

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

From the Pastor



United Methodist leaders often speak of the denomination as "the connection." This concept has been central to Methodism from its beginning.

The United Methodist structure and organization began as a means of accomplishing the mission of spreading scriptural holiness. Methodism's founder, John Wesley, recognized the need for an organized system of communication and accountability and developed what he called the "connexion," a network of classes, societies, and annual conferences.

Today, our denomination continues to be organized in a "connectional" system, which "enables us to carry out our mission in unity and strength" (Book of Discipline, ¶ 701). Every local church is linked to an interconnected network of organizations that join together in mission and ministry, allowing us to accomplish far more than any one local church or person could alone.

This fall our District Superintendent has called us to try something different in the spirit of connectionalism. Our Church Conference (which we hold every year) is going to be held jointly with our other Sun City United Methodist congregations.

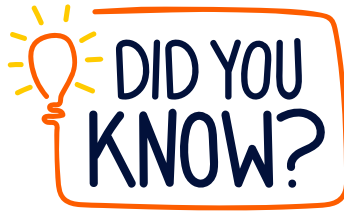
That means that instead of meeting here at Willowbrook, our Church Conference will be held at Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church, located at 13658 W Meeker Blvd in Sun City West.

This meeting is scheduled on Thursday, October 29th at 11:00 am. All full members have a vote; affiliate and associate members have voice but not a vote.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet with fellow United Methodists from Shepherd of the Hills, Lakeview UMC, and First UMC of Sun City. Hope to see you there!

See you in church and on livestream!

Pastor Matt



- **Willowbrook Foundation**

Make a lasting difference through planned giving to the Willowbrook Foundation. Your gift today can help strengthen Willowbrook's future and ensure the Foundation's mission continues to support our church for generations to come. Whether through your estate plans, a designated gift, or another form of planned giving, your generosity can create a lasting legacy of faith. For more information about planned giving, please contact Gene Ambrosion or Sam Haroz.

- **Joyful Bells handbell choir**

The Joyful Bells handbell choir will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, October 20th at 1:00 p.m. If you'd like to know more, please contact the director Carolyn Smith at: TCCCTSmith@gmail.com

- **Coming This November!**

Want to learn more about UMOM's New Day Center or St. Mary's? Your Outreach Committee is currently working on setting up dates to tour these organizations. Don't miss these opportunities to get an in-depth look at what both of these amazing organizations do. Exact dates will be announced soon.

— October is —

PASTOR

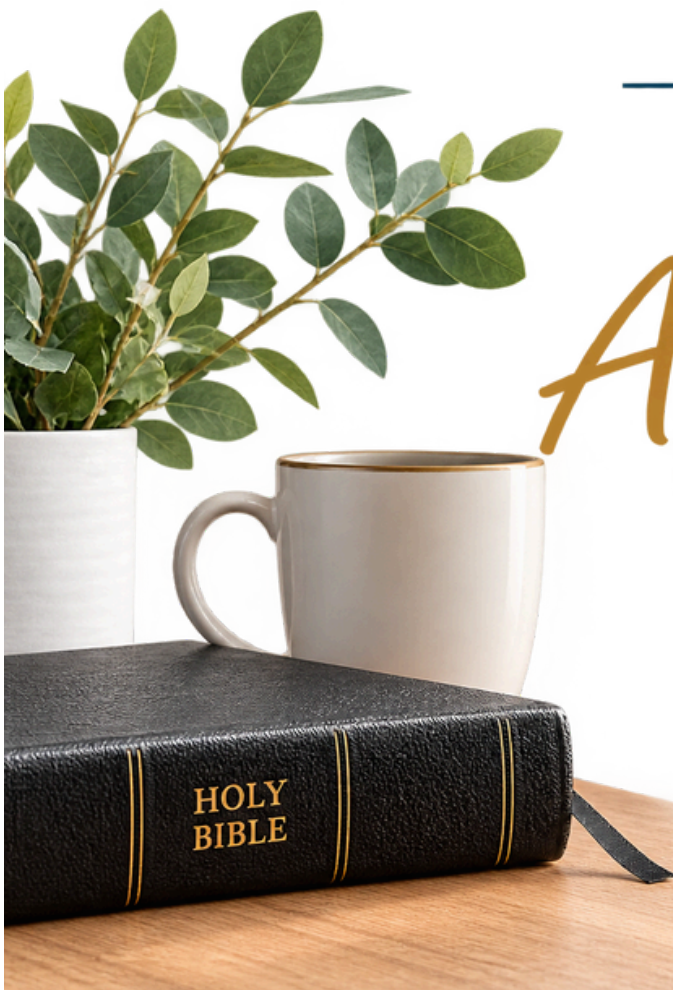
Appreciation
MONTH

It's a time set aside to show thanks
and to honor our pastors who serve us
with their time and energy.



Please pray for our Pastors
throughout October.

WILLOWBROOK WILL HONOR OUR PASTORS ON
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH.



Youthful Seniors



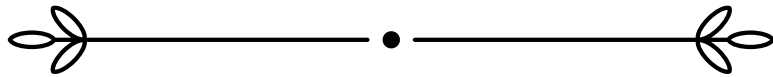
Friday, October 9th | 5:00 p.m. | \$10 per person

Tonight, we will be serving **Breakfast for Dinner** : *egg casseroles, fruit, muffins, fruit juices, & coffee* followed by a rousing game of **"WILLOWBROOK FAMILY FEUD"** --- starring YOU!

Committee members may approach you with a survey to assist with the game preparation. We would appreciate your input. No movie tonight! Come join our Willowbrook family for lots of interactive laughter, fun & fellowship!

Sign-up: September 26th & 27th and October 3rd & 4th

(NOVEMBER SPOILER ALERT ----- BAAAA!)



Winsome Widows



The Winsome Widows enjoyed a wonderful lunch together at Black Bear Diner on Saturday, August 22!

It was a lovely time filled with fellowship, laughter, and great food. A special thank-you to our wonderful server, Supervisor Cher, with assistance from Assistant Manager Debbie, for making our visit so enjoyable!

What a blessing to share good times and friendship together!

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. Following the service, you can take the flowers home or give them to that special someone.

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."

UPCOMING BOOKS:

October 22 at 2PM in the church library:
The Book Club for Troublesome Women
by Marie Bostwick

November 19 at 11AM in the church library:
The Last House on the End of the Street
by Diane Chamberlain



HOLIDAZE CRAFT FAIRE

It is no secret that Sun City is the “City of Volunteers.” It is in volunteering and giving that members of Willowbrook excel! We are happy to announce that there will be a number of opportunities for giving and volunteering as we prepare for our annual Holidaze Craft Faire, November 6 and 7.

It is important to note that at the fair we are often asked where the money that is raised goes. The answer is that it goes to support the programs and missions of the church. That is why the “all hands on deck” attitude is so appreciated.

One of the hallmarks of the fair that brings people to our campus every year is the Sweet Shoppe. Janet Sjoberg relies on donations of baked goods and homemade candies and volunteers to help package and display the goodies for eager consumers. A much-anticipated annual commodity is Lefsa, made in our own Willowbrook kitchen. Be sure to talk to Janet if you are an old pro or an eager novice; she can use your help!

Watch the bulletins and eNews this month for more information on signing up to be a part of this meaningful weekend. Whether it is related to the Sweet Shoppe, helping with setting up and tearing down for the event, sharing flyers with friends, family, and neighbors, or taking a turn at showcasing our beautiful sanctuary, YOU can help make this iconic event a success!



Kris Krafters

With the waning of summer, and the hope that the worst of the heat is gone, Kris Krafters are in full swing preparing for the November 6 and 7 Holidaze Craft Faire and other pet projects.

At the fair, we will again be offering Hardanger embroidery projects lovingly created by our beloved Jane Hager. Proceeds from the sale of her work will be donated to 4 Paws Cat Rescue in her memory.

In addition to Jane’s work, we will be offering an impressive variety of hand-crafted items that have been knitted, crocheted, sewn, quilted, decoupage, and “diamond dotted” to name a few.

Whether you are needing practical household items, lovely gift selections, or a special something to add to your décor, be sure to check our offerings.

And between now and then, join us on the first and third Thursdays in Wilson Fellowship Hall from 9-11 AM. We have great ambitions, but we operate with love and a sense of humor. Everyone is welcome, and yes, that means men too!



Lura Turner Homes

For Adults with Developmental Disabilities

This year, your Outreach Committee began a relationship with Lura Turner Homes. Lura Turner Homes' mission is to provide adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities, a safe, enriching, loving environment in residential, social and vocational settings. They strive to meet the needs of men and women with special needs who are unserved and underserved. Per Executive Director, Max McQueen, exciting news came this year in the form of three unexpected gifts. Out of the blue, LTH received a donation from the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation, another from the Virginia Piper Foundation and another from an anonymous donor. Which brings us to incredibly good news: After six years of endless meetings, LTH broke ground on two new LTH which are being built on the campus of Faith United Methodist Church located at 8640 N. 19th Ave, Phoenix.

We will make sure to keep you updated on how construction is progressing in future Good News articles.



FIRST TUESDAY AT NOON

First Tuesday at Noon in October will be on the 6th. We will be blessed to hear from Jesse Ramirez, Jr. as he discusses the positive impact the Valley View Food Bank has on many of our neighbors. **OUR LUNCH WILL BE HANDLED DIFFERENTLY.** Please bring your own brown bag lunch. We will provide a dessert of apple crisp with ice cream. We are also suggesting that you bring a food donation of cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned beans, tuna or spaghetti sauce. All monetary donations that day will be given to Valley View.



EMMAUS REUNION GROUP

EVERYONE completing a Walk to Emmaus or Cursillo is welcome to join Willowbrook's Emmaus Reunion Group. The group meets in the conference room the second Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Our next grouping is October 13th! Christ is counting on you.

ANYONE INTERESTED in more information about completing a future Walk to Emmaus is encouraged to contact Pastor Lois or Debb Pearson.



GIVING PLATE

For those of you who might have missed the hot summer months here at Willowbrook, a new connectional activity has been added. There are four giving plates in circulation. If given one, enjoy what it brings, sign the back of the plate (or initials) with the attached pen and then refill the plate and pass it on. Keep the love flowing around the congregation.

Pictured is Judy Smith presenting the "Giving Plate" to Lorraine Arend on August 23.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Our next food drive is October 3rd – 4th

Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the Chapel or Fellowship Hall. In addition to food, water is always needed, especially this time of year.

The food donations we received are given to the Salvation Army and monetary donations are given to Valley View Community Food Bank. If donating by check, make your check payable to Willowbrook and write Valley View in the memo section.



ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

Willowbrook continues to collect used towels on the second weekend of the month for the Wildlife World Zoo. Please place your donations in the marked brown container in Fellowship Hall and your Outreach Committee will take them to the zoo.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come join Willowbrook volunteers at St. Mary's Food Bank in Surprise. This month we will be volunteering at the food bank on Friday, October 16th from 9:45 – 12:15. As the economy tightens, more and more of our neighbors are coming to the food bank for assistance. The number of client visits for the last week of August was 4,427. That number does not include the Phoenix location - just clients served at the Surprise location.

Won't you join us to help out? To volunteer or to learn more about St. Mary's, drop by the signup table in Fellowship Hall or contact Liz Peck.



ARE *you* GETTING *older*

The psalmist David penned Psalm 37 from the perspective of a life, long lived: “Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread.”

Before I accepted the associate pastor position at Willowbrook, I started researching 55+ communities and churches serving retirement age folks. Even though I am considered a ‘senior’, I wanted to have a good understanding of how God might use me to serve Willowbrook most effectively.

This is the first in a series of articles in which I will share what I have learned about aging, ministry and self. As Uncle Virgil would say, ‘We ain’t done until we are done. Life is God’s plan, not ours’.

Stuart and Jill Briscoe wrote a book entitled *Improving with Age*. Briscoe writes that a pastor friend of his suggested he join him in the mission field of lonely, embittered, disappointed older people’. Ouch! That is not me and it is certainly not the people of Willowbrook.

Qoheleth, the author of Ecclesiastes, wrote, “However, diminished a human being may become, he or she is still a unique creation whom God the Creator chose to create”; “an aging person is nothing less than an integral part of divine creation”.

If we, as spiritual beings created by God, follow God’s lead, then our lives are lived in union with God who made us and gives meaning to our lives regardless of our age. We, therefore, are not done until God dismisses us from our ministry as disciples.

Some years ago, Maryann, a woman in her late 80’s, was commiserating about her lack of ability to be in ministry for God. She no longer drove and lived with her daughter, but she still wanted to be used of God. I asked her if she still prayed. “Why, pastor, you know I am a praying woman!” I said, “Yes, I know, therefore your assignment is to take the 10 names from the directory and pray fervently for each of them for ten days. Then take the next 10 names.” Each week, after church, she would tell me how joyful her spirit was that she was being used as a prayer warrior.

God’s plan is not just to get us through life, but to use us in ministry throughout life. ‘Creation - made by God for a purpose in His created order’.



Rev. Doug Reynolds

United Women in Faith

You are invited to United Women in Faith for lunch, fellowship and a program on October 19 at 12 noon in the fellowship hall. This month will be a BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH. Dessert and drinks will be provided by Mary Circle.

We have an exciting program. Maria Saldana will be our guest speaker. Maria is the Youth Services coordinator for Wesley Community Center/Golden Gate and has been at Wesley for over 20 years. Wesley is the only UW Faith mission in the state of Arizona and was founded in South Phoenix in 1950.

Our mission project will be books for children ages 6-12 that Maria can take back to Wesley CC. There is nothing more important than children having access to books. Here are some suggested titles or choose something age appropriate that you enjoyed reading.

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- I can read books
- Pete the Cat
- Animal books
- Magic Tree House
- The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe
- The Giving Tree
- Cat in the Hat (Dr. Seuss' books)
- The Secret Garden
- Charlotte's Web

November is our annual Thanksgiving potluck. It will be on November 16 and we will dedicate our World Thank offerings that day. Please convert your change into a check or cash so it is easier for our treasurer to handle.

We will also be assembling Thanksgiving side dish bags to donate to Valley View Community Food Bank. Each circle will be responsible for a side dish. Check with your circle leader or November's Good News.

Thanksgiving...



The holidays will be here before we know it and there are many activities to enjoy during the season. Regretfully, the Kitchen Committee is unable to organize the Thanksgiving Dinner this year. The decision was a difficult one but the number of able-bodied volunteers needed to organize the event are not available.

Thank you for your past participation and we hope you take advantage of the many holiday events held at Willowbrook.

New Fellowship Group



Our new Games/Mah Jongg Fellowship Group kick off was a huge success. More than 40 folks turned out to learn and play, including both women and men. Once the Mah Jongg game is established, other games will be added. Game days are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 1 pm to 4 pm in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome including the public. Look for other fellowship group opportunities in the near future.

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 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.

- October 7 - Self-Care
- October 14 - Fearful & Overwhelmed
- October 21 - Anger
- October 28 - 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 October

October 4, 2026

- Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
- Psalm 19
- Phil 3:4b-14
- Matthew 21:33-46

October 11, 2026

- Exodus 32:1-14
- Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
- Phil 4:1-9
- Matthew 22:1-14

October 18, 2026

- Exodus 33:12-23
- Psalm 99
- 1 Thess 1:1-10
- Matthew 22:15-22

October 25, 2026

- Deut 34:1-12
 - Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
 - 1 Thess 2:1-8
 - Matthew 22:34-46
-
-



**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 November 2026 issue is **October 4th**
irina@willowbrookumc.org

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. Doug Reynolds, Associate Pastor

Rev. Lois Hedden, Associate Pastor

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