



THE BRANCH-LINE



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

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WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413) 596-2511 x 100
E-mail: admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org
Web Site: www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

Church Staff

Rev. Susan L. Gibson, Interim Minister
Mark Jacobson, Director of Music
Laurie Milne, Parish Administrator / Branch-Line Editor
Eric True, Maintenance
Paul Nesbit, Director of Christian Ed.
Dianne Lyons, Public Relations Coordinator

From the Interim Pastor's Desk...



"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." *Deuteronomy 31:8*

May is Mental Health Awareness month. 1 in 5 Americans will be affected by a mental health condition in their lifetime and every American is affected or impacted through their friends and family. In Western Massachusetts, we are particularly aware of the impact of mental illness because of the epidemic of opioid addiction and substance abuse. In 2016, nearly 2000 people died from opioid overdoses in Massachusetts alone!

Many people with the lived experience of a mental health challenge consider religion one of the most important facets of their lives. Many feel that connection to a faith community is among the most important ways in which they relate to the life of their community. And yet the stigma of substance abuse and mental illness can leave those who are affected feeling abandoned and cut off from their religious communities.

When we held the transition meetings in the fall, we committed to proclaiming God's loving presence to those affected by mental illness and substance abuse. May 21 is Mental Health Awareness Sunday, and we will be observing this during worship. In addition, on Sunday, May 21st, Wilbraham United Church Thrift Shop will be one of the sponsors of the National Alliance for Mental Illness walk at Stanley Park. May 11, WGBY will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on the Opioid Crisis, and WUC is one of the financial supporters of this event. We invite you to attend this meeting! We will be organizing a group from the church, once we have more specifics.

(continued on next page)



Continued from page 1 . . .

In Holy Week, we walked with Jesus in his last days, and we discovered God walks with us in our suffering. In Easter, we discovered that nothing can separate us from the love of God—not illness, not death, nor pain or injustice. The Good News is that God does not leave or forsake any of us. And we have the joy of sharing this Good News with others! Thanks be to God!

Susan

**YOU ARE INVITED –
Meet with the Settled Pastor Search Committee
Sunday, May 21, 11:30AM, Zeckhausen Room**

We are making great progress in development of our Church Profile (a thorough 30 something page document) focusing on answering the three key questions – Who Are We? Who are Our Neighbors? What Does God Want Us To Do?. We have been meeting weekly and are defining our needs, wishes and plans for our church future and the qualities and capabilities we are looking for in our new Settled Pastor.

To provide an opportunity for additional input to this process from the congregation, the Search Committee invites everyone who would like to express their wishes, their vision or their concerns to meet with us after Sunday service at 11:30AM on Sunday, May 21 in the Zeckhausen Room. All are welcome to provide us with your insights or just to learn more about what we are doing, where we are and how we are proceeding in this critical mission in search of a spiritual partner and leader for the next exciting chapter in the life of our church.

Please plan to come and meet with us. We look forward to your participation.

Settled Pastor Search Committee

Tina Bazarian, Kim Neelans, Steve Niederfringer, Deb Trimble, Tom Toman, Phyllis Walsh

***The 2017 Altar Flower Chart is posted
on the Missions bulletin board in the Narthex.***

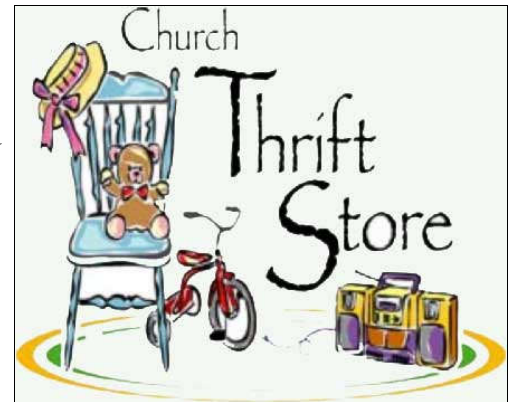
If you are interested, please sign up for the week(s) of your choice. Normal cost of the arrangement is **\$40**. However, if you would like your flowers to be displayed in the Memorial Urns, the cost is **\$45** and you must notify the office at least one week before your chosen date. Flowers are normally distributed after services to Church family members in need of a little cheer following a hospital stay or an illness, as a birthday wish to those who have reached a milestone year, or for various reasons of goodwill. If you would like to take your arrangement home after services, please notify the office during the week prior to your designated Sunday, so there is no confusion with the delivery people on the Altar Flower Committee. Thank you to all who have signed up in the past.





PASSING THE TORCH – NEW THRIFT SHOP MANAGEMENT!

As many of you may be aware, I am moving to the Cape and leaving behind many people, places, and things that I love – including my baby, the Thrift Shop at Wilbraham United Church. Conceived in 2008, she was born on March 9, 2009 and has grown and developed to the point that she does not need her mama anymore! I feared what would happen to the shop in my absence, but to my delight, many faithful, enthusiastic, hard-working volunteers have stepped up to not only take care of my baby, but to help her grow in new directions and continue to be a positive influence in the church and in the community.



Effective immediately, Nancy Krawczynski and Donna Carlson will be the new Co-Managers of the Thrift Shop and will share the management stipend of 10% of shop profits. Thank you both SO much, Nancy and Donna, for taking on this sometimes overwhelming responsibility! Edna Colcord will continue as our

Volunteer Coordinator and Recruiter, and has also agreed to handle the year-end volunteer voting process which determines the recipients of the 40% of profits donated to area nonprofits each year. Phyllis Walsh will continue on as our Book Department Coordinator, organizing, weeding, and beautifying our book section. Many other volunteers, old and new, have committed to staffing the shop, making Goodwill runs, changing signage, event planning, Thrift Shop publicity, hauling stuff to and fro, and the myriad other tasks that the shop requires.

We always need more volunteers. Even one 3-hour shift per month – or one 3-hour shift, period! – would help a lot. Training is provided. Please contact Edna at 596-6666 or colcorde@charter.net to get involved in this worthwhile mission.

I want to thank everyone involved from day one, including Charlie Close – it was his idea!; Cynthia Russell, my very first volunteer; Nancy Apple, my first Co-Manager; and all of my other volunteers, past and present – the list is long, and you all played and continue to play a vital role in the success of the shop. Everything you do at or for the shop, no matter how small, is an important part of our mission of loving and supporting our neighbors and community.

Starting and managing the Thrift Shop has been a life-changing experience for me that I will never forget. And, to answer the question many have asked: NO, I will not be volunteering at any Cape Cod thrift shops for a long, long, long time!!! ☺

Well... probably not.

*Love,
Dianne Lyons,
Thrift Shop Founder and Former Manager*



Congratulations to Taylor Colkos who earned a scholarship from the Wilbraham Women's Club. Taylor is pictured at the far right with his parents, Patti and John. The award was presented at a luncheon at the Ludlow Country Club.

Missed church?

Watch the service on Wilbraham Public Access,
Channel 191,

8 PM on Mondays and 8 AM on Tuesdays.

Services are also available on-line. Go to

www.wilbraham-ma.gov

On the left click **Public Access Schedules**
- Channel 191.

Find the service you'd like to watch
by selecting a date on the calendar
and a time,

ie 8pm Mondays or 8am on Tuesdays.

Click Watch Now

Once again, thank you
Jeanine Little for your help
with this issue of The
Branch-Line!! I will miss
your through
the summer.
Anyone else interested in
trying their hand at it? Call
the office !!



Awakening Heart Yoga Schedule

Mondays

Yoga 9:15 am w/Sarah
Meditation 4:00 pm w/Sarah

Wednesdays Yoga
4:30 pm w/Sarah



All classes \$12 drop-in or purchase a pass for 8 classes for \$80



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!

Best wishes to the following Senior Members of our congregation who are celebrating birthdays in May:

Theresa Munn	May 1	Catherine Tucker	May 18
Bill Sanderson	May 8	Leslie Ellis	May 19
Claire McCollough	May 13	Ross Karlson	May 19
Richard Martin	May 15	Evelyn Auchter	May 20
Phyllis Gould	May 18	Joan Hoffman	May 21
Lou Rogers	May 18	Sue Zeckhausen	May 24

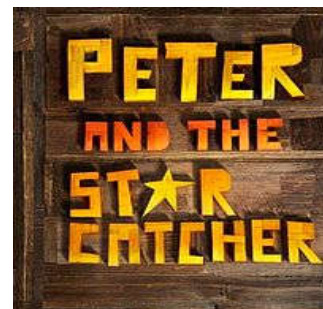
Tickets are now on sale!

Wilbraham United Players spring production of **PETER AND THE STARCATCHER.**

This family friendly performance (but full of humor for the adults) tells the story of how a poor nameless orphan becomes the “Boy Who Won’t Grow Up – PETER PAN”!!

Performances are:
May 4, 5, 6 at 7:30
May 7 at 2:30.

Tickets are \$25 for premium seating and \$20 for General Seating (with a \$5.00 discount for Seniors or students under age 18) and can be purchased through the website – www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.com.



WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Main Phone: 596-2511

FAX: 596-2512

e-mail:

admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

[website: www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

The Rev. Susan L. Gibson, Interim Minister X103

Mark Jacobson, Music Director X106

Laurie Milne, Parish Administrator X100

Eric True, Bldg. Super / Custodian X107

Paul Nesbit, Dir. of Christian Education X105

Betsy Johnsen, Bookkeeper - thru X100



SHOPPING CARD NEWS

Congratulate Graduates with Gift Cards!

Send your graduates on their way with love, support, and a thoughtful gift to show them how proud you are! You can use scrip to pick up essentials for their dorm or new apartment, their favorite comfort foods (grocery, coffee, pizza delivery...), or even just a handful of gift cards to get them started.



Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath and Beyond, Best Buy, Buffalo Wild Wings, Container Store, Domino's, Dunkin' Donuts, iTunes, Staples, Starbucks, Subway, Target, and Walmart to name a few!

Visit www.shopwithscrip.com for a full list of retailers as well as how to order online and reload those favorite cards (either your own, or for your students while they're away at college).

Please think of the many ways to support the Wilbraham United Church shopping card program!

Thank you,
Connie Stiefel, Bob Law, Wendy O'Rourke and Lisa Fallon



Report from our Annual Good Friday Blood Drive

Though our numbers are down from previous years, we collected a total of 18 whole blood pints and two double reds, for 20 productive units.

This was short of our goal, but these 20 units will impact and save 60 lives! Thank you to all who participated!!

Transitions:

DEATHS: Harold E. "Bud" Porter, April 3, 2017
Survived by his wife of 67 years, Nancy; son, Jeffrey (Amy); two grandchildren, Cody and Mackenzie; predeceased by a daughter, Allison, and a son, Scott.

Craig P. Tracy, 52, April 15, 2017
Survived by his wife of 28 years, Debbie; three sons, Tim, Chris and Danny; and his parents, Henry and Iris.





OUTREACH COMMISSION NEWS



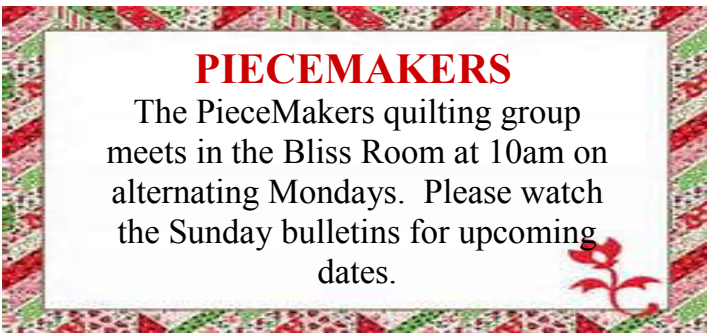
CHURCH WORLD SERVICES BLANKET PROGRAM FOR MOTHERS DAY

The Outreach Commission will be taking donations on April 30 and May 7 in honor of Mother's Day to help provide blankets and other emergency items to mothers and their families all around the world.

For only 10 dollars, you can give a blanket that can provide warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care. These blankets might be the best gift you ever give and you can change a life all at the same time. We will have gift cards available to honor your special mother.

PIECEMAKERS

The PieceMakers quilting group meets in the Bliss Room at 10am on alternating Mondays. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for upcoming dates.




OUTREACH -- SURVIVAL CENTER

Thank you for all your donations.

MAY will be "BOX MONTH"

Please consider donating any Boxed items: mac & cheese, pastas, stuffing, cereal, baking mixes, jello, puddings, etc. These suggestions, as well as all donations are appreciated!!


ATTENTION KNITTERS



Would you be willing to knit a Prayer Shawl for Called to Care?

The yarn is provided. Please email Phyllis Walsh at pwalsh44@charter.net or call 596-6674.

DRESS A GIRL is an intergenerational ministry so anyone over the age of 10 is welcomed to attend a meeting. **Monthly meetings are on Saturday, from 10am—noon** at The Federated Church of Hampden



Find us on Facebook: search for "Dress a Girl: Wilbraham & Hampden" to find the date for the May meeting.

Wilbraham United Church, Holidays in United States

May 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10am - Worship 11:15am - Fellowship 2:30pm - WUP SHOW 6pm - AI Anon 7pm - Search-Lib	1 9:15am - Yoga	2 9:30am - Staff Mtg - Lib.	3 1pm - Called to Care 3:30pm - Brownies 4:30pm - Yoga 6pm - CubScouts 7pm - WUP-FH	4 4pm - Prayer Study 6pm - AIAnon/AlaTeen 7pm - Bells rehearsal 7:30pm - WUP SHOW 7:45pm - Sr. Choir	5 9:30am - Thrift Shop 7:30pm - WUP SHOW	6 9:30am - Thrift Shop 10am - JrChoir 7:30pm - WUP SHOW
7 10am - Worship 11:15am - Fellowship 2:30pm - WUP SHOW 6pm - AI Anon	8 9:15am - Yoga 7pm - United Moms 7:30pm - WUP Bd. - FH	9 9:30am - Staff Mtg - Lib.	10 3:30pm - Brownies 4:30pm - Yoga 6pm - CubScouts	11 4pm - Prayer Study 6pm - AIAnon/AlaTeen 7pm - Bells rehearsal 7:45pm - Sr. Choir	12 9:30am - Thrift Shop 8pm - YF Bowling	13 WUP clean day 9:30am - Thrift Shop 10am - JrChoir
14 Mother's Day 10am - Worship 11:15am - Fellowship 6pm - AI Anon	15 BranchLineDeadline 9:15am - Yoga 7pm - Fin.Comm.	16 9:30am - Staff Mtg - Lib.	17 3:30pm - Brownies 4:30pm - Yoga 6pm - CubScouts 7pm - Gov. Bd.-ZR	18 4pm - Prayer Study 6pm - AIAnon/AlaTeen 7pm - Bells rehearsal 7:45pm - Sr. Choir	19 9:30am - Thrift Shop	20 9:30am - Thrift Shop 10am - JrChoir
21 10am - Worship 11:15am - Fellowship 6pm - AI Anon 6pm - Y F Mtg.	22 9:15am - Yoga	23 9:30am - Staff Mtg - Lib. 7:30pm - WEF off site	24 3:30pm - Brownies 4:30pm - Yoga 6pm - CubScouts	25 4pm - Prayer Study 6pm - AIAnon/AlaTeen 7pm - Bells rehearsal 7:45pm - Sr. Choir	26 9:30am - Thrift Shop	27 9:30am - Thrift Shop 10am - JrChoir
28 10am - Worship 11:15am - Fellowship 6pm - AI Anon	29 Memorial Day Memorial Day 9:15am - Yoga	30 9:30am - Staff Mtg - Lib.	31 3:30pm - Brownies 4:30pm - Yoga 6pm - CubScouts	1 4pm - Prayer Study 6pm - AIAnon/AlaTeen 7pm - Bells rehearsal 7:45pm - Sr. Choir	2 9:30am - Thrift Shop	3 9:30am - Thrift Shop 10am - JrChoir 4pm - Kenniston wedding

Daily Lectionary Scripture References

May 2017 (Year A)

Mon., May. 1
Psalm 134
Genesis 18:1-14
1 Peter 1:23-25

Tues, May. 2
Psalm 134
Proverbs 8:32—9:6
1 Peter 2:1-3

Wed., May. 3
Psalm 134
Exodus 24:1-11
John 21:1-14

Thurs., May. 4
Psalm 23
Exodus 2:15b-25
1 Peter 2:9-12

Fri., May. 5
Psalm 23
Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
1 Peter 2:13-17

Sat., May. 6
Psalm 23
Ezekiel 34:1-16
Luke 15:1-7

Sun., May. 7
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Mon., May. 8
Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:17-23
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tues., May. 9
Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:23-31
Hebrews 13:20-21

Wed., May. 10
Psalm 100
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Matthew 20:17-28

Thurs., May. 11
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Genesis 12:1-3
Acts 6:8-15

Fri., May. 12
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Exodus 3:1-12
Acts 7:1-16

Sat., May. 13
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Jeremiah 26:20-24
John 8:48-59

Sun., May. 14
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Mon., May. 15
Psalm 102:1-17
Exodus 13:17-22
Acts 7:17-40

Tues., May. 16
Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:5-12
Acts 7:44-56

Wed., May. 17
Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:13-18
John 8:31-38

Thurs., May. 18
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 6:5-22
Acts 27:1-12

Fri, May. 19
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 7:1-24
Acts 27:13-38

Sat., May. 20
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 8:13-19
John 14:27-29

Sun., May. 21
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Mon., May. 22
Psalm 93
Genesis 9:8-17
Acts 27:39-44

Tues., May. 23
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
1 Peter 3:8-12

Wed., May. 24
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 31:1-13
John 16:16-24

Thurs., May. 25
Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May. 26
Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-7

Sat., May. 27
Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:13-15
John 8:21-30

Sun., May. 28
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Mon., May. 29
Psalm 99
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
1 Peter 4:1-6

Tues., May. 30
Psalm 99
Numbers 16:41-50
1 Peter 4:7-11

Wed., May. 31
Psalm 99
1 Kings 8:54-65
John 3:31-36



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Wilbraham United Church Shopping Card Program

Orders with payment are due on Sundays. Please bring your orders to the Shopping Card table in the Narthex on Sunday, drop off at the church office during the week, or mail to Wilbraham United Church, 500 Main St., Wilbraham, MA 01095, Attention: Shopping Cards. Cards will be available to pick up by the following Sunday. Any questions call Connie Stiefel at 949-1057(cell). Thank you.

Apparel & Accessories			
Retailer	Cost	Qty	Total
American Eagle (10%)**	\$25		
Dick's Sporting Goods (8%)	\$25/ \$100		
Gap/Old Navy (14%)**	\$25/ \$100		
Aeropostale (7%)**	\$25		
Lands End(16%)**	\$25/ \$100		
LL Bean (16%)**	\$25/ \$100		

Department Stores			
Retailer	Cost	Qty	Total
JC Penney (5%)**	\$25/ \$100		
Kohl's(4%)(use to pay your credit card bill!) **	\$25/ \$100		
Macy's (10%)**	\$25/ \$100		

Dining			
Retailer	Cost	Qty	Total
99 Restaurant (13%)**	\$25		
Applebees (10%)**	\$25/ \$50		
Chili's/On the Border (11%)**	\$25		
Bertucci's (10%)**only	\$25		
Olive Garden (9%)**	\$25		
Outback/Carrabba's (8%)**	\$25/ \$50		
Boston Market (12%)**	\$10		
Panera(9%)**	\$10/ \$25		
Ruby Tuesday's (8%)	\$25		
Starbucks (7%)**	\$10/ \$25		
Texas Roadhouse (8%)**	\$25		
TGI Friday's (9%)**	\$25		

****call Connie 949-1057 for ScripNow! Info. Register online (enrollment code required) and get your e-cards in just a few minutes!**

Others You Found at glscrip.com			
Retailer	Cost	Qty	Total

Entertainment			
Retailer	Cost	Qty	Total
Amazon.com (3%)**	\$25 \$100		
Barnes & Noble Bookstore (9%)**	\$10/ \$25		
iTunes(5%)**	\$15 \$25		

Home Products			
Retailer	Cost	Qty	Total
Sears (4%)**	\$25 \$100		
Bed Bath & Beyond /Christmas Tree Shop (7%)**	\$25 \$100		
Crate & Barrel (8%)**	\$25 \$100		
Home Depot (4%)**	\$25/ \$100		
Home Goods/Marshalls (7%)**	\$25 \$100		
Lowe's (4%)**	\$25 \$100		
Pottery Barn/ Williams-Sonoma (8%)**	\$25 \$100		

Specialty Retailers			
Retailer	Cost	Qty	Total
Bath & Body Works (13%)**	\$10 \$25		
Best Buy (3%)**	\$25/ \$100		
CVS (6%)**	\$25/ \$100		

This Month's Featured Retailers			
Retailer	Cost	Qty	Total
Buffalo Wild Wings (8%)**	\$10/ \$25		
Athleta (14%)**	\$25 \$100		
Cabela's (11%)**	\$25/ \$100		

Big Y, Stop&Shop, Dunkin Donuts, Panera, Red Robin, Staples, Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, Shell, Subway and more available after church every Sunday

← Visit glscrip.com for a complete list of cards. Feel free to write in any you would like in the boxes to the left.

Total Due _____

Name: _____ Date you need your cards by: _____
Phone: _____ email: _____

Please make checks payable to Wilbraham United Church

For Office Use:
Check # _____ Amount: _____ Deposit date: _____ 12/16