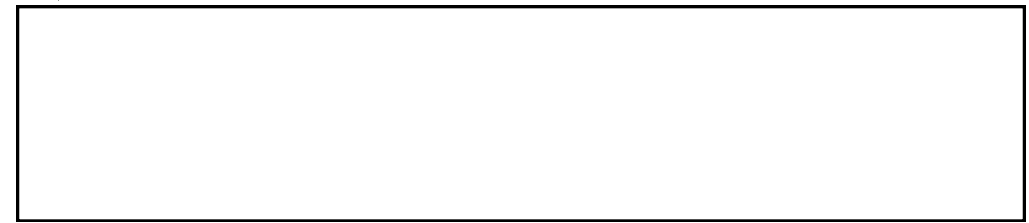




**WILLOWBROOK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102

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



May 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.



UMOM Tour!



On Friday, March 7th, several members of Willowbrook were treated to a tour, led by Allora McChesney, at UMOM's New Day Center. UMOM, (United Methodist Outreach Ministries) operates many different programs and has several campuses around Phoenix. The New Day Center, located at 3333 E. Van Buren, is a shelter for homeless families. The shelter houses up to 160 families and is the largest family shelter in all of Arizona.

On our tour, we visited a model apartment that would house a large family. We also visited the "Clothes Closet" where residents can obtain casual and professional clothing, as well as, clothing for infants, children and teens. We ended our tour at Helpings Café, a public café, that serves both as a revenue source to support UMOM's programs and a training opportunity for residents.

We learned about the many services that are provided to the families living at the Center. For example, the Phoenix Children's Hospital at the New Day Center; veterinarians visit the Center for the dogs who live on campus; the Boys & Girls club on campus; the job development program focusing on developing individuals' employability and skills needed to help them secure sustainable work. In short, UMOM tries to provide wraparound services to prevent housing crises.

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>



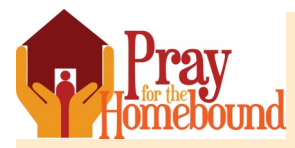
OFFICE HOURS
Monday—Friday—8:30am—4:00pm

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 JUNE 2025 ISSUE
is May 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

Come One, Come All!

By Sue Marshall

You all are invited to the United Women in Faith guest night on May 19 at 5:00 p.m. in Wilson Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy appetizers and hear from Rev. Patricia Maygar, Spiritual advisor from UMOM. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about what United Methodist Outreach Mission is all about and the multiple ministries it has. You might be surprised! We are requesting donations of personal items, like shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, and body wash to help supply UMOM's pantry. (Full size preferred but will accept smaller sizes)

Appetizers are provided but donations are welcome.

* * * * *

Summer is arriving and, as in the past, in June, July and August, instead of Circle meetings, the UWF share fellowship by enjoying lunch out. The first lunch is June 16 at Valle Luna Mexican Restaurant, 3336 West Bell Road at 11:30. We will carpool from the church. Valle Luna has more than Mexican dishes if that's not your favorite. Sign-ups are June 8 during Coffee Fellowship.





A Foundation of Strength

"So then, everyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the winds blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the winds blew hard against that house, and it fell. What a terrible fall that was!
- Matthew 7:24-27 GNT

" 1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

5. The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake." How Firm a Foundation – #529 United Methodist Hymnal

For some, the Biblical Word, when read by the liturgist in worship, speaks to our hearts. For others, the hymns or anthem carry a message that our hearts receive. Still others respond to sermons or liturgies. Then there are some who respond to God through the love and actions of loved ones whose very lives communicate the love of God a grandmother, a Sunday school teacher, a coach or parent. Still others respond to God in quiet or alone in prayer, on one's knees in private.

However God has chosen to reach out to you, your response to God begins to lay a foundation that God builds upon. With each sermon heard, each lesson learned, God helps us to grow in character, faith and purpose. Like any building, the building is only as strong as its foundation. God is a foundation of strength.

So, whether you are in church, working, traveling, with friends or family, it is so good to know that we are always in the loving presence of God. We are given a firm foundation by God. So, keep building, growing and living life to the fullest! Our spiritual house is built on a solid rock! The foundation is ours to keep, wherever we are and wherever we go. Thanks be to God!

See you in Church,
Or together through Livestream,
Always Willowbrook Strong!

Rev. Gary Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong

CHANGE Address, Email, Phone

HUNT, Helen
1844 Palmcroft Way NW, c/o Paul Hunt
Phoenix, AZ 85007-1742

NEARING, Barb
Cell Only: 623-866-9906

HOFFMAN, George
HOPPMAN, Marilyn
2818 El Paso Avenue
Simi Valley, CA 93063-1739
No Phone Information

DAVIDSON, Arlene
9706 W Tonto Lane
Peoria, AZ 85382-4187

NEW MEMBER 3/29/2025
LORENZEN, Mia
6360 W Adobe Drive
Glendale AZ 85308-7096
Land: 623-399-9014
Cell: 602-524-4448
BD: April 26
ANN: 5/26/2007
Husband, Larry did not join



Mia Lorenzen
Joined 3/29/2025



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

8 Barbara Snook
22 Betty Slezak
26 Richard Ceser



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

21 Gary & Judith Rich 58th
25 Bob & Millie Johnson 68th

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

- Judy Browning's brother, Joe in Atlanta in March
- Dolores Pagan on March 31
- Cathy Hoben-Calhoun's sister, Chris Hoben, on April 1 in Traverse City, MI

THANK YOU!

A Huge Thank You from Youthful Seniors to everyone who brought dishes to our International Potluck March 14th! We had four-8ft tables of food! Bingo was great fellowship and we had so much fun! Congratulations to everyone who won a prize!

Blessings,
Marilyn Burmeister
Chairman



Volunteer Opportunity

Opened in 2006, Justa Center is the only resource and day center exclusively serving seniors experiencing homelessness in the Phoenix area. Justa Center provides essential support and services for homeless adults age 55 and over.

Willowbrook volunteers will be serving a hot meal there on May 17. We will leave Willowbrook around 9:30 and should return around 11:30 or 12:00. If you have never visited the Center, it is a great way to learn about what they do and possibly meet some of the seniors they serve.

The menu on the 17th will be: sloppy joes, macaroni salad, bananas, brownies, and soda pop. If you are interested in either helping make the salad, donating soda, or serving, look for signup sheets in the Fellowship Hall the weekend of May 3/4 and May 10/11.

You can contact Judy Arkwright or Liz Peck if you want to help. Judy will coordinate the volunteers wishing to serve the meal. Liz will make the salad in the Willowbrook kitchen Friday, May 16 at 9:00am. If you want to help her, contact Liz directly, or sign up in Fellowship Hall. If you want to donate soda, let us know.

Keeping Up With the Times

Those of you who have computers that are Microsoft based have probably heard that beginning in October, operating systems that are Windows 10 or less will no longer be supported. At home that may not be a problem, but at the church, it doesn't work.

Our trustees agreed that we should get a jump on it and update our computers in March. The upgrade included replacing the six computers in the office and getting a new laptop in the Chapel. We have pretty much worked through all the new computer problems and are running pretty smoothly.

We kept the old laptop from the Chapel which is now located in the office for anyone needing a computer to run anything through the projector in Wilson Fellowship Hall.

Please remember to plan ahead so you can pick up the laptop during office hours and return it when you are done. Any questions should be directed to Bev in the church office.

Thank you to the Willowbrook Foundation for funding this project.



Tech Upgrades

EMMAUS REUNION GROUP



Everyone who has completed the Walk to Emmaus has the opportunity to attend Willowbrook's Emmaus Reunion Group! The group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 11:30a.m. See you on May 13th in the conference room.

Mark your calendar! Christ is counting on you!

First Tuesday At Noon



June's First Tuesday at Noon is scheduled for June 3 at noon! Lunch will include a symphony of salads, garlic bread and ice cream. Linda Griffin from the Salvation Army will explain what the Salvation Army does for our community.

Sign-up is May 17/18 & May 24/25. Although there is no charge, donations are always appreciated to help cover costs.

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 March 25, 2025 meeting are:

- ◆ The First Tuesday Luncheon in May will feature The Wildlife World Zoo as the program. A few animals will be present.
- ◆ John Wiggs reported on Pastor Gary's retirement dinner. He thanked the Foundation and all the workers for their help and support. ROTC members assisted with tickets and serving the food.
- ◆ The Church Mouse award was recently presented to John VanAst for all the work he has done behind the scenes on doors and other woodwork around the church.
- ◆ Pastor Gary thanked everyone for the wonderful retirement party and the elegant evening full of fun and laughter. He said he and his family felt all the love during a wonderful evening.



Wildlife World Zoo!

Wildlife World Zoo has informed us they want ONLY towels. You can place your towel donations in the specially marked brown container in the Fellowship Hall on the second Sunday of each month.

We will notify you if this request should change. Watch the ENews for any updates.



Come join us for a few hours at St. Mary's Food Bank, 13050 W Elm Street, Surprise.

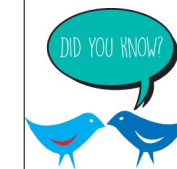
We go to the food bank the 4th Friday of the month. Contact Liz Peck for more information.

Give A Little Time. Make A Big Difference!



The E-News publishes Thursday mornings and Sunday mornings. You can sign up today to receive it by stopping by the office, or call to sign up or go to the website and scroll to the bottom of the opening page and click E Newsletter Sign-Up.

Willowbrook Foundation



The Willowbrook Foundation helps us celebrate our past, sustain the present, and preserve our future for generations to come. You can also play a part in fulfilling this mission.

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 book for May, 2025: May 22—*The Measure* by Nikki Erlick

April 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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			

May 2025

June 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
<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Please pray with me daily this prayer shared by Disciplines, A Book of Daily Devotions 2025; <i>Merciful God, we confess that we have messed up in the past. Forgive us. Guide us. Thank you for lifting the weight from us and inviting us to sing with joy. Amen</i></p> </div>						
<p>4 COMMUNION—FOOD BANK NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 am UW Faith Team—MR 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 12:00 pm First Tuesday at Noon—WFH 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanc</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 am Trustees—CR</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30 am Stewardship—CR</p>	<p>3 FOOD BANK</p> <p>11:30 am Winsome Widows—Ajo Al's 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:30 am Worship—Sanc 11:00 am New Member Class—LL</p>	<p>12</p> <p>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</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am Rachel Circle—LL 11:30 am Emmaus Reunion Gathering—CR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 3:00 pm Dorcas Circle—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 2:30 pm Outreach—CR</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 3:00 pm Disciple II—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—LL 5:00 pm United Women of Faith Guest Meeting—WFH</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am Membership/Education/Evangelism—CR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 9:30 am Foundation—CR 12:30 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 am Justa Center Meal Prep - Kitchen 11:00 am Weaver Memorial—CH 12:00 pm Winsome Widows—LL 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<p>25 NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>9:30 am Worship—Sanc</p>	<p>26 MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 am Church Council—WFH 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Sanc</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>24 NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Pray for West District Churches</p>  <p>MAY Sedona UMC, Sedona Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Sun City West Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Phoenix</p> </div>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>Feed the Hungry Non-perishable Food WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED</p> <p>Next Food Drive: JUNE 7 & 8, 2025</p> </div>		