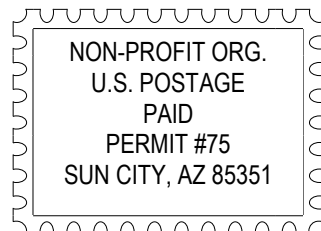




**WILLOWBROOK  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE  
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102**



January 2024 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 12:00-12:30 p.m. for lunch)

**(623) 974-5637 FAX: (623) 933-5466**

Internet: <http://www.willowbrookumc.org>

E-mail address: [bev@willowbrookumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org).*

*Introducing...*

Photo Submitted by Liscomb



Steve Liscomb  
Joined: Dec. 2, 2023



Vanessa Liscomb  
Joined: Dec. 2, 2023



Grace Marin-Woolsey  
Joined: Dec. 3, 2023



Marilee Marshall  
Joined: Dec. 3, 2023

**Welcome To Willowbrook!**

Photos Courtesy of Laurie Lineberry

**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](http://willowbrookumc.org)



**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday—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**

**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:**

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • 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 FEBRUARY 2024  
Good News is January 4, 2024**



**Emmaus Reunion**

Have you completed The Walk to Emmaus? It does not matter where you completed your walk. We want to start a reunion group here at Willowbrook. All men and women who have completed the Walk are asked to gather in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 2:00pm

Share stories of your walk. Enjoy refreshments. Begin the New Year with a renewal of faith and reconnect with an important step in your faith journey.

If you are interested, contact Jen Brown or Pastor Ruth or simply show up. Hoping to see you there!

Pastor Ruth



**3rd Tuesday @12**



The 3rd Tuesdays @ 12 that we all enjoyed during the summer will resume on January 16th at noon. Following lunch there will be an informational speaker from the Area Agency on Aging who will explain what ways the agency is available to help senior citizens. While there is no charge for the lunch; donations are always appreciated. Please sign up January 6/7 or 13/14 so we know how much food to prepare.



## Tuesday at Two A Gathering of Men

Every Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm there is a gathering of men in the church library. We do Bible study. Not just any Bible study. We are tackling the Book of Revelation. We cover Old Testament prophecies, New Testament scriptures and the ultimate prophecy, the revelation to John on the island of Patmos, where he received the vision of the future from the risen Christ Jesus. We tie in current events from around the world. And...we eat donuts! We drink coffee! We are getting to know the names and backgrounds of other men from church.

We do an "ice breaker" each week in order to get to know other guys from church. We are learning to trust each other well enough to make prayer requests. We share concerns and joys in a prayer time designated to what's on our heart. We are learning about the Bible, about the church, about what it's like to be a Christian man. We are gleaning from the seminary training of both Pastor Gary Kennedy and Pastor Jon Lerley. Even more amazing than that is we are learning from each other. We are learning from the wisdom of others. We are learning to use our Bibles. We are learning to read footnotes in study Bibles. We are learning about commentaries. We are learning to reason and think for ourselves, and to understand that we might not all agree on particular points. We are learning that even the biblical scholars don't always agree with each other. Imagine that!

*Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path.*  
Psalm 27: 11

We have learned to come together as men and to learn more about God. We have learned the importance of faith. We have learned to welcome new guys each week. We have learned that each week presents something new to learn. We are learning that the Book of Revelation can be fascinating. We are learning that the Book of Revelation can be difficult to understand when reading it alone. We have learned that the Book of Revelation can be better understood when we read it together. We have learned that these other guys from church are interesting, humorous, and pretty smart.

We welcome you to join us! We invite every guy in the church to join us. Everyone there had to come for the first time at one point. You will be welcomed.

Come join us. Tuesday at two! If you don't have a Bible, we will get you one.

**Willowbrook Strong**



"We'd love to have you speak, Ezekiel, but we're a non-prophet."



### The Heart of Our Faith

Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

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

- Karen Anthony's sister, Diane on November 16th
- Eileen Harrison on September 12th
- Janice Mead on December 9th
- Bob Siebert on December 11th

**Thank You!**



Marilyn Burmeister and Pam Sanchez give a HUGE thank you to Ron Laumann for making sure this year and going forward the angel tree-topper in the sanctuary will always be lit. This angel was a gift to the church in memory of Marilyn's daughter, (Pam's sister) Debra.

**JANUARY**  
*Birthdays*

**(We celebrate 90 years or more)**

9	Vicky Pedersen	100!
13	Vonda Hidy	
13	Bob Beier	
13	Lois Kelly	
20	Mary Bailey	
20	Russ Koan	
29	Marge Greenhalge	

**JANUARY**  
*Anniversaries*

**(We Celebrate 50 years or more)**

11	Aubrey & Louanne Ingles	54th
15	George & Cheryl Reed	58th
17	Frank & Nancy Stynen	63rd
26	Ron & Lois Leonard	61st
26	Bob & Wally Henry	56th



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 **JANUARY** are:

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
<b>January 1 (NO CLASS)</b>	<b>January 7</b>
Genesis 1:1-15	Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
	<b>OR</b>
Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 8	January 14
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
January 15 (NO CLASS)	January 21
Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalms 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
January 22	January 28
Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
January 29	February 4
Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 9:29-39



### Willowbrook Readers Club!



Hooked on Books usually meets the 4th Thursday of each month in the church library at 1:30pm.

Here are some of the books we plan on reading and discussing in the New Year:

- January 25—*Silver Ladies Do Lunch* by Judy Leigh
- February 22—*Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
- March 28—*Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
- April 25—*Tallgrass* by Sandra Dallas

If you enjoy reading and would like to join us, you are always welcome!!



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.

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?

You never know who you will meet at the Hospitality Center here at Willowbrook!



We had a great time at the Thanksgiving lunch. Are these men ready to serve the pie or eat it?



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



**Caregiver Support Group**  
Thursday—9:30 am  
Willowbrook Library

The Caregiver Support Group offered here at Willowbrook is a community of caregivers that share the struggles and successes of constantly caring for a loved one. New caregivers attending a group usually feel great relief knowing they are not alone.

Periodically, professionals from different disciplines are invited to provide much-needed information and services. Caregivers acknowledge that the group has made them feel less alone on the journey, and are relieved to learn that anything shared in the meeting stays in the meeting. The group is for those who are dealing with general caregiving needs and for caregivers with loved ones who have various diagnoses. Willowbrook is blessed to have trained facilitators from Benevilla oversee the meetings.



### Christmas Wishes Come True

Thank you to all who purchased gifts or donated money to this year's Prison Fellowship Christmas Angel program. Between this program and Wesley Adopt-A-Child SIXTY children received gifts this Christmas!

\*\*\*\*\*

Oh my goodness, what a wonderful, giving, caring congregation you are. We delivered gifts to Wesley Center for thirty children whose families live in central Phoenix. You absolutely rose to the challenge! In 2021 we blessed 10 children, in 2022 it was 20 and now 30 in 2023! Just imagine all the happiness you are sharing! Give yourself a big HUG!

\*\*\*\*

Wow, Willowbrook! Because of your generous donations to UMOM/Halle Center, we collected 16 throws and 10 pairs of pajamas to keep those single women warm this winter. Thank you for your giving hearts.

\*\*\*\*\*

Merci, gracias, grazie, danke, tak, tack, obrigado . . . In other words, the Outreach Committee cannot thank you enough for your continued generosity.



### New Year—New Ideas—New Projects

As the new year begins, the Kris Krafters are gearing up to begin new projects and complete others that were set aside during the holidays.

New outlets for our projects are being sought as well as continuing to support our current charities. If you know of any specific needs, please let us know so, if possible, we can help out.

The Kris Krafters meet the first and third Thursday of every month in Wilson Fellowship Hall. January 18th, Clint Yoder, volunteer coordinator from Benevilla, will be at our meeting. Come visit anytime 9-11 am to see if we are a good fit. See you soon!



### Taters 'n' Toppings!

Baked Potato Bar!  
Friday, January 12th, 2024 at 5:00pm  
Wilson Fellowship Hall  
\$10 per person

After Dinner Enjoy Our Own  
Carolyn Dearen in an Original Skit

### HARRIET TUBMAN

SIGN-UP  
December 30/31, 2023  
OR January 6/7, 2024



Consider a room filled with women excited about Christmas; handsome men serving tea; tables decorated with Christmas china and colorful centerpieces; Christmas music & trivia; AND raffle baskets. THE LADIES TEA Talk about sensory overload! WOW!



The United Women in Faith held their annual Christmas tea last month and successfully raised funds for their mission pledge. Many thanks go to the Willowbrook men for being such wonderful servers. We appreciate all of the kitchen coordination and all the women who took turns at making the delicious food.



Special thanks to all the women who decorated the tables so beautifully and those who prepared some creative gift baskets for the raffle. The tea is a heartwarming way to start the Christmas season. Mary Hollan again provided great music including a Christmas sing-along and some fun trivia games with prizes.

We are now preparing to have creative fellowship, spiritual growth opportunities and mission projects for 2024. January 15<sup>th</sup> will be our first unit meeting of the year as we start off by focusing on our wellness. Linda Reese will share thoughts about preparing our mental wellbeing for the new year. We will also learn some simple chair exercises to help with our physical well-being. Wear comfortable clothing. We will have soup for our shared luncheon.

The business for this meeting will focus on the annual pledge service, and installation of our new officers.

Looking ahead to future programs, Rev. Ruth Blum will be sharing "Finding Three Pines". If you are not familiar with Louise Penny's novels, they primarily take place in the fictional town of Three Pines in Canada. Pastor Ruth went looking for it and will share her tour of the area. Even if you haven't read any Penny novels, I'm sure you will find it interesting.

In planning for other programs for the year, we are seeking people who would like to either serve on a retreat planning committee or the tea committee for 2024. If you have any interest in either of these, please see Marilyn Ledbetter or Sue Marshall (623) 363-7239.

All women of Willowbrook are invited to join us for unit meetings or circle meetings. There are four circles; two meet at 9:30am the second Monday, one meets at 9:30am the second Tuesday and one meets at 1:00pm the second Wednesday of the month.

Blessings for a year with health, happiness, the love of God, & knowing how much He loves you! - Sue Marshall



LEFT: WOW! Look at all those handsome gentlemen ready to serve tea, spiced cider, scones and more to the ladies.

**THANK YOU!**

BELOW: Mary Hollan got most of the ladies up and dancing to "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"

Can you find YOU?





# January 2024

December 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						

February 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		

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
	<b>1 OFFICE CLOSED—NEW YEAR</b> 10:00 am UW Faith Team—MR	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	<b>3</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm Emmaus Reunion—WFH 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal—Sanc	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Givers—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	<b>5</b> 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—LL	<b>6 FOOD BANK COLLECTION</b> 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>7 COMMUNION</b> <b>FOOD BANK COLLECTION</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	<b>8</b> 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:15 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 3:45 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	<b>10</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle—LL 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL	<b>12</b> 5:00 PM Youthful Seniors Event—WFH	<b>13</b> 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>14</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL	<b>15 OFFICE CLOSED—MLK DAY</b> 12:00 pm UW Faith Unit Mtg—WFH	<b>16</b> 9:30 am M.E. E.—CR 12:00 pm 3rd Tuesday @12—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	<b>17</b> 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	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Care Givers—LL 2:30 pm Outreach—WFH	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>21</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	<b>22</b> 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Church Council—CH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	<b>24</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:30 pm Craft Faire Meeting—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Finance Committee—CR 9:30 am Care Giver Support—LL 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	<b>26</b> 11:30 am New Member Lunch—WFH	<b>27 NEW MEMBERS</b> 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>28 NEW MEMBERS</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	<b>29</b> 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	<b>30</b> 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	<b>31</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	<p>Each month we join other churches in prayer for churches of the West District in the Desert Southwest Conference.</p> <p><b>JANUARY</b>            Ajo Federated Church            Calvary UMC, Phoenix            Chino Valley UMC            Fresh Expressions</p> 		 <p><b>Feed the Hungry</b>  <b>Non-perishable Food</b>  <b>WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED</b></p> <p><b>Next Food Drive:</b>  <b>February 3 &amp; 4, 2024</b></p>