

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

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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

Monday-Friday—8:30am—4:00pm



Group Home or Care Facility:

- Donna Barr
- Richard Ceser
- Dennis Lapic
- Joanna Lynn
- Lois McCrea
- Fern McKnight

Pray for the following members in a

Avanti Senior Living Highland Park Asst. Living Cami Assisted Living Guardian Care Home Doc's Place

Sagewood Assisted Living

DEADLINE FOR the DECEMBER 2023 Good News is November 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 lerley—Pastor Emeritus Dr. Robb Butler—Music Director

Carol Virolainen—Worship Musician Nicholas Capatch—Live Stream

Russ Koan—Lay Leader Dr. Linda Reese—Staff Counselor



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 12:00-12:30 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.



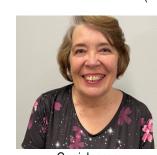
Welcome To Willowbrook!

Photos Courtesy of Laurie Lineberry

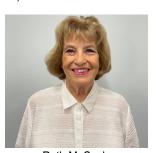




Mylan & Joanne Grubor Joined: September 23, 2023 (Submitted Photo)



Gerri Joncas Joined: Sept. 24, 2023



Ruth McCosh Joined: Sept. 24, 2023



Pray for Our Pastors

couragement to Pastors Gary, Lois and Ruth so that

walk with all humility and gentleness, with patience,

they might walk in a manner worthy of the calling

with which they have been called; lead them to

showing tolerance for those around them in love,

please help each of them to be steadfast, immov-

Pastor Appreciation Sunday—November 26th.

and that they would be diligent to preserve the

able, and always abounding in Your work. Help them to know that their toil is not in vain. Amen.

unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Lord,

Lord, we pray that You would send a spirit of en-



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! NOVEMBER 29-10:30AM CHAPEL

—From Bible StudyTools/Crosswalk



Joseph Nicksich Joined: Sept. 24, 2023



Valerie Nicksich Joined: Sept. 24, 2023



Welcome Back Winter Visitors! Let the Reunion Begin!

The month of November is traditionally the time frame for the return of most of our "winter visitors," even though we have been welcoming some back since October and some won't return until December or January. Nevertheless the greatest number return in November and that heralds a change of seasons of sorts with many reunions here at the church and in our community. For us here at Willowbrook, it is a joyful time as our church family feels more complete with the return of friends from far away summer homes. It also signals the end of a long hot summer and a transition to fall programming here at the church. This summer has been filled with many activities: lunches, summer choir, telephone campaigns, small group studies, a hymn sing, some jazz and lots of ice cream! The summer church family has been quite active this year and we welcome the winter visitors to the fun! Some of our committee work picks up pace in the Fall and in some cases the winter visitors jump right back into the committee work they left last spring.

Perhaps the term winter visitor needs to be looked at and reviewed. The amount of traffic on the streets increases dramatically as does the checkout line at stores and the wait lines at restaurants. This indicates a lot more people around who weren't here during the summer and the term "winter visitor" makes sense to explain a lot more people in town. This doesn't seem to fit at church. Even though the term "winter visitor" is one that many use and understand, perhaps the term winter resident seems to fit better at church. That sounds more like a family reunion because the family is back together. It is a "homecoming." As stated earlier, the feeling at church is a joyful time of feeling complete. So let me simply say, it feels good to have the family back home!

To our family members who have just returned, I say, Welcome! Let me catch you up on a few things. Our full choir doesn't sing during the summer, so we are enjoying them now as much as you are. We had our annual stewardship campaign in October where we highlighted the stewardship of time and talents. We now understand stewardship as a year-round sharing of ourselves in addition to our tithes and offerings. If you missed the Stewardship Campaign, we would love for you to fill out one of pledge cards anytime now. Perhaps you received one in the mail while you were gone. The ushers also have them at the worship services.

Our "official" Homecoming Celebration will be Sunday November 12th and the Thanksgiving Dinner is back on Thanksgiving Day. Did you get your ticket yet? Our Annual Church Conference is Wednesday, November 29th. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

We are glad you are back! We missed you! Let the family reunion begin!

See you in Church!

Rev. Gary Kennedy
Willowbrook Strong



God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. ... God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; he blesses us so we can be generous.

—Rick Warren (based on 2 Corinthians 9:11

A hoarded blessing is never enjoyed as richly as a shared one. Using your gift to meet someone else's need glorifies God by demonstrating his grace at work in your life. Don't let his generous provisions end with you. Pass them on and discover the joy of a never-ending cycle of blessings.

—Charles Stanley



"Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch."



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

| | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|----|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3 | Merilee Reetz | 93 |
| 8 | Darlene Knodel | 92 |
| 15 | Fred Dorgin | 92 |
| 17 | Charles Musgrave | 91 |
| 27 | Ben Stark | 94 |
| 30 | Edythe Gaya | 98 |

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

23 Larry & Jane Johnson24 Howard & Betty Smucker59th69th

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

- Jack Leach on September 14th
- Marilyn Burmeister's Brother-in-law, Ron Preissig on September 20th in IL
- George Badway on October 1st
- Lucille Jacobson on October 7th
- Karen Brooks' husband, Ron on September 28th
- Former member William G. Shackleford on August 22nd (just prior to his 103rd birthday)



Willowbrook Handbells

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



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.





A GriefShare support group is a safe, GRIEF SHARE welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of

grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

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.

| November | 1 | Lessons of Grief, Part Two | | | |
|----------|----|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| November | 8 | Surviving the Holidays | | | |
| November | 15 | Heaven | | | |
| November | 22 | What Do I Live for Now? | | | |
| November | 29 | Is This Normal? | | | |
| December | 6 | Your Grief Journey | | | |
| December | 13 | Loneliness & Sadness | | | |
| December | 20 | Self-Care | | | |
| December | 27 | Fearful & Overwhelmed | | | |
| January | 3 | Anger | | | |
| January | 10 | Regrets | | | |
| January | 17 | Grief & Your Household | | | |
| January | 24 | Grief & Your Friendships | | | |
| January | 31 | Questions for God | | | |
| February | 7 | Stuck in Grief | | | |
| February | 14 | Hope & Resilience | | | |
| February | 21 | What Do I Live For Now? | | | |

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Valley View Community Food Bank operates two thrift stores in Sun City? They are always happy to accept your donated treasures. The thrift stores are open Monday–Saturday, 9:00am-3:00pm and are located at:

> 10737 W Peoria Ave; Sun City 13576 W Camino del Sol, #10, Sun City





Willowbrook has a tradition of collecting frozen turkeys for Thanksgiving to support Valley View Community Food Bank. You are asked to bring your frozen turkey to church the weekend before Thanksgiving. Jesse Ramirez, founder/president of Valley View Community Food Bank will be present on Sunday, November 19th to collect the turkeys before the church service.

> In 2022, Willowbrookers gave 50 turkeys. How many will we donate in 2023?

On the first Wednesday of each month, you will find Willowbrookers at Valley View Community Food Bank volunteering their time to provide whatever help is needed. During these gatherings, you'll hear laughter, meet new people, and get to know each other better. When your shift is over, it will make your heart feel good because you are making a difference in someone's life!

When the call went out that Valley View collected grocery bags and egg cartons, Willowbrookers came through. Every month, we fill at least two 33gallon garbage bags stuffed with grocery bags, and we've probably collected over 600 egg cartons as well. We've set up a Valley View Community Food Bank blue container in Wilson Fellowship Hall to collect these items. The need is continuous.

If you're interested in volunteering at Valley View Community Food Bank, please contact Linda Borton.

On October 4th Willowbrook was well-represented. Row 1: Carol Widney, Lynda Katz, Fran Triguero Row 2: Paul Condit, Janice Caron, Linda Kresl, Joyce Bruning, Bev Bourbeau, Barb Pawlikowski, Linda Borton, Valley View Lead Coordinator Lois Stewart Row 3: Dave Kresl, Mike McGinty



Mission Project



Willowbrook United Women in Faith collected back-to-school supplies for children. The continued support of this mission project is just one way to help children who require assistance. School supplies are essential for school children and will greatly contribute to their learning experience.

Thanks to your generous donations of school supplies to Wesley Community & Health Center at Golden Gate Center and The Salvation Army in Surprise, many children now have access to the materials they need to succeed. With your help, we have made a difference, and we are sincerely grateful for your support.

Wesley Community & Health Center at Golden Gate Center and The Salvation Army greatly appreciate your

kindness and generosity.



Salvation Army Tour

On Monday, August 28th, while delivering donations to the Salvation Army, Liz Peck, Linda Borton, & Sue Marshall were treated to a tour of The Army's Surprise location lead by Major Kathy Merritt.

Here are some of the things we learned from Major Merritt. As a result of the pandemic, some programs remained constant while other programs had to be modified. For example, the pantry/food distribution process changed. A remodel of their location made delivery and distribution of food more efficient. They adapted a drive-thru model for food distribution and purchased refrigerators and freezers to accommodate donated perishable food items.

Other old programs remain much as they did prior to the pandemic. Sunday school and worship services take place every Sunday. On Mondays & Thursday mornings, free breakfasts are open to the public. Free hot showers are available the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month (towels and toiletries are provided). There are also many youth programs, rental and utility assistance, and the list goes on and on.

On an ongoing basis, through the Outreach Committee, Willowbrook supports the West Valley Salvation Army's "social service" programs.

Willowbrook Readers Club!



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

Check out this month's book!

Nov 17 Dec 28

The Book of Charlie Mr. Dickens & His Carol by Samantha Silva

by David Von Drehle



The holiday season is fast approach-Tutreach ing and your Outreach Committee isions wants to give you additional information about numerous opportuni-

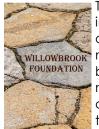
ties for sharing. Our "Wish List for Giving" includes many organizations we have supported in the past.

- 1A. Consider "adopting-a-child" this Christmas through <u>Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree</u>. The gifts you purchase are given to a child of an incarcerated parent. We will have the names of 30 children and the gifts they are hoping to receive. The Angel Tree organization requests that gifts given should cost approximately \$25. Drop by the Angel Tree table in Fellowship Hall where an Outreach Committee member will provide you with additional information.
- 1B. Consider "adopting-a-child" this Christmas through Wesley Community Center's Golden Gate Center. Golden Gate is located in Marvvale, an economically depressed area of Phoenix. Golden Gate's "adopt-achild" program requests that Christmas gifts should be around \$40. Look for the "Golden Gate" table in Fellowship Hall where we will have the names and gift requests of these children and detailed information about this program.
- 2. UMOM's Halle Center is a shelter for homeless women. As in year's past, we will be collecting throw blankets and women's pajamas for Halle Center residents. Look for collection bins in Fellowship Hall marked "HALLE CENTER" beginning in November.
- 3. Perhaps you would love to help support the "at-risk" teens that are served by HART Pantry. Each year at the holidays, they give high school students \$25 gift cards for Target or Walmart. The students usually use the cards to purchase clothing or shoes to carry them through the rest of the school year. You can help by purchasing \$25 gift cards from Target or Walmart on your own, or you can donate any amount and Outreach will purchase the gift cards. We will have a donation basket on the HART Pantry table throughout the month for your cards or cash. If you would prefer to write a check, please make it out to the church and note in the "Memo" line that it is for HART Pantry. Area "at risk" students will be extremely grateful!

Here's hoping one or more of these opportunities to share speak to your heart, and will fit into your giftgiving plans this Christmas.



A Note from the **Church Foundation:**



Think about the part you want to play in Willowbrook's future. You have the opportunity to support this ministry in WILLOWBROOK many ways. Naming Willowbrook as a beneficiary in your estate plan or the making of an endowment gift can assure your continued participation in the life and mission of Willowbrook UMC far into the future.

Keep on keeping Willowbrook Strong!!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Thursday, November 29— 10:30am—Chapel

The Annual Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Rev. Javier Olivares will begin at 10:30am, November 29th in the Chapel.

The Annual Church Conference is where the business of the church is discussed and voted on by the entire membership. All Church members are encouraged to attend.



Pastor Gary and the Kris Krafters wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

A TIME OF THANKSGIVING

The Kris Krafters have much to be thankful for: Our membership is increasing which in turn increases our donations to local charities, supplies of yarn, fabric and other craft items have been generously donated by Willowbrook members and friends, and we had a successful Holidaze Craft Faire! And yet we have not lost our enthusiasm to keep sewing, crocheting, knitting, and crafting.

Join us on the first and third Thursday of each month in Wilson Fellowship Hall at 9:00am. Everyone is welcome! Come for KRIS KRAFTERS conversation, cookies and coffee as well as creatina and craftina.



Honoring Our Veterans

Wear your favorite military hat, jacket or Red White and Blue.

(If your [or your loved one's] picture is not yet up on the Veteran Bulletin Board, bring it with you and drop in the basket. Be sure to have your name, branch and rank with the picture.)

Movie: Megan Leavey

Megan Leavey is a US Marine corporal who served as a Military Police K9 handler. She was paired with military working dog Rex (E168). The pair served two deployments in Iraq together. They were first deployed to Fallujah in 2005, and then to Ramadi in 2006, where they were both wounded by an improvised explosive device. Leavey was awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a "V" device denoting heroism in combat.

> Menu: Pizza Cost \$10 Sign-Up Oct. 29 or Nov. 5



The church council is composed of the chairs of each committee or a COUNCIL committee representative. They vote on any actionable items. Eve-

ryone from the church is encouraged to attend and join in the discussion.

Points of interest from the September 26th meeting

- The council voted to continue the third Tuesday lunches beginning in January and continuing through September.
- United Women in Faith will be collecting nonperishable food items in October for Valley View Food Bank for Thanksgiving.
- The special Thanksgiving offering will be donated to UMOM and the Wesley Center.



To My Willowbrook Family, I am so thankful for your love, prayers and the beautiful cards I received as well as the many phone calls I re-

ceived during my hospital stay and the time I was homebound. Thanks be to God, I am doing better, still dealing with pain, but no longer immobilized. I am back to Church, sitting at my favorite table in Fellowship Hall with my sisters and brothers in fellowship. Thank you,

Mary Bailey



The Thanksgiving Lunch at Willowbrook is back!

Come enjoy turkey with all the fixin's in Wilson Fellowship Hall at 11:30am. Or if you prefer come get your take-out order between 10:30 and 11:00am and take it home.

Tickets for only \$15 will be on sale Saturday & Sunday, October 28th & 29th or November 4th & 5th.

If you have questions call or text Cheryl Reed.





Calling all Volunteers!

Come join us for a few hours at St. Mary's Food Bank. on Friday, November 17th from 9:45 – to 12:15. This is the Friday before Thanksgiving – a busy time of the year when volunteers are needed more than ever. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Liz Peck for more information. St. Mary's is located at 13050 W Elm Street, Surprise.

> Give A Little Time. Make A Big Difference!



GRIEF Surviving the Holidays November 8th—9:30am

Wondering how you will survive the weeks sur-🎇 rounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you Me dreading the holidays, knowing that everything 🐍 has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated?

🎇 Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for **x** people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming
 - Helpful tips for surviving social events
 - How to discover hope for your future

November 2023

October 2023 SMTWTFS 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

December 2023 SMTWTFS 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

| | | <u> </u> | | 1 | | 1 |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | 1 VOLUNTEERS TO WV FOOD BANK 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc | 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 12:00 pm Craft Faire Workers—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR | 3 9:00 am Craft Faire—Campus | 4 FOOD BANK COLLECTION 9:00 am Craft Faire—Campus 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH |
| 5 COMMUNION FOOD BANK COLLECTION 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL | 6 10:00 am UWF Team—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL | 7 9:00 am Staff Parish—CR 11:00 am Homecoming Meeting—LL 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL | 8 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Dorcas Circle—LL 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc | 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL | 10 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—LL 3:00 pm Wedding—Sanc/WFH | 11 11:00 am Leach Memorial—Sanc 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH |
| 12 HOMECOMING | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Homecoming—WFH | 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL | 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL | 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 9:30 am Foundation—CR 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc | 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 2:00 pm Outreach—WFH | 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH Honoring Our Veterans | 11:00 am Jacobson Memorial—C 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH |
| 19 FROZEN TURKEY DRIVE | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 THANKSGIVING DAY | 24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY | 25 |
| 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL | 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 12:00 pm UWF Unit Meeting—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:45 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH | 9:30 am M.E.E.—CR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL | 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc | 10:30 am Take-Out Meal—WFH 11:30 am Dine-In Meal—WFH | | 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH |
| 26 PASTOR APPRECIATION | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | Each month we join o | ther churches in prayer for |
| 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Small Group—LL | 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL | 9:30 am Church Council—CH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL | 9:00 am Staff-Parish/DS—CR 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 10:30 am Church Conference—Chapel 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—SANC | | churches of the West Conference. | District in the Desert Southwes NOVEMBER Sunrise UMC, Phoenix owbrook UMC, Sun City |

Feed the Hungry Non-perishable Food WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED

Next Food Drive: December 2 & 3, 2023