



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #75  
SUN CITY, AZ 85351

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



**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  
<https://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       |
| • Helen Barton  | Dana's Loving Care         |
| • Richard Ceser | Highland Park Asst. Living |
| • Dennis Lopic  | Cami Assisted Living       |
| • Lois McCrea   | Doc's Place                |
| • Fern McKnight | Sagewood Assisted Living   |



April 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: <https://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).



**4th Annual Pillow Drive  
Great Success!**



**ThankYou!**

Thank you to everyone who made our pillow drive a tremendous success. This year, we collected 102 pillows, received 79 pillow cases made with love by our very own Kris Kraffers and we also received over \$700 in donations. WOW!

The cash donations we received allow us to purchase additional pillows throughout the year and also gives us the opportunity to donate other household items, on an as-needed basis.

On behalf of the veterans who will receive your gifts, **THANK YOU!**  
Your Outreach Committee

**April Showers Bring  
May Flowers, Pillows, Cases,  
Quilts & Cancer Caps!**

And maybe this is the month it brings you to the Kris Kraffers! We meet in Wilson Fellowship Hall the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9 a.m. Our group has skill levels from beginner to expert who share tips and techniques while we work together to bless others with the many items we make. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie while checking to see if we would be a good fit for you. Everyone is always welcome! It has been fun to welcome back some old members along with some new people recently.

Karen DeVerna & Cathy Calhoun

We blessed the Veterans with 79 beautiful pillowcases submitted with the pillows collected in the recent pillow drive. Special thanks to Jill Zitt and Karen Anthony who assembled most of the pillowcases. Thank you to other Kris Kraffers who sewed pillowcases, heart pillows and quilts and to the knitters and crocheters who made cancer caps, prayer shawls, lap robes, toys, hats and scarves. Also, thank you for all the donations of fabric and other materials used in these projects.



Jill Zitt







## The Stewardship of Spiritual Gifts

During the season of Lent several of the sermons preached here at Willowbrook United Methodist Church referred to spiritual gifts. The Bible speaks of spiritual gifts. One example is First Corinthians 12:4-6. "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."

These Bible verses or sermons about spiritual gifts cause us to reflect and ponder about our own spiritual gifts. What are they? Sometimes they are apparent to us. Sometime we just seem to know what that gift is and other times, we don't. In those cases, we try to discern what the gifts might be through a Spiritual Gifts inventory or Bible study. We can have many gifts!!

The above verse uses the words *gifts, service, and activities*. The work of a church requires many gifts, service, and activities and again, according to the verse above, it is "God who empowers them all in everyone." I believe "everyone" is a key word here. God empowers all of us with gifts, and the ability to use them. What part of the life of the church are you interested in? What aspect of the church brings you joy? Is it worship? Activities? Education? Could it be behind the scenes support that perks your interest? Gravitating toward your interest area might just reveal your place and purpose in the family of God. It is in using your gift or gifts that you find the greatest satisfaction in the church and your greatest joy in the Lord. What do you have to lose? Seek your place in the church and you will inevitably find your purpose. Seek your gift and you find the "Gift Giver"! Nothing to lose, everything to gain!

Fascinating Concept! Right?

See you in church,

Rev. Gary Kennedy  
**Willowbrook Strong**



### 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 upcoming books we plan on reading and discussing:

- April 25—*Tallgrass* by Sandra Dallas
- May 23—*All Good People Here* by Ashley Flowers
- June 27—*The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki

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



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

- David Monk on October 31, 2023

### Coming Soon!

April 7—11:00am—Church Library

Study the Book of James and learn more about this brother of Jesus. Bring your favorite Bible, notebook and pen! Let's learn together!



Dear Willowbrook,  
Thank you very much for your many cards, letters, calls and food when I was having so many health problems. I love my caring church family!

Mary Bailey

Linda De Atley is stepping away from her pastoral duties at Lakeview UMC after 10 years of ministry there. Pastor Linda also served at Willowbrook for 17 years.

You Are Invited!  
Thank You Dinner for Linda  
**Lakeview UMC**  
April 18, 2024, at 4:30pm  
Cost per person—\$10  
To purchase tickets, contact Lynn Cummings at Lakeview UMC  
Office—623-974-5821.



Say Goodbye to Linda De Atley



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

9	Roy Meyer
28	Betty Beier



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

9	Ernie & Carole Pearce	64th
12	Richard & Carol Jenkins	61st
27	Richard & Michele Meyer	55th
28	Jerry & Lorna Hermanek	62nd



If there is a medical emergency at a worship service, to avoid confusion.

The Head Usher will contact emergency services.

### Caregivers Support Group



The Caregiver 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.



# 3rd Tuesday @12

Mark your calendar for April 16th at noon for another delightfully informative 3rd Tuesday @ 12.



Following lunch, Father Phil Shaw will share about Camp Genesis. Camp Genesis is one of the recipients of our recent Special Easter Offering, and we are excited to have him tell us more about this camp for children who have incarcerated parents.\*

There is no charge for the lunch; however, donations are always appreciated. Please sign up April 6 and 7 or April 13 and 14 so we know how much food to prepare.

\* The other recipient of Easter donations is The Mighty Methodist Coalition for Habitat for Humanity.



The Revised Common Lectionary—a three-year cycle reading through the Bible based on the synoptic gospels of (A) Matthew, (B) Mark and (C) Luke. If you read the lections for all three years, you will read 85% of the Bible. Join us Monday mornings at 11:00 am to read the following Sunday's lectionary and talk about it and end at noon.

CLASS DATE	DATE USED
<b>April 1</b> Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2	<b>April 7</b> Psalm 133 John 20:19-31
<b>April 8</b> Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7	<b>April 14</b> Psalm 4 Luke 24:36b-48
<b>April 15</b> Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24	<b>April 21</b> Psalm 23 John 10:11-18
<b>April 22</b> Acts 8:26-40 1 John 4:7-21	<b>April 28</b> Psalms 22:25-31 John 15:1-18
<b>April 29</b> Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:1-6	<b>May 5</b> Psalm 98 John 15:9-17

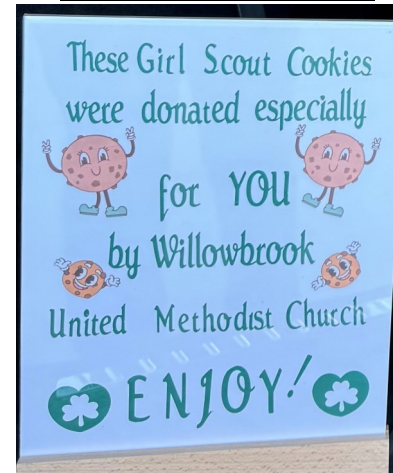


April is a joy-filled month of sharing together. The United Women in Faith will host a spring salad luncheon on April 15 at noon.

Please bring a potluck salad to share. Rachel circle will be the Hostesses. We have invited other United Women in Faith units from the area.

Our feature at this luncheon is the spring fashion show with clothing and accessories from *Just Be Youthful Boutique* in Surprise. The owner has a personal message to share with us. Some of our ladies will be the models so come cheer them on. There will be door prizes as well.

We look forward to the May 20th meeting when we have our Sunset Guest evening at 5 p.m. Everyone (including men, women and guests) is invited for appetizers. You don't have to be a member of the church or United Women in Faith to attend any of our meetings. Come enjoy this evening of fellowship and an inspirational chalk-art presentation by Pastor Steve Marshall who will then give away the picture in a drawing.



**Many thanks Willowbrookers!**  
Because you gave, Jon and Robbie Lerley were able to deliver 12 cases of Girl Scout cookies to Justa Center on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had enough extra cookies to fill 85 baggies of cookies to accompany the meal we served. What a treat for the homeless seniors we served!

Pictured below are the Willowbrook volunteers who generously gave of their time to serve the meal on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ken & Brenda Schuetz, Jon & Robbie Lerley, Sue Richmond, Karen Stark, Judy Arkwright, Bruce & Melissa Cole, Marilyn Ledbetter.



### Updated List of Needs for HART Pantry:

- Individual serving sizes of:  
 Pop Tarts  
 Protein Bars  
 Cookies  
 Chips  
 Cheese its or Goldfish crackers  
 Austin/Lance-type crackers  
 Pudding cups  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Place in HART container in Fellowship Hall.



Winsome Widows is a social group for widows. We get together to embrace life, meet new people, and just have fun. We get together on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.



When we go out for breakfast or lunch you may go on either Thursday or Saturday of that week. This is a great group for those who enjoy making new friends and find joy in the company of other women.

If you have questions or need more information contact Arlene Davidson.



### EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION!

Join the Youthful Seniors on a Virtual expedition to exotic Egypt. **Tour Guide**—Ron Blessin, will help us explore the wonders of the Pharaohs and Pyramids.

Feast on chicken and beef kabobs, roasted veggies and rice.

All-inclusive journey—only E\$ 308.47 [We accept US currency—\$10]

Journey begins, Friday, April 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.



### DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

Sign-Up March 31 and April 7



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.

- |          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| April 3  | Anger                    |
| April 10 | Regrets                  |
| April 17 | Grief & Your Household   |
| April 24 | Grief & Your Friendships |



### Calling all Volunteers

Willowbrook volunteers go to St. Mary's Food Bank on a monthly basis. Come join us on Friday, April 26th, 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Sign up in Fellowship Hall beginning April 14th or contact Liz Peck to volunteer or for more information. St. Mary's is located at 13050 W. Elm Street, Surprise.

**Give a Little Time.  
Make a Big Difference!**

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						

# April 2024



May 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
	<b>1</b> 10:00 am UW Faith Team—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:00 pm The Chosen—CR	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Staff Parish—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	<b>3</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	<b>5</b> 2:00 PM Youthful Seniors Board—LL	<b>6 FOOD BANK</b> 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>7 COMMUNION—FOOD BANK</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Brother of Jesus Study—LL	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:00 pm The Chosen—CR	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 11:00 am Walk to Emmaus—CR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	<b>10</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 1:30 pm Craft Faire Meeting—LL 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 4:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Trustees—CR 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—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 Brother of Jesus Study—LL	<b>15</b> 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 12:00 pm UW Faith Unit Lunch—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:00 pm The Chosen—CR 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	<b>16</b> 9:30 am M.E. E.—CR 12:00 pm 3rd Tuesday @12—WFH 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 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 2:30 pm Outreach—CR	<b>19</b> 1:00 pm Celebration of Life for Ginny McClain—	<b>20</b> Bob Siebert Memorial—CH 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>21</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Brother of Jesus Study—LL	<b>22</b> 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 2:00 pm 3rd Tuesday Planning—WFH 3:00 pm The Chosen—CR	<b>23 PASSOVER</b> 9:00 am Church Council—Chapel 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	<b>24 ADMIN PROFESSIONALS DAY</b> 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm The Chosen—CR 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Winsome Widows—Kiss the Cook, 4915 W Glendale Avenue 9:00 am Finance—CR 9:30 am Caregiver Support Group—LL 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Winsome Widows—Kiss the Cook, 4915 W Glendale Avenue 2:30 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
<b>28</b> 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Brother of Jesus Study—LL	<b>29</b> 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:00 pm The Chosen—CR	<b>30</b> 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL				

**Pray for West District Churches**  
**APRIL**

First UMC, Glendale  
 First UMC, Phoenix  
 First UMC, Sun City

**Feed the Hungry**  
**Non-perishable Food**  
**WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED**

**Next Food Drive:**  
**May 4 & 5, 2024**

Feeding the Community