



The Branchline

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



Published Monthly
Yearly mail
subscription \$12

March 2020

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main St.
Wilbraham, MA 01095

A note from Pastor Chip...

Dear Church,

Our congregation usually gets its weekly scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary, which chooses a passage from the Hebrew Bible, another from one of the Epistles, and a Gospel lesson. The folks who worked on establishing and creating the RCL put much scholarly thought and prayerful discernment into determining which passages work well together, weaving together different modes of writing and strands of thought into a beautiful tapestry that allows congregations like ours to read through much of the Bible every three years. It is a remarkable achievement in its own right. And it is an invaluable resource for many pastors when it comes to worship planning.

For the last six weeks in worship, however, we have tried something different. We have still read the RCL gospel reading, but we have included excerpts from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" which he wrote in April of 1963, after being arrested for participating in demonstrations, boycotts, and sit-ins in protest of racism and racial segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, throughout the South, and in the United States. While Rev. Dr. King's "Letter" is not an epistle found in our Bibles, it is indeed a Christian Letter that speaks to themes common in the letters to the various Christian communities with which we are so familiar. Dr. King writes of the Christian call to justice and love, to solidarity with the suffering, to freedom for the oppressed and release to the captive. Dr. King writes about the need to live our faith in this world, and to extend the reach of God's beloved community to include all people.

I have appreciated the conversation and the feedback that I have gotten from many of you. I have treasured the responses that I have received from those who had never read the Letter before, and those who were familiar with it and found it relevant in our day and age. Indeed, the letters of Paul have stood the test of two millennia. His calls to love and justice, to peace and mercy, to faith and grace, ring loudly in our ears and deeply in our souls not only because they are familiar, but because they remain true and necessary to our lives as Christians.

While we have made tremendous progress in living out those calls, from Paul's time and from King's time, we still need to be reminded that we are not yet done, and of our responsibility to continue to build God's beloved community. As we move into the season of Lent and return to reading from the Revised Common Lectionary, let us not forget that there are still those in this world that are calling out to us with the prophetic voice, and let us make it a part of our Lenten practice to open our ears to hear them and open our hearts to love and justice.

Blessings,

Chip

On behalf of the Hampden Association of the Southern
New England Conference– United Church of Christ and
Wilbraham United Church, we invite you to join us in
celebrating:

**The Ordination and Installation of
Paul B. Nesbit**

**as Associate Pastor of
Wilbraham United Church**

on

Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

at

Wilbraham United Church

500 Main Street

Wilbraham, MA 01095

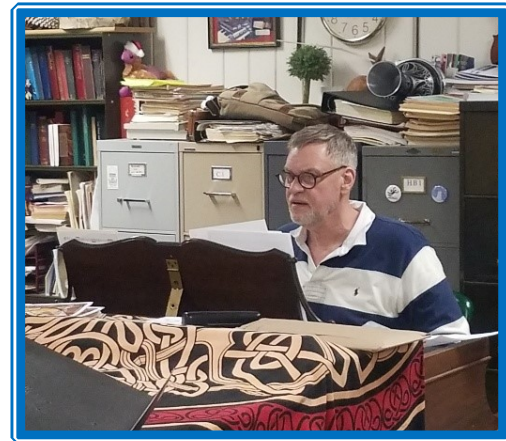
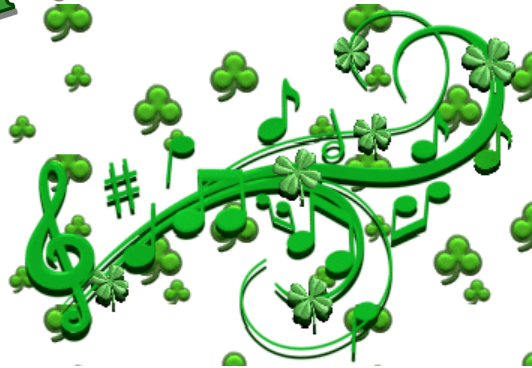


Wilbraham United Church

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

All are welcome to attend the service and
join us in fellowship and celebration
at the reception to follow.

News from the Choir Room



Junior Choir Saturday mornings at 10:00

Singing, bell playing, drumming, games, snacks and Wilber the chicken

Band Wednesday evenings at 7:00

Do you play an instrument? We'd love to have you join us.

Choir Thursday evenings at 7:45

If you can carry a tune and wish to raise your voice for the glory of God, consider yourself invited.

Drum Gathering Sunday evenings at 6:00

Whether you want to play in church or not come join us for the experience.

It's only about 40 minutes but it's time well spent!





Family Night of Community Service

Wilbraham United Church

Saturday, March 28, 2020

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Come with your family as we

Offer Community Service

- Put together hygiene kits for the Springfield Rescue Mission
- Make Sandwiches for Loaves and Fishes

"Break Bread" Together

- Kid-friendly dinner (on us!)
- Drinks and water

Play Together

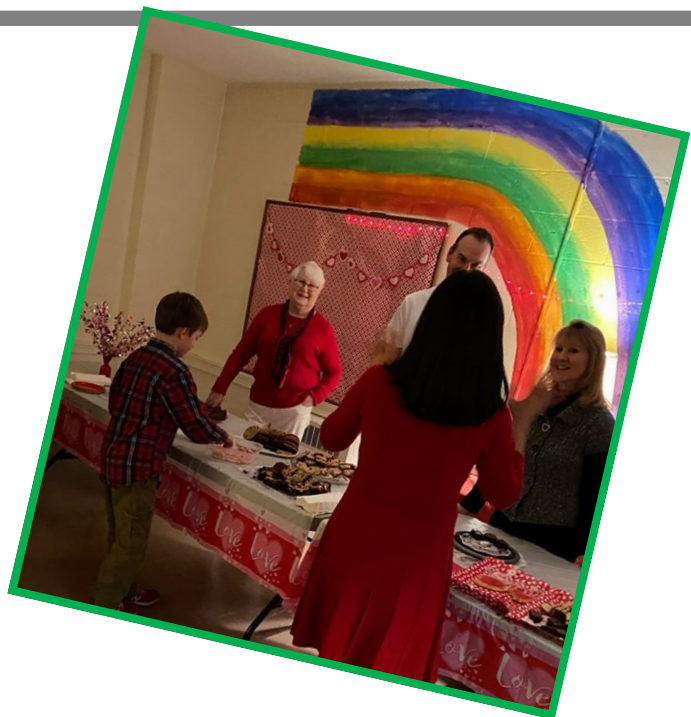
- Bring a Deck of Cards
- Bring your favorite Board Game to share

For more information, please contact Paul Nesbit, Associate Pastor,
christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org, 413-596-2511, ext. 105

Dancing with the Stars...and Hearts



The annual Mother Son Dance waltzed into another successful year with 230 in attendance. Many thanks to all who volunteered and helped to make this another great evening of fun!



Welcome New Members



Rob and Susan Kleine

Former Lutherpalians, we recently moved to Wilbraham from northwest Ohio (Bowling Green). Both college professors of business (marketing, entrepreneurship), we each are also recovering university administrators.

Rob currently teaches at Western New England University, where I teach occasionally. Rob is a lifelong outdoor photographer and Susan seems to be the family DIY-er. We both enjoy hiking, camping, and sailing in Maine. Our daughters, Kelsey and Emily, who currently live in Cincinnati, grew up spending part of every summer in Maine (Boothbay Harbor); so we've driven past Wilbraham many times on these 17 hour trips from Ohio.

We thank everyone at the church for making us feel genuinely (and extravagantly) welcome and look forward to shared spiritual growth and participating in the church community and activities.



**Gail and Chris
Lima**





**Tamara Shattuck
and
Jim Colletta**

Tamara was born in Onondaga, NY, but spent most of her K-12 school years living in Connecticut. She went to undergrad in Albany, NY where she received her K-12 art teaching certification. She went on to grad school in Philadelphia, PA where she received her master's in Museum Education. James was born in St. Johns, Michigan and grew up there. He went to college at Michigan State University and after graduation moved to Shenzhen, China for work.

Upon coming back to the U.S. James and Tamara met in Philadelphia. Later they lived in Connecticut and moved to Michigan to attend grad school together. After completing grad school James took a job in Wisconsin and once again Tamara and James moved. While in Wisconsin Tamara completed her Ph.D. in teacher education and received a job offer in Massachusetts where she now works as Assistant Professor of Education at Western New England University. James continues to work as a landscape architect. Amid all these moves James and Tamara got married and had twins (Hazel and Linnea, now three years old) and bought their first house in Wilbraham.

We are happy to finally be putting down roots and connecting with our new community. One of the reasons we decided to join Wilbraham United Church was to feel more connected to the community, and to better serve the community through volunteer/ service projects through the church. We are glad to be official church members and look forward to seeing our daughters grow up in a supportive progressive religious community where differences are welcome.

John Getchell III



March 2020



VISIT US ONLINE wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



Outreach

One Great Hour of Sharing

The Wilbraham United Church Outreach Commission invites you to participate in the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing on Sundays March 22nd and March 29th. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help make this world look more like the world God imagines, a world where all are fed, everyone has access to clean water, and all children grow up healthy.

Funds collected from this Lenten offering are used for food and nutritional needs around the globe, for families living in extreme poverty by emphasizing international sustainable development, and for disaster ministries. Envelopes will be available in the pews and from the ushers on 3/22 and 3/29. You can also go to www.ucc.org for more information.



The Thrift Shop

At Wilbraham United Church

What do storage bins, attics and basements all have in common?

They are places where you may have items you no longer want or need.

Our Thrift Shop will gladly accept these donations!

We are always in need of household items, sewing/craft supplies, small appliances, children's toys, jewelry, and home decorations.

Donations are accepted Monday - Saturday from 9-5 on the basement level outside the Thrift Shop. Due to space constraints the following is a list of items that are not accepted: clothing, large furniture, computers, luggage, outdoor tools and sports equipment.

Don't forget we are open Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Stop by and take a look!



Do you love reading the Branchline?

Would you, a family member or friend like to receive this newsletter by mail? If so, please contact admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org or call Aimee Walat at 413-596-2511 ext. 100.

We would be happy to send along a copy of the Branchline and share all the great happenings here at Wilbraham United Church!

Women's Evening Fellowship presents Lenten Reflections

Women's Evening Fellowship cordially invites you to attend our meeting on **Tuesday March 24 at 7:00 PM** in the Zeckhausen Room. Our guest speaker will be Wilbraham United Church's very own Paul Nesbit. Paul will share reflections to prepare our hearts and minds as we journey through the season of Lent.

A time of fellowship will follow the program, and delicious refreshments will be served. We hope you will plan to join us for this very special evening.



Easter Lily and Daffodil sign ups will be coming soon.

Please see the sign up sheets in the March 15th–29th bulletins.

There are a few openings for Altar flowers in the coming months.

Please feel free to sign up in the Narthex or email

admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Leland Miner	3/2
Norma Hill	3/3
Joyce Emerle	3/3
Judy Marek	3/6
Nancy Nieske	3/6
Joan Florian	3/23



Thank you for your continued support of food for the Survival Center
It means a great deal this time of year.

Community Survival Center **March Donation Ideas**

- ◆ **Canned vegetables**
- ◆ **Canned fruit**
- ◆ **Tuna fish**
- ◆ **Canned stew**



Piecemakers
will be meeting

March 9 and March 23

In the Bliss Room



Shopping Card Program

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



Support our organization while you shop

More than 50,000 organizations have used gift cards to turn everyday shopping into earnings—our organization is one of them. Pay with gift cards and offset costs for our organization.



Buy gift cards at face value



Earn a rebate up to 20%



Use gift cards for everyday shopping

Shop 750+ top brands

Use eGift cards and physical gift cards, and earn on gas, groceries, eating out, clothes—the list goes on. It's easy, it's rewarding, and it fits right into your busy schedule.

See a full list of brands at ShopWithScrip.com or MyScripWallet.com



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey



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Wilbraham United Church

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 am - Worship 6 pm - Al Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle 7 pm - Outreach - Lib	5 pm - Girl Scouts - SM -Howard 7 pm - Wolf Den - HR	1 pm - Called to Care - Lib 3:30 pm Girl Scouts - Howard 4:15 pm - Girl Scouts -Classroom 6 pm - AlAnon @ YR 6:30 pm - CubScout - HR/CR 7 pm - Adult Discussion Group - ZR 7 pm - Band 7pm - Tech Com - Lib	6:30 pm - Al Anon- YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop	9 am - WUP-FH 9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10 am - Worship 3 pm - Event - FH 6 pm - Al Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	10 am - Piecemakers - Bliss Room 10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle 7 pm - Phys Ops - ZH 7:30 pm - WUP- FH	6 pm - Wolf Den - HR	3:30 pm Girl Scouts - Howard 4:15 pm - Girl Scouts -Classroom 6 pm - AlAnon @ YR 6:30 pm - CubScout - HR/CR 7 pm - Adult Discussion Group - ZR 7 pm - Band	6:30 pm - Al Anon- YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop	9 am - WUP-FH 9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10 am - Worship 6 pm - Al Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle		3:30 pm Girl Scouts - Howard 4:15 pm - Girl Scouts -Classroom 6 pm - AlAnon @ YR 6:30 pm - CubScout Pack Mtg 7 pm - Adult Discussion Group - ZR 7 pm - Band	11 am Loaves & Fishes 6:30 pm - Al Anon- YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Springfield Garden Club	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10 am - Worship 6 pm - Al Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	10 am - Piecemakers - Bliss Room 10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle	7 pm - WEF-ZR	3:30 pm Girl Scouts - Howard 4:15 pm - Girl Scouts -Classroom 6 pm - AlAnon @ YR 6:30 pm - CubScout - HR/CR 7 pm - Adult Discussion Group - ZR 7 pm - Band	6:30 pm - Al Anon- YR 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir 5 pm - Family Night of Community Service - FH
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
10 am - Worship 6 pm - Al Anon @ YR 6 pm - Drumming Circle	10:30 am - Yoga with Michelle 4 pm - WUP- FH		3:30 pm Girl Scouts - Howard 4:15 pm - Girl Scouts -Classroom 6 pm - AlAnon @ YR 6:30 pm - CubScout - HR/CR 7 pm - Adult Discussion Group - ZR 7 pm - Band 7pm - Tech Com - Lib	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 7 pm - Bell Choir 7:45 pm - Adult Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop	9:30 am - Thrift Shop 10 am - Junior Choir

Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References -March 2020 (Year A)

Sun., Mar. 1

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Mon., Mar. 2

Psalm 32
1 Kings 19:1-8
Hebrews 2:10-18

Tues., Mar. 3

Psalm 32
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Wed., Mar. 4

Psalm 32
Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28
Matthew 18:10-14

Thurs., Mar. 5

Psalm 121
Isaiah 51:1-3
2 Timothy 1:3-7

Fri., Mar. 6

Psalm 121
Micah 7:18-20
Romans 3:21-31

Sat., Mar. 7

Psalm 121
Isaiah 51:4-8
Luke 7:1-10

Sun., Mar. 8

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Mon., Mar. 9

Psalm 128
Numbers 21:4-9
Hebrews 3:1-6

Tues., Mar. 10

Psalm 128
Isaiah 65:17-25
Romans 4:6-13

Wed., Mar 11

Psalm 128
Ezekiel 36:22-32
John 7:53-8:11

Thurs., Mar. 12

Psalm 95
Exodus 16:1-8
Colossians 1:15-23

Fri., Mar. 13

Psalm 95
Exodus 16:9-21
Ephesians 2:11-22

Sat., Mar. 14

Psalm 95
Exodus 16:27-35
John 4:1-6

Sun., Mar. 15 *Third*

Sunday in Lent
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Mon., Mar. 16

Psalm 81
Genesis 24:1-27
2 John 1-13

Tues., Mar. 17

Psalm 81
Genesis 29:1-14
1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Wed., Mar. 18

Psalm 81
Jeremiah 2:4-13
John 7:14-31, 37-39

Thurs., Mar. 19

Psalm 23
1 Samuel 15:10-21
Ephesians 4:25-32

Fri., Mar. 20

Psalm 23
1 Samuel 15:22-31
Ephesians 5:1-9

Sat., Mar. 21

Psalm 23
1 Samuel 15:32-34
John 1:1-9

Sun., Mar. 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Mon., Mar. 23

Psalm 146
Isaiah 59:9-19
Acts 9:1-20

Tues., Mar. 24

Psalm 146
Isaiah 42:14-21
Colossians 1:9-14

Wed., Mar. 25

Psalm 146
Isaiah 60:17-22
Matthew 9:27-34

Thurs., Mar. 26

Psalm 130
Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8-3:3
Revelation 10:1-11

Fri., Mar. 27

Psalm 130
Ezekiel 33:10-16
Revelation 11:15-19

Sat., Mar. 28

Psalm 130
Ezekiel 36:8-15
Luke 24:44-53

Sun., Mar. 29 *Fifth*

Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Mon., Mar. 30

Psalm 143
1 Kings 17:17-24
Acts 20:7-12

Tues., Mar. 31

Psalm 143
2 Kings 4:18-37
Ephesians 2:1-10

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Church Staff

Rev. Wallace A Hurd IV, Pastor
Pastor@WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org
Ext. 103

Mark Jacobson, Director of Music Ministries
markjacobson104@gmail.com

Paul Nesbit, Associate Pastor
ChristianEd@WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org
Ext. 105

Eric True, Custodian
WUCBuilding@WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org
Ext. 107

Betsy Johnsen, Bookkeeper
BookKeeper@WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org
Ext. 100

Aimee Walat, Administrative Assistant
Admin@WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org
Ext. 100

Wilbraham United Church Nursery School
www.wucns.org
Church Ext. 108