



The Branchline

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

June 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....

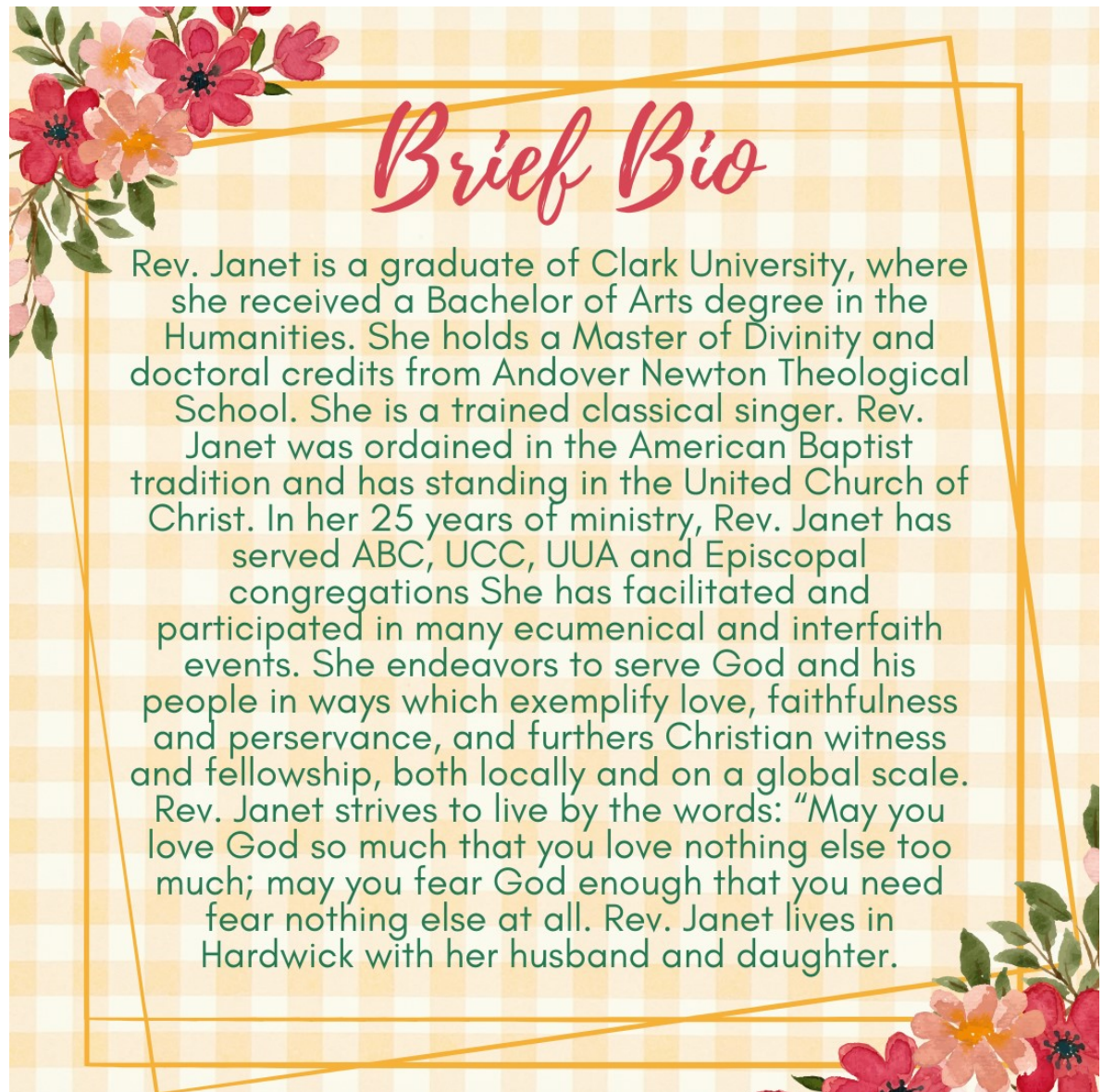


As you will have most likely learned by now, we have hired the Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind as our Interim Pastor.

Rev. Janet begins on Monday June 26th. Her first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 2nd.

During the month of May we were blessed to have Rev. Susan Tarantino and the Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch leading us in worship.

Our services in June will be covered by the Rev. David Fobes and Rev. William Ault.





Greetings from the Music Room

Greetings -

Our Choir season is coming to a close - Just one week to go, June 11th, Celebration Sunday. Three choirs will rehearse this week and offer music during the service on Sunday. Bell Choir and Chancel Choir practice on Thursday night and Junior Choir on Saturday Morning. Junior Choir started up in early/mid-December following their time away during and after Covid. It's been great hearing them each month. They will sing a special song for this Sunday - one that's very pertinent to the time of year.

Four of us from Bell Choir are heading to Worcester for the Area 1 Bell Festival at the end of June. We're looking forward to new information and skills we can learn. The Bell anthem from Sunday, June 4th, Song of Assurance, and The Adventure Begins on June 11th, are both anthems that will be studied and performed at the Festival. They have been a challenge for us - a good one.

Chancel Choir has done a lot of great anthems this year, some which have given us consternation until the initial learning process was accomplished. The most recent one like that was Fly Away Medley. It was fun to sing - and we dedicated a good deal of time getting it ready. There was a surprise moment on May 14th, the day we sang it for the church service, when I had difficulty turning the final page of the anthem. Every voice stopped for the time it took me to get the piano sounding and then went directly on as if it had been planned that way. That was amazing!

We're all looking forward to the break from weekly rehearsals. But we'll also be glad to get back in the groove next Fall. There's plenty of space in the Sanctuary for more bell ringers and in the Music Room for additional singers. Anyone wishing to join one of the groups is welcome at any time. (No worries about not being able to be there every week.) As we begin rehearsals in September is a great time to give us a try.

All choir groups join the rest of the congregation in welcoming the interim clergy arriving later this month, Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind.

That's all for now ~ ~ ~ Have a great summer! Bobbie

Children's Carnival and Bake Sale at the Wilbraham Hill Climb Event





**Wilbraham United Church
Annual Program Year Meeting**
June 11, 2023

The Annual Program Year Meeting of the Wilbraham United Church will be held immediately after Worship in the sanctuary to transact the following business:

- VOTE ON ANNUAL REPORTS
- VOTE ON 2023-2024 LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS
- VOTE ON BYLAW CHANGES
- ACT UPON ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING

The meeting will be followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall.
Nan Shepard, Clerk



A fond farewell

Our Custodian of many, many years—Eric True is leaving us on June 9th as he has taken a position with the HWRSD. We will miss him and wish him well on his new endeavors!

Physical Operations is working on hiring a cleaning service to maintain our building and will be looking for volunteers to help with some of the periodic tasks that need to be addressed. More updates will follow.



COFFEE HOUR UPDATE

Many thanks to the six teams who have done coffee hour this past church year. They mastered the monster coffee maker, provided delicious treats and gave many in our congregation a chance to truly meet one another. We might wave or exchange “hellos” in church but a chance to become more familiar with each other does much to create the bonds of “church family”.

Summer will mean lemonade and cookies in the Zeckhausen room and will be handled by the Hospitality Commission.

Come September, coffee hours will resume. Hopefully most of the present teams will continue but if you are interested in joining one or forming a new team please contact Edna Colcord (413 596-6666

ednajcolcord@gmail.com) or Sandy Harris. (413 599-0176). Not interested in joining a team but would like to do a special Sunday? There are answers to questions and help if you have not done this before .

A schedule will be created at the end of August for 2023-24 church year. Coffee hour will resume in Fellowship Hall in September. Contact Edna or Sandy. More teams or individuals who want to take part lessens the work for everyone and makes this important gathering time possible.

The 2022-23 schedule has gone very smoothly due to commitments by many. Attendance keeps increasing and visitors have expressed appreciation for the friendliness felt during this time.

Thank you. Edna and Sandy

LOAVES AND FISHES FYI

For those unfamiliar with this church mission, six casseroles are delivered monthly to be served for lunch in Springfield. Betsy and Stuart Johnsen did the preparation for years and Sandy and Larry Harris have been involved in Loaves and Fishes since this Springfield food program began, even before they joined WUC. The program feeds over one hundred daily. Many in church helped serve on the third Thursday of a month before Covid. Judy Hoffman made sure that desserts were donated monthly.

Cakes were made by volunteers but since Covid packaged cookies have been necessary. There is a storage collection bin in the kitchen. Cookies can always be added. Likewise white rice, vegetables or chicken can be donated. All go into the casseroles which are very nutritious and flavorful.

Sandy and Larry Harris and Edna Colcord assumed responsibility for the mission when the Johnsens moved. Twelve huge casseroles are prepared every other month with the help from other dedicated church members: a faithful group who have worked out glitches and become increasingly efficient.

To say that the casseroles are welcomed by Loaves and Fishes is an understatement. The casserole remains a favorite monthly meal. During Covid, the meals were sent home in containers but sitting down at the Loaves and Fishes site has returned. Help serving or cakes have still not been reinstated.

Cooking for July and August will be done in July. If interested in helping with this mission, contact Edna or Sandy.





The project began May 20th with removal of the old office desks and some cleaning and prep work. Tech all needed to be disconnected and we filled the dumpster!



Main Office had an old piece of plasterboard that had been glued to the wall. Prep work required HOURS of sanding and scraping by Matt Capen and David Pierangelo!



Office Renovation!

The July/August Branchline Deadline is July 15th. Please submit items of note to

admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

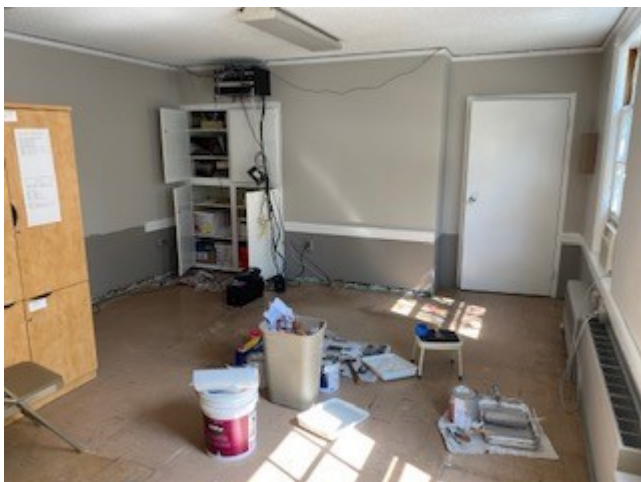




While the Main Office required more prep work before painting the Christian Ed Office got started on refreshing the paint on the walls.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came in and helped with cleaning, prepping, painting and those who donated to help out with the cost of the project!

Here's the dramatic difference in the two offices on June 1st! Still to go—carpet installation in both offices and new work station furniture in the Main Office! Stay tuned!



Save Our Steeple!



The iconic steeple
which sits high
above Main Street
is in need of costly
repairs.



Cash

Check

How to donate:



Current
donation
total
\$8891.58

WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org

From all of us at Wilbraham United Church,
we thank you for your generosity!



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

The current members of the Fellowship Commission are:

Joyce Pierangelo (chair)

Janet Carlyle

Fellowship Commission's focus lies in anything to do with church membership. We welcome guests, and are responsible for hosting New Member services. We attempt to keep our church directory current and accurate. We make sure there are visitor cards in pews and follow up with anyone requesting information about the church. We staff church commissions. We run the annual stewardship campaign. We meet quarterly or more often as needed.

Wilbraham United Church's membership is fluid. People move, pass on, grow up, go to college, marry, and leave the church for many reasons. We are responsible for keeping our Church directory and membership up to date. We meet 2-3 times a year to review the directory and update it and make corrections. We attempt to contact those members who have been absent. We request that all members and active non-members keep their contact information current. Directories are available for members and active non-members by request to the office administrator.

Stewardship scared everyone! It drives people away from Fellowship Commission because no one wants to ask for money! Fellowship will not directly ask anyone for money, when asking for pledges. We no longer call on people in their homes, or make phone calls. Pledge requests are sent by mail and email. We believe the decision to make a pledge, and how much of a pledge, is between you and God. Money is not a dirty word. The church needs money to run. There are utilities, insurance, maintenance, STEEPLE REPAIRS, upgrades and staff to fund. We hope everyone will be moved to pledge as much as they can afford. Without pledges there will be no church.

In order to plan a Stewardship Campaign, Fellowship and the pastor brainstorm a theme, usually related to whatever is happening in the church at Stewardship time. Devising a theme is the most difficult part. We arrange for speakers from the congregation to speak during the service on Stewardship Sunday. We may host a related event after church as well. The minister drafts a stewardship letter, which we mail along with pledge cards. Parishioners return pledge cards to church or mail pledges back to the Finance Secretary. This is a once yearly event!

In addition to caring for and keeping track of our membership, and stewardship, we are responsible for staffing the commissions. This is our most difficult task. Currently, there are openings on Hospitality, Fellowship, Administration and Finance commissions. We also need an auditor and an alternate Clerk, to take Church Council minutes when the Clerk cannot attend meetings. We understand that people are busy. However, in order to maintain a healthy church, we need adequate volunteers to staff commissions. Volunteering is also an excellent way to meet people and develop bonds with other members.

Fellowship will be brainstorming ways to increase parish involvement on commissions. We will get as creative as possible, while maintaining accountability. I will be asking for commission volunteers during the annual meeting. Please contact me for questions about individual commissions. No one volunteering for a commission will be thrown into anything without needed instruction. For more information, or to join a commission, contact Joyce Pierangelo at 413-364-4664 or jpieran@aol.com or Janet Carlyle at 413-949-3999 or Janet.Carlyle@me.com.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – June 2023 (Year A)

Thurs., June 1

Psalm 8
Job 38:1-11
2 Timothy 1:8-12a

Fri., June 2

Psalm 8
Job 38:12-21
2 Timothy 1:12b-14

Sat., June 3

Psalm 8
Job 38:22-38
John 14:15-17

Sun., June 4

Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1–2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Mon., June 5

Psalm 29
Job 38:39–39:12
1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Tues., June 6

Psalm 29
Job 39:13-25
1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Wed., June 7

Psalm 29
Job 39:26–40:5
John 14:25-26

Thurs., June 8

Psalm 33:1-12
Genesis 13:1-18
2 Peter 2:17-22

Fri., June 9

Psalm 33:1-12
Genesis 14:17-24
Acts 28:1-10

Sat., June 10

Psalm 33:1-12
Genesis 15:1-20
Matthew 9:27-34

Sun., June 11

Second Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Mon., June 12

Psalm 119:41-48
Genesis 16:1-15
2 Corinthians 6:14–7:2

Tues., June 13

Psalm 119:41-48
Genesis 17:1-27
Hebrews 13:1-16

Wed., June 14

Psalm 119:41-48
Genesis 18:16-33
Matthew 12:1-8

Thurs., June 15

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Genesis 21:1-7
Hebrews 3:1-6

Fri., June 16

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Genesis 24:1-9
Acts 7:35-43

Sat., June 17

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Genesis 24:10-52
Mark 7:1-13

Sun., June 18

Third Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35–10:8 [9-23]

Mon., June 19

Psalm 126
Genesis 23:1-19
1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Tues., June 20

Psalm 126
Genesis 25:7-11
2 Thessalonians 2:13–3:5

Wed., June 21

Psalm 126
Nehemiah 9:1-8
Luke 6:12-19

Thurs., June 22

Psalm 86:1-10
Exodus 12:43-49
Hebrews 2:5-9

Fri., June 23

Psalm 86:1-10
Genesis 35:1-4
Acts 5:17-26

Sat., June 24

Psalm 86:1-10
Ezekiel 29:3-7
Luke 11:53–12:3

Sun., June 25

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Mon., June 26

Psalm 86:11-17
Genesis 16:1-15
Revelation 2:1-7

Tues., June 27

Psalm 86:11-17
Genesis 25:12-18
Revelation 2:8-11

Wed., June 28

Psalm 86:11-17
Jeremiah 42:18-22
Matthew 10:5-23

Thurs., June 29

Psalm 13
Micah 7:18-20
Galatians 5:2-6

Fri., June 30

Psalm 13
2 Chronicles 20:5-12
Galatians 5:7-12

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				6:30pm - AI-Anon- 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir		Church Craft Fair 10am - Jr. Choir
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AI- Anon -FELL	10am - Piece Makers 6pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Praise Band	7pm - Wilb Welcome	11:30am - HWRSD 6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - 7pm - Phys Ops	6pm - Administration 6pm - Girl Scouts-YR 6:30pm - AI-Anon- 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir		10am - Jr. Choir
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - Worship - 11am - Fellowship 4pm - WUP Annual 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 6:30pm - WUP (FH) 7pm - Praise Band	6:30pm - WUP (FH)	2pm - Farmers market 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - 7pm - Deacons	9:20am - Loaves and 4pm - Peach Blossom 6:30pm - AI-Anon-		9am - Bell Festival
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - Church 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers		10am - Called to Care 2pm - Farmers market 6:30pm - Boy Scouts -	6:30pm - AI-Anon-		
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers	7pm - Autism Support	2pm - Farmers market	6:30pm - AI-Anon-		