

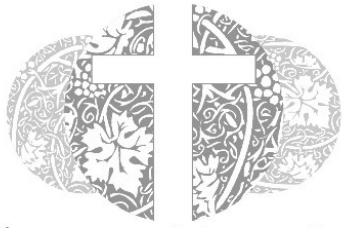
Wilbraham United Church



December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols -

7:00 p.m.



Wilbraham United Church
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

Wilbraham United Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
and the United Methodist Church*

500 Main Street

Wilbraham MA 01095

Phone: (413)596-2511

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Service

7:00 PM

Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to United Church? If you wish to be contacted by a member of the church or our pastor, please leave your contact information with one of the ushers or place a visitor card in the collection plate.*

**All who are able to stand, may do so.*

UMH – The "red" United Methodist Hymnal

GATHERING MUSIC

Organ: Offertory on Wexford Carol

arr. J.S. Dixon

Bells: He Is Born

arr. A.B. Sherman

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Trimble Family

Reader #1: On this Christmas Eve we gather, as God's people, to celebrate Christ's coming into the world. We are awed and delighted by this amazing birth, where Angels rejoice and where love knows no end. We lift up our voices in thanksgiving that God should love us so much.

Reader #2: On this special Eve, we light the Christ candle now as we revel in the mystery and wonder of this Christmas Eve.

Unison Prayer

Gracious God, We thank you that Christ's coming has reaffirmed that hope, peace, love and joy are the true gifts of the season and that we ourselves should give those gifts to all we meet. Help us to do what we can to bring those gifts to others. For in our giving, we receive the abundance of heaven. In our love of Christ, we can transform the world.

Amen

***GATHERING HYMN # 234 (UMH) verses 1,3,4,6**

O Come All Ye Faithful

CALL TO WORSHIP

April Beston

Liturgist: The mysteries of the Divine enrich our lives in marvelous ways. For God has filled our spirits with that secret spark, and molded our human selves into ways that are durable and daring, mighty and good. God has brought forth a son to show us the way to participate in the great things that are to be done in the name of the Lord.

People: We give thanks for the gift of the Christ-child, born to walk amongst us, to be human and Divine, born to love and born to be the Redeemer of the world. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, We give thanks for this Christmas Eve and for reminding us that love, hope, peace and joy are powerful works indeed. There is no greater gift to give to the world, Oh God, and your son Jesus has given himself as a gift in full measure. Thus, we gather together on this blessed eve to give thanks and to acknowledge its wondrous effect upon our lives; to inspire us to walk in the ways of Christ, to have hope in our tomorrows, to have joy in this day, and to know that our futures are secure, all because of your redeeming love for us. May we worship with gladness because Jesus Christ is born to us -- -again. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE #238 refrain (UMH)**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory Anthem

Sleep Well

Chancel Choir

G. Gilpin

***Doxology #234**

O come, let us adore him; O come let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*Prayer of Dedication

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE ANGEL

Luke 1: 26-38

April Beston

CAROL # 220 verses 1 & 2

Angels from the Realms of Glory

THE MANGER

Luke 2: 1-7

John Colkos

CAROL # 219 verses 1 & 2

What Child is This?

THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2: 8-20

Marge Trimble

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| SOLO | Quia respexit from MAGNIFICAT <i>Rev. Janet</i> | J.S. Bach |
| THE WISE MEN | Matthew 2: 1-12 | Edna Colcord |
| SOLO | The First Noel <i>Deb Trimble, Bell Tree</i> | arr. L.R. Lamb |
| THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN | John 1: 1-14 | Rev. Janet |
| CHRISTMAS MEDITATION | | Rev. Janet |
| ANTHEM | Lo, How a Rose/The Rose <i>Chancel Choir, Shelly Capen - soloist</i> | arr. C.H. Johnson |

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT

We ask that you greet each other as you share the light.
Please hold the lighted candle upright and dip the unlighted candle into it.

Silent Night

*Silent Night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven a far, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King,
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the savior is born!*

BENEDICTION

***PARTING HYMN #240 (UMH)**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. M. McDonald

**All who are able to stand, may do so.*

We ask that everyone wear nametags so that we can be welcoming to all. There are listening devices available for those that may need them. An usher will be happy to assist you.

MINISTERING TO YOU THIS EVENING

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Matt Capen, Skip Dearborn

Liturgist: April Beston

Greeter: Edna Colcord

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106

*If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Janet or the Church Office.
After office hours, Rev. Janet can be reached at (978)350-3463.*



*Wilbraham
United Church*

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

The Church will be closed **December 25th** through Wednesday January 1st for the holiday. Deb will be in the office on Thursday January 2nd. Rev. Janet will be on vacation until January 5th. In the event of an emergency please contact Rev. Janet or notify the office.

On December 29th the Rev. Susan Tarantino will lead us in worship.

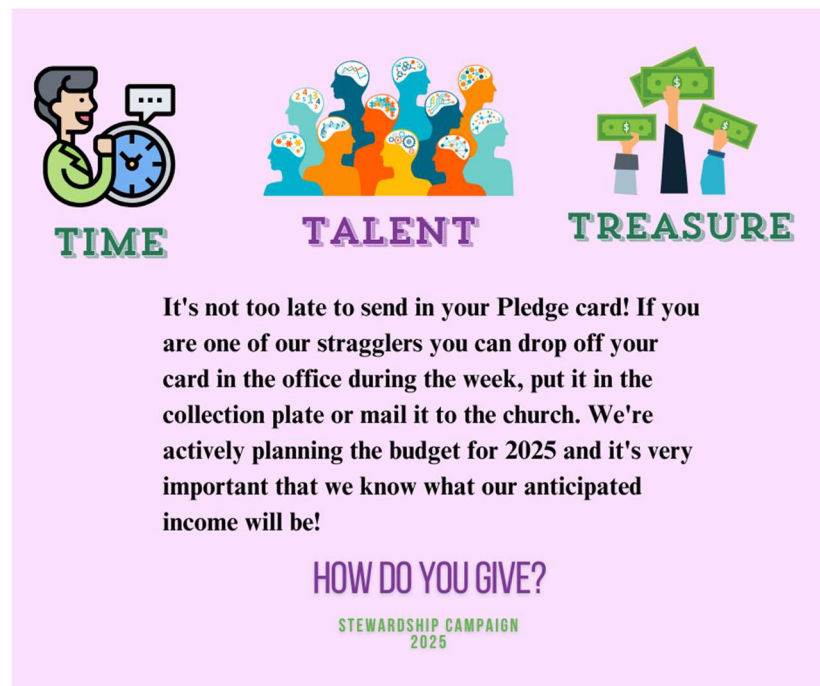
Year End Pledge Reminder: As we approach the end of the year, there are two worship service dates left in 2024. This prompts this reminder regarding the IRS rules that we must follow regarding reporting of gifts, from which there can be no exceptions.

To qualify as a gift for tax year 2024, the gift must be either:

- 1) if mailed, be postmarked on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2024, or
- 2) be placed in the offering at either of the worship services on Tuesday, December 24 or on December 29th.

Further, if the gift is a check, the check must be dated on or before December 31, 2024.

We must point out this example: a check dated on or before December 31 that does not meet the criteria listed above will be counted as a gift received in 2025. If made to fulfill a 2024 pledge, it will be noted and appear as “Pledge – Prior Year” in the 2025 accounting.



TIME **TALENT** **TREASURE**

It's not too late to send in your Pledge card! If you are one of our stragglers you can drop off your card in the office during the week, put it in the collection plate or mail it to the church. We're actively planning the budget for 2025 and it's very important that we know what our anticipated income will be!

HOW DO YOU GIVE?
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
2025

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Church Office closed

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Church Office closed

Friday, December 27, 2024

Church Office closed

Saturday, December 28, 2024

Church Office closed

Sunday, December 29, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday December 30, 2024

Church Office closed

Tuesday December 31, 2024

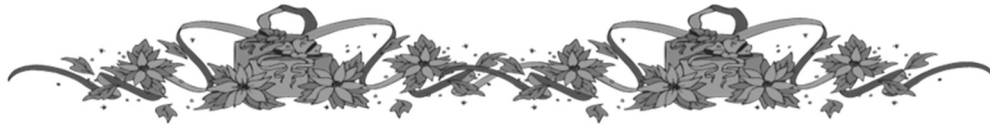
Church Office closed

Wednesday January 1, 2025

Church Office closed

Thursday January 2, 2025

Church Office open 8:30 – 1:30



2024 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Given by

Karen Gatchell
Martha & Greg Lyman

Judy Marek
Terry & Poppy Nelson
Victoria Owen
Alesia, Al, Wendy & Jim
Samantha, Kelsey & Aleena
Chrissy & John Plumb
Chris & Kim Ryan
David, Keith, Paul and John Scarlett
Carianne Stebenne and Family
Tim & Kathy Timpson
The Toman Family
The Toman Family
Jim and Marge Trimble
The Tucker Family
Will Vieira & Nan Shepard
Phyllis Walsh
Suzanne Zeckhausen

In Loving Memory or Celebration of

Loved Ones
Our parents: Bob & Eleanor Welch and Jack & Polly Lyman
Eunice & Don Lamb, Ken Lamb, Chris Burnor
Denise & Our Parents
Ralph & Dorothy Sexton
Alan & Lois Peck
Grammy & Poppy
John Marek, Theresa O'Neill, Linda Plumb
Our Grandparents
Richard and Evelyn Scarlett
Kimberlee Kelley
Loved Ones
Vivian Toman with Love
Louise Capron, thinking of you
Loved Ones
Donald C. Tucker & Donald W. Tucker
Herb & Josephine Vieira
Barbara Schwartz, Linda McDonald
Rev. Dr. Paul Zeckhausen

