

**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



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

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

Avanti Senior Living Highland Park Asst. Living Cami Assisted Living Guardian Care Home

Doc's Place

Sagewood Assisted Living

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

# 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.

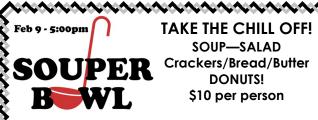
#### The Chosen Video Series—Season 1

> Easter is early this year! We will have an Ash Wednesday service on February 14th 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 21st at 2:00 p.m. in the Library. It will repeat Monday, February 26th 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 4th or 11th

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 4th 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 15th.



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





## 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





# **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





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.)



**7** N LOVING 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,
- Linda Borton's sister-in-law, Ruby Jones on January 16th



## (We celebrate 90 years or more)

18 **Austin Tingley** 

23 Jane Quinn

Charles Fuller



## (We Celebrate 50 years or more)

8 Peter & Phyllis Lee

67th

19 Russ & Lynn Koan

69th

19 Steven & Lana Williams 24 Mylan & Joanne Grubor 52nd 58th



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.

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The weekly readings for <b>FEBRUARY</b> are:	

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CLASS DATE	DATE USED				
<ul><li>★ January 29</li><li>★ Isaiah 40:21-31</li><li>★ 1 Corinthians 9:16-23</li></ul>	February 4 Psalms 147:1-11, 20c Mark 1:29-39				
February 5 2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	February 11 Psalms 50:1-6 Mark 9:2-9				
February 12 Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22	February 18 Psalms 25:1-10 Mark 1:9-15				
February 19 NO CLASS Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25	February 25 Psalms 22:23-31 Mark 8:31-38				



United The United Women in Faith invite all i Women women to a Literary Travel experiin Faith ence presented by Pastor Ruth Blum, Finding Three Pines, on Febru-! ary 19 at noon in Wilson Fellowship Hall.

if you are familiar with the Louise Penny series that takes place in Three Pines, you will enjoy Pastor ! Ruth's presentation on how Three Pines, a fictional ! small town, provides tales of darkness, mystery and ! detective work interwoven with a cast of auirky characters. Even if you are not familiar with the books, you will enjoy the travel aspect of Pastor Ruth's trip.

Lunch will be provided or feel free to bring your own. The menu is small sandwiches. Drinks and dessert will be provided by Dorcas circle. There may even be a special coffee brought all the way from Quebec.

! Please check the next Good News for information on the March and April programs.

All women are invited to visit any of the circles. A ! circle is a small group and is a great way to get to ! know other women. We meet the second week of the month at Willowbrook, Mary and Elizabeth meet on Mondays at 9:30, Rachel meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 and Dorcas meets on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Remember if you don't know someone, igreet them and invite them to attend.

United Women in Faith is the largest faith-based women's group in the country and strive to support missions both in the United States and globally.



# GRIEF

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.

At Willowbrook GriefShare meets each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Library Lounge. You don't have to be a member, or attend the church, to be a part of the GriefShare program.

February	/	Stuck in Griet
February	14	Hope & Resilience
February	21	What Do I Live For Now?
February	28	Is This Normal?

# Celebrate the Love! Invite a neighbor or friend! **Enjoy Chocolate!**

February 11th enjoy live entertainment by The Willow Creek Band during Coffee Fellowship time. Refreshments for your enjoyment will be raket Chocolate and more Chocolate in honor and raketremembrance of Anne Tingley by Austin Tingley and family. Join us for a joy-filled time.

## Thank You Willowbrook Volunteers!





AMERICA

Last year, through the support of donors and 700+ partner agencies, St. Mary's Food Bank distributed 102,277,360 pounds of food throughout most of Arizona.

This could not have happened without volunteers—who are the backbone of St. Mary's

In November and December, Willowbrook volunteers got together and spent a few hours at the Surprise location of St. Mary's Food Bank. For several of our volunteers it was their first-time working at the food bank, while others were repeat volunteers. On one visit we spent time working in the food pantry and on another visit, we helped sort food. We all had a good time!

It's easy to get caught up in the "busyness" of the holidays but it's also rewarding to focus on the needs of others. Willowbrook volunteers go to St. Mary's on a monthly basis. We would love to have you join us. on Thursday, February 23, 9:45-12. Signup in Fellowship Hall beginning Feb. 11th. Contact Liz Peck for more info. St. Mary's is located at 13050 W. Elm Street, Surprise. Give a Little Time—Make a Big Difference!

> Pictured LEFT: Kelli Clark, Jorja Hogg & Barb Taylor—CENTER: Vinnie & Steve Liscomb, Thelma Muse & Barb Taylor—RIGHT: Liz Peck & Bonnie Jarvis.







# 3rd Tuesday @12

Remember February 20th at noon for another informative 3rd Tuesday @12. Lunch will be followed by a speaker from Benevilla C.A.R.E.S., who will explain how the organiza-

tion is available to help senior citizens. While there is no charge for lunch, donations are appreciated. Sign up February 11 or 18 so we know how much food to prepare.





# **Love & Hearts**



If you love crafting, socializing and

giving to others, visit the Kris Krafters to see if we'd be a good fit for you. During February one of our projects is making heart-shaped pillows for breast cancer patients. These pillows ease the pressure from seat belts as well as showing that someone cares. Some of the ongoing projects are crocheted hats & scarves, knitted sweaters and dolls, knitted & crocheted lap robes, blankets and prayer shawls, fidget sleeves & mats and quilts. New ideas and projects are always welcome. Most of the Kris Krafter projects are for donation to local charitable organizations.

The Kris Krafters meet in Wilson Fellowship Hall on the first and third Thursdays of every month starting at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and cookies are always provided.



Help support United Women of Faith every time you shop for groceries at Fry's. Go to Fry's Community Rewards or stop by customer service and sign up. Linking your store ID number and choosing Willowbrook as the recipient is a simple way to help our women's ministry.



## **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.

\* \* \* \*

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



# 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!



# Caregivers Support Group

The Caregivers Support Group offered at Willow-brook 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



#### DOING THE MOST GOOD

Excerpts from recent thank you letters:

What a year it has been. "We've experienced record-breaking heat, everincreasing 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 Willow-brook. On this day, we gather at Valley View Community Food Bank, giving of our time to assist anyplace help is needed. 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 gid 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 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

	March 2024					
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
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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						

CR—Conference Room CT—Courtyard LL—Library Lounge MR—Music Room PR—Prayer Room Sanc—Sanctuary WFH—Wilson Fellowship Hall

CH—Chapel

**FEBRUARY** 

Christ Community UMC, Avondale Community Church of Buckeye

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Non-peri WATER IS A	ne Hungry shable Food LWAYS NEEDED ood Drive: 10 & 11, 2024			9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	Clean Pantry 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—LL	7:00-10:00 am Outreach—Kitch 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
4 COMMUNION 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Path to Purpose Study—LL	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	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	<b>7</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL	9 1:00 pm Nominating Committee—CR 5:00 PM Youthful Seniors Event—WFH	10 FOOD BANK COLLECTION 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
11 FOOD BANK COLLECTION CHOCOLATE SUNDAY  9:30 am Worship—Sanc  11:00 am Celebrate the Love—WFH	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	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	14 ASH WEDNESDAY  VALENTINE'S DAY/STATEHOOD DAY  9:30 am GriefShare—LL  9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH  1:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service—CH  4:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 2:30 pm Outreach—CR	<b>16</b> Clean Kitchen	17 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
18 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Path to Purpose Study—LL	19 OFFICE CLOSED—PRESIDENT DAY 12:00 pm UW Faith Unit Mtg—WFH	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	9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & 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	9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	<b>23</b> Kitchen Seminar	2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
25 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Path to Purpose Study—LL	26 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	9:30 am Church Council—CH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm The Chosen—LL 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	29 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL		Take a moment to DRAy  for Desert Southwest Conference West District Churches