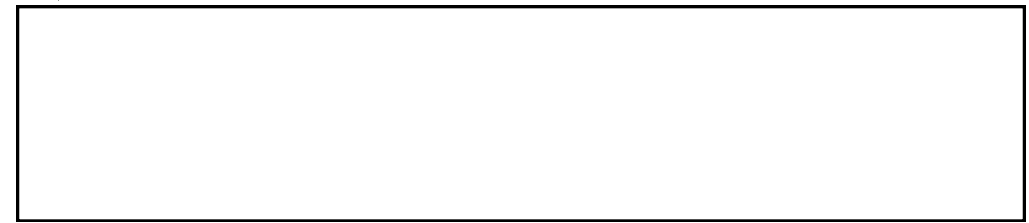




**WILLOWBROOK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
19390 NORTH 99TH AVENUE
SUN CITY AZ 85373-1102

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SUN CITY, AZ 85351

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



June 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.



Crochet, which literally translated from French means "small hook" is a popular hand craft among the members of Kris Krafters. Although its precise origins are not cut and dried, it is just one of the arts used to create useful and beautiful items our group offers for sale at the Craft Faire in the Fall, or to donate to numerous charities throughout the year.

An ongoing and very special focus of those who crochet (and knit) is the Willowbrook Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you are unfamiliar with it or have questions, we would love to tell you more! If you know how to crochet and would like to be a part of these efforts, join us from 9-11 a.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month. If you don't know how to crochet but would like to learn, or if another craft suits you better, we would still love to have you join us. We are a fun group that enjoys socializing, sharing ideas, and creating things of beauty.



Marilyn Ledbetter shows a couple of Prayer Shawls ready for delivery.

There is truth in the words of Francine Toukou: *A crocheted piece is the lovely manifestation of a thought, expressed through hand, heart, hook, and yarn.*

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 JULY 2025 ISSUE
is June 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

Willowbrook Celebrates 50 Years!



On Easter Sunday—April 18, 1976—thirty-seven people came together in faith to take vows of membership, even though Willowbrook had not yet been officially constituted as a Methodist congregation.

Fifty years later, we have the honor of celebrating the Golden Anniversary of Willowbrook United Methodist Church. A committee has been formed to plan this special milestone. With Faith, Hope, and Love, we're looking forward to a Christ-centered celebration to honor Willowbrook's past, present, and future.

Contact Jan Whalen if you have memorabilia.

First Tuesday At Noon

Why not start July by attending our **FIRST TUESDAY AT NOON**, which is actually on July first!

Join us at noon for a holiday picnic of hot dogs, deviled eggs, macaroni salad, chips, soda and watermelon! Following lunch, our very own Summer Singers will lead us in some patriotic songs. Plus you don't want to miss a visit from "Red Skelton"!

Be sure to sign up on June 14/15 or 21/22. Although there is no charge, donations are always appreciated.



With Grateful Hearts

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34 NIV

As I sit down to write my last Good News Article for Willowbrook United Methodist Church, I have tremendous feelings of gratefulness. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve as Senior Pastor here. I am grateful to the congregation that welcomed me and my family and embraced us. I am grateful for the other pastors that I have had the privilege to work with. I am grateful for a talented staff. I am grateful for committee chairs, active committees and a congregation full of dedicated Christians. I am grateful for Lay Leaders, delegates to Annual Conference and the list goes on and on.

I am grateful for the Lord being with us during "COVID." We literally shut down during COVID for well over a year. How can a church survive that? We trusted in God and not only survived, but we thrived! We became "Willowbrook Strong" with the help of the Lord! We were out and active in our community and in support of one another. The Church is alive and well. Thanks be to God! I am grateful for the fullness of the Holy Spirit that has loved us and comforted us through each death in the church. We have experienced so many deaths in the last few years. A real challenge to any church indeed. It hurts so much because we love so much!

The Lord has been with us through many crises big and small. Our air conditioners went out. Very expensive! Our parking lot deteriorated. Very expensive! Our denomination split. Many churches "disaffiliated" and went independent. Some churches formed a new and different denomination. Our denomination is literally half the size of what it used to be. We chose to be united, together and strong. Willowbrook UMC has survived the crisis.

There is so much for which to be grateful today! My heart is big for Willowbrook. I truly love this church. Thank you for loving the Kennedys.

With a Grateful Heart!

Rev. Gary B. Kennedy

Willowbrook Strong

First Day of Summer

Come cool off and join in the fellowship! Staff will again be serving ice cream floats to celebrate National Ice Cream Float Day and the First Day of Summer on Friday, June 20th, at 2 p.m. Start off your summer in cool air conditioning with ice cream! Who could ask for more?



Address, Email, Phone

GORDON, Billie K
10330 W Thunderbird Blvd #A137
Sun City AZ 85351-3051

BEIER, Betty
1412 Sunrise Lane
Colorado Springs CO 80906-5823
(daughter's address)
(Sandra Martin)

GLATZ, Ellen
CELL: 623-986-9474

JOHNSON, Peggy
peggyjo1928@gmail.com

CORE, Larry & Sandra
323 Arbormoor Lane
Moyock NC 27958-6522



(We celebrate 90 years or more)

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------|
| 3 | Larry Wilson | |
| 6 | Helen Woodward | |
| 13 | Ron Leonard | |
| 15 | Dora Mowry | |
| 15 | Loretta Allen | |
| 18 | Regina Winemiller | |
| 19 | Peggy Johnson | |
| 23 | Helen Hunt | 103! |
| 26 | Ed Allen | |



(We Celebrate 50 years or more)

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|------|
| 1 | Joseph & Valerie Nicksich | 51st |
| 10 | Jon & Robbie Ierley | 53rd |
| 10 | Mike & Jo Allen | 58th |
| 14 | Ed & Loretta Allen | 67th |
| 17 | Steve & Lorraine Arend | 58th |
| 19 | Ron & Kathryn Laumann | 60th |
| 22 | Tony & Karen Anthony | 62nd |



As our much-loved "snowbirds" leave the valley to visit family and friends, the need for volunteers continues.

Willowbrook volunteers will be going to St. Mary's on Friday, June 27 from 9:45am to 12:15pm.

Look for signup sheets in Fellowship Hall or contact Liz Peck

St. Mary's is located at 13050 W Elm Street, Surprise.

Give A Little Time. Make A Big Difference!



Coming This Summer!

Third Annual Undie Sunday August 9 & 10

All sizes—NEW
Children's underwear
Women's Underwear
Men's boxers or briefs

Watch for information the end of July!



Thank you so much for the flowers, cards, good wishes and prayers following the death of my wife, Jeanne.

Love,
Fred Poole & family



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

- Don McPherson on April 29th
- Rhett Sears on May 8th

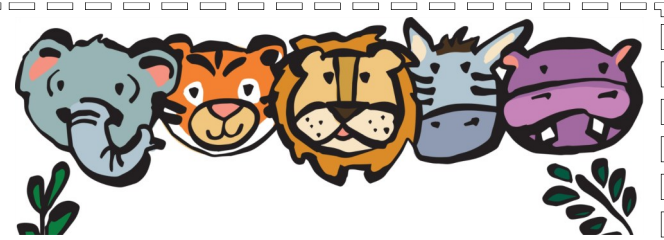
Metho Travelers!

We got to see "Jersey Boys" on May first at the Phoenix Theatre Company. It has been on my bucket-list since they hit Broadway. This fun afternoon brought back good memories!



We are all smiles on our return home from seeing "Jersey Boys" The unforgettable music of The Four Seasons brought back great memories-and we had a wonderful time together. A big thank-you to Metho Travelers for planning such a fun excursion.

Pictured left to right: Pam Sanchez, Marilyn Burmeister, Metho Travelers Willowbrook Coordinator Don Pleinis, Nancy and Dennis Stokely, and Linda Borton.



Wildlife World Zoo!

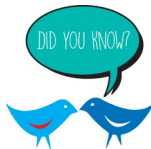
Wildlife World Zoo wants ONLY towels. You can place your donations in the specially marked brown container in the Fellowship Hall on the second Sunday of each month.

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

Willowbrook Foundation

Planned giving, also known as gift planning or legacy giving, includes trusts, life insurance, bequests, gift annuities, gifts of real estate and more. Because planned gifts come in a variety of forms, donors can choose an option that best fits their financial situation, and reflects their vision for the future.

For more information, please contact Gene Ambrosion or Sam Haroz.



EMMAUS REUNION GROUP



Everyone who has completed the Walk to Emmaus has the opportunity to attend Willowbrook's Emmaus Reunion Gathering! They meet the second Tuesday of the month at 11:30a.m.

Mark your calendar for June 10th in the conference room! Christ is counting on you!

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:

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| June 26 | — <i>The Woman Who Knew Everyone</i> | by Meryl Gordo |
| July 24 | — <i>Swan Song</i> | by Elin Hilderbrand |
| August 28th | — <i>Lula Deans Little Library of Banned Books</i> | by Kristen Miller |
| September 25 | — <i>Girl With the Louding Voice</i> | by Abi Dare |

We've Moved!

Valley View Community Food Bank has moved to its new home at 10733 W. Peoria Ave. in Sun City - the former Wells Fargo Bank building.

A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the new facility on Wednesday, April 2nd, despite a downpour of raindrops. Willowbrook was represented by Roger and Gloria Davis, Ted and Marilyn Dumbauld, and Linda Borton.

Starting in June, they've asked us to adjust our volunteer hours on the first Wednesday of each month to 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Due to limited space at the new location, this change will help us better support their needs - whether by restocking shelves after morning food distribution or assisting in other ways. Another volunteer opportunity is available on the first Saturday of each month, helping at their Sun City Farmers Market, also held at the new location. Volunteer hours are 8:00 a.m. to Noon, or until food supplies run out. The market offers bread, pastries, and assorted produce for a \$10 donation.

If you're interested in volunteering or have questions, we'd love to hear from you - contact Linda Borton. Let's make a difference together!

Jesse Ramirez, Sr., founder of Valley View Community Food Bank, extends heartfelt thanks for your continued support - through your monetary gifts, volunteering, grocery bags, and egg cartons. Please note: Valley View now specifically requests egg cartons made of cardboard or Styrofoam - no plastic, please.



Gratitude is Catching!

Have you noticed in a group of people that are optimistic, thankful, and seeking to look for the positives of life, the atmosphere feels bright and happy! Then we are able to attract more people to be a part of what we are doing just like bees will come to honey.

We want to emphasize and spread a little honey in our church, our community, and our lives. Sometimes we come to the end of the day and we have had so much going on we can't even remember the good things that have happened to us. Starting on Pentecost weekend, June 7 & 8, we will offer you the opportunity to purchase a "Gratitude Bracelet" (choices for both men and women). The bracelet will help remind us to remember the good things that have happened at least 4 times a day. You may choose different styles, colors and sizes. The proceeds will be used to return gratitude to our church for the 50 years we have been supported and strengthened in our faith. The bracelets are handmade and only cost \$10.



May 2025

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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |


June 2025

July 2025


| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 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 COMMUNION—FOOD BANK 9:30 am Worship—Sanc | 2 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL | 3 9:00 am Staff-Parish—CR 12:00 pm First Tuesday at Noon—WFH 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL | 4 —NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH | 5 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 2:00 pm Worship Committee—CR | 6 | 7 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH |
| 8 9:30 am Worship—Sanc | 9 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 2:00 pm First Tuesday Planning—CR | 10 11:30 am Emmaus Reunion Gathering—CR 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL | 11 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH | 12 9:00 am Trustees—CR | 13 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH | 14 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH |
| 15 9:30 am Worship—Sanc | 16 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL 3:30 pm Stephen Leaders—CR 4:00 pm Stephen Ministers—LL | 17 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL | 18 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH 12:00 pm Kitchen Committee—WFH | 19 9:00 am Kris Krafters—WFH 2:30 pm Outreach—CR | 20 2:00 pm Ice Cream Floats—WFH | 21 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH |
| 22 9:30 am Worship—Sanc | 23 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL | 24 9:30 am Church Council—WFH 2:00 pm Men's Fellowship—LL | 25 9:30 am GriefShare—LL 9:30 am Art & Soul—WFH | 26 1:30 pm Hooked on Books—LL | 27 5:00 pm Youthful Seniors Event—WFH | 28 5:00 pm Sabbath Service—CH |
| 29 5th SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship—Sanc | 30 11:00 am Lectionary Study—LL 2:00 pm Intercessory Prayer—LL | | | | | |



Please pray with me daily this prayer from New Every Morning:
Gracious God, shape us through the small daily practices that draw us closer to you and to one another. Mold our hearts for justice, our hands for service, and our lives for love. May we be transformed by your spirit so that in every act, no matter how small, we reflect your kingdom on earth. Amen



JUNE—Pray for
 Bishop & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference & Churches of the East District, North District & West District



Feed the Hungry
 Non-perishable Food
WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED
 Next Food Drive:
 July 5/6, 2025