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

A visit to my dentist. Three cavities. A new crown.

A visit to my dermatologist. A basal cell carcinoma. Minor surgery. A wound on my cheek.

All of that happened last week. And to top it all off, I had to go to the gas station! I'm thankful for my gas-sipping hybrid.

Ever had a week like that? Some of you have had years like that. Some of you are going through far worse. And beyond ourselves, the world is hurting. People do bad things. People suffer. And sometimes it feels like it's just too much.

We need light. We need hope.

Christmas Morning comes each year to remind us that God is with us no matter what trouble we see. We ring the bells, we sing the carols, the sun rises, God brings hope into the world – and it's a brand new day.

We'll begin Advent on November 28th and 29th. That Sunday we hope you'll join Pastor Doug and his wife Ethel at 11:00 am for Advent Bible Study.

Please invite a friend or neighbor to share with you in the joy of the season by bringing them to Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary on December 24th, 2026 at 4 pm. The service will feature the Sanctuary Choir, some favorite carols, and our traditional candle lighting during 'Silent Night'. Please be sure to let those who aren't able to come in person know that they can join us online via livestream.

A light shines in the darkness. May you know the love, hope, peace, and joy of Jesus Christ this Advent & Christmas Season.

See you in church or on livestream!

Pastor Matt

DESERT BRASS BAND

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The internationally acclaimed Desert Brass Band will present a free Christmas tribute concert at 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 5 at Willowbrook United Methodist Church, honoring Charles “Charlie” Musgrave and his wife, Toby Riley Musgrave, for their decades of musical contributions.

Charlie has been a member and conductor of the Sun City Concert Band and Desert Brass Band since 1997. A retired music educator, he also served as Willowbrook’s Minister of Music, growing the choir from 40 to 102 members. He recently received the Desert Brass Band’s first Director Emeritus Award.

Toby has played clarinet with the Sun City Concert Band since 1998 and serves as its librarian. She also sings in Willowbrook’s choir and serves on the Youthful Seniors board. Founded in 1997, the Desert Brass Band is one of the West Valley’s premier musical organizations. The band was featured in the award-winning documentary Jewel of the Desert, a 2025 Academy Awards documentary feature contender. Charlie describes the December 5 concert as “truly an outstanding and uplifting event.”

For more information, visit desertbrassband.org or willowbrookumc.org.





A CHRISTMAS CAROL GALLERY

Sunday, December 13th, the Willowbrook Chancel Choir will present "A Christmas Carol Gallery" at the 9:30am Sunday service.

Larry Shackley has drawn upon the rich resource of Christmas carols to create a sumptuous musical tapestry.

It is comprised of four suites or portraits of the season. Each suite features a narrative and a medley of four carols for choir accompanied by instrumental ensemble. Each narrative also contains historically-based texts.

The presentation lasts approximately 25 minutes and is a part of the entire worship service.

Please join us for this special musical worship service.

Youthful SENIORS

YOU ARE INVITED to join us for a fun-filled Holiday Celebration!
Youthful Seniors will provide baked ham, potatoes, veggie, dessert and beverages ~~~ followed by a game of "Name That Tune" and a Holly~Jolly Sing-a-Long!

There will be **NO CHARGE** for this event BUT
We ask you to please bring a donation for BLANKETS FOR BABY JESUS

Kris Krafters & Youthful Seniors will be collecting donations of NEW baby blankets, infant pajamas, socks, booties, etc. to be distributed to organizations in the area that serve women and children.

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Let's show Him that we love them too!

Even though there is **NO CHARGE** for this event, we do need to know how many will be joining us so we can make sure we have enough food for everyone.

Sign-up sheets will be available on November 28th and 29th ~~ & December 5th and 6th.

We look forward to seeing you there. Bring a friend ~~ or two or three.

Stephen Ministry

A Listening Ear. A Caring Heart. A Faithful Presence.

Life brings changes, challenges, and unexpected turns. You don't have to navigate them alone.

- Someone who listens without judgment.
- Someone who cares without trying to fix everything.
- Someone who offers encouragement, compassion, and prayer.
- A confidential, one-to-one Christian care relationship with trained volunteer.

Everyone is welcome. Participation is always voluntary.

Call 480-229-1400





Prayer Shawls

Last month, Prayer Shawls made by our members were blessed during both Sabbath and Sunday Services. This month is an especially appropriate one to think about who in your life might need or benefit from the blessings of a prayer shawl. They are intended to give warmth, comfort, and a reminder of the love of others, as well as, the love God has for them. Each one is unique and lovely, made with prayer and thoughts of the person who will ultimately use it. They are intended for everyone—Willowbrook members, friends, neighbors, and family. If you have a loved one in a care facility and would like to donate some prayer shawls, we would love to help with that. Please see Gerri Joncas, Diane Perez, or Gloria Schilling for assistance. Prayer shawls are given with love; they are never sold.

Christmas Tea...

The annual Christmas Tea, "Christmas Everywhere," hosted by the United Women in Faith, is Friday, December 4, with doors opening at 1:00 PM and the Tea beginning at 2:00 PM. Promising wonderful food served by Willowbrook gentlemen, an assortment of baskets that will be raffled, and lively entertainment. It is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season. Tickets are $20; please contact Gerri Joncas regarding remaining tickets. This special event is open to all women. We look forward to seeing you there!



Kris Krafters



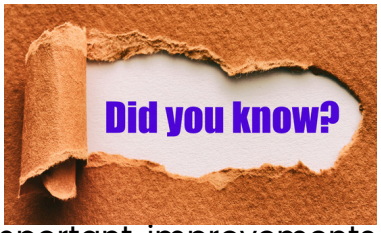
As the year winds down, Kris Krafters are finishing 2026 by making donations of items we have made to a number of charities, including Veteran's Furniture Center, Luke AFB Children's Center, Comfort Cases, Justa Center, Solace Hospice, UMOM, and Wesley Center. We are so thankful for our members who devote time and talents and live the Kris Krafters' motto: Hands to work, Hearts to God. As we gear up for marathon sewing sessions to get pillowcases ready for the annual pillow drive, we wish everyone a truly blessed holiday season!

It Takes a Village



They say it takes a village, and that is definitely true of the Craft Faire! Sincere thanks to anyone and everyone who played a role in this special event! Whether you helped set up and tear down tables, were a vendor, contributed goodies to the Sweet Shoppe, volunteered during the Faire, served on the committee, donated items to be sold, attended the Faire, invited a neighbor or friends to attend, ate at the Patio Café, or shopped, you made a difference!

Willowbrook Foundation



Did you know the Willowbrook Foundation partners with Willowbrook United Methodist Church to help fund important improvements that enhance our church and support its ministries?

The Foundation provides financial support for projects that benefit our congregation, preserve our facilities, and help make Willowbrook a welcoming and safe place for everyone.

A recent example is the new handrail installed in the choir loft, an important safety improvement costing $2,900. This project was generously funded by the Willowbrook Foundation, with OLT Fabrication and Manufacturing Inc. providing the steel. Mike McGinty and Dave Perez donated their time and talents to install the railing.

Through this partnership, the Foundation helps turn needs into meaningful improvements for our church.

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

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 December 8th. Christ is counting on you.

ANYONE interested in information concerning an upcoming walk, please contact Pastor Lois or Debb Pearson.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Have you joined our Mahjong group? What about our Hiking Club? These two groups have started, but you and a friend are always welcome to join in the fun. No experience necessary. Beginning on January 13, 2027, we will be adding Mexican Train to our Games Day (currently just Mahjong). Look for more information in early January for sign up. Very soon thereafter, we will begin the organization of "small groups". If you have suggestions or are interested in forming a group, please contact Debb Pearson.



First Tuesday AT NOON



First Tuesday at Noon is back! Join us January 5th as Liz Peck and Judy Arkwright, co-chairs of Outreach & Missions, prepare quiche, salad, and dessert. Following lunch Max McQueen, Executive Director of Lura Turner Homes, will be our guest speaker. Lura Turner Homes provides adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities a safe, enriching environment in residential, social and vocational settings. SIGN UP is December 19/20 & 26/27. Although there is never a charge, donations are always appreciated to defray costs.



GIVING PLATE

With the Holidays coming up, we know that it will be busy and many of you will be cooking and baking. Don't forget about the giving plates. If you receive one, just spread some of those extra calories around to others! Don't let your schedule get so busy you forget to pass on the plate if you get one. And how lucky you will be if you get one - with extra treats for the holidays!

FEED THE HUNGRY

Our next food drive is December 5/6. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the Chapel/Fellowship Hall.In addition to food, water is always needed. Thank for supporting this outreach program.





ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

Willowbrook continues to collect used towels for the Wildlife World Zoo on the second weekend of the month. Please place your donations in the marked brown container in Fellowship Hall.

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, December 18th. This is the Friday before Christmas. We will be working the second shift from 9:45 – 12:15 PM. Currently, the Surprise location of St. Mary's provides food to almost 900 families each day. To volunteer or to learn more about St. Mary's, drop by the signup table in Fellowship Hall or contact Liz Peck at 623-444-7118.

Also, we will be touring the main location of St. Mary's on Wednesday, January 27th. Look for additional details in the January Good News.



A Wonderful Improvement to Willowbrook's Sanctuary!

Have you noticed our new choir railing? This beautiful addition provides extra safety and support for our choir members as they enter and leave the choir area.

A heartfelt thank you to Mike McGinty and Dave Perez for installing the railing, the Willowbrook Foundation for generously funding this important improvement, and OLT Fabrication and Manufacturing Inc. for providing the steel.

It's a wonderful example of how generosity, community partnerships, and dedicated volunteers make a difference at Willowbrook!



Church Mouse Award

THANK YOU for the CHURCH MOUSE AWARD. What a SURPRISE!!! GOD has BLESSED ME with A GIFT to HELP OTHERS. GOD is waiting to HELP you share your GIFTS… I LOVE and CARE for all of you.

Billie Kay



The Welcoming Church



The new person you met in church last week came because they are searching. She or he has a real life with real needs and, possibly, real hurts.

That new person might be navigating new stages in their life. They might be adjusting to the loss of a loved one or, perhaps, they have had to adjust their life styles as their financial needs have changed. Regardless, they are looking for a friendly place to belong.

The steps for the first or second time visitor are simple:

- they are exploring,
- they are gathering information,
- they are trying to connect with people who care, and
- they are trying to build a new purpose in a new community!

The challenge for Willowbrook is to be the place where people find a new purpose in a new and loving community!

Rev. Doug Reynolds



6th Annual Pillow Drive!

It's that time of year again. Save the date for our annual pillow drive. It will take place the weekend of January 16/17. We will be collecting pillows for homeless veterans who are moving into permanent housing. The pillows need not be expensive (Walmart has pillows for under $5) but they do need to be NEW. See the January Good News for additional information.

Willowbrook
United Women in Faith

As we enter this Christmas season with hope for peace and love in this world, let us remember the joy we share with one another. The United Women in Faith made contributions to many charities in our area. We had creative fellowship to together and learned about new things. We read books opening our minds to new ideas.

In December, we will be sharing our time together at the Annual Christmas Tea on December 4, as we begin the season with uplifting music and friends.

Each circle will also meet for their Christmas get together. Check with you circle leader for dates, times and locations. All are invited to join us and if you're planning on coming, invite a friend with you.

We are making plans for the new year so check out Willowbrook's Good News or webpage for upcoming events. Blessings for a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

A Five Star Honor!

We're proud to share that Willowbrook United Women in Faith has received the

2025 Five Star Award

from United Women in Faith!

This award recognizes our active participation in all Five Channels of Mission Giving, reflecting our commitment to faith, service, and support for the ministries that change lives near and far.



Thank you to all who give, serve, and support our mission through United Women in Faith!

UWFaith Books Are Available to Everyone

Did you know the UWFaith book collection in our church library is available to everyone in the Willowbrook congregation? Whether you enjoy faith-based books, inspirational stories, Bible studies, or books that encourage spiritual growth, we invite you to browse the collection and find something that speaks to you.

Prefer to listen? Many of these titles are also available as audiobooks through your local library or popular audiobook services.

Stop by the church library and discover your next good read—or listen!

Featured Book of the Month:

In this powerful autobiography, acclaimed Academy Award-winning American actress and film producer Viola Davis shares her path to finding her purpose and voice in a world that didn't always see her. From a crumbling apartment in Central Falls, Rhode Island, to the stage in New York City and beyond, Davis details how she constantly ran from her past until she made a life-changing decision to stop running forever.

In part a deep reflection, a promise, and a love letter of sorts to self, Davis hopes to inspire readers to light up their own lives with creative expression and rediscover who they were before the worldimposed a label.



GriefShare

Grief Share meets every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Library.
GriefShare is a nationally known support group for people grieving loss through death. Using a video featuring experts on grief, along with a workbook and group discussion participants help each other sort through those erratic emotions and peaks and valleys. Each session is "self-contained" so you can attend any time you want and you do not have to attend in sequence. No matter when you begin, you will find encouragement. You do not have to be a member of, or attend, the church to be a part of the GriefShare program.

- December 2 - Hope & Resilience
- December 9 - What Do I Live for Now
- December 16 - Is This Normal
- December 23 - Your Grief Journey
- December 30 - Loneliness & Sadness

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 December

December 6, 2026
- Isa 40:1-11
- Ps 85:1-2, 8-13
- 2 Pet 3:8-15a
- Mark 1:1-8

December 13, 2026
- Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
- Ps 126
- 1 Thess 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20, 2026
- 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
- Luke 1:47-55
- Rom 16:25-27
- Luke 1:26-38

December 27, 2026
- Isa 61:10-62.3
- Ps 148
- Gal 4:4-7
- Luke 2:22-40

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:

December 17 at 11:30am at Sue Richmond's house (potluck & discussion). We will discuss books we have chosen with a Christmas theme.

January 29th at 2:00 (back to our regular day and time) "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi

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

December

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 January 2027 issue is **December 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