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

A note from Pastor Chip

Dear Church,

It's hard to believe that it's already September again! This has been unprecedented for many of us. We have had to change and adapt, to learn new things and try new ideas. As of Homecoming Sunday, we will have been live-streaming our Sunday worship services for exactly a year and a half. While we are back worshipping in person, we have decided to continue streaming for those who cannot be present with us in the sanctuary for whatever reason. Streaming has allowed us to welcome more people who are curious about community, and strengthened the bonds between among those of us who already know about the extravagant hospitality and generous faith that we share at Wilbraham United.

As we gather to start a new year, we hope that our programs and events will feel familiar but with new energy. On Sunday mornings, we will have ushers and greeters and a liturgist, but we will not be passing the offering plate just yet. We hope that you will leave your pledge or offering in the plate provided in the narthex. Church School is back in session and in person! We ask that all children (and teachers) wear masks, just as they will in school. Nursery Care will also be available during worship.

To begin the year, the Bell Choir will be leading our music program, under Mark's direction. He is hopeful and faithful that he will be have the opportunity to direct all our choirs before he takes his leave from us in November. The search for a new Director of Music Ministries — not a replacement for Mark, which would be impossible! — is ongoing, and we look forward to bringing you more news soon. If you have any questions about the search process, please reach out to me.

Bible Study will also be returning in a few weeks. We may be offering both in-person and online discussion groups to deepen our faith and increase our understanding of our role in the unfolding of God's history. There will be other opportunities for discussion, fellowship and discipleship throughout the fall.

Lastly, we are recovering not only from the consequences the pandemic has had on our community, but the flooding we received in July. As of now, thanks partly to our insurance and mostly to generous donations from friends and members, we have paid for all the immediate repairs. We raised over \$16,000 dollars, and only had to use our own budget to cover less than \$300. Unfortunately, we learned that our furnace was rendered inoperable by the water, and we are in the process of collecting estimates. This is likely to be a significant expense, but the old furnace was nearing the end of its life-expectancy and any replacement will be far more efficient, which will be better for our financial and environmental stewardship.

I will have much more to say about this — and so much more — in the coming weeks, but I wanted everyone to know how excited I am to see you all again, how grateful I am for your faith, your support and your generosity, and how hopeful I am for our future together. May this year bring us blessings, and may we be blessings to one another, to our community and to our world, in the name of Christ and for the glory of God.

Blessings,

Chip

Dear Church Family;

This will be my last “Rehearsals Resume” notice in the Branch-Line. As my retirement from Wilbraham United Church approaches, I am filled with gratitude, memories and anticipation. Grateful for a quarter century association with a remarkable faith community; remembering the years marked by new beginnings each September, and the excitement of learning what God has in store for WUC next.

In my time here, together we built a diverse and enthusiastic Music Ministry. It’s time to take it to the next level; to explore new possibilities, to see where new leadership and fresh ideas will take us. Yes, some health issues factored into my decision and while I still consider myself functional, I fear the “next level” requirements may be more than I am able to, or desire to summon. But I’m not ready to hang up my organ shoes just yet. I will begin a new journey with a smaller area Church on Advent One. Maybe there I can do a little bit of what we did here. It was a call that surprised me, just as my call to WUC came in multiple unsuspected ways YEARS before I ever arrived here! God may be good all the time but my experience has shown me that the adjective of choice really should be, “astonishing.”

Like all of you, I really thought we’d be back to a quasi-normal state coming into September. This is not the case as new covid variants unsettle our plans.

Rehearsals Resume

Starting Thursday, September 9

7:00 PM - Bells. New comers are encouraged and welcome. We start simply.

7:45 PM – Our typical Adult Choir spot – If singing is safe, we’ll proceed; if not then I will communicate what the plan is. Stay tuned. (get it?)

Starting Sunday, September 19

6:00 PM Main Street Drumming – in the Sanctuary – New comers are welcome.

Starting September 25

Saturdays 10- 11 AM – Junior Choir. We will meet but may not necessarily sing. We can play bells, do some drumming, and play a few games. Besides, Wilber the Chicken says he misses the fellowship.

Starting sometime

Band, usually on Weds night. We could use a few more instrumentalists. Especially seeking a guitarist.

“To everything there is a season”

Blessings and Peace to All;

Mark

Church School--Fall 2021

All classes will be held in person during the church service. We all start together in the church except for Communion Sunday where the children start in their classes. Middle School will attend the whole church service on Communion Sundays.

Date	Topic/Notes	Scripture
Sunday, September 12	Welcome/Registration	Mark 8:27-38
Sunday, September 19	Who Is The Greatest? Jesus says, "Serve Others." (Donato Baptism)	Mark 9:30-37
Sunday, September 26	Share God's Love Everyone can share God's love. (Paul is preaching; Chip is away)	Mark 9:38-50
Sunday, October 3 Communion Sunday	Adam and Eve God created an amazing world, and we help care for it.	
<i>Sunday, October 10</i>	<i>No class</i> but Hurd Baptism!!	Columbus Day weekend
Sunday, October 17	James and John I am special to Jesus.	Mark 10:35-45
Sunday, October 24 (Ryan Baptism)	Bartimaeus Sees Be bold and ask Jesus for what you need. (Ryan baptism)	Mark 10:46-52
Sunday, October 31 Good-bye to Mark	A Message from God We belong to God.	Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Sunday November 7 Communion	The Widow's Offering Small things can be great big gifts.	Mark 12:38-44
Sunday, November 14	Be Ready God always works for good	Mark 12:1-8
Sunday, November 21		
<i>Sunday, November 28</i>	<i>No class—Thanksgiving Week- end</i>	First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 5 Communion	Zechariah We can be messengers for God.	Luke 1:68-79
Sunday, December 12	John the Baptist The message that Jesus is com- ing is important.	Luke 3:1-18
<i>Sunday, December 19</i>	<i>No class—all in church</i>	Christmas Pageant!!
<i>Sunday, December 26</i>	<i>No class—Christmas vacation</i>	

Looking forward to seeing you !

September is fast approaching which means an exciting new year of Church School!

The Discipleship Committee is going to be updating the classrooms, lobby, and nursery through out the next couple months.

**We will be theming each room - design ideas are below!
In addition, we are updating our church school library to include newer and relevant books (especially on themes such as kindness, friendship, peace, diversity) as well as toys for the pre-k to 1 rm.**

**If you feel so moved to help with this project,
please reach out to Aurora at aapierangelo@gmail.com.**

We would also be grateful for donations of paint/Home Depot gift cards or for items off our Church School wish list.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NEBN3K98J4OH?ref_=wl_share

**We hope to make our Church School place a fun and inviting space for our young members!
See you at Homecoming Sunday!**



WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

- CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION
- FELLOWSHIP HOUR
- INFORMATION ON
 - FAMILY MINISTRIES
 - MUSIC MINISTRIES
 - OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

INVITE A FRIEND/NEIGHBOR/FAMILY MEMBER!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

Kathie Birkhauser - 9th
Bob Law - 19th
Bill McCollough - 19th

October

Judy Hoffman - 4th
Jim Trimble - 9th
Jane Godfrey - 9th

Looking for ways to help Afghan refugees as they arrive in the US?

Here are some organizations that are involved and can use our support.

<https://religionnews.com/2021/08/25/how-to-help-afghans-arriving-in-the-u-s-after-fleeing-the-taliban/>

2021 ACTS GIANT MUM SALE

Wilbraham United will again be participating in the Action Centered Tutoring Service (ACTS) annual fall fundraising event with the sale of beautiful mums.

ACTS is beginning their 36th year of providing free after school tutoring services to Springfield's elementary school children. As we attempt to recover from the pandemic and deal with the variant, ACTS is planning to re-open our free after-school tutoring sites beginning in late September. We will be following all the safety protocols as required by the Springfield Public Schools and health officials.

**Orders will be taken at church on
Sunday September 5th and 12th.**

Orders also can be mailed to the church should you be unable to attend services. Order forms can be obtained by emailing the church office. Completed forms along with your payment should be sent to the attention of Andrea Stephenson.

Please be sure to include your telephone number and email address in case Andrea needs to contact you regarding your order. She must receive your completed form by Monday, September 13th.

Mums will be available for pick-up in the church parking lot after 10am and on Sunday, September 19th after the service.

Annual Mum Sale

to benefit ACTS
(Action Centered Tutoring Services)

*Providing free tutoring and mentoring
to the children of Springfield!*



Please make checks payable to "ACTS"

8" Pot	10" Pot	12" Pot	14" Pot
\$4 each or 3/\$10	\$10 each or 2/\$18	\$15 each or 2/\$25	\$20 each

Colors: tricolor (only 10" pot), purple, yellow, bronze and red. Please note first and second choices.

Name: _____

Phone/email: _____

Pot Size	How Many	First Color Choice	Second Color Choice
8"			
10"			
12"			
14"			

Thank you for your order!

Wilbraham United Open



**Sunday, September 19
Fenway Golf
2:00pm**

**People of all ages are invited for Miniature
Golf and Ice Cream.**

**Please contact Rev. Paul Nesbit at WUC: 413-596-2511,
ext. 105 or
christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org**

Psssst...the Patriots play the Jets—easy win. Join us!

Oktoberfest

October 16, 2021, 5:00 ~ 9:00 PM

- Delicious German Fare
 - Schweinebraten (*German Pork Roast*)
 - German-style potatoes, red cabbage.
 - Dessert
- Music provided by Sawyer Music Productions.
- Authentic Biergarten under the tent.
- Local Micro Brews by Iron Duke Brewing.
- Raffles ! Fun Prizes !
- Exceptional service and hospitality provided by Knights of Columbus Council 10195
- All proceeds to benefit the good work of the Community Survival Center.



Sponsored by Saint Cecilia Knights of Columbus

St. Cecilia Parish Center
42 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA

Tickets
\$20 / person

- Sold after each Mass starting 9/25/2021
Or
- Via e-mail
kofc10195@gmail.com

Paul Sawyer
Professional DJ, Flutist

Munich Haus
GERMAN RESTAURANT



**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!**



COLLECTION

**Wilbraham United Church
Back Parking Lot**

**Saturday, September 25, 2021
9:30am-12:00pm**

We are collecting:

**Canned Meats: chicken, hams, hash, stews, chunky
soups, etc.**

Can openers!!!!

Reusable bags!!

How does this work?

Please have the things in the trunk or hatchback.

We will take them out for you.

**We cannot accept "loose" items. Please have everything in a
bag. If you can donate a reusable bag that would be great!!**

THANK YOU!!



Looking for ways to help? Ushers, greeters and liturgists needed

Beginning Sept. 12th
We need 2 ushers, 1 greeter and 1 liturgist each week.
Please contact Kim Ryan
413-519-6335
Ryanfamily2015@outlook.com

Shopping Card Updates

Currently we have Amazon, Big Y, and Stop&Shop, 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.

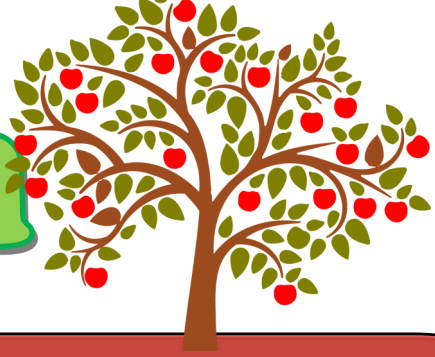
Information about online ordering can be found on our website at :

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

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



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

Thrift Shop News

The Thrift Shop is currently planning to open in early October.

Please note: Donations are currently NOT being accepted at this time.

A notice will be published on our Thrift Shop Facebook page when donations can be brought to the church.

We will also publish the grand re-opening date online as well as on our sign on the front lawn.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

See you soon!



**Donna and
Nancy**

**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
- * Join a committee
- * Liturgists, greeters and ushers are needed

Visit with Us!

**Pastor Chip's Office
hours:**

**Wed. and Thurs:
10 a.m. –2 p.m.**

**Rev. Paul's Office hours:
Tues: 3:30-5 p.m. Rices's
Thurs: 5:30-7:30 p.m. at
Church**

Connect with Us!

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

SAVE THE DATE!



Holly Fair 2021

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE OUR
BIGGEST FUNDRAISER A HUGE
SUCCESS!

GREETERS, BAKERS, CAFE HELP, LUG
NUTS, RAFFLE, SET UP, CLEAN UP,
PARKING AND MORE!

For more information, please contact Kim Ryan at:
WUChurchEvents@gmail.com



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References -September 2021 (Year B)

Wed., Sept. 1

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 8:5-7
Mark 7:9-23

Thurs., Sept. 2

Psalm 125
Proverbs 1:1-19
Romans 2:1-11

Fri., Sept. 3

Psalm 125
Proverbs 4:10-27
Romans 2:12-16

Sat., Sept. 4

Psalm 125
Proverbs 8:1-31
Matthew 15:21-31

Sun., Sept. 5

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Mon., Sept. 6

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 8:32-9:6
Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Tues., Sept. 7

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 11:1-31
Hebrews 12:3-13

Wed., Sept. 8

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 14:1-9
Matthew 17:14-21

Thurs., Sept. 9

Psalm 19
Proverbs 15:1-17
Hebrews 11:17-22

Fri., Sept. 10

Psalm 19
Proverbs 19:24-29
James 2:17-26

Sat., Sept. 11

Psalm 19
Proverbs 21:1-17
Matthew 21:23-32

Sun., Sept. 12

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19 or Wisdom 7:26-8:1
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Mon., Sept. 13

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 22:1-21
Romans 3:9-20

Tues., Sept. 14

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 25:1-28
Colossians 3:1-11

Wed., Sept. 15

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 29:1-27
John 7:25-36

Thurs., Sept. 16

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Fri., Sept. 17

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:18-33
Romans 11:25-32

Sat., Sept. 18

Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
Matthew 23:29-39

Sun., Sept. 19

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Mon., Sept. 20

Psalm 128
Proverbs 27:1-27
James 4:8-17

Tues., Sept. 21

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 4:9-16
James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 22

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
John 8:21-38

Thurs., Sept. 23

Psalm 124
Esther 1:1-21
Acts 4:13-31

Fri., Sept. 24

Psalm 124
Esther 2:1-23
Acts 12:20-25

Sat., Sept. 25

Psalm 124
Esther 3:1-15
Matthew 5:13-20

Sun., Sept. 26

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Mon., Sept. 27

Psalm 140
Esther 4:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

Tues., Sept. 28

Psalm 140
Esther 5:1-14
1 John 2:18-25

Wed., Sept. 29

Psalm 140
Esther 8:1-17
Matthew 18:6-9

Thurs., Sept. 30

Psalm 26
Job 2:11-3:26
Galatians 3:23-29

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
10 am – Worship –Sanctuary and FB Live 5 pm – AI-Anon - FH	6 pm – AI-Anon - FH		10:00 am – Office Hours with Pastor Chip 6:30 pm – AI-Anon – FH	10:am – Farmer's Market 10 am – Office Hours with Pastor Chip 10 am – VBC Registration 5:30 am – Office Hours with Rev. Paul - Church 6:30 pm – AI-Anon – FH	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 am – Worship 1 pm – WUP – FH 5 pm – AI-Anon - FH	3:30 pm – Afternoon Tea w/Rev. Paul at Rice's Farm 7 pm – WUP - FH		10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 6:30 pm AI-Anon 7:00 pm – Trustees/Deacons Meeting - Zoom	10:am – Farmer's Market 10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 5:30 am – Office Hours with Rev. Paul- Church 6:30 pm – AI-Anon – FH 7:00 pm – Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed 2:00 pm – Funeral Service	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 am – Homecoming Sunday 5 pm – AI-Anon – FH 1 pm – WUP - FH 5 pm – AI-Anon - FH	3:30 pm – Afternoon Tea w/Rev. Paul at Rice's Farm		10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 6:30 pm AI-Anon 7 pm – WUP - FH	9:20 am – Loaves and Fishes 10:00 am – Office Hours with Pastor Chip 10:00 am – Farmer's Market 5:30 pm – Office Hours w/ Rev Paul - Church 6:30 pm – AI-Anon – FH 7:00 pm – Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed ACTS – Mums – Parking Lot 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 am – Worship 12 pm – Church Without Walls 1 pm – WUP – FH 2:00 pm – Wilbraham United Open – Golf outing at Fenway 5 pm – AI-Anon – FH 6 pm – Main Street Drumming - Sanctuary	7 pm – WUP - FH	3:30 pm – Afternoon Tea w/Rev. Paul at Rice's Farm	10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 6:30 pm AI-Anon 7 pm – WUP - FH	10:00 am – Farmer's Market 10:00 am – Office Hours with Pastor Chip 5:30 pm – Office Hours w/ Rev Paul - Church 6:30 pm – AI-Anon – FH 7:00 pm – Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed 10:00 am – Junior Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10 am – Worship 1 pm – WUP – FH 5 pm – AI-Anon - FH 6 pm – Main Street Drumming - Sanctuary	7 pm – WUP - FH	3:30 pm – Afternoon Tea w/Rev. Paul at Rice's Farm	10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 6:30 pm AI-Anon 7 pm – WUP - FH	10:00 am – Farmer's Market 10:00 am – Office Hours with Pastor Chip 5:30 pm – Office Hours w/ Rev Paul - Church 6:30 pm – AI-Anon – FH 7:00 pm – Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed 10:00 am – Junior Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed



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