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The Branchline

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

Wilbraham United
Church
500 Main St.
Wilbraham, MA 01095
www.WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org

*A note from
Rev. Paul*

Summer 2021



Dear Church Family:

Almost all of us have had surgery or procedures from which we had to recover and heal. Sometimes the healing process is quick while other times we find that the process is very slow or that we never really completely heal. While I have touched on physical healing, the same thing can happen on an emotional and/or spiritual level as well.

The past month or so has caused us to be able to reflect on many things from which people have had to heal. Juneteenth reminds us of the end of slavery, but that it took so long for word to spread to Texas that people were enslaved longer than necessary. We continue to see how people need to be healed through events of racial injustice. June is also Pride Month; we are made aware of the struggles of the LGBTQIA+ community as members of those communities struggle with acceptance and identity issues. Let us also remember that so many continue to suffer due to the loss of a loved one. They are in need of the healing support of prayers and friendship.

The Gospel is filled with the healing miracles of Jesus. This past Sunday, the Gospel reading from Mark told the healing power of Jesus from the woman who bled as well as the raising of Jairus' daughter. We learned that it was their faith that healed them. Oh, to have such faith as these two people! Can faith alone give spiritual healing to people? According to the Gospels it can, but often times, we need to strengthen our faith through our own relationship with God. We need the love and support of our faith community to help us along the way.

As the summer temperatures rise and fall, our relationship with God may also do the same. Hopefully, we can take some time this summer to sit on the porch, enjoy an early morning or late evening breeze, and take some time to listen to what God may be saying to us. My own prayer for all of us is that we can feel the healing presence of God to strengthen our faith in good times as well as bad.

Peace,

Paul

Rev. Paul

MAY 2021 PLEDGE INCOME & FINANCE REPORT

Annual Pledge Income Budget: \$196,000

Pledge receipts through May: \$123,649

We thank you for your gifts.

Pledge income through May is buoyed by \$63,679 of full-year pledge donations. These early payments delay our taking of budgeted income from invested funds. Amortizing for pre-paid pledges, pledge giving remains ahead of pledge budget by about \$4000. But we are about \$64,000 short of the amount required to balance the deficit budget passed at annual meeting.

The May Treasurer's Report shows ytd income exceeding expenses by about \$15,900, but payments to the UMC, UCC and Outreach recipients will need expenditures of about \$5500 in June to meet their mid-year commitments.

Through May, Invested Funds have shown a paper gain of 10.9%. We are hopeful that our conservative, value-centered investment portfolio will hold and that inflation remains relatively low. Only 0.74% gain was realized in 2020, less than inflation. WUC has not yet withdrawn from invested funds this year but had a \$29,000 carry-over from 2020.

While WUC technically qualified for a Phase 2 PPP loan, given our financial position church leadership could not certify that the church could not survive without it, so did not apply. Paperwork for the PPP loan received in 2020 was filed and WUC was notified that the loan was forgiven.

We are about to enter the season when church attendance (and giving) slows. Please help to keep our fellowship and mission active and healthy during the summer.

Again, thank you for your gifts.

Operations & Finance





Wilbraham United Church

Vacation Bible Camp 2021

Superheroes of the Bible

August 2nd-6th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



**Ages 4 (7/1/21) through just finished 5th grade
can learn about the people who were superheroes of the Bible.**

- . BIBLE STORIES**
- . ARTS AND CRAFTS**
- . COMMUNITY SERVICE
PROJECTS**
- . MUSIC**
- . SNACKS**
- . GAMES**



\$40 per child (Family cap at \$100)

**Contact Rev. Paul Nesbit, Associate Pastor,
christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org,
413-596-2511, ext. 105**



Congratulations!

On June 13th, our church awarded scholarships to:

Sara Garete and Emily Tarbell.

Sara will be a junior at Western New England University, majoring in Business Management and minoring in Human Resources. She is one of a group who are founding a club at WNEU for women majoring in Business.

Emily will be a sophomore/junior at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. Her major is Hospitality. She applied for & was accepted into a 3-year program, enabling her to graduate a year early.

Both students have excelled academically.



One of the family member's of the Howes' Memorial Scholarship has passed away, Frances Howes Paris. She grew up in our church and later lived in Maine for many years. The church has sent our condolences to her family.

Welcome to WUC

**Wilbraham United Church
would like to introduce
and welcome our newest members!
We are so happy to have you with us!**

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black and white patterned sleeveless top and black pants, stands in front of a church plaque. The plaque contains text about prayer for the church universal and various petitions for different groups of people.

Denise Habinger

A woman with dark hair, wearing a red top and a red patterned skirt, stands in front of a church plaque. She is holding a white envelope or card.

Amie Singh

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt, stands in front of a church plaque. The plaque contains text about prayer for the church universal and various petitions for different groups of people.

Linda Bregaines



Welcome to WUC



**We welcome
our Confirmands**

**Christopher Capen
Zachary Capen
Reese Jordan
Kate O'Connor**



Happy Birthday

Alice Belsky
June 9th



**Main Street
Farmer's Market
Thursdays thru
September
10 a.m.—2 p.m.
On the front lawn of
WUC!**

**We hope you can
help support our local
vendors and say hello!**

Bedtime Bible Stories



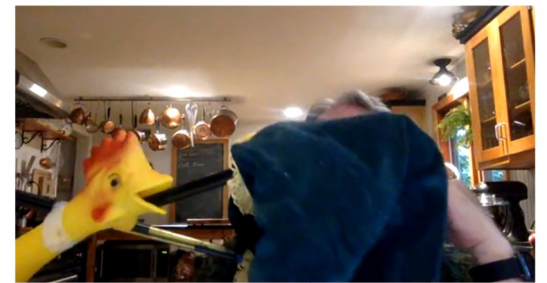
Well that's a wrap!

Thank you to Rev. Paul and Wilber for
fun, feathered fellowship!

We especially enjoyed the bagpipe Finale!

Missed it?

Tune into our Facebook page
to watch past videos!



Fellowship fun at Fountain Park

Friends of Fountain Park is once again hosting their summer concert series at Fountain Park. It's so much more fun to go to these events as a group. Fellowship committee believes this would be a great opportunity for our parish to have fun together, listen to music, be visible in our community and to support another valuable Wilbraham organization. It's also a chance to connect with old friends and make new ones both within the church and at large.

The first concert is July 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.. We would stake out a space and anyone who wants to come is welcome. Bring a picnic, chairs, blankets, bug spray and sunscreen. They do have concession stands as well. No sign up, just come. This event is open to everyone, babies to elders. The terrain is not flat—we will check on handicap accessibility.

The cost of the series is free but you have to buy a parking pass, which costs \$25 for the year. You cannot park in the street.

**Please contact :
Joyce Pierangelo, Candy Dearborn
or Patty Clements
If you have any questions.**

Hiking and Hospitality



WUC joined First Congregational Church in Sheffield on July 13th to help with a hospitality tent for hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Many thanks to Rev. Paul and Joseph Stiefel for welcoming hikers!

Outreach



Are you looking for another way to serve your church, God, and community?

Consider supporting Loaves and Fishes!

Every third Thursday of the month at 11 am volunteers from this worthwhile ministry gather to deliver dinners and desserts to the South Congregational Church in Spfld. Stuart Johnsen makes casseroles while additional volunteers make cakes and transport the food. In usual circumstances, the food is served by members of this mission to those in the community who are underserved and unhoused. Currently due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our volunteers are not serving the food.

If you are interested in baking cookies or in a larger role in Loaves and Fishes, please contact Stuart Johnsen.

Please contact Judy Hoffman if you are interested in baking or Nancy Peck to assist with transporting food. If you are interested in making a donation, please send to WUC with Loaves and Fishes on the envelope.



Judy - Email: imjrhoffman@hotmail.com,

Phone: 413-596-8353

Nancy – Phone: 413-596-6952

Worship with us! In the Sanctuary or Facebook Live

**. Sunday a.m. at
10:00 a.m.**

Assist Us!

- * **Help with our monthly drives**
- * **Purchase gift cards**
- * **Reach out to a church member by phone, email or snail mail**
- * **Loaves and Fishes**
- * **Outreach missions**
- * **Meal train**

Visit with Us!

**Pastor Chip's Office
hours:**

**Wed. and Thurs:
10 a.m. –2 p.m.**

Rev. Paul's Office hours:

Tues: 10-11 a.m. Rices's

**Wed: 10-11 a.m. Village
Store**

**Thurs: 5:30-7 p.m. at
Church**

Connect with Us!

- * **Facebook Live**
- * **Facebook updates**
- * **Branchline newsletters**
- * **WUC website**
- * **Email or phone**

Summer Adventures with Wilber!



**“Hey guys... you up for a trip to
Gnome Depot?”**



“I see tomatoes. Where’s the spaghetti?”



“I’m just another bird of paradise”



**“I call this Yoga pose...
the Downward Chicken”**



Shopping Card Updates



Currently we have Amazon, Big Y, Stop&Shop, and Walgreens. They range in denominations of \$25-\$100.

Shopping cards can also be ordered online or picked up during office hours with Pastor Chip or Rev. Paul.

Information about online ordering can be found on our website at :

<https://wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/gift-card-ministry/>

including information about the new Smart Phone App – RaiseRight to shop with Scrip.





The Thrift Shop
At Wilbraham United Church

**Our Thrift Shop
continues to be closed
and is not accepting
donations until further
notice.**

**Any updates will be
posted on the Church's
website**

**We look forward to when
we can be together again.**

Donna and Nancy

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!**

Coming up in Fall Branchline...

- . Church School updates**
- . Fall Schedules**
- . Photos of our fabulous congregation**
- . VBC photos**
- . Cute clip art**
- . And more!!!!**



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

a just world for all



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References - July 2021 (Year B)

Thurs., July 1

Psalm 48
2 Samuel 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 4:8-13

Fri., July 2

Psalm 48
2 Samuel 3:1-12
2 Corinthians 10:7-11

Sat., July 3

Psalm 48
2 Samuel 3:31-38
Matthew 8:18-22

Sun., July 4

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

Mon., July 5

Psalm 21
2 Samuel 5:1-10
2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Tues., July 6

Psalm 21
2 Samuel 5:11-16
James 5:7-12

Wed., July 7

Psalm 21
2 Samuel 5:17-25
John 7:1-9

Thurs., July 8

Psalm 24
Exodus 25:10-22
Colossians 2:1-5

Fri., July 9

Psalm 24
Exodus 37:1-16
Colossians 4:2-18

Sat., July 10

Psalm 24
Numbers 10:11-36
Luke 1:57-80

Sun., July 11

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

Mon., July 12

Psalm 68:24-35
2 Samuel 6:6-12a
Acts 21:27-39

Tues. July 13

Psalm 68:24-35
2 Samuel 3:12-16
Acts 23:12-35

Wed., July 14

Psalm 68:24-35
2 Samuel 6:16-23
Luke 7:31-35

Thurs., July 15

Psalm 89:20-37
1 Chronicles 11:15-19
Colossians 1:15-23

Fri., July 16

Psalm 89:20-37
1 Chronicles 14:1-2
Acts 17:16-31

Sat., July 17

Psalm 89:20-37
1 Chronicles 15:1-2, 16:4-13
Luke 18:35-43

Sun., July 18

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark
6:30-34, 53-56

Mon., July 19

Psalm 61
2 Samuel 7:18-29
Hebrews 13:17-25

Tues., July 20

Psalm 61
2 Samuel 8:1-18
Acts 20:17-38

Wed., July 21

Psalm 61
2 Samuel 9:1-13
Luke 15:1-7

Thurs., July 22

Psalm 14
2 Samuel 10:1-5
Colossians 1:9-14

Fri., July 23

Psalm 14
2 Samuel 10:6-12
Colossians 3:12-17

Sat., July 24

Psalm 14
2 Samuel 10:13-19
John 4:31-38

Sun., July 25

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

Mon., July 26

Psalm 37:12-22 2
Samuel 11:14-21
Philippians 4:10-20

Tues., July 27

Psalm 37:12-22 2
Samuel 11:22-27
Romans 15:22-33

Wed., July 28

Psalm 37:12-22 2
Chronicles 9:29-31
Mark 6:35-44

Thurs., July 29

Psalm 51:1-12
Exodus 32:19-26a
1 Corinthians 11:17-22

Fri., July 30

Psalm 51:1-12
Joshua 23:1-16
1 Corinthians 11:27-34

Sat., July 31

Psalm 51:1-12
Judges 6:1-10
Matthew 16:5-12



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Using the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –August 2021 (Year B)

Sun., Aug. 1

Tenth Sunday after

Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a

Psalms 51:1–12

Ephesians 4:1–16

John 6:24–35

Mon., Aug. 2

Psalms 50:16–23

2 Samuel 12:15–25

Ephesians 4:17–24

Tues., Aug. 3

Psalms 50:16–23

2 Samuel 13:1–19

1 Corinthians 12:27–31

Wed., Aug. 4

Psalms 50:16–23

2 Samuel 13:20–36

Mark 8:1–10

Thurs., Aug. 5

Psalms 130

2 Samuel 13:37–14:24

Romans 15:1–6

Fri., Aug. 6

Psalms 130

2 Samuel 14:25–33

Galatians 6:1–10

Sat., Aug. 7

Psalms 130

2 Samuel 15:1–13

Matthew 7:7–11

Sun., Aug. 8

Eleventh Sunday after

Pentecost

2 Samuel 18:5–9, 15, 31–33

Psalms 130

Ephesians 4:25–5:2

John 6:35, 41–51

Mon., Aug. 9

Psalms 57

2 Samuel 15:13–31

Ephesians 5:1–14

Tues., Aug. 10

Psalms 57

2 Samuel 18:19–33

2 Peter 3:14–18

Wed., Aug. 11

Psalms 57

2 Samuel 19:1–18

John 6:35–40

Thurs., Aug. 12

Psalms 111

1 Kings 1:1–30

Acts 6:8–15

Fri., Aug. 13

Psalms 111

1 Kings 1:28–48

Romans 16:17–20

Sat., Aug. 14

Psalms 111

1 Kings 2:1–11

John 4:7–26

Sun., Aug. 15

Twelfth Sunday after

Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14

Psalms 111

Ephesians 5:15–20

John 6:51–58

Mon., Aug. 16

Psalms 101

1 Kings 3:16–28

Acts 8:1–7

Tues., Aug. 17

Psalms 101

1 Kings 7:1–12

Acts 7:9–16

Wed., Aug. 18

Psalms 101

1 Kings 8:1–21

Mark 8:14–21

Thurs., Aug. 19

Psalms 84

1 Kings 4:20–28

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Fri., Aug. 20

Psalms 84

1 Kings 4:29–34

Romans 13:11–14

Sat., Aug. 21

Psalms 84

1 Kings 5:1–12

Luke 11:5–13

Sun., Aug. 22

Thirteenth Sunday after

Pentecost

1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10–11] 22–

30, 41–43

Psalms 84

Ephesians 6:10–20

John 6:56–69

Mon., Aug. 23

Psalms 11

1 Kings 5:13–18

Ephesians 5:21–6:9

Tues., Aug. 24

Psalms 11

1 Kings 6:1–14

Ephesians 6:21–24

Wed., Aug. 25

Psalms 11

1 Kings 6:15–18

John 15:16–25

Thurs., Aug. 26

Psalms 45:1–2, 6–9

Song of Solomon 1:1–17

James 1:1–8

Fri., Aug. 27

Psalms 45:1–2, 6–9

Song of Solomon 2:1–7

James 1:9–16

Sat., Aug. 28

Psalms 45:1–2, 6–9

Hosea 3:1–5

John 18:28–32

Sun., Aug. 29

Fourteenth Sunday after

Pentecost

Song of Solomon 2:8–13

Psalms 45:1–2, 6–9

James 1:17–27

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Mon., Aug. 30

Psalms 144:9–15

Song of Solomon 3:6–11

1 Timothy 4:6–16

Tues., Aug. 31

Psalms 144:9–15

Song of Solomon 5:2–6:3

1 Peter 2:19–25

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