



# *The Branchline*

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

## *January 2025*

### *From the Pastor's Desk....*



*"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."*

**Frederick Buechner**

Welcome to the New Year!

The New Year is often considered a time of new beginnings. In this season, we make our resolutions, we plan our upcoming events, we think of new things to do. We tend to like the New Year, well, because it's new.

So in this new time, we should plan to build ourselves up in good and positive ways, nourish ourselves, grow in faith, grow closer to our God in heaven. The New Year can be a perfect time to pray more, plan joyfully, re-fuel, be creative, and impact those around us in wonderful ways. This New Year can be a time for spiritual growth, contemplation, and preparation.

Continued on page 2

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

The poet, May Sarton wrote: "It is only when we can believe that we are creating the soul that life has any meaning, but when we can believe it---and I do and always have---then there is nothing we do that is without meaning and nothing that we suffer that does not hold the seed of creation in it."

So let us embrace this New Year with the belief that it is good already because God is in it. Let us also be fortified by the knowledge that even when things don't seem joyful and old problems resurface, God is still with us, holding us close and guiding us to better times. Faith is a powerful thing! So in this New Year, let us be ever more faithful. Let our New Year resolutions include our commitment to growing our faith and growing ever closer to a God who loves us well.

January blessings

Rev Janet



***The next Work of the Interim Meeting will be  
Sunday January 26th after church.  
Everyone in the congregation is invited to take  
part in a discussion about the future that we see  
for Wilbraham United Church!***

**A CIRCLE OF SUPPORT  
IN CHALLENGING AND  
UNCERTAIN TIMES**

As we enter the New Year, there is considerable anxiety and uncertainty surrounding what this year will look like.

Because of the concerns and fears which have been expressed by many, the Wilbraham United Church would like to offer a safe place where people can come and express their opinions, worries and differing experiences.

We aim to listen with respect and compassion, and to be open to everyone's point of view.

On the first and third Tuesday of the month from 4:30-5:30 you are invited to come and share your concerns in a place that holds no judgement.

**All are welcome**

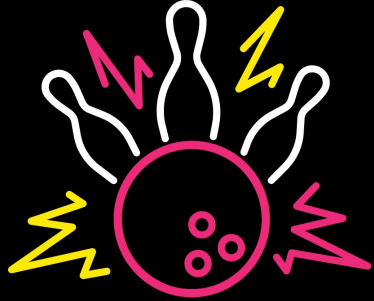
**WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH**

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

For more information, please contact the church office  
(413-596-2511 x100) or  
[admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

W U C F A M I L Y

# BOWLING NIGHT!



**SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2025 5-7 PM**

**SHAKER BOWL, EAST LONGMEADOW**

**\$10 per person - Lanes of 6**

(includes bowling, shoes, pizza, soda)

Email RSVP's by noon Jan. 18 or email questions to  
discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



## REMINDER

### JANUARY 13TH

**6:30 p.m. - Trustees**

**7:00 p.m. - Church Council**

*This meeting was postponed from December 16th  
Please send your agenda items to Matt Capen*

## CHILI & CORNBREAD TAKE-OUT SUPPER

**Sunday Feb 9th**

**Pick-up between 4-5:30 PM**

**Pre-orders by February 6th**

**[www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org)**

8 oz chili and slice of cornbread \$11

16 oz chili and 2 slices cornbread \$16

32 oz and 4 slices of cornbread \$26

**The February Branchline Deadline is January 30. Please**

**submit items of note to**

**[admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)**

  
*The Branchline*  
"I am the vine, you are the branches."





## Hello! from the Music Room

*Happy New Year!*

There's been an abundance of life within the walls of Wilbraham United Church as we celebrated the Christmas '24 Season in Hope, Peace, Love and Joy! Various happenings from the past year stand out as highlights..... different events for each of us. There are plenty of options for the choice we might make. I often ask myself: "What am I supposed to be learning from this?" Even in the midst of standout highlights, there are moments we can use as takeaways – as building blocks for the next year or season. Some of these are big and bold like - - - Don't ever do that again! Or WOW it was great----don't change a thing. Those are easy. Some are more subtle and not so easy like - - - How can that be done so it works out better? There can be multiple possibilities. No matter what, the past has an impact on what happens in the future. It's the same every year as we move through the months.

For us today: 2024 is reviewed by looking back – 2025 is imagined by looking forward. 2024 is a memory – 2025 is a vision. We can build some great visions as we work together!

Blessings & Peace, Bobbie

Soli Deo Gloria!



  
  
**Family  
Spaghetti  
Supper and  
Christmas  
Crafts**









# Save Our Steeple!



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

**PAID IN FULL!**

How to donate:

Cash  
Check



[WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org](http://WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org)

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

## STEEPLE UPDATE

The monies needed to pay for the steeple repairs have been raised!



## DANGEROUS TREE

The ash tree is scheduled for removal on Friday morning January 10. Thank you to all who contributed this project.

Thank you to Bill Sanderson who organized this effort!



## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

There are two boxes of old financial documentation in the church office that need to be shredded. Deb would welcome the help of anyone who is available to assist. Would involve going through boxes and putting pages through the church's shredder!

During Office Hours:  
**MON-THURS:**  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Call or email to let Deb know if you can help  
413-596-2511 X 100

[admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)



## Mother-Son Dance

**WANTED!**  
Helpers  
on  
**Saturday**  
**February 8, 2025**

Sign up sheet on the Main Hallway Bulletin Board

# OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT









# HOLLY FAIR 2024



Thank you to  
everyone  
who helped  
out!





**COOKIES & MORE COOKIES!**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	31	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)	3	4
5 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	6 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	7 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 4:30pm - Circle of 7pm - WUP (FH)	8 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 6:30pm - Phys Ops (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	9 10am - Preschool Music 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	10 10am - Preschool Music 6pm - WUP (FH, Attic)	11 9am - WUP (FH, Attic)
12 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 1pm - WUP(FH) 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	13 10am - Piece Makers 6:30pm - Trustees (ZR) 7pm - Church Council 7pm - WUP (FH)	14 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Loaves and Fishes 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP(FH)	15 11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Called to Care (Lib) 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	16 9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	17	18
19 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL- Anon -YR 5pm - Confirmation Class	20 7pm - WUP (FH)	21 11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 4:30pm - Circle of 7pm - WUP(FH)	22 11am - Staff Meeting 5:15pm - Discipleship 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	23 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	24	25 5pm - Family Bowling at
26 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	27 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	28 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP(FH)	29 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	30 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	31	1