



The Branchline

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

May 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....



At this writing it appears that the Search Committee for our Interim Pastor has a candidate and steps are being taken to move forward.

We were fortunate to have Rev. Marisa Brown Ludwig as our pastor for Holy Week services. Working with her on worship planning was an exciting activity for our church leadership and staff.

We have also been privileged to welcome back Rev. William Ault who covered for two more Sundays in April. Following that we were visited by Rev. Bob Loesch. We've been gifted with many different viewpoints and worship styles during our period of need and we offer thanks to all who came to us to offer their thoughts.



Interim Pastor Search

Our search committee has extended an offer for our Interim Pastor position, which has been accepted...more news to come soon!

Steeple Update

Soon!! Work will start soon!!
Once we receive delivery of supplies and the boom lift, work will start on the steeple!



Greetings from the Music Room

Holy Week was full of opportunities to experience a world of powerful messages for our individual ways of expression. The sound of Trumpet and French Horn created a sense of celebration on Easter Sunday. Bell Choir, Chancel Choir and Junior Choir are now forging ahead for what's coming, including Mothers' Day, Pentecost and Memorial Day.

Junior Choir will take part in Sunday services on May 21 and June 11, which is Celebration Sunday, only a few weeks away. Bell and Chancel choirs will be bringing music each Sunday until June 11, following which they will have a break from weekly rehearsals and providing music for worship services.

Which means..... singers, ringers, dancers, poets, instrumentalists – with interest in (almost) any music and arts genre – please volunteer to take part this summer during Sunday Special Music time during the choirs' hiatus. The congregation would love it! I look forward to hearing from and working with some of you during these months.

Here's the email contact: musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

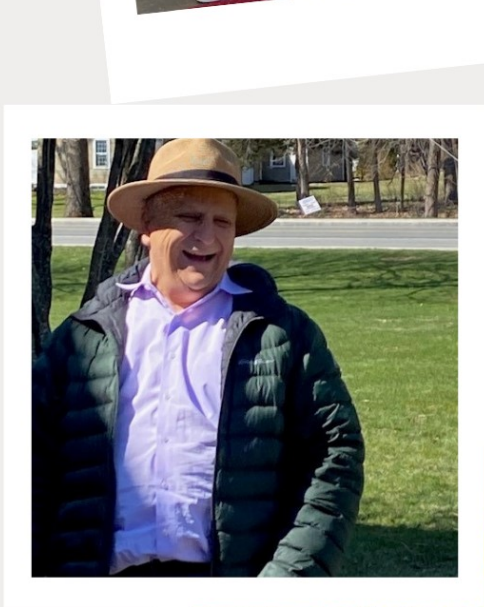
Another Note: Students in school grades 9 to 12 are invited to participate in Chancel Choir. If you like to sing, give us a try.

We can make some awesome sounds together.

Congratulations to WUP for their fabulous performances of Little Women. Labors of love.

Enjoy Springtime!! Blessings, Bobbie





A Beautiful Easter Morning

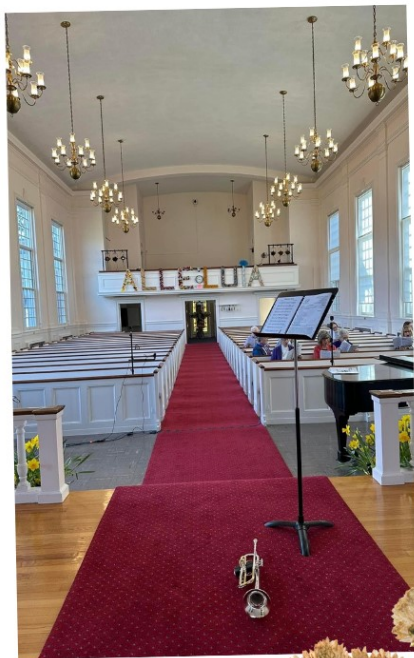


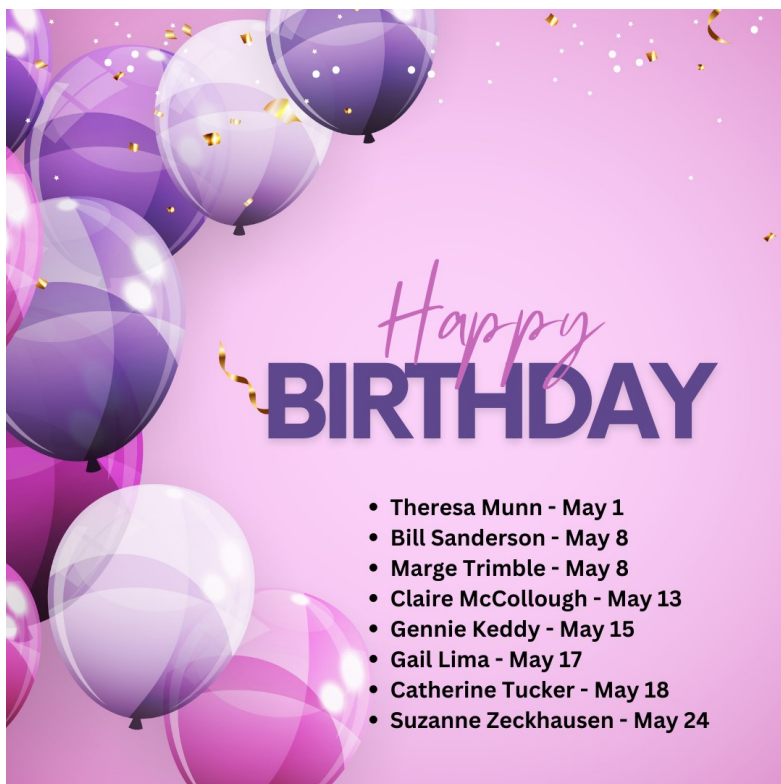
A Beautiful Easter Morning





A Beautiful Easter Morning





**Don't forget to help stock the
Blessing Box when you visit the
church!**

*The Family of
Kathie Birkhaeuser
invites WUC members and
friends to attend a memorial
service for Kathie on
Friday, May 19, at 1 PM.
Come join them in a celebra-
tion of her life. Kathie passed
away on November 9th.*



**The June Branchline Deadline is May 22. Please submit items of
note to**

admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



2023 COFFEE HOUR TEAMS & SCHEDULE

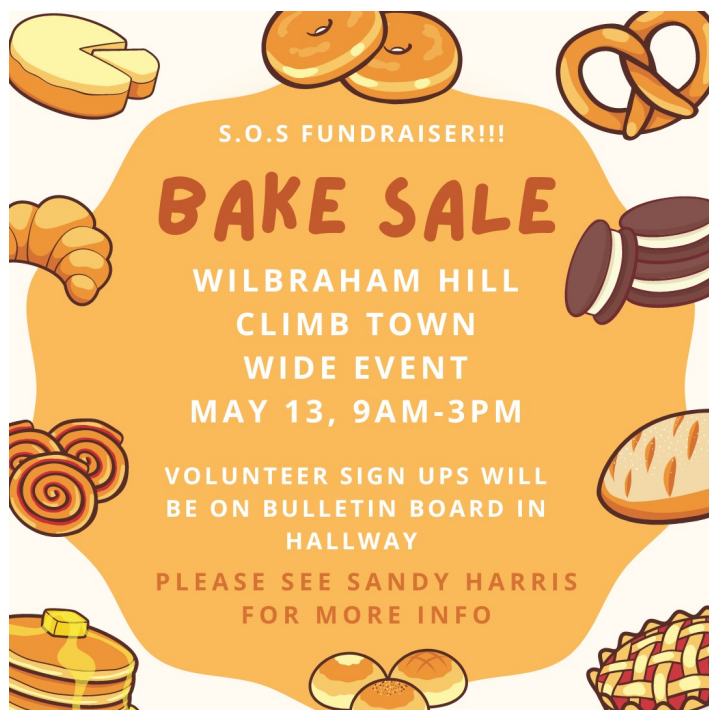
TEAM 1 Edna Colcord, Sean and Nicholas Kennedy
TEAM 2 Marge Trimble, Patti Colkos, Kathy Timpson
TEAM 3 Nancy Peck, Genny Keddy, Candy Dearborn, Gail Lima
TEAM 4 Sherrie & Ralph Ridgeway
TEAM 5 Sandy Harris, Steve Mattocks, Carianne Stebenne
TEAM 6 Pam Byers, Capen Family

SCHEDULE

MAY 7 TEAM 3
MAY 14 MOTHER'S DAY (no coffee hour)
MAY 21 TEAM 4
MAY 28 TEAM 5
JUNE 4 TEAM 6
JUNE 11 TEAM 1 (Celebration Sunday)

SCHOLARSHIPS are available for church members who will be attending college in the fall of 2023. The application deadline is May 21st.

Please contact Judy Hoffman at 596-8352 or imjrhoffman@hotmail.com.



Volunteers Needed!!





Spotlight on Commissions

Hospitality Commission

For the next few Branch-line issues we're going to be highlighting our different commissions and the work that those volunteers do to keep the church moving forward.

The Hospitality Commission's charge is Welcoming and Worshipping. Our responsibilities cover eight general areas: *Worship Participants* (greeters, ushers, liturgists), *Coffee Hour* (recruit and schedule teams, maintain supplies), *Communion* (supply/prepare elements, schedule servers, maintain serving items and linens), *Sanctuary Decor*, *Altar Flowers*, *Nursery Care*, *Lay Pastoral Care* and *Other* (pulpit, organist coverage, volunteers for functions).

We were very busy during Holy Week helping to coordinate the services, decorating the church, ordering, arranging and delivering Easter flowers. Now our focus turns to Pentecost and Celebration Sunday. We will also start prepping for summer services (communion and refreshment coverage, organist coverage.) Summer is also the time that we organize our storage areas, inventory supplies and order for fall. Changes in fire codes mean that we can no longer hang any decorations above the chancel. We have been evaluating all of our current decorations and banners and deciding which should be retired and which can be repurposed. New banners were purchased for the Easter season.

With the added demand of finding supply pastors for each week, many people have stepped up to help us fulfill our duties. Deb Trimble led worship on Christmas Eve and New Years Day; Kim Ryan continues to schedule the worship participants; our Called to Care group has been coordinating Lay Pastoral Care for our members in need and many volunteers helped with decorations. Edna ably oversees the altar flowers and coffee hour teams and keeps us supplied with bread and juice for communion. In March, Bill Lynch led a training on the preparation, serving and cleanup for communion. As a result, we now have about 15 people willing to help out with this important sacrament. The Discipleship Commission agreed to the relocation of the Nursery to the Church School area, eliminating the need for two caretakers. Beginning in the fall we hope to have regular nursery coverage once again.

Commission members are Marty Lyman (chair), Edna Colcord and Meaghan Matthews. We currently have a vacancy. If you would like to join us, please speak to Marty Lyman or Joyce Pierangelo.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1 9am - WUP-Lighting 10am - Piece Makers 6pm - Girl Scouts Troop	2 10am - Yoga (YR) 7pm - Wilb Welcome Proj	3 6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS 7pm - Phys Ops 7pm - VBC Organization	4 6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB) 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir	5	6 9am - WUP -FH 10am - Jr. Choir
7 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	8 10am - Piece Makers	9 10am - Yoga (YR)	10 6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS 7pm - Deacons Meeting-	11 6pm - Girl Scouts-YR 6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB) 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir	12	13 Children's 10am - Jr. Choir
14 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	15 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - PTO Meeting	16 10am - Yoga (YR)	17 6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS 7pm - Discipleship	18 9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB) 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir	19 1pm - Kathy Birkhaeuser	20 Office Clean Up 10am - Jr. Choir
21 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - Church Without 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	22 10am - Piece Makers 6:30pm - Trustees (ZR)	23 10am - Yoga (YR)	24 6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS	25 6pm - Girl Scouts-YR 6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB) 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir	26	27 10am - Jr. Choir
28 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	29	30 7pm - Autism Support	31 6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS	1	2	3



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – May 2023 (Year A)

Mon., May 1

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:17-23
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tues., May 2

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:23-31
Hebrews 13:20-21

Wed., May 3

Psalm 100
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Matthew 20:17-28

Thurs., May 4

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Genesis 12:1-3
Acts 6:8-15

Fri., May 5

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Exodus 3:1-12
Acts 7:1-16

Sat., May 6

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Jeremiah 26:20-24
John 8:48-59

Sun., May 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Mon., May 8

Psalm 102:1-17
Exodus 13:17-22
Acts 7:17-40

Tues., May 9

Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:5-12
Acts 7:44-56

Wed., May 10

Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:13-18
John 8:31-38

Thurs., May 11

Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 6:5-22
Acts 27:1-12

Fri., May 12

Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 7:1-24
Acts 27:13-38

Sat., May 13

Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 8:13-19
John 14:27-29

Sun., May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Mon., May 15

Psalm 93
Genesis 9:8-17
Acts 27:39-44

Tues., May 16

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
1 Peter 3:8-12

Wed., May 17

Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 31:1-13
John 16:16-24

Thurs., May 18

Ascension Day
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 19

Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-7

Sat., May 20

Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:13-15
John 8:21-30

Sun., May 21

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Mon., May 22

Psalm 99
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
1 Peter 4:1-6

Tues., May 23

Psalm 99
Numbers 16:41-50
1 Peter 4:7-11

Wed., May 24

Psalm 99
1 Kings 8:54-65
John 3:31-36

Thurs., May 25

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:1-9a
Acts 2:1-11

Fri., May 26

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:16-25
Romans 8:14-17

Sat., May 27

Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 20:1-21
Matthew 5:1-12

Sun., May 28

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers
11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or
Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Mon., May 29

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
Romans 8:18-24

Tues., May 30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29
Romans 8:26-27

Wed., May 31

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Numbers 11:24-30
John 7:37-39