

The WILLOWS



WARBLER



December 2023: In Life Enrichment this month

A Season of Giving. Join our “helping hands” activities! This month we’ll be crafting holiday cards to be donated to hospitalized children across the country. We’ll be saying a big Thank You to our dedicated four footed volunteers with homemade holiday dog treats and brightening our community’s holiday tables with favors and centerpieces.



Holiday Cheer On Dec 14th we will be celebrating the season with a festive evening of **Carols and Karaoke** with special guest entertainer Vernon Morris. Join us as we enjoy Holiday favorites, fun and friendship. To be held 6:00 p.m. in the Activity Room

Song and Dance: This month join us for a festive sing-a-long with **Joyce Price** and a traditional Hymn sing with **Rick Daam**. Don’t miss talented vocalist **Glenn Faul** who will be singing holiday favorites both sacred and secular.

Arts and Crafts We’ll be saying a sad Goodbye and Good Luck to our art student intern Sarah as we complete our the **Fine Art Fridays Program**. But we’ll still have a few sessions to whip up a mini winter yarn hat craft and faux stained glass art. Don’t worry, no art experience needed for our easy projects!



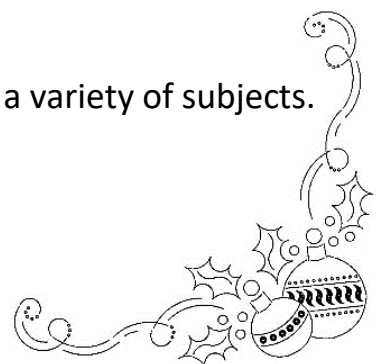
Pet Visits Meet our assortment of four footed furry friends. Check calendar for dates. Dog treats provided!

In the Kitchen: Join us as we create traditional gingerbread houses (with help of some handy kits) We’ll also sample our favorite cookies and whip up holiday treats including homemade Christmas fudge. Friday the 22nd we’ll be sipping frosty peppermint shakes and enjoy a special **visit from Santa!**



Fitness Fun: Join us weekday mornings for easy but energizing exercise sessions or relax and rejuvenate with Pam’s Tuesday evening Tai Chi. We’ll also enjoy some fun rounds of Noodle volleyball and friendly competition with indoor snowball bocce.

Pam’s Tuesday Talks: Pam leads fascinating and informative programs on a variety of subjects. Select Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. This Month- The study of Angels



Science Fun: This month we welcome Science for Seniors- The ocean! A traveling program bringing the world of science and nature to you. Did you know? The ocean covers 70% of the world, but where did the water come from? Everything in the ocean is NOT a fish! Come and learn about sharks, whales, shells, and hold in your hands a shark jaw, whale tooth, 110, million-year-old ocean fossils and more!

Don't Miss Bingo! Every Saturday at 2:00 in the Activity Room. This month we will celebrate December with special **Holiday Sparkle Bingo on the 18th** (Don't worry gents we'll have prizes for you too!) and a festive **Stocking Stuffer Bingo on the 23rd**

Our gift cart will be open **December 4th at 12:15** in the Activity Room. You can purchase sundry items like candy, soaps, holiday cards, shampoo and more.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Don your holiday attire on December 4th as we hold our annual Christmas photo shoot. Get your picture taken in front of our snowy holiday backdrop. We will print up your portrait and deliver it to you the following week. Makes a great keepsake or gift for friends or family.

On Dec. 5th, we will be celebrating the holiday season with our annual **Chrismon tree decorating ceremony**. Pastor Susan will guide us through the beautiful symbolic ornaments as we adorn our tree in the Activity Room.

Join us for **Carols, Cocoa and Karaoke** Thursday Dec. 14th as entertainer Vernon Morris leads a festive celebration. An evening of singing holiday favorites, friends and fun.



Do you have an ugly holiday sweater hiding in your closet? Bring it out on Dec. 21st for our **Ugly Sweater contest**! Don't have one? Not to worry. We'll supply some sweaters and trimmings to decorate your own. The wackiest design wins!

We'll wind down the month with Pam's Year in Review and learn about the the world's most popular New Years resolutions.

Check the calendar for more activities, dates and times and don't forget to look out for the daily calendars for any last minute changes or updates! For questions please contact Tina x43315

Wishing Everyone Joy, Peace, Health and Happiness and a Wonderful 2024

Theologian Karl Barth once said that we are to hold the Bible in one hand and the proverbial newspaper in the other. As we are attuned to what is happening in the world around us, the social and political landscapes both differ and mirror the life that surrounded Jesus. Just like those we read about in the Advent scriptures, we too have questions...many questions. As is the case too often, questions in the church are cast aside, and those who ask them are left feeling alone and lonely. But Advent is a time to lean into our questions. To wonder and wander and wait together for the Messiah, the Christ child, the Light.

This Advent, which begins Sunday, December 3rd, we will explore the question, "How will we know?" While we don't aim to come up with definitive answers, we do challenge each other to lean into the ways that our faith invites us to sit together, to discern the times, and to watch and wait. Even when we have questions and doubts, it's good to be reminded that God is still with us; still then, God is working. Advent is a time when we wait together and search for clues of the work that God is doing in our midst.

Our themes for Advent this year will be:

December 3rd: *"How will we know...how long?"* When the answer is not forthcoming, how do we wait?

December 10th: *"How will we know...what now?"* What are we called to do in the midst of waiting?

December 17th: *"How will we know...what's next?"* How do we find hope and joy in the questions of faith that may lead not to answers, but more questions?

December 24th: *"How will we know...why not me?"* Come celebrate the birth of Christ through song, scripture and candle lighting.

December 31st: *"How will we know...who knows?"* A time to recognize the signs of God's work all around us and celebrate the faithfulness of God.

January 7th (Epiphany): *"How will we know...what we know?"* Christmas has ended, but our questions remain. How are we to be witnesses to Christ's birth?

As we prepare our hearts for Messiah's grand entrance, may our souls sing out just as the prophets did so long ago, *"I wait for the Lord, my soul awaits, and in his word, I hope."* (Psalm 130:5)



EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

As the holidays approach, please remember that employees are not permitted to accept tips, gratuities or gifts from residents or residents' family members.

Annual Disclosure Statement

Each year we prepare a disclosure statement for the Department of Insurance, which regulates life plan communities. This year's disclosure statement will be available at the end of October.

If you are interested in having a copy, please call the administrative office receptionist. Give your name and phone number, and a copy of the disclosure statement will be delivered to you.

Volunteers!!

Have you logged your volunteer hours? Need to catch up on reporting any hours from the past year? Go ahead and sign into VicNet or talk to Tina. We want to be sure to have accurate records as we approach the coming year. Also, if you have not done so already, please send proof of flu vaccination, annual in-service, TB survey requirements, and any COVID booster updates. If you have any questions, contact Tina.

End of the Year Benevolent Care Fund Reminder

As we approach the time when many of us begin to plan for our year-end giving, we want to remind you about the benevolent care ministry at Living Branches. The gap in funding for residents who are no longer able to pay the full cost of their care continues to grow each year and we appreciate your ongoing support. It is through your faithful gifts that we are able to provide quality care for all of our residents, regardless of their ability to pay. Year-end mailings were sent out at the end of November. Contributions should be received by the Fund Development office no later than Sunday, December 31, 2023 in order to be acknowledged for the 2023 tax year. Thank you for considering Living Branches in your year-end giving! For more information, please contact Keith Heavener or Colin Ingram at 215-368-4438.