



The Branchline

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

January 2024



Winter is the season of recovery and preparation

Paul Theroux

Welcome to the New Year 2024

Well, the Christmas festivities are over and we have entered a brand new year with brand new possibilities. There is no doubt that Christmas is wonderful, but we need to admit that a little recovery time is a good and necessary thing after all the busyness. Moreover, we need to lay aside some time to reflect on the season, make new plans for the future, and pray..... For me, those dark and chilly months present the best moments to seek out the voice of God in the sparsity and stillness of winter.

Certainly, the New Year brings important resolutions, and the opportunity to make good and positive changes. We learn from our past triumphs and from our past mistakes. The New Year brings with it a myriad of fresh ideas, simply because, well, it's new. And newness has the propensity to open the door to growth and renewal, forgiveness and grace. Sometimes, in our life's journey, we may feel as if we are not moving forward fast enough. In my humble opinion, as long as we stay connected to God, we are moving, and God will help us along.

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From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

In thinking about those winter months ahead of us, I am reminded of some words by the theologian, Henry Nouwen, who said:

“It is important not to dwell on the small moments when you feel pulled away from your progress. Try to return home, to the solid place within you, immediately. Otherwise, these moments start a connection with similar moments, and together they become powerful enough to pull you away from the road. Try to remain alert to innocuous distractions. It is easier to return to the road when you are on the shoulder than when you are pulled all the way into a nearby swamp. In everything keep trusting that God is with you, that God has given you the companions on the journey.”

The winter months do not have to be months of endurance, wishing our lives' a way waiting for fairer, easier days to rejoice in. The time ahead can be times of learning, improving, evolving, and building upon our relationship with our Creator.

It can very well be done in the quiet, for that is the one of best times to hear Gods voice.

New Year Blessings

Rev Janet



Greetings People of God,

Now that our very busy season has passed, it is time for us to gather and engage in a time of discernment for the churches next chapter. This will be an opportunity to reflect on where this church is moving towards and where it has come from. Also, to discuss this church's strengths and its growing edges. Beginning January 21st, we will meet every Sunday, following worship in the Zeckhausen room. You are cordially invited to attend these gatherings as often as you are able. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or text 978-350-3463.

Blessings

Rev Janet



Hello! from the Music Room

While Robert Burns' famous poem, Auld Lang Syne, was not originally set to music, many of us can sing at least a few words made famous by Guy Lombardo. Some of the language in the poem would seem a little strange today, but with the music added, it still has the power to evoke positive feelings at the beginning of the new year. Christmas music does the same thing. It allows us to savor God's presence in our lives today as told in the stories from 2000 years ago. Truly, music both lifts and anchors us.

So many volunteers kept the story of Christ's birth alive through the music offerings this year. You brought voices, bells, chimes, guitars, drums, maracas, claves and trumpet with great spirit. Thanks to each one of you! I am blessed to have a role in this great congregation and look forward to the seasons ahead.

Blessings as we enter 2024!

Bobbie

Our Choirs rehearse weekly and are always looking for new members!

Bell Choir rehearses Thursdays at 7PM in the Sanctuary

Chancel Choir rehearses Thursday at 8PM in the Choir Room

Junior Choir rehearses Saturday morning at 10 a.m. in the Choir Room

Anyone interested in joining please speak to Bobbie Morkin!

The Praise Band is in need of a guitarist. Rehearsals are flexible and we hope to play once a month for our church services. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please contact Patti Colkos at tricia30@charter.net

Holly Fair Heroes





Cookie
Walk!



DELI GOES TO CHURCH

The February Branchline Deadline is January 26th. Please submit items of note to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org





CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2023







January 27, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Wilbraham United Church

500 Main St

Wilbraham MA

A Free will donation will be taken

Members of the Wilbraham United Players in Concert

CHILI & CORNBREAD TAKE-OUT SUPPER

Sunday Feb 11th

Pick-up between 4-5:30 PM

Pre-orders by February 9th

www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org

8 oz chili and slice of cornbread \$10

16 oz chili and 2 slices cornbread \$15

32 oz and 4 slices of cornbread \$25





Save the date

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Annual Financial Meeting

W U C F A M I L Y

**BOWLING
NIGHT!**

SATURDAY JANUARY 20, 2024 5-7 PM

SHAKER BOWL, EAST LONGMEADOW

\$5 per person, Family CAP \$20
(includes bowling, shoes, pizza, soda)

Email RSVP's by Jan. 19 or email questions to
discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – January 2024 (Year B)

Mon., Jan. 1

New Year's Day
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Tues., Jan. 2

Psalm 148
Proverbs 1:1-7
James 3:13-18

Wed., Jan. 3

Psalm 110
Proverbs 1:20-33
James 4:1-10

Thurs., Jan. 4

Psalm 110
Proverbs 3:1-12
James 4:11-17

Fri., Jan. 5

Psalm 110
Proverbs 22:1-9
Luke 6:27-31

Sat., Jan. 6

Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Sun., Jan. 7

The Baptism of Christ
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Mon., Jan. 8

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Genesis 17:1-13
Romans 4:1-12

Tues., Jan. 9

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Exodus 30:22-38
Acts 22:2-16

Wed., Jan. 10

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Isaiah 41:14-20
John 1:29-34

Thurs., Jan. 11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Judges 2:6-15
2 Corinthians 10:1-11

Fri., Jan. 12

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Judges 2:16-23
Acts 13:16-25

Sat., Jan. 13

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Samuel 2:21-25
Matthew 25:1-13

Sun., Jan. 14

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Mon., Jan. 15

Psalm 86
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

Tues., Jan. 16

Psalm 86
1 Samuel 15:10-31
Acts 5:1-11

Wed., Jan. 17

Psalm 86
Genesis 16:1-14
Luke 18:15-17

Thurs., Jan. 18

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 19:1-15
Revelation 18:11-20

Fri., Jan. 19

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:7-13
2 Peter 3:1-7

Sat., Jan. 20

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:14-18
Luke 10:13-16

Sun., Jan. 21

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Mon., Jan. 22

Psalm 46
Genesis 12:1-9
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Tues., Jan. 23

Psalm 46
Genesis 45:25—46:7
Acts 5:33-42

Wed., Jan. 24

Psalm 46
Proverbs 8:1-21
Mark 3:13-19a

Thurs., Jan. 25

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 3:23-29
Romans 9:6-18

Fri., Jan. 26

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 12:28-32
Revelation 2:12-17

Sat., Jan. 27

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 13:1-5
Matthew 8:28—9:1

Sun., Jan. 28

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Mon., Jan. 29

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:1-21
Acts 21:17-26

Tues., Jan. 30

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:22-28
1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wed., Jan. 31

Psalm 35:1-10
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 Closed for Holiday	2	3 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	4 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)	5	6 9:30am - Weaver's Guild
7 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	8 10am - PIECE MAKERS 6pm - Girl Scouts (Mutti) 7pm - WUP (FH)	9 11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	10 10am - Called to Care 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	11 10am - Funeral 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 6:30pm - Bell Small 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	12	13 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
14 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	15 6:30am - Loaves and 5:15pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Trustees (Lib) 7pm - Church Council 7pm - WUP (FH)	16 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	17 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Discipleship 7pm - WUP (FH)	18 9:20am - Loaves and 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 6:30pm - Bell Small 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	19	20 10am - Junior Choir (CR) 5pm - Family Bowling
21 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - Church Without 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	22 10am - PIECE MAKERS 7pm - WUP (FH)	23 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	24 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	25 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 6:30pm - Bell Small 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	26	27 9am - WUP Concert 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
28 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	29 10am - PIECE MAKERS 7pm - WUP (FH)	30 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	31 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	1	2	3