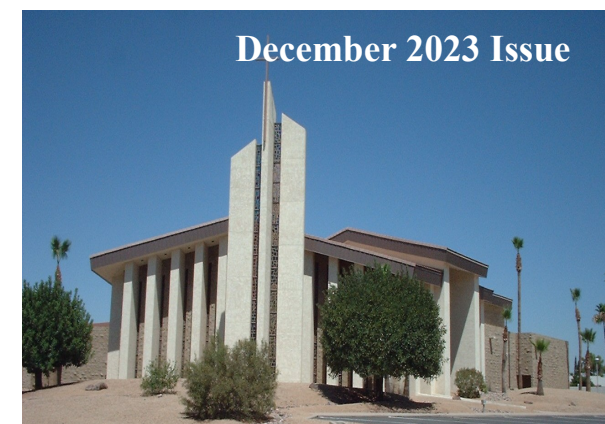
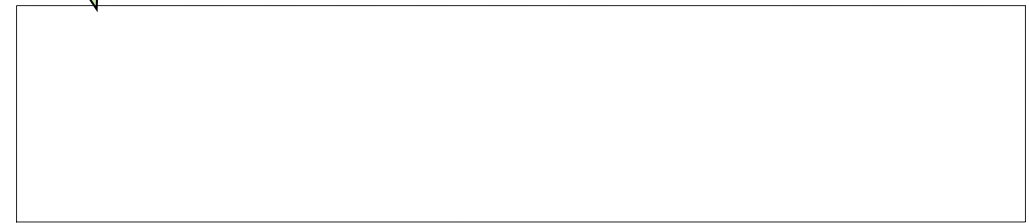




**WILLOWBROOK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102

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SUN CITY, AZ 85351

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



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.

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



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

• Donna Barr	Avanti Senior Living
• Richard Ceser	Highland Park Asst. Living
• Dennis Lopic	Cami Assisted Living
• Joanna Lynn	Guardian Care Home
• Lois McCrea	Doc's Place
• Fern McKnight	Sagewood Assisted Living

**DEADLINE FOR the JANUARY 2024
Good News is December 4, 2023**

December
Merry
CHRISTMAS

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
Nicholas Capatch—Live Stream
Russ Koan—Lay Leader
Dr. Linda Reese—Staff Counselor



Windows to Christmas

Let us return to our childhood days. You may or may not remember the experience as I do. Each year my sister, brother and I would get dressed up and go with our mother to catch the bus to downtown Pittsburgh, PA. It was quite an event! We lived in a very small town with no public transportation so it required a lot of planning and some expense for us to experience the magical mesmerizing windows of Christmas. We would walk the blocks to see the scenes in Joseph Horne, Kaufmann's, and Gimbel's department stores.

There were beautiful creations depicting all the ways and whys that Christmas was important to so many. I know the intention was to draw the people in to spend money and increase sales in each store. But for me, as a child, the windows displayed a picture of what could be possible: sleigh rides, huge beautifully decorated Christmas trees, skiers, sledding, and, oh, so many twinkling lights. With lights hanging across the streets, the snow on the ground and the twinkling lights in windows, I was transported to a totally different time and space from my little town.

And there were the most beautiful Nativity scenes with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and kings, almost my size! Such hope! Such joy! We all should feel that same wonder and anticipation at our age about the First Christmas. So join us as we look through the Christmas windows this year! Christ is born in 2023! —Pastor Ruth Blum

Windows to Christmas

5:00pm Saturdays ~ 9:30am Sundays
Open our spiritual hearts for the Christ Child!

December 2 & 3 ~ *Wait* ~ Isaiah 61:1-3, 18-11

December 9 & 10 ~ *Watch* ~ Mark 13:32

December 16 & 17 ~ *Prepare* ~ Mark 1:1-11

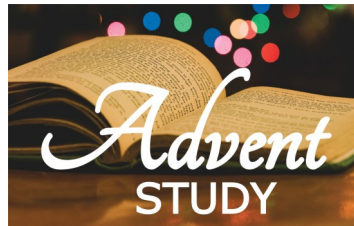
December 23 & 24 ~ *Praise* ~ Luke 2:1-20

December 24 ~ *Candlelight Service* ~ 4:00pm
~ *Proclaim* ~ Luke 2:1-20

Special Events—See Page 2

**Revival in Spirit & Song ~*
A Three-week advent study of scripture and song that invites us to the true meaning of our music. Facilitated by Pastor Ruth—Sunday at 11:00am in the Library. Bring your Bible and a friend. Nov. 29, Dec. 3 & 10.
**Youthful Seniors Celebrate! ~*
A Christmas Dinner of baked ham will be provided with the addition of your side dish to serve 8 people. (Bring serving utensil for your dish.)
Entertainment ~ Monday Group Jammers Band
Donate a pair of Christmas socks for Hart Pantry Teens. Friday, Dec. 8, 5:00pm, Fellowship Hall—No Charge.
**Advent Service of Light ~*
Worshipful service remembering and honoring those who are no longer with us. Dec. 10, 3:00pm, Sanctuary.
**Christmas Carol Gallery ~*
Choir & instrumental ensemble ~ Dec. 17, 9:30am
Piano, Carol Virolainen ~ Director, Dr. Robb Butler ~

Willowbrook Strong



Revival in Spirit & Song

A 3-week advent study of scripture and song that invites us to the true meaning of our music.

Facilitated by Pastor Ruth
Sundays at 11:00am—in the Library
Nov. 29, Dec. 3, Dec. 10

Bring your Bible and a friend.

FREE!



Friday, December 8th at 5:00pm
Wilson Fellowship Hall

Come Enjoy the
Monday Group Jammers Band!

Wear Your Favorite
Christmas Shirt or Sweater

BRING Christmas Socks
for Teens serviced by H.A.R.T. Pantry

MENU: Ham provided.
Bring dessert or side dish to share
Bring serving utensils with your dish

SIGN-UP
November 25/26 or December 2/3



DECEMBER Birthdays

(We celebrate 90 years or more)

2	Jean Birkett	91
3	Doris Cooley	97
4	Flo Hyink	95
11	Peggy Siebert	95
13	Robert Christie	93
22	Eileen Harrison	94
29	Sally Sherman	90

DECEMBER Anniversaries

(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

23	Jack & Regina Winemiller	72nd
31	John & Sharon Van Orman	62nd

Advent Service of Light

Come for a worshipful service where we remember and honor those who are no longer with us.

3:00pm Sunday, December 10th in the Sanctuary.

Sign up in Wilson Fellowship Hall November 26th and December 3rd with your name and the person for whom you will light a candle..



A Year That Whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JE-SUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."

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

- LuAnn Sloan's mom, Jennie Wassmer on October 21
- Regular attendee Darrell Pittman on November 2
- Billie Phillips on October 28
- Former choir singer, Neil McPherron on November 2
- Don & Jean McPherson's grandson in November
- Ron Taylor on November 4, Carolyn Dearen's brother-in-law.



On Sunday, December 17th, the Willowbrook Chancel Choir will present 'A Christmas Carol Gallery' at our 9:30 service. Drawing upon the rich resource of Christmas carols, acclaimed composer Larry Shackley has created a sumptuous musical tapestry titled "A Christmas Carol Gallery." It is comprised of four suites or portraits of the season. Each suite features a narrative and a medley of four carols for choir accompanied by instrumental ensemble. Each narrative also contains historically-based texts. 'A Christmas Carol Gallery' lasts approximately 25 minutes and is a part of the entire worship service.



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 **DECEMBER** are:

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
November 27 YEAR B	December 3 Advent 1
Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalms 8:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
December 4	December 10 Advent 2
Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15	Mark 1:1-8
December 11	December 17 Advent 3
Isaiah 6:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 18	December 24 Advent 4
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve Service	December 25
Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalms 96	Psalm 98
Titus 2:11-14	Hebrew 1:1-4 (5-12)
Luke 2:1-20	John 1:1-14
December 31 New Year's Eve	
Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

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!

Dec 28 Mr. Dickens & His Carol by Samantha Silva



A GriefShare support group is a safe, 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.

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?



On November 1st, the faithful volunteers from Willowbrook dedicated their time to the Valley View Community Food Bank. It's a great way to spend the first Wednesday of the month, providing much-needed help and having fun at the same time.

Seated Joyce Bruning and Bev Bourbeau
Standing: Fran Triguero, Mike and Judy McGinty, Paula Condit, Barb Pawlikowski, Janice Caron, Ellen Glatz



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

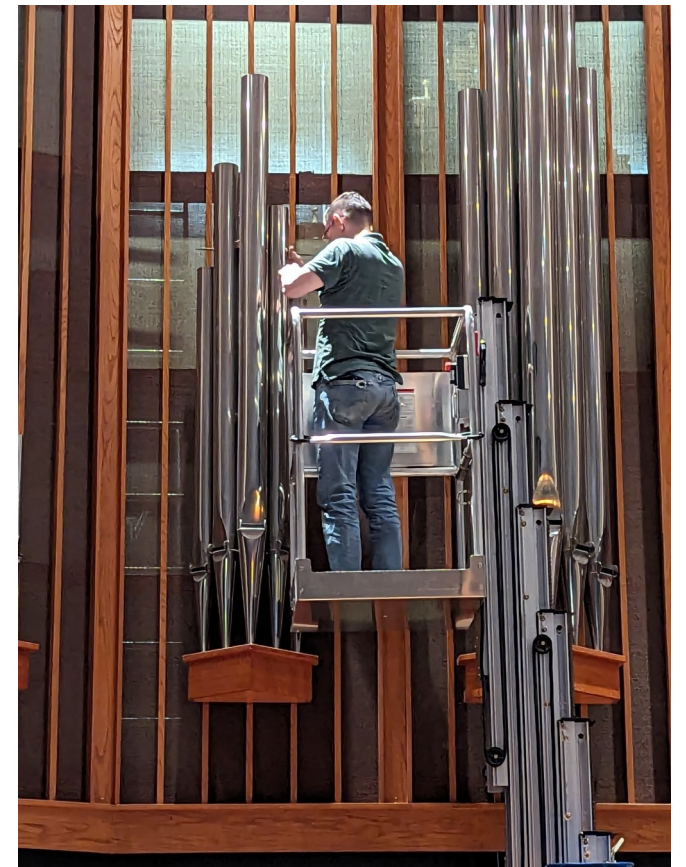
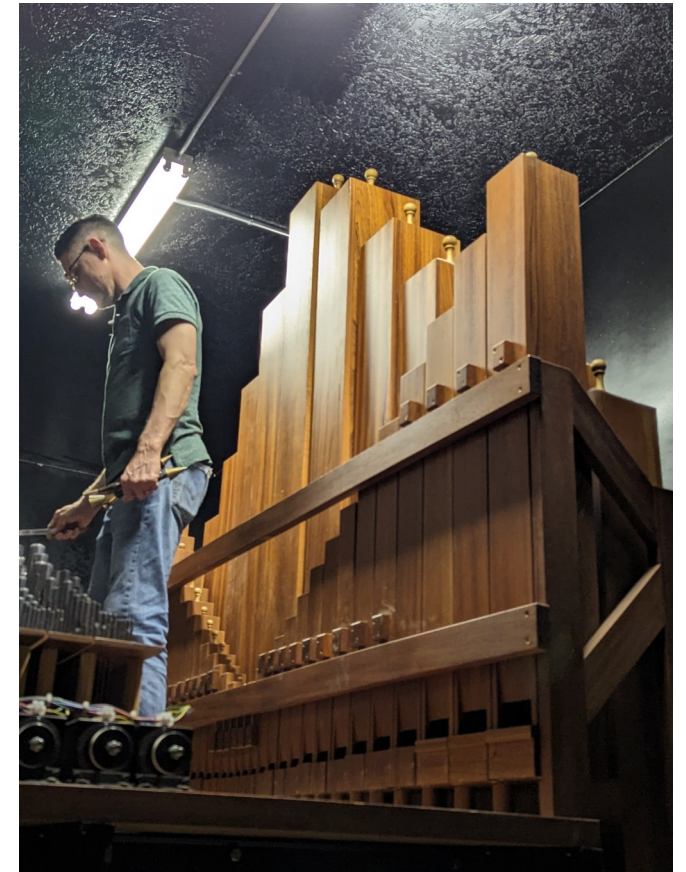
Organ Repair

Have you ever wondered what the organ pipes look like? Here is your chance to see them up close and personal.

These photos show the visible outside pipes, and the never-seen inside pipes being tuned by one of the organ technicians from Los Angeles. These pipes represent about 15% of the total sounds our organ produces, The other 85% are reproduced digitally.

Thanks again to the men who helped Russ get the lift in the choir loft.

Thanks, Dr. Robb Butler for these great photos!

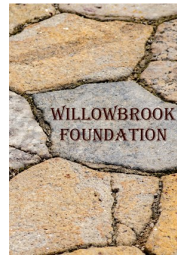


As 2023 Comes to a Close

The Kris Krafters are ending a successful year of making items for charities and items for fundraising at the Holiday Craft Faire, making new friends and strengthening the group bonds of crafting together. During the year, numerous items have been made for: babies (500 items), adults (730 items), hospice (35 fidget sleeves and mats), kitchen & home (650 items), and holiday (100 items). The number count does not include what was made during October to December. As the year closes, the items in the closet are being distributed to make room for new items to donate during the coming year.



The Kris Krafters have several new ideas for projects for the coming year. Come join us to see if we'd be a good fit for you. We meet the first and third Thursday of each month from 9 to 11 AM in Wilson Fellowship Hall. Sharing the joy of crafting and using our talents to help others is rewarding in itself but is multiplied when the recipients express their thankfulness for our gifts.



A Note from the Church Foundation:

With your annual stewardship renewal giving, you support the day-to-day operations of Willowbrook United Methodist Church and you make a personal statement about how you wish to support the church's ministries. Planned giving asks you to make that statement permanent by giving from your accumulated assets so that the church can continue to be vibrant and thrive for years to come. A planned gift provides the opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations of parishioners.

There are many ways to make a planned gift to Willowbrook United Methodist Church, regardless of the size or value of your estate. Contact Gene Ambrosion at ambrosion@morningside.edu or Sam Haroz at samuelharoz2@gmail.com to learn more. If they don't know, they will put you in touch with someone who does!

Keep on keeping Willowbrook Strong!!



The church council is composed of the chairs of each committee or a committee representative. They vote on any actionable items. Everyone from the church is encouraged to attend and join in the discussion.

Highlights of October meeting:

- A 3rd quarter budget update predicts a deficit by the end of the year. Pastor Gary added we are a vibrant church, that God is here and good people are here. Pastor Gary appreciates us.
- The Stewardship campaign is winding up with a Celebration Sunday.
- Church conference is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29 at 10:30am.
- The nominations committee is busy building a slate of officers for the new year.
- There was discussion about clarifying who is a voting member of the church council.
- Youthful Senior November meeting includes pizza and a movie.
- Foundation is focusing on investments, legacy and communication.
- Jesse Ramirez will be here November 19th to collect the frozen turkeys.
- While our church is friendly with people we know, some new people or guests have not felt welcome. We were all encouraged to look around for new faces or people sitting alone and sit with them or talk to them.



The Desert Southwest Conference, United Women in Faith (DSC UWFaith) held their annual celebration at Dayspring United Methodist Church, Tempe, AZ on October 28th. Reverend Steve Marshall delivered a meditation in art and music sermon entitled "In Remembrance of Me."

The following attended the celebration: Sue Marshall, DSC UWFaith vice president; Rev. Steve Marshall; Nancy Prevost; Marilyn Ledbetter, DSC UWFaith Justa Center Liaison; Cheryl Reed; Linda Borton, DSC UWFaith communications coordinator.

The Desert Southwest Conference, United Women in Faith (DSC UWFaith), mission project at the annual celebration was to create birthday bags for children. These birthday bags included items such as cake mix, soda pop, frosting, plates, candles, and a birthday card. The Valley View Community Food Bank was the recipient of these birthday bags, along with a soda pop recipe to benefit their clients. The DSC UWFaith delivered over 70 birthday bags with over 120 cake mixes/frosting.

DSC UWFaith Communications Coordinator Linda Borton, Valley View Community Food Bank Coordinators Ruthie, Amy and Martha; DSC UWFaith Vice President Sue Marshall.

Holiday Craft Faire Activity Workers, Old Friends, Raffle Winners, Pastors Everyone enjoyed themselves



Gerri Joncas, one of our newest members was delighted to win the beautiful quilt designed and quilted by Dave Perez



December 31st is a fifth Sunday this year. It's time for the HART pantry food drive. HART Pantry provides personal hygiene and food items to homeless teens so they can focus on school. Below are some suggested items to bring on Saturday, December 30 and Sunday, December 31. We want these kids to know Willowbrook United Methodist Church CARES!



- 10 oz jars of peanut butter (found at Dollar stores)
- Instant Lunch Cups
- Canned Pasta with pop-top lids
- Protein bars
- Austin/Lance type crackers
- Ramen noodle
- Pudding Cups
- Individual size cereal
- Fruit cups
- CURRENT "best by" dates, please.

There is always a bin in Fellowship Hall marked "HART Pantry" to drop off travel size toiletries such as deodorant, shampoo, and toothpaste. Keep in mind that the At-Risk Teens carry everything in their backpacks, so travel sizes are best!



December 2023

November 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		

January 2024						
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>3 COMMUNION/NEW MEMBERS FOOD BANK COLLECTION 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Advent Study—LL</p>	<p>4 10:00 am UWF Team—WFH 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry Christmas Party—WFH</p>	<p>5 9:00 am Staff Parish—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>6 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>7 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 9:30 am Church Council—CH 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR</p>	<p>1 1:00 pm Table Viewing—WFH 2:00 pm United Women in Faith Tea—WFH</p> <p>8 5:00 PM Youthful Seniors Event—WFH</p>	<p>2 NEW MEMBERS FOOD BANK COLLECTION 9:00 am Hanging of the Greens—Campus</p>
<p>10 \</p> <p>9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Advent Study—LL 3:00 pm Advent Service of Light—CH</p>	<p>11 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>12 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>13 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:00 pm Dorcas Circle—LL 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>14 9:00 am Trustees—CR 2:00 pm Outreach—WFH</p>	<p>15 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—LL</p>	<p>9 12:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>17 CHOIR PRESENTATION 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Advent Study—LL</p>	<p>18 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>19 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>20 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</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL</p>	<p>22 WINTER BEGINS</p>	<p>16 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal—Sanc 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>24 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 4:00 pm Candlelight Service—Sanc</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed</p>	<p>26 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Office Closed</p>	<p>27 9:30 am GriefShare—LL</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>23 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>31 9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>						<p>30 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>

Feed the Hungry
Non-perishable Food
WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED

Next Food Drive:
January 6 & 7, 2024