



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

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



April 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.



HART held an Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser in Surprise on March first. Willowbrook members, Linda Borton, Arlene Davidson, and Debb Pearson came out to support the event and even had some fun with our server, HART Board Member, Jill Zitt.



Debb Mitchell won the Harkins entertainment gift basket (look at all that CHOCOLATE!)

A big thank you to Willowbrook for your continued support of this meaningful program for teens in need.

* * *

Updated request for donations: Pudding Cups, Jif-to-Go, Applesauce Cups, !



Easter Blessings!

Friday, April 11th—5:00 p.m.
\$10.00 per person

Invite a Friend and
Join us for
BREAKFAST FOR DINNER

Followed by the Movie
THE BLESSING BRACELET

The Blessing Bracelet is a phenomenon that has evolved from a gift for a few friends, to reach over 1 million bracelets sold around the world. It is a beautiful reminder to appreciate our blessings.

Each comes with a tag that reminds us to express gratitude for our blessings every day and be changed by our blessings.

Sign-up: March 29/30 or April 3/4.

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
- Rev. Gary Kennedy—Senior Pastor
- Rev. Ruth Blum—Associate Pastor
- Rev. 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

DEADLINE FOR MAY 2025 ISSUE
is April 4th



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



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:
April 24—*The Secret War of Julia Child* by Diana R. Chambers
May 22—*The Measure* by Nikki Erlick



The MYF Benediction

“May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.”

—Derived from Numbers 6:24-26

I remember that going to high school brought many new changes and experiences to my life. It was with some anxiety that I rode the bus to Santa Paula Union High School. Mr. Emery was the bus driver. He was the same bus driver who drove me to school in my first days of elementary school. Such was life in a small town in California. Going to high school for our whole class of graduates from junior high school brought “stories” of what could happen to freshman. Sure, enough on the first day of school, we freshman, as we stood on “Freshman Court” were pelted with eggs by upper classman. Welcome to High School!! High school did become some of the most wonderful experiences and memories of my life, but that first day was tough. Mr. Emery drove the bus for me on my last day of high school four years later. He and I and some of the other students celebrated the ride to school that day! Mr. Emery was emotional that day as were we!

For me, the first day of going to the church youth group was equally anxiety-filled. Our church was small, and we did not have a junior high youth program. So going to high school also meant going to the youth group at *El Buen Pastor United Methodist Church*. All the older youth attended. Even though I knew everyone well and the youth group contained my older brother and several cousins, it was a new experience and two of us were freshman going for the first time. Why did the first day of high school have to be so traumatic? Why was the first time at youth group feeling the same? Change is difficult! The first day of something new is always hard. I must say however that the youth group, the MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship), turned out to be like my high school experience; wonderful!

I remember, the youth group ended with a closing benediction that all the older kids had memorized, but it was new to us freshman. They all held hands and recited together by memory the words of the MYF Benediction, printed above. It ended with the phrase, “...and give you peace”. That phrase then, and now, reminds me that even in new experiences God is present to give us peace, wonderful peace! Change is hard! God has been with us and will continue to be with us. ALWAYS!

See you in church in-person or through livestream!

Rev. Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong

Church COUNCIL

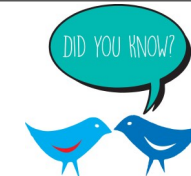
The church council is composed of the chairs of each committee or a committee representative in the absence of the chair, who vote on actionable items. Everyone from the church is encouraged to attend and join in discussion.

Points of interest from the February 25, 2025 meeting are:

- ◆ Bishop Carlo Rapanut intends to appoint Rev. Matt Ashley as the senior pastor of Willowbrook UMC beginning July 1, 2025.
- ◆ Our recent Super Bowl food drive brought in 1,616 food items and \$160 cash.
- ◆ The Easter offering this year will be divided between Justa Center, Camp Mingus and Camp Genesis
- ◆ The new rotation for Sunday coffee is working well. There is a two-week rotation for the participants. Committees and groups who have not participated in the past are now in the schedule.

Willowbrook Foundation

The Willowbrook Foundation gladly accepts donations of all kinds, ensuring that our mission to inspire faith, transform lives, and foster community continues for generations to come. If you have questions, contact Gene Ambrosion or Sam Haroz.



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

28 Betty Beier



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

9	Carole & Ernie Pearce	65th
12	Carol & Richard Jenkins	62nd
27	Richard & Michele Meyer	56th
28	Jerry & Lorna Hermanek	63rd

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

- Bill Pike on Feb 24th
- Jean McPherson on Feb 27th
- Jeanne Poole on March 12th

Hope for Holy Week

As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

—Peter Sulzle



We Have Moved!

Valley View Community Food Bank moved into its new building next door to the old location in March. The Sun City location is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Valley View will continue using the old location for product overflow and upcoming programs to assist those in need.



As of March, Valley View's Sun City location features a Farmer's Market, every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a \$10 donation.

The market is in front of the old building at 10771 West Peoria Avenue and offers a great opportunity to obtain fresh produce while supporting a worthy cause. All donations go directly to Valley View Community Food Bank, helping them assist more families in need.

Jesse Ramirez extends his gratitude to Willowbrook UMC for their volunteer support, monetary donations, and food contributions — not to mention the grocery bags and egg cartons.

Thank you for your continued support!

Three quotes about personal relationship to church:

"For years, I believed being part of a church was important, but it often felt like something extra—something I attached to my life rather than something that shaped it. It was like an appendage, an obligation I carried rather than a living, breathing part of who I was. But when I came to (my church), that changed. Now, I don't just attend church—I belong to it.

It's not just a thing I do; it's part of me. It's my community, my family, my faith in action. We're not just doing church. We are the church."

* * *

"I used to think of church as a place, Now, I see it as a people."

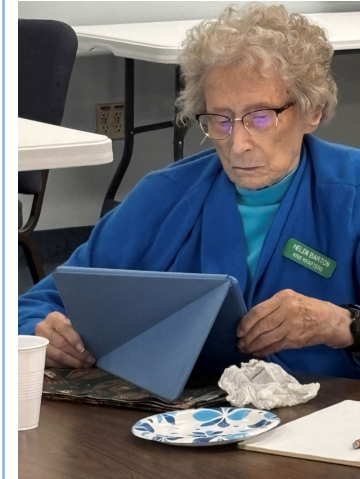
* * *

"Church isn't just where you go on Sundays. It's how you live the rest of the week."

Memories In Loving

Kris Krafters recently lost two long time members who contributed greatly to the work of the group.

Helen Barton and Marian Wittenberg passed away within a few days of each other.



Helen, who loved to sew, crochet, and read, is shown here enjoying her Kindle during the last Kris Krafters meeting she attended. Her daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Dave Perez are vital members of Kris Krafters.

Marian, an accomplished quilter, is pictured a few years ago with a quilt she made from fabrics donated to Kris Krafters. We are also blessed to have her daughter, Joan Wright, as a valued contributor of time and talent to our efforts.



Our group will miss the skills and sweet spirits of these special ladies as we continue the work they supported for so many years.

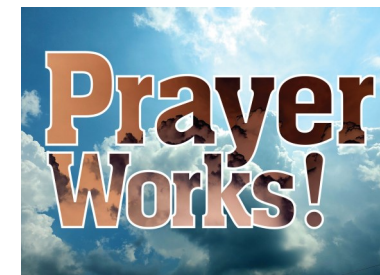


L/R Front: Gene Ambrosion, Jon Braemer, Charlie Musgrave, Barbara Christie, Pastor Gary Kennedy, Austin Tingley.
Back: Scott Fitzgerald, Joe Nicksich, Peter Lee, Roger Keslar, Steve Arend, Don King, John Wiggs, Pastor Jon Ierley, Lou Triguero, John Calhoun



The Men's Fellowship/Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Willowbrook Library. Barbara Christie led the group in *"The Daniel Plan—40 Days to a Healthier Life,"* a program she taught at Willowbrook several years ago. John Wiggs provided a variety of olive oils for dipping the delicious, preservative-free sourdough bread brought by Pastor Gary Kennedy which was made by his daughter, Megan Capatch. This healthy snack was a big hit!

A big thank you to Barbara for taking time out of her vacation to help guide the Men's Fellowship group toward a healthier lifestyle. Is it time for you to consider joining the Men's Fellowship/Bible Study group on Tuesdays at 2 p.m.?



"A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me.

His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Wildlife World Zoo



REMEMBER: On the 2nd weekend of the month we bring used sheets and towels to drop in the brown containers provided for the Zoo. That is April 12/13. Please: No Pet Beds.



As of the end of February, St. Mary's was providing food to more than 800 clients at their Surprise location on a daily basis. As the number of clients increases, so does the need for volunteers.

Thinking of volunteering? We go to the food bank the 4th Friday of the month. Our next visit will be on Friday, April 25 from 9:45 to 12:15. Sign up 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!**

March 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025


May 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	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
		1 APRIL FOOLS DAY 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	2 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 2:00 pm Lenten Service—CH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	3 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR	4 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2:00 pm Youthful Seniors Board—WFH	5 FOOD BANK 11:30 am Winsome Widows—The Spicery 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
6 COMMUNION—FOOD BANK 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Bible Study—LL	7 10:00 am UW Faith Team—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	8 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	9 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	10 9:00 am Trustees—CR 2:30 pm Outreach—CR	11 9:30 am Stewardship—CR 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH	12 1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Bible Study—LL	14 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	15 9:30 am Membership/Education/Evangelism—CR 1:30 pm Joyful Bells—MR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	16 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	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 2:00 pm Maundy Thursday Svc—Sanc	18 GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	19 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
20 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Bible Study—LL	21 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 12:00 pm United Women of Faith Lunch Meeting—WFH 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—WFH	22 9:30 am Church Council—WFH 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	23 ADMIN PROFESSIONALS DAY 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc	24 9:00 am Finance—CR 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL	25	26 12:00pm Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH
27 9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am Bible Study—LL	28 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL	29 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL	30 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc			

Pray for West District Churches



APRIL
 Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood
 Fort Yuma UMC, Winderhaven, CA
 Native American Parish UMF, Phoenix



Feed the Hungry
 Non-perishable Food
WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED

Next Food Drive:
 May 3 & 4, 2025