



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

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



May 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.

Introducing...



Wayne Bailey
Joined: March 25, 2023



Peggy Ward
Joined: March 26, 2023

Photos Courtesy of Laurie Lineberry.

New Member Class



Our next new member class is scheduled for May 7 and 21 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.

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
Dr. Linda Reese—Staff Counselor



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 JUNE 2023
Good News is MAY 15, 2023



Volunteers are key!

April 5th was a great day for volunteering at Valley View Community Food Bank. Volunteering gives us an opportunity to be in fellowship, learning about each other and knowing we are helping others.

We enjoyed eating cheese curds, plus, we had donuts and coffee! Many of the volunteers will be heading back to their other homes and we look forward to them helping again when they return.

We may have a small crew but we plan to help as much as possible at Valley View through the summer.

IT'S A FIESTA!

May 12th—5:00 pm

Youthful SENIORS

Mexican Potluck

Sign up 4/30 & 5/7

Wilson Fellowship Hall



Front row: Loren Littlefield, Carol Widney, Marilyn Dumbauld, Sherry King, Valley View Community Food Bank Lead Coordinator Lois Stewart, John King & Linda Borton
Back row: Debbie Lyman, Ted Dumbauld, Dale Lenderts, Dave & Linda Kresl



The Oracle of Habakkuk *

"God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights." Habakkuk 3:19

The Old Testament (also known as the First Testament) contains a short book about a wise prophet that we know little about. Chapter 3 of his book is a poem that contains, at the end, instructions for the music leader or choirmaster to use stringed instruments to accompany it. This poem was obviously intended for use in worship.

What we do know about Habakkuk is that he was a prophet during the height of Babylonian power; in other words, a difficult time for the followers of God. His oracle contains a section where the prophet is talking to God. Another section reflects on the wickedness of their oppressors and also the poem mentioned above.

The verse at the top (3:19) gives me incredible images to draw from not only the setting of Habakkuk's life, but images that help my faith and help me cope with issues in our times as well. The image of a fleeing deer escaping its predator by scampering up the side of a mountain in a way that no predator could follow is amazing. I know plenty of times in my youth, as a Boy Scout, that I would see deer and wanted to follow them but to no avail. There just isn't any following a deer that escapes so easily by going up the side of a mountain or running tirelessly through the forest. This image helps me realize that God gifts us with helps for our life that are like the "feet of a deer". There are times when God leads us to avoid problems and other times when God empowers us to face them. God helps us with the wisdom to know the difference. That deer in the forest surely had all the advantages over me. It's good to know that God also grants us "tools" to help us live victoriously too.

See you in church and/or Live-Stream

Rev. Gary Kennedy

* an oracle is a person or thing considered to provide wise and insightful counsel or prophetic predictions.... Wikipedia

Willowbrook Strong



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

- Muriel Lundy on March 25 in OH
- Former Member Lynne Flett
- Marilyn Gudith on April 10
- Jim Becker on April 12
- Joe Brooks' son, Jay on April 12 in CO
- Irma Vance on April 12

Thank You! Thank you VERY much for your many prayers for several of our family members who have recently experienced medical and health problems. You are a blessing to our family!

Praising God, our grand-nephew, Aaron is officially a cancer survivor now with annual scans.

Betty & Mike Shepherd

MAY Birthdays

(We celebrate 90 years or more)

4	Anne King
16	Viola Burrell
26	Richard Cesar

MAY Anniversaries

(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

2	Fred & Jeanne Poole	59th
21	Gary & Judith Rich	56th
24	Mel & Rose Sorensen	66th
25	Bob & Millie Johnson	66th

Where Does Civilization Start?

Quotes from anthropologist Margaret Mead

A student once asked Margaret Mead, "What is the earliest sign of civilization?" The student expected her to say a clay pot, a grinding stone, or maybe a weapon.

After pondering the question for a few moments, Mead replied, "A healed femur."

Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, the law of the jungle is the survival of the fittest. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal. She added that the first sign of civilization is compassion, seen in a healed femur.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts.

We are at our best when we serve others.



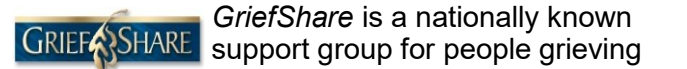
The Revised Common Lectionary is a three-year cycle of reading through the Bible based on the synoptic (similar) gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

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
May 1 Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10	May 7 Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16 John 14:1-14
May 8 Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22	May 14—Mother's Day Psalms 66:8-20 John 14:15-21
May 15 Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	May 21—Ascension Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35 John 17:1-11
OR Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23	Psalms 47 or 19 Luke 24:44-53
May 22 Acts 2:1-21 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	May 28—Pentecost Psalms 104:24-34, 35b John 7:37-39
May 29 NO CLASS Genesis 1:1-2:4a 2 Corinthians 13:11-13	June 4 Psalms 8 Matthew 28:16-20



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, or attend the church, to be a part of the *GriefShare* program.

May	3	<i>Lessons of Grief: Part Two</i>
May	10	Heaven
May	17	What Do I Live for Now?
May	24	Is This Normal?
May	31	Challenges of Grief



Caregivers Support Group

EVERY THURSDAY
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.

Facilitated by Benevilla—623-584-4999



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

Check out the next few books!

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

Sunset Supper and PIE!



On May 15th at 5:00pm the Women are hosting a Sunset Supper and Pie evening. Everyone is invited including spouses and guests. There will be a short presentation by Maria Hase, Social Action Coordinator, Conference United Women in Faith. She will update the group on some of the social action concerns of the conference.

And then there will be PIE! There is no charge for dinner but a donation basket will be available. We just ask that you sign up on Sunday, May 7 or 14 after church so we have an idea how much food to prepare. Why is it called a Sunset Supper? Because we should be done in time to get home by sunset! (7:21 pm)

Remember, we have a custom of getting together for lunch during the summer months; June 19, July 17, and August 21. Mark your calendar and watch for updates. At the July lunch we will be collecting school supplies. Who doesn't enjoy purchasing new notebooks or packs of pencils and crayons?

Watch for more information about the Summer lunches in the June Good News. Or check with your circle leader and read the Electronic Newsletter for the women put out by Linda Borton. Not on the list? Call her.

In April the women of Willowbrook enjoyed a spiritual retreat facilitated by Mary Hollen. Special thanks to Jane Johnson who provided photos from the event. [see below]



May


April 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June 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	

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 MAY DAY 10:00 am UWF Team Meeting—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL	2 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR	3 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	4 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	5 10:30 am Gudith Memorial—CH 2:00 pm Youthful Srs. Board—LL	6 FOOD BANK COLLECTION Justa Center Prep—Kitchen 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
7 FOOD BANK COLLECTION COMMUNION 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	8 9:00 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL	9 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL	10 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Dorcas Circle—LL 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	11 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL	12 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH Mexican Potluck!	13 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
14 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	15 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 5:00 pm UWF Unit Meeting—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	16 9:30 am Membership Evangelism Education—CR	17 9:30 am Foundation—CR 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	18 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 3:30 pm Outreach—WFH	19	20 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
21 ASCENSION SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	22 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:15 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	23 9:30 am Church Council—CH	24 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	25 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	26	27 NEW MEMBERS 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
28 PENTECOST—NEW MEMBERS 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	30	31 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc			

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



MAY
 First UMC, Yuma
 Fort Yuma UMC
 Gila Mountain UMC, Yuma