



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

»»» **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:

8:30am—3:00pm

Monday thru Thursday

Closed Fridays



Deadline

for July 2026 issue is **June 4th**

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. Matt Ashley, Senior Pastor

Rev. Louie Lyon, Associate Pastor

Rev. Lois Hedden, Pastor of Visitation

Rev. Jon Ierley, Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Robb Butler, Director of Music

Carol Manley, Worship Musician

Debb Pearson, Lay Leader

Russ Koan, Lay Leader Emeritus

Nicholas Capatch, Livestream

JUNE 2026 ISSUE

GOOD NEWS

Willowbrook United Methodist Church

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"



Address:

19390 North 99th Avenue
Sun City, AZ 85373-1102

Office Hours:

8:30am—3:00pm

Monday thru Thursday

Closed Fridays

Phone and fax:

(623) 974-5637

FAX: (623) 933-5466

Internet:

www.willowbrookumc.org

E-mail address:

irina@willowbrookumc.org

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

Thoughts From Pastor Louie

As you read this, I will be starting my last month with you at Willowbrook. My four-month Interim appointment has been a great joy for me. I have met so many wonderful folks here.

You have blessed me with so many kind words and I want to say thank you to you. When I came on to the staff at Willowbrook I was told that my role was to be the pastor in charge of Discipleship. In a Christian church discipleship covers a wide range of things. I have been blessed to lead a Bible Study and to oversee the church's education program. I have been involved with our Intercessory Prayer Ministry, and each week have participated in the church's Grief Share Ministry, as well as assisting Pastor Matt in anything that needs to be done.

Along with saying thank you in this article, I am writing to ask some of you to consider what I write next. My wife Joyce and I have been worshipping each Saturday evening in the Chapel, sitting together worshipping God and giving God thanks for our many blessings. Church is important to us for it is one of the ways we "refill" our tank each week, hearing God's Word and lifting our "brothers and sisters in Christ" up in prayer during our prayer time. You see, the church and the folks of this church have become our family. Each Saturday evening and Sunday morning after the worship service I look over the Attendance Cards. I have been shocked to see that many folks check off on the cards the box that says Regular Attendee and not the box that says Member. I am sure there are different reasons for not taking the step to become a church member, but I would like to offer a couple of thoughts in my closing.....

When one becomes a member of the church they become a part of the family. They have the privilege of helping to make decisions that affect the life of the church and then begin to feel ownership. They can say "This is MY CHURCH." Joyce and I will miss Willowbrook and our new church family as we have been participating in the activities that have been offered here. I want to invite those of you that have been checking off Regular Attendee on the Registration Card to consider becoming a member here. I know that if you do, you will not be sorry for doing so. Willowbrook is a Great Church with so many friendly folks. I will be praying that many who read this article will consider becoming a member and thus be able to check off a different box, the Member box. Willowbrook is one of the finest churches in the area. If you would like to speak with me about becoming a Member I would be pleased to speak with you.



Shalom, Pastor Louie

FROM THE
PASTOR



“Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”
~Ephesians 4:15~

This year the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will take place on **June 18-21, 2026** at Lakeview United Methodist Church right here in Sun City. Hundreds of clergy and laity from churches across Arizona and Southern Nevada (along with one California congregation) will participate.

Our theme this year is **“We Are the Church Together”** based on Acts 2:42-47 and Ephesians 4:11-16, the second in our vision of becoming “A Healthy Church for a Healthy World.” This year our Conference is focusing on the health of local churches.



“Healthy disciples will make healthy churches. Healthy, vital churches will work towards healthy communities. Healthy communities will create a healthy world. Given the unrest and turmoil in the world today, I cannot stress enough the need for healing and the call to be part of that work.”

~Bishop Carlo Rapanut~

Annual Conference meets every year to worship, engage in holy conferencing, and make decisions together. This year’s agenda includes the election of delegates to the 2028 General and Jurisdictional Conference along with passing the 2027 Conference budget, approving the salary ranges of conference staff, and other important decisions. The agenda may also include the consideration of resolutions, petitions, legislation, and rule changes.



For more information about Annual Conference, please visit:
<https://www.dscumc.org/event/ac-19622100>

Willowbrook United Methodist Church will be represented at Annual Conference by Esther Lloyd, Debb Pearson, and Linda Borton who were elected at our church conference last fall. Our clergy will also participate. If you have questions about Annual Conference, please feel free to contact us.



Annual Conference is an important part of our Methodist tradition, connecting local churches and coordinating United Methodist ministries not only across the Southwest but all across the world. Please be in prayer for this connectional gathering so that we may be a church that loves boldly, serves joyfully, and leads courageously for the transformation of the world.

See you at church and on livestream!

Rev. Matt Ashley

**WILLOWBROOK
STRONG**

NOTES OF
Thanks

With heartfelt gratitude, I want to thank my church family and everyone who surrounded us with prayers, love, and support during the passing of my sister, Mary Bailey. Your kind works, comforting messages, and presence have truly lifted our hearts in this difficult time.

We are deeply touched by the outpouring of love and compassion shown to our family. It has been a reminder of the strength we find in faith and in one another.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we cherish the beautiful memories we shared with her.

With sincere thanks and love,

Thelma Muse



Thank you to the Outreach Committee and the congregation of Willowbrook UMC for your recent "Fifth Sunday" food drive for HART Pantry. The congregation donated 1,597 items valued at approximately \$558. In addition, the toiletry bin donations delivered to HART on 4/14/26 provided 373 items including toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, and shampoos.

HART is so happy to have Willowbrook as one of our strongest support groups! The West Valley teens that are served by our services appreciate all the help, supplies, funds, and food that you provide!

Jill Zitt



*Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the volunteers who called and left the Beautiful Easter Prayer message!
Thank you for the Willowbrook UMC Easter Lent Message Prayer Card from Bev Bourbeau!
All the Love and Prayers are so much appreciated every day! God is Good all the Time!
"I'm so Blessed" – I had a joyous Easter*

*In Christ Love,
Virginia Hasenoehrl*

GriefShare®

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.

- June—3 Hope & Resilience
- June—10 What do I live for now
- June—17 Is this normal
- June—24 Your Grief Journey

BIBLE STUDY

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. We stop at noon.

The Weekly readings for June

| CLASS DATE | DATE USED |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| June 8 | June 14 |
| Genesis 18:1-15 | Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 |
| Romans 5:1-8 | Matthew 9:35-10:8 |
| June 15 | June 21 |
| Genesis 21:8-21 | Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17 |
| Romans 6:1b-11 | Matthew 10:24-39 |
| June 22 | June 28 |
| Genesis 22:1-14 | Psalms 13 |
| Romans 6:12-23 | Matthew 10:40-42 |
| June 29 | July 5 |
| Genesis 24:34-38 | Psalms 45:10-17 or 72 |
| Romans 7:15-25a | Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 |



Ladies of Willowbrook!

Join United Women in Faith for lunch out during the summer months.

Lunch will be at 12:30 to allow time for people to get there.

- **June 15** - Brothers Restaurant
8466 West Peoria
- **July 20** - Royal Cafe
10793 West Grand
- **August 16** - The Links
18823 N Country Club Peoria

We will be collecting school supplies at the June and July lunches which will be donated to the Salvation Army and Wesley Community Center for the beginning of school.

If you have not linked your Fry's account to benefit **United Women in Faith**, here are some basic instructions on how to do this.

Create a digital account.

A digital account is needed to participate in Fry's Food Stores Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.

Link your Card to an organization.

Selecting the organization that you wish to support is as simple as updating the Fry's Food Stores Community Rewards selection on your digital account.

1. Sign in to your digital account.
2. Search for your organization [here](#).
3. Enter the name or NPO number of the organization you wish to support.
4. Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".

Your selected organization will also display in the Fry's Food Stores Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account details.

Altar Flowers

Have you ever wanted to celebrate a special birthday or occasion with flowers in the church service? Maybe a special person in your life could use a little recognition.

The opportunity is there, for just \$50.00 you can pick a Sunday, and special flowers will be ordered and placed in the Sanctuary for Sunday services, with a note recognizing the event in the bulletin. You may then take the flowers for that special someone after the service is over. All you need to do is fill out the information in the **flower notebook** that is housed in the **Narthex** on the left hand side as you exit the Sanctuary. The calendar for the full year is there, so you can pick the Sunday that best suits you.

The order just needs to be placed at least a week ahead of time. If you have any questions, contact **Mike McGinty** or the church office.

HOOKED ON BOOKS

Do you enjoy reading? Do 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 2:00.

UPCOMING BOOKS:

June 25: The last days of night
by Graham Moore

July 23: All that is secret
by Patricia Raybon



FIRST TUESDAY AT NOON



July's First Tuesday at Noon will be on July 7th! Come welcome our new Associate Pastor, Doug Reynolds, who will be sharing his journey to Willowbrook.

A boxed lunch from That Place Subs and Salads will be provided. **SIGN UP** is **June 20/21** and **27/28**. Although there is never a charge, donations are always appreciated to defray costs.

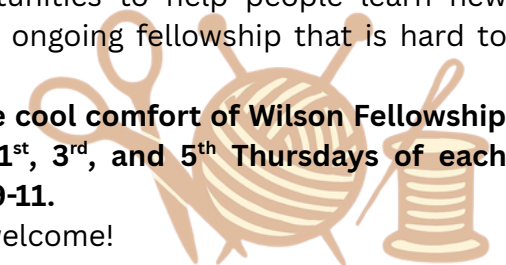
Good News from Kris Krafters

It's never too early or too late to do something good! Kris Krafters are putting that idea into action as we prepare items to be sold at the annual **Holidaze Craft Faire** (mark your calendars!) **November 6** and **7** and continue to create items for our special charitable partners such as Justa Center, Wesley Center, Veteran's Furniture Center, Benevilla, Solace Hospice, and more!

We participated in a national quilt drive last month for foster children and will continue to make items that can be donated to them on an ongoing basis. With a recent donation of LOTS of fabric, we have multiple options of things to make, opportunities to help people learn new skills, and an ongoing fellowship that is hard to beat!

Join us in the cool comfort of Wilson Fellowship Hall on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays of each month from 9-11.

Everyone is welcome!



Thanks for the Memories



After 25+ years there are so many memories. Some very wonderful memories and some sad memories. So many people have come and gone since October 2000. Rev. Jim Wood called me one day (I had worked with him at Cross Roads before he came to Willowbrook) and asked if I would like to work at Willowbrook. Honestly, I jumped at the chance. After coming out and meeting with him, I accepted and the journey began. I worked with Jim until his retirement in 2004. Rev. Jon lerley followed Jim, a person none of us really knew. Jon was with us for 10 years until his retirement in 2014. After one year of an interim Rev. Gary Kennedy joined us in 2015 until his retirement in 2025. Oh, my, sounds like I have worn out four pastors since I have been here. And that is not to mention the Associate Pastors that have come and gone. But special memories were made with each appointment and will follow me in my retirement.

I think though the people I will miss the most are the ones that "sit" in the pews. I like to think I have a special relationship with everyone, but as is normal, those you work with the most are the ones you get to know the best. The Burmeisters, the Koans, the Reeds, the Pecks and many more. Willowbrook has become my family over the many years and everyone will surely be missed. There are so many fond memories, the rummage sales, the sanctuary renovation, the kitchen renovation all enjoyed and survived.

The pastors and the Willowbrook congregation have supported me through good times like the marriages of my daughters, the birth of my grandchildren and the hard times like the death of my mother and recently the death of my husband, Bill. These are just a few of my memories and I say "Thanks for all the memories" and stay "Willowbrook Strong".

Bev Amperse

Photos from Bev's Retirement Lunch



MOMENTS CAPTURED AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SERVICE



Ministers line up for worship.



Judy Arkright from Outreach helped to arrange for our "birthday gifts" to go to the Wesley Center.



Sharon Haroz created a poem to honor Willowbrook. She recruited 10 others to help "Cheer" us on.



Our gifts are blessed by Pastor Louie.



Dave Perez places the time capsule in the floor of the choir loft, ready to be opened by 2051.

WILSON FELLOWSHIP HALL BULLETIN BOARD

For the next few months, the 50th Anniversary bulletin board in Wilson Fellowship Hall, under the words, "We are the Church" will have short stories about Willowbrookers. New members will be featured every three weeks, so be sure to check it out.

If you have a suggestion for a church member to be mentioned, contact Jan Whalen. To preserve these stories for future generations, they will be placed in the library in a notebook.

Jan Whalen
623.466.5067

Willowbrook's TOP TEN Favorite Hymns

As a part of the 50th celebration, we asked the congregation about their favorite hymns. These are the top 10.

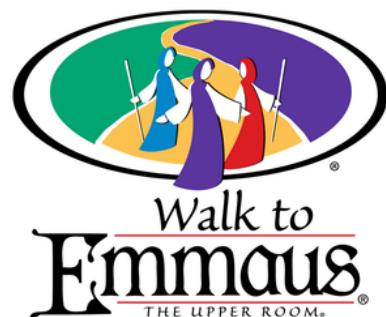
1. Here I am, Lord (593)
2. How Great Thou Art (77)
3. Let there be Peace on Earth (431)
4. On Eagles Wings (143)
5. In the Garden (314)
6. Amazing Grace (378)
7. Jesus Loves Me (191)
8. Victory in Jesus (370)
9. Be Thou My Vision (451)
10. Hymn of Promise (707)



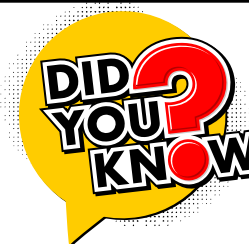
EMMAUS REUNION GROUP

Everyone who has completed a Walk to Emmaus is welcome to join Willowbrook's Emmaus Reunion Group, which meets in the conference room the **second Tuesday** of the month at **11:00 a.m.**

See you **June 9th!** Christ is counting on you.



Willowbrook Foundation



In May 2026, The Trustees of Willowbrook United Methodist Church completed a parking lot maintenance project that included crack sealing, recoating and striping.

This work is performed every five years to maintain the condition of the parking lot. The Willowbrook Foundation provided a grant of \$23,157.00 to Willowbrook to cover the project expense. This support was made possible through income generated from the Foundation's investments.

For more information about the Willowbrook Foundation, please contact Gene Ambrosion or Sam Haroz.

SUMMER SUNDAY CLASS, 11AM



This summer we will be reading and discussing the book *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. This book was first published in 1678 (that is old fashioned language to us!) The editions we will use in class are shown in the pictures, but you may use another if you already have it.

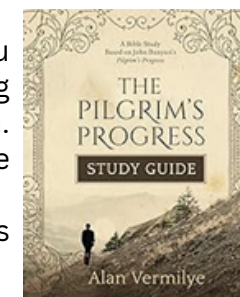
They are available on Amazon (\$29.09 for both) or from other book sellers.

We will be meeting at **11:00 AM** after Fellowship Time on **Sundays June 7, 14, & 28, July 5, 12, 19 & 26, August 2, 9, 23 & 30, and September 6.**

This is a 12-week class, it is alright if you miss, come when you can.

The study guide will help you get more out of your reading and prepare for our discussion. This book is one you will come back to again and again.

Rev. Lois will be leading this class. Hope to see you there!



Youthful Seniors

The Dog Days of Summer!

Friday, June 12th
5:00 p.m.
\$10 per person

Don't heat up your kitchen! Let us do the cooking. Please join us this summer in the "cool" fellowship hall as we celebrate "man's best friend" --- dogs!

Hot Dogs! Chips! Baked Beans! Dessert!

A DOG'S PURPOSE --- The soulful and surprising story of one devoted dog who finds the meaning of his own existence through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love.

- Sign-up sheets will be available on **May 30th & 31st** and **June 6th & 7th.**



THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER --- continues

Friday, June 26th
5:00 p.m.
\$10 per person

Pizza! Salad! Dessert!

A DOG'S JOURNEY --- Picking up where *A Dog's Purpose* left off, beloved dog Bailey finds a new destiny: Protect Ethan's granddaughter at any cost. Bailey's adventure through multiple lives is filled with love, friendship & devotion as he experiences joy and heartbreak, music and laughter --- and a few really good belly rubs!

- Sign-up sheets will be available on **June 13th & 14th** and **June 20th & 21st.**

WILLOWBROOK

2026 CALENDAR



Please pray daily with me this month.

Heavenly Father, negative thoughts and emotions hold us captive and prevent us from living freely and showing up each day in the power and authority of Christ. Today, we want to be obedient to God's Word that instructs us to, "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." (1 Peter 5:7). Help us, Lord. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



West district Churches to Pray for in June

- Bishop & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference Staff
- Churches of the: East District, North District and West District



Feed the Hungry
Non-perishable Food
WATER IS ALWAYS NEEDED
Next Food Drive:
June 6 and 7