



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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PERMIT #75  
SUN CITY, AZ 85351



**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

**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 McCrear  | Doc's Place                |
| • Fern McKnight | Sagewood Assisted Living   |

**DEADLINE FOR the MARCH 2024  
Good News is February 4, 2024**



February 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).**

**The Chosen Video Series—Season 1**



Easter is early this year! We will have an Ash Wednesday service on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. On this Valentine's Day we are celebrating the greatest love gift of all time; Jesus Christ!

As Lent continues, join us in viewing *The Chosen* video series Season 1. The first episode will begin Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Library. It will repeat Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. also in the Library. Sign up for one or the other day and time. Space is limited to 20 participants per viewing. Watch for a sign-up for a possible evening showing. Sign-up February 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>

Not your typical Jesus series, *The Chosen* is about the back stories of the disciples called by Jesus. The first season has 8 episodes. They recently finished filming the 4<sup>th</sup> season. Episode 1 is about Mary Magdalene and her back story. While the Bible is silent on most of the details of these real people who lived, Dallas Jenkins, the creator of *The Chosen*, has done a masterful job weaving the story-telling. Your faith will be renewed and may even get you to read your Bible more. If you have already watched the series, feel free to join us and add to the discussion following each viewing.

Season 2 will meet the same days and times beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>.



Feb 9 - 5:00pm

**SOUPER BOWL**

**TAKE THE CHILL OFF!**

**SOUP—SALAD**  
Crackers/Bread/Butter  
**DONUTS!**  
\$10 per person

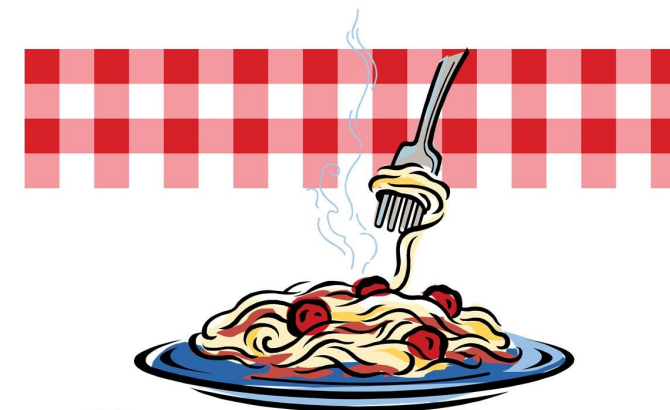
Then OFF TO THE GAME!

**80 for BRADY**

[MOVIE—Based on a true story that is sure to inspire, entertain, and make you laugh. Jane Fonda, Sally Field, Lily Tomlin & Rita Moreno follow their dream of seeing Tom Brady in the 2015 Super Bowl]

"YOUTHFUL" SENIORS RULE!

Wilson Fellowship Hall  
Sign up Jan 27/28 & Feb 3/4



**Spaghetti Dinner  
Fundraiser**

**Presented by Youthful Seniors & Stewardship**

DATE/TIME: March 8, 2024—5:00 pm

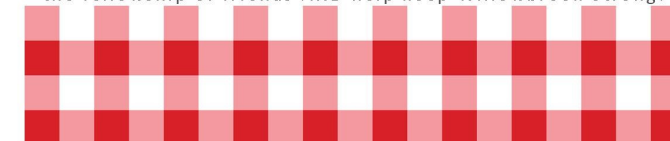
Wilson Fellowship Hall

MENU: Spaghetti/meatballs/garlic bread  
salad/dessert/beverages

TICKETS: \$20.00 pp—Available Feb 18, 25, Mar 3

Benefit Church General Fund

ENTERTAINMENT: Enjoy live music while you enjoy dinner and the fellowship of friends AND help keep Willowbrook Strong!







## Life-Changing Transformation

*"Therefore, I urge you, brother, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—This is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*  
—Romans 12:2

The Christian experience is life changing! Scripture, like the one above from the New Testament Book of Romans, calls us to come to an understanding that following God results in getting to know God better and consequently wanting to do things God's way. The love of God is contagious and that love received by us, in turn encourages us to "love one another." We become living billboards advertising God's transformative power. The above scripture says we become "living sacrifices", in other words living examples of how God makes us new people and that is what the church is suppose to be.

Our denomination puts it this way.

The United Methodist Churches Mission Statement:

*"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ."*

A church statement from the National Council of Churches puts it this way.

*"A congregation becomes a disciple-making community when it develops an intentional process for welcoming newcomers, introduces them to faith in Jesus Christ, helps them discover God's call for their life, and sends them out for the transformation of the world."*

We read a form of the word transform in the above scripture and two statements from church institutions. In other words, God loves us and we in turn are transformed by that love into people who then care about others. The world is then transformed, or made better, one person at a time through individuals and in larger numbers through the church collectively. Willowbrook United Methodist is that kind of church. The love of God results not just in individual changed lives, but in those lives, coming together, through Outreach, Mission and Proclamation to help transform the world. Like the scripture above says, let's offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God! Then we can experience the miraculous power of God work through all of us to make a positive difference in the world. It doesn't get any better than this!

Together, in church, on Livestream, or through the Andrew Ministry, we make a difference in our world! Because of Christ, we are Willowbrook Strong!

See You In Church & Online  
Rev. Gary Kennedy

# Willowbrook Strong



The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season "spring training for Christians." This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God's favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often—at least once a year!—we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we'll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, "Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed." (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

—The Newsletter Newsletter

### 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:

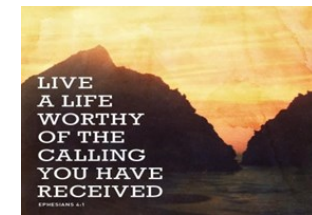
- February 22—*Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
- March 28—*Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
- April 25—*Tallgrass* by Sandra Dallas

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

### Path to Purpose

Short-term study on Ecclesiastes  
Willowbrook Library  
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.  
Facilitator: Pastor Ruth Blum  
Bring your Bible!  
February 4, 18, 25

(Contact Pastor Ruth for information about ordering a book.)



## IN LOVING Memory

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

- Marilee Reetz on January 2nd
- Former member John McConnell on November 12, 2023
- Linda Borton's sister-in-law, Ruby Jones on January 16th



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

18	Austin Tingley
23	Jane Quinn
25	Charles Fuller



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

8	Peter & Phyllis Lee	67th
19	Russ & Lynn Koan	69th
19	Steven & Lana Williams	52nd
24	Mylan & Joanne Grubor	58th









**Grateful HART!**

A **HUGE** Thank You to the Youthful Seniors & Everyone else who donated Christmas Socks for the homeless teens at the Christmas Party December 8th. (Look at that pile of socks!)

You all are a blessing to our organization.  
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We at HART Pantry wanted to personally wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas! Thank you for helping us get our food needs and events published throughout the 2023 year. It has been a pleasure working with you and we want to celebrate what we have been able to do for our kiddos in 2023. (From December 2023 email from HART)

Approximately 230 of our At Risk Teens will receive a \$25 gift card for something they need or want and a \$15 fast food card, a goody bag, some candy and socks. When you can, please continue to support HART Pantry in 2024, and know that we appreciate you and your church. Happy New Year!

Mickey Foster, HART Board member and Ruth Langford, founder of Hart Pantry



**Caregivers Support Group**

The Caregivers Support Group offered 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. The group meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Library Lounge.

—Debb Pearson



**Heads Up! Cheer for Your Favorite Team!**

Our FEBRUARY food collection has been moved to the SECOND weekend [Feb. 10/11] which is Super Bowl weekend. We have a fun competition for the February Food Collection.

After we know which two teams will be playing, there will be two collection points in Fellowship Hall each identified with a team name. You can ROOT for the team you want to win with your food donations. Each item is a vote for your team. Feel free to stuff the boxes!

Sunday, February 11th, we will try to count the items and give you the SOUPER BOWL SCORE before you leave coffee fellowship. We know the REAL winner will be the Food Bank!



**DOING THE MOST GOOD**

Excerpts from recent thank you letters:

What a year it has been. "We've experienced record-breaking heat, ever-increasing inflation, and so much that has our community in some of the greatest need that we've ever seen. Through your continued support and generosity, we can beat the odds. And create our own "good news" by "Doing the Most Good" in our own local community."

In 2023, the North West Corps provided 12,564 food boxes, served 28,366 meals, provided utility assistance to 504 families, distributed Christmas gifts to nearly 6,000 children, and the list goes on and on.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you for your care and compassion for others. Lives are being changed each minute of every day at The Salvation Army and we thank you for your investment in making this happen."

**Workers Welcome on First Wednesdays**

The first Wednesday of each month holds special significance for many here at Willowbrook. On this day, we gather at Valley View Community Food Bank, giving of our time to assist anyone who needs help. The morning at Valley View kicks off with prayer, setting a positive tone for the day ahead.

While working on our assigned tasks there are wonderful opportunities to bond, share stories of new dining places to explore or perhaps discuss someone's experiences with their backyard chickens. The conversations are diverse, and one never knows what engaging topics may arise.

What remains uppermost is the commitment to give from the heart to aid people in need.

Valley View Community Food Bank expresses their gratitude for contributions, and for the grocery bags and egg cartons received. Valley View is now specifically requesting egg cartons made of either cardboard or Styrofoam dozen-sized containers only.

Thanks again for your support of Valley View Community Food Bank. Will YOU be in the next picture?



ABOVE—Back: John King, Linda Borton, Jesse Ramirez, Valley View Food Bank founder and president, Sherry King, Loren Littlefield, Barb Pawlikowski, Ellen Glatz, Fran Triguero, & Melissa Cole. Front: Barb Taylor, Nancy Stokely, Ted & Marilyn Dumbauld, Judy McGinty, Bruce Cole

RIGHT—Sherry & John King, Ellen Glatz, Janice Caron, Mike McGinty, Linda Kresl, Fran Triguero, Dave Kresl, Judy McGinty, Marilyn & Ted Dumbauld, Linda Borton, Valley View Food Bank Coordinator, Ruthie, who celebrated her 2nd anniversary with the food bank in November. SEATED: Nan Koehler, & Bonnie Jarvis



**Women of the Way—WW**

Ladies! Want to try something new? This might just be what you have been searching for!

Women of the Way is a new small group program for women who are interested in situations that perplex us. It will be a time to connect, a time to address issues, a time to share ideas and most importantly a time for YOU.

We will meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Library, beginning February 12th. You may register on February 4th in the Fellowship Hall. or at the Saturday evening service, February 3rd.






# February 2024

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			

March 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><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 10 &amp; 11, 2024</b></p>						
<p><b>4 COMMUNION</b>            9:30 am Worship—Sanc            11:00 am Path to Purpose Study—LL</p>	<p><b>5</b>            10:00 am UW Faith Team—MR            10:30 am Prayer Packets—CR            11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL            2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p><b>6</b>            9:00 am Staff Parish—CR            11:00 am Emmaus Reunion—CR            1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR            2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p><b>7</b>            9:30 am GriefShare—LL            9:30 am Art &amp; Soul—WFH            7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p><b>1</b>            9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH            9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL            2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR</p>	<p><b>2</b>            Clean Pantry            2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—LL</p>	<p><b>3</b>            7:00-10:00 am Outreach—Kitchen            2:30 pm Disciple II—LL            5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p><b>11 FOOD BANK COLLECTION</b>  <b>CHOCOLATE SUNDAY</b>            9:30 am Worship—Sanc            11:00 am Celebrate the Love—WFH</p>	<p><b>12</b>            9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH            11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL            1:00 pm Women of the Way—LL            2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—CR            3:15 pm Stephen Leaders—CR            3:45 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH</p>	<p><b>13</b>            9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL            11:00 am Emmaus Reunion—CR            1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR            2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p><b>14 ASH WEDNESDAY</b>  <b>VALENTINE’S DAY/STATEHOOD DAY</b>            9:30 am GriefShare—LL            9:30 am Art &amp; Soul—WFH            1:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service—CH            4:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH            7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p><b>8</b>            9:00 am Trustees—CR            9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL</p>	<p><b>9</b>            1:00 pm Nominating Committee—CR            5:00 PM Youthful Seniors Event—WFH</p>	<p><b>10 FOOD BANK COLLECTION</b>            1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL            2:30 pm Disciple II—LL            5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p><b>18</b>            9:30 am Worship—Sanc            11:00 am Path to Purpose Study—LL</p>	<p><b>19 OFFICE CLOSED—PRESIDENT DAY</b>            12:00 pm UW Faith Unit Mtg—WFH</p>	<p><b>20</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</p>	<p><b>21</b>            9:30 am GriefShare—LL            9:30 am Art &amp; Soul—WFH            9:30 am Foundation—CR            12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH            2:00 pm The Chosen—LL            7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p><b>15</b>            9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH            9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL            2:30 pm Outreach—CR</p>	<p><b>16</b>            Clean Kitchen</p>	<p><b>17</b>            2:30 pm Disciple II—LL            5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p><b>25</b>            9:30 am Worship—Sanc            11:00 am Path to Purpose Study—LL</p>	<p><b>26</b>            11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL            1:00 pm Women of the Way—LL            2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—CR            3:00 pm The Chosen—LL</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <del>9:30 am Church Council—CH</del>            1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR            2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL</p>	<p><b>28</b>            9:30 am GriefShare—LL            9:30 am Art &amp; Soul—WFH            2:00 pm The Chosen—LL            7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p><b>22</b>            9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL            1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL</p>	<p><b>23</b>            Kitchen Seminar</p>	<p><b>24</b>            2:30 pm Disciple II—LL            5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>

