

# 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  
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[www.willowbrookumc.org](http://www.willowbrookumc.org)

**E-mail address:**

[irina@willowbrookumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:prayerchain@willowbrookumc.org)

### From the Pastor



*"You shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."  
~Leviticus 25:10~*

Do you remember America's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976? As a young child one of the things I remember is learning about the Liberty Bell.

Forged to hang in the Pennsylvania State House, now known as Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell bears an inscription from the King James version of Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof." That chapter of Leviticus talks about the Jubilee Year, God's instruction that every fifty years (Israel) was to forgive all debts and restore its citizens to their family's ancestral lands. The Jubilee Year was meant to be a re-set for anyone whose fortunes had taken a turn for the worse. You shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the inscription on the bell became a source of inspiration to abolitionists seeking to end slavery in the United States. An abolitionist publication called the Anti-Slavery Record first referred to the bell as the Liberty Bell in 1835. After the Civil War, the Liberty Bell reminded Americans from the North and the South of the Revolutionary War when they had fought together to win their independence. It remained a powerful symbol of freedom for those who fought for women's suffrage and later for civil rights.

Nobody recorded when or how the Liberty Bell first cracked, but it probably developed in the 1840's after 90 years of regular use. In 1846 a repair was attempted but was not successful. Because of that crack nobody has heard the Liberty Bell ring for almost two centuries, but the bell still hangs at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia as a powerful reminder that freedom rings when love is the law of the land.

As we join in this month's celebration of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, may we be reminded of America's vision of liberty and justice for all. Happy Fourth of July!

See you at church and on livestream!

**Pastor Matt**



# Welcome Pastor Doug

On behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee it is our pleasure to introduce Pastor Doug Reynolds as our new part-time associate pastor. He will begin his service at Willowbrook July 1st. Please join us Sunday, July 5th during fellowship time to give Pastor Doug and his wife, Ethel, a warm Willowbrook welcome.

*We will share more about Pastor Doug in the August issue of Good News.*

## New Members



Mary Brownlie grew up in Wisconsin. She attended Eau Claire University after she graduated from high school. Mary followed her parents to Arizona and fell in love with the state. They moved to Minnesota because of her dad's health. She was a secretary for the President of Training and Development at ITT Financial in Minnesota.

She graduated with honors from Hennepin Community College with a BA degree in Communications and Women's Health in her fifties. Mary was a Volunteer at Chrysalis Center for Women as a group counselor and facilitator. She moved back to Arizona in 2016 after retiring as a realtor from Caldwell Banker. Mary enjoys reading and listening to music. She sang in the choir in her previous church and taught a Sunday School Class to children. Mary is joining by Reaffirmation of Faith. LuAnn Sloan introduced her to Willowbrook UMC and is her Fellowship Friend.

Larry Peterson grew up in Iowa. He entered the banking business as an examiner in 1963, and after 5 years he became the manager. Larry and his wife, Jeanne, moved to McLaughlin, South Dakota in 1972 where he took over as manager of the family bank until he retired in 1990. Retirement wasn't for him, so he decided to manage a 2000-acre farm for five years.

In 1995 Larry and Jeanne moved to Arizona as snowbirds. They moved to the Willowbrook area in 1998 and became permanent residence in 2021 at Royal Oaks.

Larry plays golf 3-5 times a week. Our Traditional Service is what attracted him to Willowbrook.

Larry's previous church activities were the finance committee, and he was a Foundation Board Member. He is joining by transfer from Lakeview UMC and his Fellowship Friends are Judy and Ray Smith.





# Chancel 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.



## Good News from Kris Krafters

Kris Krafters are enjoying the air conditioning of Wilson Fellowship Hall on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of the month as we prepare items (No! It's not too early!) for Willowbrook's annual **Holidaze Craft Faire** November 6 and 7.

Thanks to some very generous donations we have lots of fabric and lots of yarn to keep us busy. We also have ongoing efforts for our Prayer Shawl, Cancer Caps, and Heart Pillows ministries, as well as projects for other charities. We recently donated 13 quilts as well as other blankets, toys, and books to Comfort Cases, a national organization that supports foster children. We had previously donated over 60 backpacks to them.

In the coming weeks the quilts and other items we just sent will be paired with the backpacks and items donated by other groups and returned to the Valley of the Sun to be used by foster children here. If you want to put your "**Hands to work, hearts to God,**" join us from 9-11. We welcome everyone and are willing to help you learn a new crafting skill or have you work on one you already have.



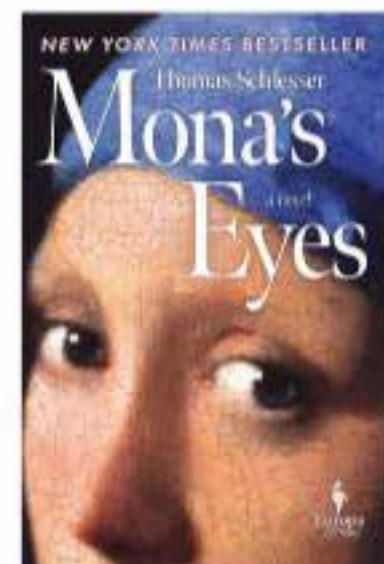
## HOOKED ON BOOKS

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 2:00p.m.

### UPCOMING BOOKS:

**July 23: *All that is secret***  
by Patricia Raybon

**August 27: *Mona's Eyes***  
by Thomas Schlessler



# United women in Faith



United women in Faith invite you to join during the summer as we fellowship.

- **July 20** Royal Café Restaurant  
10793 West Grant Avenue 12:30
- **August 16** The Links 18823  
N Country Club Peoria 12:30

Our mission project for the summer is school supplies which we share with the Salvation Army and Wesley Community Center. They are in need of children's scissors and markers especially. We do need them by the July luncheon.

Plans are in the works for great program starting back up in September. Jan Whelan is doing the September program on Sole to Soul. We will be having a potluck lunch and inviting the other Sun city area churches. Here is information on mission coming up in July and August. If you have never attended, there is some scholarship help from the conference.

- The in-person Adult and Study will be at: **Trinity United Methodist Church** - 3600 Fourth St., Flagstaff, AZ 8004 -- **July 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**
- Thursday, **July 16<sup>th</sup>**, at **3:00pm - 8:00pm** – Opening Worship, Fellowship, Dinner, Icebreaker, and Crafts (no study sessions on Thursday)
- Friday, **July 17<sup>th</sup>**, at **9:30am – 4:30pm** – Study, Healing Service, Lunch and Social Action Speaker (dinner on your own).
- Saturday, **July 18<sup>th</sup>**, at **8:30 – 3:45** – Study, Lunch, and Closing Worship with Communion
- The Adult Virtual Mission U - Opens Tuesday, **August 5<sup>th</sup>**, at **2:30pm**, Wednesday, **August 6<sup>th</sup>** at **3:00pm** and Thursday, **August 7<sup>th</sup>**, at **3:00pm** – on Zoom

## REGISTER:

In-Person Adult:

[Mission U 2025 In-Person | Desert Southwest Conference](#)

Virtual Study for Adults:

[Mission U 2025 Virtual Event | Desert Southwest Conference](#)

**The Adult Study is:**

**A Deep Knowing: Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives by Linda L. Furtado**

We will study the times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or "God with us." How do we discern God's presence and call on our lives in times of joy and in times of sadness, fear, or anxiety?

This curriculum is designed to help participants take a step back and a closer look at the various ways we see Emmanuel within and around biblical stories. What can it look like to walk with God as people who face adversity, issues of justice, and a heritage of relations and spiritual connections? This curriculum encourages participants to seek out and name the experiences of Emmanuel from biblical times to our present day as we look toward our future in faith.

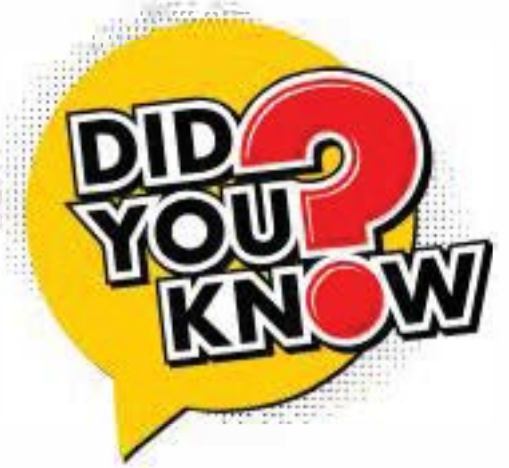


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# Willowbrook Foundation

Do you own CDs or have a checking or savings account at a bank or credit union? You can support the Willowbrook Foundation through a simple Payable on Death (POD) designation. You may even name multiple beneficiaries, allowing you to support both loved ones and charitable causes.



A POD gift allows the funds in your account to pass directly to the Willowbrook Foundation upon your death while you retain full access and control of the account during your lifetime.

Before making any estate planning decisions, please seek the advice of your attorney or other qualified professional advisors. For more information about the Willowbrook Foundation and planned giving opportunities, please contact Gene Ambrosion or Sam Haroz.



## Sundae Sunday

Join us Sunday July 19, 2026 after service for Sunday Sundae – a sweet time of fellowship, connection, and community!

Come enjoy ice cream sundaes with all the toppings while spending time with your church family. It's a wonderful opportunity to relax, share conversation, and welcome new faces in a joyful atmosphere.

**Sunday July 19, 2026 | Immediately Following Services | Wilson Fellowship Hall**  
Everyone is invited – bring your family, friends, and your favorite sundae appetite!  
We look forward to sharing this special time together.

*"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*

Psalm 133:1

## You are invited to VBS

Willowbrook will be holding an Adult Vacation Bible School the week of July 20th- 24th. Please place those dates on your calendar because we know you won't be sorry that you did...

Each morning that week from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in Wilson Hall you will have an opportunity to learn about other Religions and Faith Beliefs as we hear from representatives of four different Faith Communities. There will be a 45-minute presentation sharing about the history and beliefs of each tradition and then time for YOU to ask questions. We'll conclude with a time of refreshment and fellowship. The schedule is as follows:

- Monday, July 20th: The Islamic Community Center of Phoenix
- Tuesday, July 21st: Arizona Buddhist Temple (*tentative*)
- Wednesday, July 22nd: Nishkam Sikh Temple
- Thursday, July 23rd: Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
- Friday, July 24th: Your Pastors leading a panel discussion on how we are alike
- and different from each other

By Pastor Louie





## UNDIE SUNDAY

On August 8/9 you will have an opportunity to donate **new** underwear and socks for organizations Willowbrook supports. We are blessed to be able to support those less fortunate. Bring your underwear donations for children, teens, and adults to church on August 8/9 and the Outreach committee will distribute them. Thank you for supporting this project.



## EMMAUS REUNION GROUP

HAVE YOU completed a Walk to Emmaus or Cursillo in the past, no matter how long ago? Then you are welcome to join in Willowbrook's Emmaus Reunion Group, which meets in the conference room the second Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. See you July 14th! Christ is counting on you.



## NATIONAL CHEER UP THE LONELY DAY THIRD ANNUAL TELETHON

We will again be calling our church members as we recognize National Cheer Up the Lonely Day. Join us on July 11th at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall with your cell phone to make a few calls. A call list and a suggested script will be provided, as well as donuts. Sign up on July 1/2 and 8/9 to help.



## JUSTA CENTER "TO GO" MEALS

The Outreach Committee is having a monthly sandwich drive throughout the summer months because Willowbrook is preparing "to go" meals for the Justa Center.

For details and to sign up to make sandwiches, please contact Liz Peck or stop by the Outreach table in Fellowship Hall, July 12th & 19th, and sign up to help.



## NOTES OF THANKS

*A Message Of Thanks From Jesse Ramirez, Founder of Volley View Food Bank*

"I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support of Valley View Community Food Assistance. Your generosity and commitment to helping those in need has been a true blessing to the families and individuals we serve.

The donations and assistance provided by your congregation have had a significant impact on our efforts to combat hunger in our community. It is through partnerships like yours that we can provide HOPE and essential resources to those facing difficult times."



## FIRST TUESDAY AT NOON

Our August First Tuesday at Noon will be on the 4th of August. Kim Maher from Comfort Cases, will speak concerning the impact Comfort Cases has on children entering foster care by providing backpacks filled with brand-new essential and comfort items (like pajamas, blankets, and hygiene kits). Breakfast for lunch will be served. SIGN UP is July 18/19 and 25/26. Although there is never a charge, donations are always appreciated to defray costs.

# Willowbrook Cookbooks Christmas in July Special

As Willowbrook hosts a number of "Christmas in July" events, United Women in Faith are offering a special to make your Christmas shopping quick, easy, and meaningful!

On Sunday, July 12 during Fellowship Time you will be able to purchase both the 2020 Willowbrook Legacy Cookbook (regularly \$10) and the 2025-26 Willowbrook 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook (regularly \$15) for just \$20.00!

Supplies are limited, so this offer is "while supplies last!" Both books are filled with time tested favorites you and your family will enjoy now and in years to come.



## Christmas in July

On Sunday July 26 during the Fellowship Time after the service, come and see the Nativities set up to celebrate Christmas in July. We are asking people to pull out their Christmas decorations early and share their favorite Nativity Scene or two. Sign ups will be on Sunday July 19, and set up will be Saturday July 25. Share your story of a beloved set, or just let it's beauty shine for all to see. Large or small - we will find a place to display it so everyone can enjoy it. If you have questions, please email Lori Wiggs, Chair of the Worship committee at [Wiggsphx@gmail.com](mailto:Wiggsphx@gmail.com). Nativities will be taken down immediately following the Fellowship Time on Sunday. Again - a great week to invite your friends and neighbors. Last year we had some fabulous sets, one was over 60 years old, but there were new ones too. We also had some sets from several different countries. We have shared both handmade and store bought, and even one with Javalina! Come see what this year brings, and don't forget to sign up on the 19th to bring yours.

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# Kitchen Update



Willowbrook is fortunate to have a kitchen that allows the church to provide a number of different activities. In order to host events where food is served, sold or given away to the general public like the Craft Faire, a kitchen must hold a Food Establishment Permit regulated by the Maricopa County Environmental Service Department. With this specific class of health permit, the kitchen is a regulated commercial-grade kitchen and is bound by the Maricopa County Environmental Health Code.

While preparing for the First Tuesday lunch on May 5, a Maricopa County Health Inspector arrived for a routine unannounced inspection. It was found that in several areas the kitchen was not following the code and therefore, not compliant. Thankfully we were given a verbal warning. The inspector could have closed the kitchen

The Good News . . . Going forward, we can continue our activities but differently. The rules and guidelines set by the Maricopa County Department of Health Services are for your protection. No one likes change, but I am confident that Willowbrook wants to keep the level of excellence in serving our community. Therefore, we must abide by the guidelines.

One of the changes is regarding food handler permits. If you help in the kitchen often, please consider getting a food handler permit. Search Maricopa County Food Handler Permit. There are a number of websites you can access for an online class/test that costs \$10-\$12. When you obtain your permit, please give me a copy.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping Willowbrook maintain our kitchen service to the church and the community.

Blessings,

**Donna Lease**

## Sandwich and Brownie Drive for Justa Center



During the summer months, May through September, Willowbrook is providing 80 "Brown Bag To-Go Meals" for Justa Center clients. Each brown bag contains two sandwiches, a bag of chips and a brownie.

Can you help? We are looking for volunteers to make 10 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and/or brownies.

Recently, the Health Department ruled that peanut butter and jelly sandwiches can be made at home and brought to the church but, the ham & cheese sandwiches need to be made in Willowbrook's kitchen.

That being said, the Outreach Committee will make the ham & cheese sandwiches but we do need your help. Please consider making a donation to cover the cost of the ham/cheese sandwiches.

Come by the **JUSTA Center table in Fellowship Hall on July 12 or July 19** and **sign up** to make sandwiches, brownies, or to donate funds. If you wish to donate by check, make the check payable to Willowbrook UMC and in the memo section, write JUSTA CENTER.

*justa*  
*center*  
Expect Miracles

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.

- July 1 - Loneliness & Sadness
- July 8 - Self-Care
- July 15 - Fearful & Overwhelmed
- July 22 - Anger
- July 29 - Regrets

## 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 July

<b>CLASS DATE</b>	<b>DATE USED</b>
<b>July 6</b>	<b>July 12</b>
Genesis 25:19-34	Psalm 119:105-112 or Ps 25
Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
<b>July 13</b>	<b>July 19</b>
Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
<b>July 20</b>	<b>July 26</b>
Genesis 29:15-28	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
<b>July 27</b>	<b>August 2</b>
Genesis 32:22-31	Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21

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**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 August 2026 issue is **July 4th**

## **Willowbrook United Methodist Church**

### **Dur 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. Doug Reynolds**, Associate Pastor

**Rev. Lois Hedden**, Pastor of Visitation

**Rev. Jon lerley**, Pastor Emeritus

**Dr. Robb Butler**, Director of Music

**Carol Manley**, Worship Musician

**Debb Pearson**, Lay Leader

**Russ Koan**, Lay Leader Emeritus

**Nicholas Capatch**, Livestream