APRIL 4, 2023**

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
Dr. Linda Reese—Staff Counselor



April 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.



Ministry Fair

Recently at our Ministry Fair there were a lot of conversations about volunteering. There were also a lot of people recruiting help. Willowbrook ministers to the community and the world through multiple avenues. If you missed the Fair, it is not too late to volunteer your services. Just let us know your interests.



The church council is composed of the 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.

Points of interest from the February 28th meeting:

- * Some people thought the Ministry Fair was overwhelming. Did not receive a lot of interest and sign-ups.
- * The newly formed Stewardship Committee sent a second letter with a pledge card for those who might still want to make a pledge.
- * Gene Ambrosion asked that the Foundation be kept in our prayers and focus on where we've been and where we want to go.
- * Marilyn Burmeister reported that the Youthful Seniors have had to raise the cost of events due to rising prices of food.
- * Linda Borton handed out fliers of upcoming Outreach projects. She also reported for United Women of Faith who had Jesse Ramirez from Valley View speak at their meeting. They donated 200 lbs of sugar and spices to the food bank.
- * John Calhoun presented the 2023 church budget. A motion to approve it was made and carried. The budget shows a deficit but most costs are fixed. We will continue to monitor the budget throughout the year.



"Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the grave carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the grave, so they went on in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus." Luke 24:1-3

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a powerful story in itself. But for us as Christians, it is the Good News of a transformed life. We, the church, we have been preparing for Easter during this Season of Lent. This preparation culminates with our Holy Week services and celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

- ◆ This year at Willowbrook United Methodist Church we will begin Holy Week observances with our Palm Sunday service on April 2nd at 9:30am. The scripture focus will be Matthew 21:1-11.
- ◆ Maundy Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday) will be observed with a 4:00pm service in our Chapel on April 6th.
- ◆ A Good Friday observance will be held on April 7th at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary. This observance will include stations for the *7 Last Words of Christ*.
- ◆ Easter services will be held both Saturday April 8th at 5:00pm in the Chapel and Sunday April 9th at 9:30am in the Sanctuary.

The celebration of Easter always brings great joy because in it, we see that Jesus had victory over death. As Christians, we understand that in the Resurrection, we too can have victory over sin and the problems that we face in this life. The great triumph of the Resurrection also inspires us to want to do good for others.

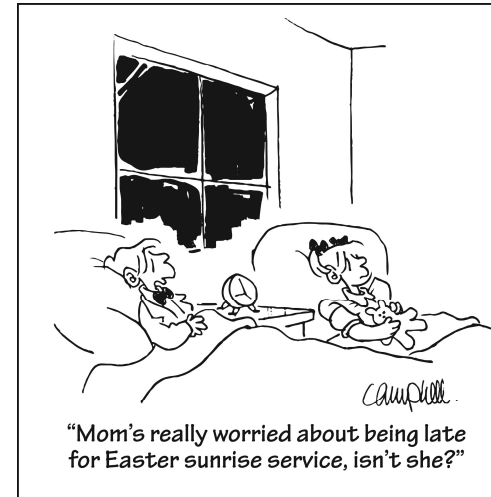
Traditionally here at Willowbrook, we have acted on our joy by sharing a special Easter offering to support a ministry that helps people. Each year, our Outreach/Missions Committee helps us to identify where our Easter offering might best be shared. This year our special offering will be split between the St. Mary's Food Bank and the Salvation Army's Assistance program. If you did not receive an envelope for the special Easter offering, you can still donate by writing "Easter Offering" on a pew envelope, or on the memo line of your check and return it to the church by placing it in the offering plate, bringing it to the church office or simply mailing it to the church.

The women who went to Jesus' tomb early on Easter morning thought that they had missed Jesus. To their delight, they had not. I would like to encourage everyone to think and pray about who you might invite to church, so that they, too, might not miss Jesus on Easter. His love is for all of us.

See you in church or on Live-Stream

Rev. Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong



The Personal Assistance Program "P.A.P."
SCAMMERS are Contacting Retirees

Scammers use a variety of tactics; but their favorite is fear and urgency:

- Scammers are currently contacting Senior Citizens with Romance Scams. A scammer offers companionship, then requests money or something of value in return for personal information.
- They give you a sense of urgency such as you will lose your service if you do not act now.
- They may ask you to help someone in need or a loved one: (Can you do me a favor).
- Scammers impersonate government agencies and financial institutions saying your taxes are past due, or you are violating a law: including IRS, Social Security, Banks, Credit Unions, Credit Cards, and Utility Companies.
They often reference computer vulnerabilities; saying things like: "your device needs new software", or "your computer has a virus".

If you receive a suspicious call: (One you did not call or initiate)

- Do not answer unidentified calls or click on links because they give access to your computer.]
- Do not give out any personal information.

Take notes or a screen shot on your phone and contact one of the following agencies: The Arizona agencies forward them to the appropriate national agency or law enforcement.

The following Agencies oversee Arizona:
Arizona Attorney General's Office (AZAG) (All Frauds)
www.azag.gov/complaints/consumer
www.azag.gov/seniorabuse@azag.gov
Arizona: (602)-542-2124 or (844) 894-4735

Arizona Department of Financial Institutions (AZDFI)
Oversees 11 different Institutions.
www.dfi.az.gov [click on **Complaints.**]
Arizona: (602) 771-2800

APRIL Birthdays

(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- 9 Roy Meyer
- 28 Betty Beier

APRIL Anniversaries

(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- 9 Ernie & Carole Pearce 63rd
- 12 Richard & Carol Jenkins 60th
- 27 Richard & Michele Meyer 54th
- 28 Jerry & Lorna Hermanek 61st

IN LOVING Memory

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

- Karen Gurian's brother, Kevin Overs on February 12
- Dorothy Zimmerman, May 16, 2022 in Phoenix
- Phyl Cipolla's brother-in-law, Chris
- Debb Pearson's uncle, Frank Guy, February 27
- Mary Hubbard on March 3
- Karl Henn on March 5
- Sandy Gustafson on March 6
- Sharon Randall on March 14

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 the the next few books!

- * April 27 *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo
- * May 25 *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead
- * June 22 *The Last Train to Key West* by Chanel Cleeton
- * July 27 *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks
- * August 24 *The Good Left Undone* by Adriana Trigiani
- * Sept 28 *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce
- * Oct 26 *Mitford Affair* by Marie Benedict



The Revised Common Lectionary is a three-year cycle of reading through the Bible based on the synoptic (similar) gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

The years are titled A (Matthew), B (Mark) and C (Luke). The Christian liturgical year begins the first Sunday of Advent and ends on Christ the King Sunday. If you read all the lections for all three years, you will read 85% of the Bible. Come and join us on Monday mornings at 11:00 am to read the upcoming Sunday's lectionary and to talk about it. We finish at noon.



The weekly readings for **APRIL** are:

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
March 27	April 2
PALM SUNDAY Liturgy of Palms	
Matthew 21:1-11	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of Passion	
Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11	Mat 26:14-27, 66
April 3	April 9
EASTER	
Acts 10:34-43 or Jerimiah 31:1-6	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10	
April 10	April 16
Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalms 16
1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 17	April 23
Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Luke 24:13-35
Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23
April 24	April 30
Acts 2:42-47	Psalms 23
1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10



Caregivers Support Group

EVERY THURSDAY
9:30-10:30am

Willowbrook Library Lounge
Hybrid: in-person and on ZOOM

Now meeting EVERY THURSDAY, 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.




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.

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

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.

April	5	<i>Guilt and Anger</i>
April	12	<i>Complicating Factors</i>
April	19	<i>Stuck</i>
April	26	<i>Lessons of Grief: Part One</i>
May	3	<i>Lessons of Grief: Part Two</i>
May	10	<i>Heaven</i>
May	17	<i>What Do I Live For Now?</i>
May	24	<i>Is This Normal?</i>
May	31	<i>Challenges of Grief</i>



Willowbrook Feeds the Hungry
Non-perishable Food
WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED
Next Food Drive:
April 1 & 2, 2023
at Sabbath Service &
Sunday in Fellowship Hall



April 14th

Join our QE2 Cruise!
courtesy of Ron Blessin
as he shares memories.
Don't Miss Out!
5:00pm—Fellowship Hall
Sign-up April 1/2 or April 8/9



"No Fooling"

To accompany the mountain of pillows for Veterans, the Kris Krafters sewed red, white and blue pillowcases. Pictures and the total number of pillowcases made can be seen on the Kris Krafters bulletin board in Wilson Fellowship Hall. An ongoing project is sewing pillowcases in children's fabrics for Ryan's Cases for Smiles which will be donated during September which is Children's Cancer Awareness Month. Their very own pillowcase in bright, happy fabrics brings smiles to these special children. If you can iron or cut fabric or run a sewing machine, your help would be greatly appreciated as these pillowcases are being made.

During April, the Kris Krafters will meet in Wilson Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 6th and Thursday, April 20th from 9 to 11 AM. No fooling, feel free to drop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie and to see what projects are being made. Everyone is welcome. Also, prayer shawls can be picked up at this time if you know of someone who would benefit from the comfort of a prayer shawl.

Shown Below: Some of the beautiful pillowcases for Veterans along with the first donations toward the Mountain of Pillows.



REMINDER: Willowbrook is not collecting used clothing at this time. If you wish to donate used clothing to a non-profit, consider taking your used clothing to:

- Valley View Community Food Bank's Thrift Store at 10737 W Peoria Ave, Sun City or
- The Lutheran Thrift Shop at 10615 W Peoria Ave, Sun City.

ON THE ROAD: Now that many of us are traveling again, remember to bring UNOPENED small-sized toiletries (the ones provided by hotels) back to Willowbrook. We donate them to HART pantry. Homeless teens really need these small-sized items. Look for the HART container in Wilson Fellowship Hall.

Spring is in the Air!



The United Women in Faith will be hosting their Spring Lunch on Monday, April 17 at 12 noon in Wilson Fellowship Hall. We have invited some neighboring church units to join us. If you are planning to attend, please bring a salad for 8 to share. There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall after church so we have an idea of how many places to set up.

The program will be a fashion show featuring our very own members as models. They will be modeling outfits from Son Glow Boutique. Son Glow Boutique gives 100% of their profits to missionaries in Central America and water projects. They are located at 11294 West Bell Road, Suite #5 in Surprise. Everyone will receive a card for 20% off purchases and since there is no tax charged at Son Glow, this is a nice savings.

We will have some spring gift baskets for raffle prizes with proceeds going to United Women in Faith missions. Please come and join us; and members, please invite someone to come with you for this fun day to celebrate Spring.

The United Women in Faith contributed 200 pounds of sugar and spices to Valley View Community Food Bank in February. (Below is the great picture from the newspaper.) Jesse Ramirez was our speaker from the food bank. It was an excellent program. Willowbrook's unit also mailed 20 feminine hygiene packs to UMCOR for disaster relief. We have been busy this year.

Coming up in May we will have our guest night. Invite a spouse, a friend or neighbor to come and enjoy dinner and pie at 5 p.m.

Our reading program continues so pick up a new book in the church library. If you can't make a unit meeting, (always third Monday of the month), visit one of our circles.



April


March 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	

May 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>2 FOOD BANK COLLECTION COMMUNION/PALM SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p>3 10:00 am UWF Team Meeting—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>4 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR</p>	<p>5 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Disciple IV—LL 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 2:00 pm Worship—CR 4:00 pm Maundy Thurs Service—CH</p>	<p>7 GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm Good Friday Service—Sanc</p>	<p>1 FOOD BANK COLLECTION 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>9 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p>10 9:00 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>11 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL</p>	<p>12 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Dorcas Circle—LL</p>	<p>13 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL</p>	<p>14 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH</p>	<p>8 HOLY SATURDAY 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>16 9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p>17 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 12:00 pm UWF Unit Meeting—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:15 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH</p>	<p>18 TAX DAY 9:30 am Membership Evangelism Education—CR</p>	<p>19 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 10:00 am Foundation—CR 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>20 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 3:30 pm Outreach—WFH</p>	<p>21 11:00 am Hubbard Memorial—CH</p>	<p>15 11:00 am Winsome Widows—Karen Stark Home 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>23 9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p>24 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>25 9:30 am Church Council—CH</p>	<p>26 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>27 9:00 am Finance Committee—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>22 EARTH DAY 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>30 9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>						<p>29 11:00 am Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple I—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>

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