



**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



March 2025 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

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.

5th Annual Pillow Drive A Great Success!

Thank you to all who made our pillow drive a tremendous success. This year, we collected 169 pillows, received an abundance of pillow-cases - made with love by our very own KrisKrafters - plus we received over \$400 in donations. WOW!

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

On behalf of the veterans who receive your gifts, thank you.

Your Outreach Committee



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>



**DEADLINE FOR APRIL 2025 ISSUE
is March 4th**

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 Manley—Worship Musician
Nicholas Capatch—Live Stream
Debb Pearson—Lay Leader
Russ Koan—Lay Leader Emeritus



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

- Donna Barr Avanti Senior Living
- Richard Ceser Highland Park Asst. Living
- Lois McCrea Carefree Assisted Living



March 2 is the final day to purchase tickets to Pastor Gary's retirement party. The Party is in Wilson Fellowship Hall March 21 at 5:00pm



FIRST TUESDAY AT NOON

April's FIRST TUESDAY AT NOON will be on April 1st at noon. Lunch will be Gerri's Bo Peep Pie with carrot cake for dessert. The Willowbrook Foundation is hosting this month's speaker, Robyn Gerke, Senior Wealth Advisor at Beacon Pointe Advisors Arizona. She will be outlining objectives for each of the Foundation's funds so givers know how their donations will be used. Sign up is March 15/16 or 22/23. There is no charge, but donations are always appreciated.



Grace & Patience

By now, you have all heard the news that I will be retiring on June 30th this year. Debbie will also be retiring this spring and, together, we are looking forward to the next phase of our lives. I've had the great privilege of being an ordained UMC clergy for 43 years. Few pastors have that opportunity to serve so long. It has been a tremendous joy, culminating in the wonderful experience of being the Senior Pastor at Willowbrook UMC for the last ten years.

In preparation for my retirement, the church leaders and I have been working to ensure the smoothest transition possible for this church. As you heard from our most recent Stewardship Moment, our church is now financially stable with a balanced budget to support its ministries for the coming year. Our Committee Structure, with experienced and trained leaders, has us well-positioned to continue the vital ministry of Willowbrook Church.

All of us have experienced significant life changes in our own lives and have learned to deal with them. Although sometimes change can be hard, adapting to change can bring growth and new opportunities. Many of us have also experienced pastoral changes in churches during our lives. In thinking back on beloved pastors we have known in the past, we can gain solace in knowing that they too were "the new pastor" at one point.

As I write this letter, we don't yet know who the new Senior Pastor will be. I hope that you will welcome him or her with Open Arms and continue your dedication to work hard to keep Willowbrook the strong church that it is. For me personally, that would bring me great joy. Please remember to show Grace and have Patience as Willowbrook goes through this transition period. Most of all, remember that God is the Head of this Church and He will lead it on the path that He has planned for Willowbrook.

See you in church in-person or through livestream!

Rev. Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong

Church COUNCIL

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

Points of interest from the January 28, 2025 meeting are: The First Tuesday luncheon for 2025 will be March 4. A member of the Sun City Fire Department will be the speaker. The lunch is free and donations are accepted.

- ◆ A 50th anniversary team is being formed.
- ◆ Roof repairs have recently been completed. The roof will be inspected annually.
- ◆ Eight thousand dollars was collected from the special Christmas offering. The funds were split between UMOM and UMCOR.
- ◆ Pastor Lois thanked everyone for prayers, cards, and support during her recent hospitalization and illness.
- ◆ Kris Krafters made 120 pillowcases to go with the donated pillows for veterans.



Fasting and feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Joyce Chotena Neary |
| 2 | Bob Cooper |
| 5 | Betty Jones |
| 5 | Viola Seibel |
| 7 | Mary Ruth Linde |
| 15 | Mary Rearick |
| 15 | Norma Hamilton |
| 23 | George Hoffman |



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|------|
| 6 | Bruce & Melissa Cole | 54th |
| 10 | George & Jan Caruso | 63rd |
| 10 | Jim & Sherry Mellenthin | 52nd |

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

- Bill Pitzer on February 2nd
- Bob Weaver on February 8th
- Carol Jenkins' brother, Larry Starr on February 10th in IN.
- Helen Barton on January 18th

Willowbrook Foundation
DID YOU KNOW?
In January 2025, the Trustees of Willowbrook United Methodist Church completed roof repairs, with part of the expense covered by a \$15,000 grant from the Willowbrook Foundation. This support was made possible by income generated from the Foundation's investments.



Thinking of volunteering at St. Mary's food bank? We would love to have you join us. 2025 is off to a great start!

On January 24th, we had twelve Willowbrook volunteers at the food bank. It was a busy day with lots to do. Our group was split into three different areas. Some of us worked directly with food bank clients at the Client Choice Pantry, others sorted food, while others loaded up shopping carts with food at the "traditional" pantry distribution.

We go to the food bank on the 4th Friday of the month. Our next visit will be on Friday, March 28th from 9:45 to 12:15. Sign upon March 23 & 30 in Fellowship Hall or contact Liz Peck for more information. St. Mary's is located at 13050 W. Elm Street, Surprise.

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



LEFT: Lee Allinger, Liz Peck, Liz Byers

RIGHT: Grace Marin-Woolsey, Vinnie Liscomb. Back row: Wade Woolsey, Liz Peck, Steve Liscomb



Willowbrook's Thanksgiving offering was divided between several food banks in the west valley. Your generosity did not go unnoticed. Here are excerpts from the thank you letters we recently received.



"As we embrace the joy and warmth of this holiday season, I am deeply grateful for the extraordinary generosity you've shown this year. In a time when so many individuals and families are facing challenges - whether through natural disasters, illness, or financial hardship - your unwavering support shines brightly, offering hope and comfort to those in need.

Your trust in our mission enables us to continue providing essential services across our communities. From nourishing meals and utility assistance to after-school programs, and from shelters that offer comprehensive care to seniors who rely on us for housing and support, your gift impacts lives in profound ways.

The needs are vast, yet your partnership strengthens our resolve to be there for every cry for help.

On behalf of all those whose lives have been touched by your kindness; I offer my deepest gratitude."

With heartfelt thanks,

Captains Mark & Kathy Merritt
Corps Commanding Officers

"Your gift had an immediate impact on your community by helping to provide 15,000 meals to struggling families and seniors. YOU play a vital role in the work we do. Thank you for your kindness since 1994."

"I would like to take a moment to highlight the incredible affect your donations have on our community. Your support does so much. Through your generosity, we're able to:

- ◆ Provide healthy food and comfort weekly to 8,000+ families who visit our three Neighborhood Food Centers.
- ◆ Help 700+ local nonprofits, such as food pantries, homeless shelters, and low-income senior centers, who receive food from us, at no cost.
- ◆ Change the lives of adult students in our Skills Center program by providing workforce training for those needing a second chance.

We are grateful to have you as a member of the St. Mary's family."

Warmest regards,
Milt Liu, President & CEO



Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025 2:00PM in the Chapel
"Called to Humility and Repentance"
A service of Prayer, Scripture,
and the Imposition of Ashes.

Prayer Packets

Many years ago, we began a special tradition during Lent of praying for every member of Willowbrook UMC. We are continuing that tradition with the hope that over half of you pray for each other.

Prayer packets are ready to pick up in Fellowship Hall on **Feb. 23 & March 2**. After you get your packet, be ready to begin praying for these people on **Ash Wednesday, March 5** and continue to pray for them each day of Lent. The packets contain Easter cards and envelopes stamped for you to address to the people for whom you are praying. Please mail the Easter Cards **no sooner than Palm Sunday, April 13**.

Will you deepen your Christian Walk with Jesus and pray for others?

Contemplative Wednesday Lenten Gatherings

2:00 PM in the Chapel.

We will be continuing our spiritual growth each Wednesday at 2:00 in the Chapel until Holy week. The Gatherings will be times of scripture, reflection, prayer, and silence lead by Our Pastors and laity. A time of calm amidst all that is going on in our world and lives.

Maundy Thursday

April 17 at 2:00PM in the Chapel

A service of Holy Communion will be offered as a remembrance of The Last Supper of Jesus and his Disciples. Watch the ENews for more details.

Easter Celebration

5:00 PM in the Chapel on April 19th and
9:30 AM on April 20th.



Kris Krafters was abuzz in February as many of our members worked together to cut-pin-iron-sew pillowcases for our Veterans. Thanks to Kris Krafters, 120 pillowcases were donated along with the 179 pillows from the congregation. We definitely are Willowbrook Strong!!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: KRIS KRAFTERS' SUPER SEAMSTRESS
by LuAnn Sloan

Jill Zitt, who has been a member of Kris Krafters for an undisclosed number of years, took the pillow drive and Kris Krafters' accompanying pillowcase project to heart, completing 58 of the 120 pillowcases sewn and donated to the drive. While Jill enjoys sewing, her favorite craft (which she learned online a year ago) is "Napkinizing." Ask her about it!

Jill was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and is a full-time Arizona resident. She has two children and five grandchildren. Her favorite food is pasta. When she isn't crafting, Jill enjoys reading and watching football.

We are very blessed to have Jill as a member of our Willowbrook family and an important part of Kris Krafters.

HOOKED ON BOOKS



Do you enjoy reading? Would you like to discuss what you are reading with others? Come join us at "Hooked on Books." We meet in the church library on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1:30.

Upcoming books for 2025:

March 28—*The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

April 24—*The Secret War of Julia Child* by Diana R. Chambers

May 22—*The Measure* by Nikki Erlick



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
February 24	March 2
Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-43
March 3	March 9
Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2,9-16
Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
March 10	March 16
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
March 17	March 23
Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
March 24	March 30
Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
March 31	April 6
Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8

EMMAUS REUNION GROUP



Join THE Willowbrook Emmaus Reunion Group! Everyone who has completed the Walk to Emmaus is welcome! The group meets the second Tuesday of the month and will meet on March 11th at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room.

Christ is counting on you.

Congratulations, Folks!

Food donations predicted the game!
Eagles fans—962 items
Chiefs fans—654 items.



Food Donations

THE WINNER WAS THE FOOD BANK!
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE!



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



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.

- March— 5 What Do I Live For Now?
- March—12 Is This Normal?
- March—19 Your Grief Journey
- March—26 Loneliness & Sadness
- April— 2 Self-Care



United Women in Faith



In the springtime, the heart regrows with hope. Come and join us at our annual spring potluck. You are invited on March 24 at 12 noon to our luncheon. Bring a salad that will feed you and 4 others. United Women in Faith recognize our sisterhood and invite our neighbors from nearby churches. One of the ladies from another church told me they had never seen such an array of potluck salads.

We acknowledge that March 24 as the fourth Monday of the month is slightly off our regular schedule so please put it on your calendar. The singing duo of "Timeless" (Patricia Ambrose and Nora Shelton) from Casa Grande will be our entertainment. They will present songs from throughout the past decades. Just a note: Nora is Pastor Steve Marshall's sister who has graciously agreed to come up and entertain us.

There is still time to sign up for the United Women in Faith Conference Retreat, *Tools for the Soul*. It is being held at Phoenix First UMC, 5510 N Central Avenue, Phoenix. Mary Hollan is the facilitator and the cost is \$30. The registration form was in the Southwest Winds or contact Sue Marshall.



Looking forward to the coming months, in April we will have a speaker from Family Promise. If you are not familiar with Family Promise, now is a good time to come and learn what they do for homeless families. May is our late afternoon meeting inviting friends and family and our speaker will be Rev. Patricia Maygar from UMOM. When we invite a speaker, we always hope to have a good turnout, Please plan on attending these events.

Our four circles (Mary, Elizabeth, Rachel & Dorcas) meet every month. Please check the church calendar for times and places. Small groups are the heart of every organization and a wonderful way to develop Christian fellowship on a personal level. Remember: ALL Willowbrook Women are invited to our events.



Please pray with me daily this prayer entitled Lent (Hymnal 268):

O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**



March 30th is the first 5th Sunday in 2025! It's time for our HART Pantry food drive! Remember, HART Pantry provides personal hygiene and food items to homeless teens to help them

focus on school. We want these kids to know Willowbrook cares.



Suggested items to bring March 29 & 30: Instant lunch cups; pop-top pasta, protein bars, Austin/Lance type crackers, Ramen, individual cereal cups/boxes, fruit/pudding cups, 10 oz. peanut butter (or smaller). Remember, current "best by" dates.

There is always a bin in Fellowship Hall marked "HART Pantry" for personal-size toiletries (deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) Remember, these teens carry everything in their backpacks.

Spring Forth!

By Sue Marshall

International Potluck & BINGO!

Friday, March 14th—5:00 p.m.
\$5.00 per person



Whip up a dish to share representing your ethnic origin and join us for what will very likely be a feast for every palate.

After enjoying a culinary trip around the world we will play BINGO --- with prizes, of course!

Sign-up: March 1 & 2 and March 8 & 9.



February 2025

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	

March 2025


April 2025

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			


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
						1 FOOD BANK 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
2 COMMUNION—FOOD BANK 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	3 10:00 am UW Faith Team—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	4 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 12:00 pm First Tuesday at Noon—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm Lenten Service—CH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	6 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 9:00 am Winsome Widows—Campbells 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	7 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—WFH	8 9:00 am Winsome Widows—Campbells 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
9 SUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	10 9:30 am Mary Circle—WFH 9:30 am Elizabeth Circle—LL 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm First Tuesday Planning—CR 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	11 9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 11:30 am Emmaus Reunion Group—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	12 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm Lenten Service—CH 3:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanc	13 9:00 am Trustees—CR	14 9:30 am Stewardship—CR 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH	15 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
16 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	17 St. PATRICK’S DAY 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	18 9:30 am Membership/Education/Evangelism—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	19 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 Lenten Service—CH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	20 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 1:00 pm Retirement Set-up—WFH 2:30 pm Outreach—CR	21 5:00 pm Gary’s Retirement—WFH	22 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
23 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	24 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 12:00 pm UWF Lunch Meeting—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	25 9:30 am Church Council—WFH 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men’s Fellowship—LL	26 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm Lenten Service—CH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	27 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	28	29 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
30 9:30 am Worship—Sanc	31 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL					

Pray for West District Churches



MARCH
 Gila Mountain UMC, Yuma
 Haven UMC, Jerome
 Lakeview UMC, Sun City



Feed the Hungry
 Non-perishable Food
WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED

Next Food Drive:
 April 5 & 6, 2025