

The Branch Line

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

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Wilbraham United Church
500 Main St.

Wilbraham, MA 01095

www.WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org

A note from Pastor Chip...

A new year is an opportunity for a new beginning, for all of us and for our congregation. This is one of many "new" years that we celebrate as a church. We celebrate the new program year in September, as we welcome folks home from summer and begin a new year of Church School. We celebrate the new liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, beginning again with our waiting, anticipation, and preparation for the new things God has planned for us. On Easter morning, we celebrate the resurrection; we rejoice that we are part of the resurrection; and we renew our hope in the new life that God has offered us through Christ. At Pentecost, we remember the birth of the Church and tell the story of the Holy Spirit being poured on the disciples, and celebrate that we are a part of that story and share that same Holy Spirit.

As a church, we have so many opportunities to celebrate the new and begin again, to remember and celebrate, to look back on what we have accomplished and look ahead to where God is calling us. On **Sunday, January 26th**, we will have another such opportunity. At our **Annual Meeting**, we share the story that our congregation told the world in 2019, and we give thanks for the hard work and deep faith of those who made it happen. We also prepare ourselves for the new ways in which we'll tell our story, share Christ's Good News and walk into our new future with God and one another in 2020.

Our Congregational and Methodist traditions are rooted in democratic deliberation and consensus-building. We work together, discerning with one another and with the Holy Spirit, to reveal where and how God is calling us to be the church. We gather as one body – even though we are many members and two denominations – to decide what Wilbraham United Church will be in 2020 and beyond.

Our Annual Meeting is not only about Annual Reports for 2019 and a budget for 2020. It isn't only about filling commission seats and nominating church officers. It isn't only about remembering

those whom we have lost, and celebrating our new arrivals through baptism and membership.

Annual Meeting is an opportunity for us to reaffirm our faith in this congregation and its mission, and to discern our place in God's ongoing work in the world through Christ's Church. Annual Meeting is an opportunity to renew, with fresh eyes and open hearts, the loving fellowship that drew us here, the generous discipleship to which we have been called, and the extravagant hospitality that we share with one another and the world. Annual Meeting is a time for us to live into our faith and bring God's beloved community to Wilbraham and beyond. I hope to see you there as we take this important step on our faith journey together.

Blessings in this new year,
Chip



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Wilbraham United Church

The Annual Meeting of the **Wilbraham United Church** will be held at 12pm in Fellowship Hall to transact the following business:

~Adopt a budget

~Elect officers

~And act upon any other business properly brought before the meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be preceded by a luncheon served in Fellowship hall.

Nan Shepard, United Church Clerk

The Annual Meetings of the **Congregational Society and the Methodist Charge Conference** will be combined with the Annual Meeting at 12pm in Fellowship Hall. The business will be as follows:

~To receive reports

~Elect officers

~And act upon any other business properly brought before the meeting.

Herb Vieira, Congregational Society Clerk

Alesia Peck,

Methodist Society Recording Secretary



January Birthdays

Norbert Gould, January 19th

Fred Sallade, January 23rd

Herb Vieira, January 31st





Shopping Card News

Thanks to your generous support of the program, you contributed almost \$7000 towards the church budget in 2019. Let's make a goal of \$8000 for 2020! Buying our gift cards for your own purchases, or gifts for others, really does make a difference for our church!!

Some things to keep in mind as we head into the new year...

Please:

1. Remember we are reducing our in stock inventory to alleviate the church's money being tied up (see current list of in stock retailers at the shopping card table in the Narthex). If we don't carry it, we can always order it!
2. Register online at www.shopwithscrip.com to place orders and view the retailers available. Order by Sunday and your cards will be available to you the following Sunday
3. If you would still like to use a paper order form, that is still an option (at shopping card table or online at our church's website), but we ask that you pay when you submit your order. Again, this reduces the burden on the church bank account since the church covers the cost of your order until you pay.

We are incredibly grateful to each and every one of you who have utilized our shopping card program in 2019. We urge you to continue to help our church at the same level, or even more in 2020!

Questions?

Contact Connie Stiefel at cdstiefel@gmail.com or 949-1057

Thank you!

Your Shopping Card Team

Lisa Fallon, Wendy O'Rourke, Kathy and Tim Timpson, Candy Dearborn and Connie Stiefel





Outreach Commission news.
"Heifer International! We took orders for \$1800 of animals and other items.
Outreach will also match \$1000 from Outreach Endowment for 1 pair of
mating cattle.
Many thanks to all who contributed."



Reception of New Members

Wilbraham United Church will be receiving new members on January 26, 2019 at the 10 o'clock service. Anyone interested in joining the church is requested to attend one of two informational meetings. The first will be held on January 12, following the 10 am service and the second date to be announced, sometime the week of January 19th. If anyone, interested in joining, is unable to attend one of these meetings, please contact Pastor Chip at 596-2511 or Joyce Pierangelo 414-364-4664.

All are welcome!

Please join us for
BOWLING



Saturday, January 18, 2020
5pm-7pm

Shaker Lanes in East Longmeadow

\$5.00 per person helps to defray the cost of lanes, shoe rental, and some snacks!

Please RSVP by January 17, 2020
Paul Nesbit, Director of Family Ministries
Wilbraham United Church
413-596-2511, ext. 105
christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



Mother-Son Dance



Wilbraham United Church presents the 4th annual

Saturday, February 8, 2020
Fellowship Hall--Wilbraham United Church
7:00-9:00pm
(open at 6:30 for photos only)

\$15 per each Mom/Son or \$20 per family
\$5 per each extra adult

All Sons and Moms (or those who are like a Mom to you) are welcome!

DJ

Photo Booth
Snacks/Drinks
Games

Please visit www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org before February 8 to purchase tickets.
Contact Paul Nesbit, Director of Family Ministries
Christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org or 413-596-2511, ext. 105

Family Ministries/Faith Formation

When I started in this position five years ago, our church found itself with a dwindling Church School and a Youth Fellowship program that was seriously lacking in numbers. As we looked at who was left, we sat with the Education Commission and made some decisions about how to foster a sense of community for younger families at Wilbraham United Church. We opted to start a number of events that we called Family Nights without a clear definition of "family," except to remind everyone that "families come in all shapes and sizes." Without yet being introduced to the phrase "Extravagant Welcome" we found ourselves doing just that by opening our doors and welcoming all. This happened at our Family Nights as well as VBC. Not only did they come, some of them saw what they liked and stayed! Our Church School program has literally boomed as we have increased our enrollment from 18 in 2015 to **49 in 2019!** We attribute this growth to our Extravagant Welcome to our VBC families as well as those neighbors who join us for our Family Night events.

*Regular attendees—no registration required

Grade	Enrollment/ Registered
Nursery Care	6*
Pre-K/K/1	11
2/3/4	17
5/6/7/8	15
TOTAL	49!

Granted, they all do not come at the same time but, the bottom line is that **WE ARE GROWING!!** These numbers do not reflect at least 5 high school students who are also present. It is so important to keep up the great work of EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME to Wilbraham United Church. These numbers also show us our potential to re-establish the Youth Fellowship program or to join forces with a neighboring church.

I want to thank and congratulate the community of Wilbraham United Church. Please continue to put word and deed into action as we extend Extravagant Welcome to our neighbors.





Holly Fair News:

A sincere thank you to everyone that helped make the Holly Fair such a successful day for our church and also such a wonderful community event! With all of your help we were able to make nearly 11,600.00 for our church. We couldn't have done it without all of your help. So many people help in so many ways we hate to single anyone out, however we feel we do need to offer a special thanks to a few groups. A very special thanks to the Lynch family and their recruits for being Lug Nuts and working tirelessly to make everything work so efficiently even in the most adverse weather. They are one of the biggest reasons so many vendors say that this is their favorite fair. Thank you to Chrissy and Lesley and all of the bakers for making such a successful cookie walk. Thank you to the Johnsens for again running such a delicious Holly Cafe. Thank you to Kim Ryan for organizing our raffle. Thank you to Bill Trudeau, who with the help of many members and also the Minnechaug Lumberjack club and Boy Scouts, were able to move everything and set up for the fair Thursday. Thank you to Jen Powell and her Girl Scouts for decorating our church and making it beautiful. Thank you to Bill Sanderson for taking care of all of our signage, and with the help of Rick Averill and Eric True for being around to help with every last minute detail the days leading up to the fair.

Thank you all!

Tammy, Tina, and Lisa, Co-chairs

תודה
Dankie Gracias
Спасибо
Merci Takk
Köszönjük Terima kasih
Grazie Dziękujemy Dėkojame
Ďakujeme Vielen Dank Paldies
Kiitos Täname teid 谢谢
Thank You Tak
感谢您 Obrigado Teşekkür Ederiz
Σας Ευχαριστούμ 감사합니다
Bedankt Dėkujeme vám
ありがとうございます
Tack



Sunday, February 2, 2020

Wilbraham United Church

10:00 am

Bring in a cans of soup to given to the Survival Center

Drop your cans in the AFC or NFC box to help us determine Wilbraham

United Church's pick in the "big game."

Enter into the spirit of giving, the game itself and/or both by participating.

See Paul Nesbit, Director of Family Ministries/Faith Formation if you have any questions or concerns.



the Best Christmas Pageant Ever









January 2020

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
29	10 am - Worship 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	30	10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle - YR	31		1	Church Office Closed 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR	2	6:30 pm - AI Anon-YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	3	Thrift Shop - Closed	4	Thrift Shop - Closed 10 am - Junior Choir
5	10 am - Worship 1 pm - WUP - FH 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	6	10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle - YR 7 pm - WUP - FH	7	5 pm - Girl Scouts - SM - Howard Room/CR 7 pm - WUP - FH	8	3:30 pm - Girl Scouts - HR 4:15 pm Girl Scouts - Classroom 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts - HR/CR 7 pm Band 7 pm - Governing Board - ZH 7 pm - WUP - FH	9	6:30 pm - AI Anon-YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	10	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am Springfield Garden Club - FH	11	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir
12	10 am - Worship 1 pm - WUP - FH 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	13	10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle - YR 7 pm - Phys-Ops - ZR 7:30 pm - WUP - FH	14	7 pm - WUP - FH	15	3:30 pm - Girl Scouts - HR 4:15 pm - Girl Scouts - Classroom 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6:30 pm - Cub Scout Pack Mtg-FH 7 pm - Band 7:30 pm - WUP - FH	16	11 am - Loaves and Fishes 6:30 pm - AI Anon-YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	17	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir	18	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir
19	10 am - Worship 1 pm - WUP - FH 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	20	10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle - YR 7 pm - Finance Comm - Lib 7 pm - WUP - FH	21	7 pm - WUP - FH	22	3:30 pm - Girl Scouts - HR 4:15 pm - Girl Scouts - Classroom 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6:30 pm - Cub Scout -HR/CR 7 pm - Band	23	6:30 pm - AI Anon-YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	24	9:30am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir	25	9:30am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir
26	10 am - Worship 1 pm - WUP - FH 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	27	10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle - YR 7 pm - WUP - FH	28	6:30 pm - WEF (Ladies Night Out) 7 pm - WUP - FH	29	3:30 pm - Girl Scouts - HR 4:15 pm - Girl Scouts - Classroom 6 pm - AI Anon @ YR 6:30 pm - Cub Scout -HR/CR 7 pm - Band 7 pm - WUP - FH	30	6:30 pm - AI Anon -YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	31	9:30am - Thrift Shop	1	9:30am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir 1 pm - WUP - FH

Daily Lectionary Scripture References

January 2020 (Year A)

Wed., Jan. 1

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Thurs., Jan. 2

Psalm 20
Genesis 12:1-7
Hebrews 11:1-12

Fri., Jan. 3

Psalm 72
Genesis 28:10-22
Hebrews 11:13-22

Sat., Jan. 4

Psalm 72
Exodus 3:1-5
Hebrews 11:23-31

Sun., Jan. 5

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom 10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Mon., Jan. 6

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

Tues., Jan. 7

Psalm 72
1 Kings 10:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21

Wed., Jan. 8

Psalm 72
1 Kings 10:14-25
Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

Thurs., Jan. 9

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 3:1-9
Acts 9:1-9

Fri., Jan. 10

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 3:10—4:1a
Acts 9:10-19a

Sat., Jan. 11

Psalm 29
1 Samuel 7:3-17
Acts 9:19b-31

Sun., Jan. 12

The Baptism of Christ
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Mon., Jan. 13

Psalm 89:5-37
Genesis 35:1-15
Acts 10:44-48

Tues., Jan. 14

Psalm 89:5-37
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Acts 8:4-13

Wed., Jan. 15

Psalm 89:5-37
Isaiah 51:1-16
Matthew 12:15-21

Thurs., Jan. 16

Psalm 40:1-11
Isaiah 22:15-25
Galatians 1:6-12

Fri., Jan. 17

Psalm 40:1-11
Genesis 27:30-38
Acts 1:1-5

Sat., Jan. 18

Psalm 40:1-11
1 Kings 19:19-21
Luke 5:1-11

Sun., Jan. 19

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Mon., Jan. 20

Psalm 40:6-17
Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28
Acts 8:26-40

Tues., Jan. 21

Psalm 40:6-17
Isaiah 53:1-12
Hebrews 10:1-4

Wed., Jan. 22

Psalm 40:6-17
Isaiah 48:12-21
Matthew 9:14-17

Thurs., Jan. 23

Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 1:1-20
Galatians 1:11-24

Fri., Jan. 24

Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
Galatians 2:1-10

Sat., Jan. 25

Psalm 27:1-6
1 Samuel 15:34—16:13
Luke 5:27-32

Sun., Jan. 26

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Mon., Jan. 27

Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 6:11-24
Ephesians 5:6-14

Tues., Jan. 28

Psalm 27:7-14
Judges 7:12-22
Philippians 2:12-18

Wed., Jan. 29

Psalm 27:7-14
Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26
Luke 1:67-79

Thurs., Jan. 30

Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 16:18-20
1 Peter 3:8-12

Fri., Jan. 31

Psalm 15
Deuteronomy 24:17—25:4
1 Timothy 5:17-24



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