

Dear Church Family:

For the last 25 years, Wilbraham United Church has been blessed to have Mark Jacobson as its Director of Music Ministries. Mark has so many talents that I dare not list them all. We have all been awed by his musicianship and direction during worship services. We have all been made to laugh by his sense of humor and his perfect timing and delivery. We have all been moved by his deep faith in God and in this congregation, and his passionate expression of that faith through grateful that Mark chose to share all of that – and so much more – with us over his years of service to God and Wilbraham United Church.

Sunday, October 31, will be Mark's final Sunday at Wilbraham United Church. It will be a sad morning, in many ways, as we bid him farewell and wish him blessings on the next steps in his journey. We have loved Mark's presence and passion, his love and care, and we will miss him dearly and deeply. Yet, we will release Mark in joy and love, to follow the path that God has called him to walk. And we will celebrate the time we shared: acknowledging the great role that Mark played in our community, remembering fondly all that Mark brought to our community, holding faithfully to the lessons and blessings Mark shared with us.

I invite you to join us for worship on October 31, when we will give thanks to Mark for his service, for his friendship, for his faith and his joy and his love. Following the service, we

will have a reception and a celebration in Fellowship Hall. While there is no formal speaking program, we hope that many of you will find a way to tell Mark how much he has meant to you and to Wilbraham United Church in the coming month and especially on that day. Even better, you could write him a card, so that he can cherish it for years to come! Whether you have known Mark since his first day, or only as Wilber on Bedtime Bible Stories, he has surely made a lasting impression on you.

music and ministry and witness. And we are all For me, Mark has been a remarkable colleague and a trusted confidant. It has been a joy to partner with him to bring our worship alive, to hear his insights on philosophy and theology, and to be the recipient of his newest jokes. When I first arrived, Mark was my guide to the ins and outs, the quirks and joys of Wilbraham United. He showed me not just how things worked here, but how you loved one another and cared for one another. From his passion for this place, his love for all of you, and his deep faith in all of you, I learned not just how amazing Mark is, but how wonderful this church is. Surely, Mark helped this church become the gracious, welcoming and caring place we know. Yet, just as surely, Mark would say that you have all left your mark on him. Pun intended. That's how he would want it.

Blessings to you all,

And, to Mark, if you're still reading: Thank you, God be with you, and I love you.

Chip

Serve our God with Gladness

As I finish up year number seven, I sit in my office in the evenings (Eric True calls me "Second Shift") and hear various people and groups start to come in to our building. After 18 months of no one except for a skeleton crew, these sounds are like music to my ears.

We have been hard at work to facilitate a safe return to in-person worship and activities here in our church building. Do we wear masks, not wear masks, come indoors, stay outside, stay at home, etc. have all been questions we have asked ourselves time and again as we ready our physical church to serve the community of Wilbraham United Church as well as our community at large. Our building serves as "home" for four Al Anon groups, Wilbraham United Players, Wilbraham Community Pre-School and an ecumenical Women's Evening Fellowship. While separate entities, we embrace them and do what we can to offer Extravagant Welcome as they, too, serve the community.

Our church also serves its own members through Church Council, Trustees and Deacons, Administration, Hospitality, Fellowship, Operations and Discipleship. Members of our church community have worked hard to serve others through Vacation Bible Camp, Church School, Food Drives, Craft Fairs, Fellowship Hours and the like. We had a few hearty folks who were pretty much heroic in their service to our church during the "Great Flood of 2021" where we were blessed with less than expected damage. Plans are currently in process to bring back our Holly Fair after a year of absence as a means to serve our community. There are now and will continue to be many unsung heroes who do work behind the scenes.

Wilbraham United Church has been in existence in different forms and structures in order to serve the People of God in this town and beyond since 1763. We have been in service to spread the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ for 258 years!! The membership of this church has been honored to be of such service; there is no doubt that it will continue for the foreseeable future. That does not mean, however, that we won't experience some bumps and bruises along the way.

In the next few months, Wilbraham United Church will be asked how they can be of service in the face of change. As we continue to come out of this pandemic, we have to pray, reflect and discern together about what our church will look like and how we will continue to serve our God in gladness. For as long as I am able to serve, you can count on me as a companion/guide on this journey.

Love,

Taul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit

Associate Pastor

SEPTEMBER 2021 PLEDGE INCOME & FINANCE REPORT

Annual Pledge Income Budget: \$196,000

Pledge receipts through September: \$158,938

We thank you for your gifts.

Amortizing for pre-paid pledges, pledge giving through September has fallen behind budget by \$4,000. And we are now \$72,000 short of the amount needed to balance the budget deficit passed at annual meeting.

The invested funds have a paper gain of 8.9% through September. Like the markets, the return has been on a downward trend since a high point in June, but we are hopeful that our conservative value focused investment strategy will continue to serve us well.

Along with a \$29,000 carryover from 2020, additional withdrawals from invested funds of \$10,000 in August and \$34,000 in September were made. Most of that was to cover ongoing expenses, with \$17,000 of it used to cover the first billing for the boiler replacement.

The total boiler cost is expected to be at least \$60,000. The possibility of a loan to cover at least some of the cost is being investigated. However, the timing of billings and payments in the short term will require an additional withdrawal from invested funds. Of the amount approved at annual meeting, Joseph has calculated that only \$39,000 remains for approved withdrawals from invested funds at this time. This is not enough to cover budgeted expenses and boiler costs. An additional withdrawal for the boiler will require the approval of Church Council since it will be beyond the amount authorized at annual meeting.

Again, thank you for your gifts and continued support.

Operations & Finance

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	Taria/Natas	Conjusterno
	Topic/Notes	Scripture
Sunday, October 3 Communion Sunday	Adam and Eve God created an amazing world,	
Communion Sunday	and we help care for it.	
Sunday, October 10	No class but Hurd Baptism!!	Columbus Day weekend
Sunday, October 17	James and John	Mark 10:35-45
	I am special to Jesus.	
Sunday, October 24	Bartimaeus Sees	Mark 10:46-52
(Ryan Baptism)	Be bold and ask Jesus for what	
	you need.	
	(Ryan baptism)	
Sunday, October 31	A Message from God	Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Good-bye to Mark	We belong to God.	Detteronomy 0.1 y
Sunday November 7	The Widow's Offering	Mark 12:38-44
Communion	Small things can be great big	Wark 12.38-44
Communion	gifts.	
	9	
Sunday, November 14	Be Ready God always works for good	Mark 12:1-8
	God always works for good	
Sunday, November 21		
Sunday, November 28	No class—Thanksgiving Week-	First Sunday of Advent
	end	
Sunday, December 5	Zechariah	Luke 1:68-79
Communion	We can be messengers for	
	God.	
Sunday, December 12	John the Baptist	Luke 3:1-18
	The message that Jesus is com- ing is important.	
Sunday, December 19	No class—all in church	Christmas Pageant!!
Sunday, December 26	No class—Christmas vacation	

×



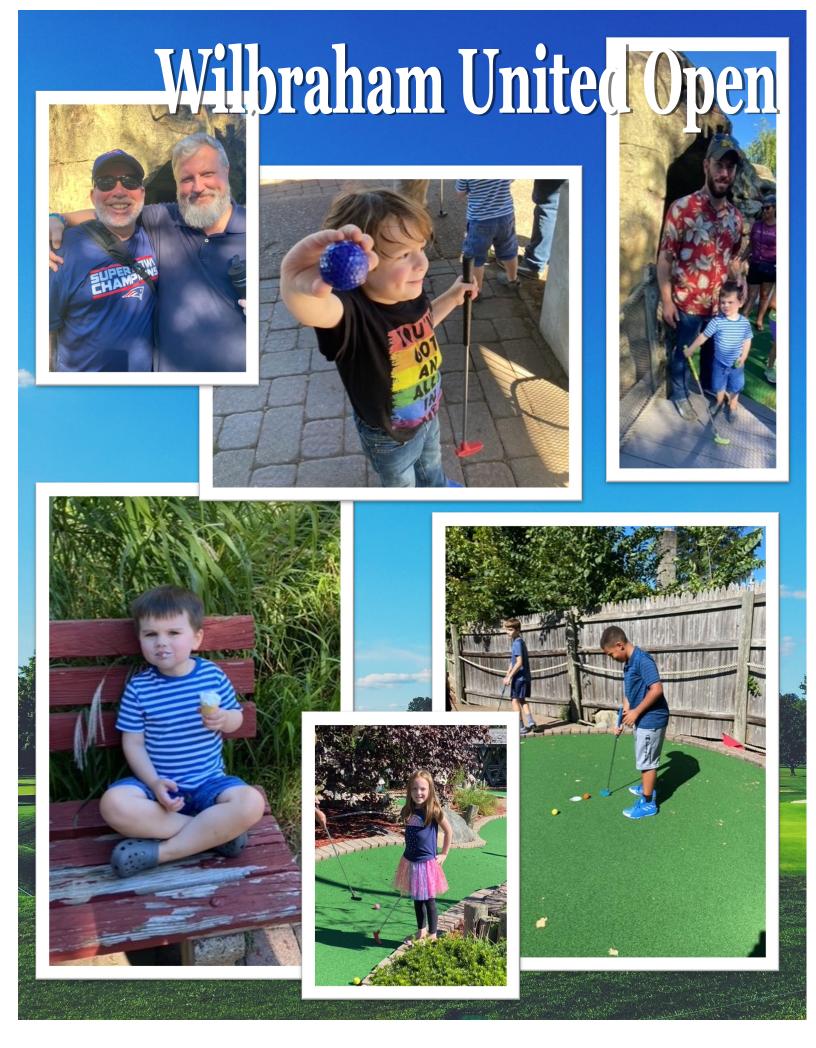
Many thanks to everyone who has and continues to help with Discipleship's mission to begin updating our classrooms, lobby, and nursery through out the next couple months. We are updating our church school library to include newer and relevant books (especially on themes such as kindness, friendship, 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.

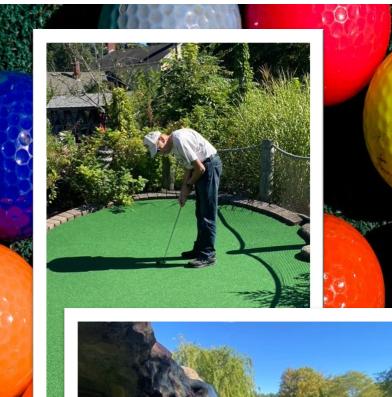


We would also be grateful for donations of Home Depot gift cards or for items off our Church School wish list.

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















Fun, Families and Fellowship at Fenway Golf! Ok... and ice cream too!

October

Happy Birthday!

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

Do you love Shopping and are looking for ways to help WUC?

Well... we have the perfect idea for you!

Gift Cards!! You can conveniently pick them up during office hours or right after Church!



Currently we have:

Stop&Shop: \$25-\$100 Big Y: \$50-\$100 Amazon: \$25 and \$100







Thank you to everyone who supported this year's ACTS Mum Sale.

We were able to assist the ACTS Tutoring Center with over \$500!

Thrift Store Updates

The Thrift Sho

It has been determined that it is not feasible to open the Thrift Shop at this time.

With that in mind, we have made the decision to postpone the opening until at least next year. We will reassess the health situation and make a decision based on the current information available at that time.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept any donations.

Thank you for your continued support.

Donna and Nancy

With Sympathy

We remember our longtime members who have recently passed. We hold them and their families in our hearts and prayers.

Maxine Babbie She is survived by her husband Don and children and grandchildren.

Richard Labine He is survived by his wife Catherine and loving family. Worship with us! In the Sanctuary or Facebook Live

. Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Visit with Us!

Pastor Chip's Office hours: Wed. and Thurs: 10 a.m. –2 p.m.

Rev. Paul's Office hours at Church Tues: 3:30-5 p.m. Thurs: 5:30-7:30 p.m. * please check our weekly email for the most updated schedules!

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

Connect with Us!

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

Please Join us for a Drive-by



Saturday, October 30, 2021 Wilbraham United Church 1:00-3:00 p.m.

- We are collecting non-perishable food items as well!
- Everyone is welcome!
- Facemasks and/or social distancing required for participation.
- We will have *some* nut-free treats.
- All trick or treaters will stay in the car until the...
- Free photo op at the end of the drive-thru. (This is when you can get out of the car!) We will email you the photo!!
- Please contact Rev. Paul or Shelly Capen at <u>christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org</u> if you have questions.





Thank you!

To all who volunteered and donated to our canned food drive event on Sat. Sept. 25th. All proceeds will benefit the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.









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!

THE WILBRAHAM UNITED PLAYERS ARE BACK!!!



The Wilbraham United Players' are Proud to Announce an Upcoming Production of Music Theatre International's

All Together Now !: A Global Event Celebrating Local Theatre

Performances to take place at Wilbraham United Church Fellowship Hall Stage November 12 & 13 at 7:30pm and November 14 at 2:30pm

A fantastic selection of songs are featured in this brand new musical revue from shows including Newsies, Les Misérables, Into the Woods, Waitress, Hairspray, Guys and Dolls, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Sister Act, Fiddler on the Roof, James and the Giant Peach, and many more!

The Wilbraham United Players will be joining thousands of theatrical organizations around the globe by producing our own local production of Music Theatre International's *All Together Now!*: A Global Event Celebrating Local Theatre.

> Directed by Deb Trimble Choreography by Dina Lynn Del Buono Music Direction by Benjamin Kaine Maniscalchi

The Wilbraham United Players are incredibly excited to celebrate the return of live theatre with performances of MTI's *All Together Now!* The revue features songs from the world's most iconic musicals, so there is definitely something for everyone to enjoy. The past year has been a challenging time for everyone, particularly arts organizations. We look forward to welcoming our patrons back with this truly wonderful revue.

For tickets or more information please visit www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org



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 -October 2021 (Year B)

Fri., Oct. 1 Psalm 26 Job 4:1-21 Romans 8:1-11

Sat., Oct. 2 Psalm 26 Job 7:1-21 Luke 16:14-18

Sun., Oct. 3 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16

Mon., Oct. 4 Psalm 55:1-15 Job 8:1-22 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Tues., Oct. 5 Psalm 55:1-15 Job 11:1-20 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Wed., Oct. 6 Psalm 55:1-15 Job 15:1-35 Matthew 5:27-36

Thurs., Oct. 7 Psalm 22:1-15 Job 17:1-16 Hebrews 3:7-19

Fri., Oct. 8 Psalm 22:1-15 Job 18:1-21 Hebrews 4:1-11

Sat., Oct. 9 Psalm 22:1-15 Job 20:1-29 Matthew 15:1-9

Sun., Oct. 10 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31 **Mon., Oct. 11** Psalm 39 Job 26:1-14 Revelation 7:9-17

Tues., Oct. 12 Psalm 39 Job 28:12-29:10 Revelation 8:1-5

Wed. Oct. 13 Psalm 39 Job 32:1-22 Luke 16:19-31

Thurs., Oct. 14 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 36:1-16 Romans 15:7-13

Fri., Oct. 15 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 37:1-24 Revelation 17:1-18

Sat., Oct. 16 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 39:1-30 Luke 22:24-30

Sun., Oct. 17 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Job 38:1-7 [34-41] Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

Mon., Oct. 18 Psalm 75 Job 40:1-24 Hebrews 6:1-12

Tues., Oct. 19 Psalm 75 Job 41:1-11 Hebrews 6:13-20

Wed., Oct. 20 Psalm 75 Job 41:12-34 John 13:1-17

Thurs., Oct. 21 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] 2 Kings 20:12-19 Hebrews 7:1-10 Fri., Oct. 22 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] Nehemiah 1:1-11 Hebrews 7:11-22

Sat., Oct. 23 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] Job 42:7-9 Mark 8:22-26

Sun., Oct. 24 *Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost* Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52

Mon., Oct. 25 Psalm 28 Isaiah 59:9-19 1 Peter 2:1-10

Tues., Oct. 26 Psalm 28 Ezekiel 18:1-32 Acts 9:32-35

Wed., Oct. 27 Psalm 28 Ezekiel 14:12-23 Matthew 20:29-34

Thurs., Oct. 28 Psalm 146 Ruth 1:18-2 Hebrews 9:1-12

Fri., Oct. 29 Psalm 146 Ruth 2:1-9 Romans 3:21-31

Sat., Oct. 30 Psalm 146 Ruth 2:10-14 Luke 10:25-37

Sun., Oct. 31 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34

Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings, copyright © 2005 Consultation on Common Texts. <u>commontexts.org.</u> Used by permission. This resource may be reproduced by congregations for their own worship and educational activities. Provided by the Southern New England Conference, UCC

2
Ö
Ē
2
$\overline{\mathbf{O}}$
0
σ
Φ
÷
_
5
2
E
g
~
g
5
2
-
2
~

October 2021

Sundav	Mondav	Tuesdav	Wednesdav	Thursday	Fridav	Saturdav
26	27	28	29	30	-	2
10 am – Worship –Sanctuary and FB Live 1 pm – WUP - FH 5 pm – Al-Anon – FH 6 pm – Drumming - Sanctuary	6:30 pm – Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – WUP - FH	3:30 pm – Afternoon Tea w/ Rev Paul at Rice's Farm	6:30 pm - Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm - WUP-FH	10 am – Farmer's Market 5:30 am – Office Hours with Rev. Paul -Church 6:30 pm – Al-Anon – FH 7 pm – Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed 10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed 10 am – Junior Choir
3	4	5	9	7	8	6
10 am - Worship -Sanctuary and FB Live 11:30 - Blessing of the Animals 1 pm - WUP - FH 5 pm - Al-Anon - FH 6 pm - Drumming - Sanctuary	6:30 pm – Al-Anon - ZR 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 Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – WUP - FH	10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 5:30 am – Office Hours with Rev. Paul-Church 6:30 pm – Al-Anon – FH 7:00 pm – Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop - Closed	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 am – Worship –Sanctuary and FB Live 1 pm – WUP – FH 5 pm – Al-Anon - FH	6:30 pm – Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – WUP - FH	3:30 pm – Office Hours w/Rev. Paul at Church	10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 6:30 pm Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – Church Council - Zoom 7 pm – WUP - FH	10:00 am - Office Hours with Pastor Chip 6:30 pm - Al-Anon - FH 7:00 pm - Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop Closed	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed 10 am – Memorial Service – Sanctuary and FH
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am – Worship –Sanctuary and FB Live 12 pm – Church without Walls 1 pm – WUP – FH 5 pm – Al-Anon - FH	6:30 pm – Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – WUP - FH	3:30 pm – Office Hours w/Rev. Paul at Church	10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 6:30 pm Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – WUP - FH	9:20 am – Loaves and Fishes 10:00 am – Office Hours with Pastor Chip 5:30 pm – Office Hours w/ Rev Paul - Church 6:30 pm – Al-Anon – FH 7:00 pm – Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop - Closed	9 am – WUP – FH 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am – Worship –Sanctuary and FB Live 5 pm – Al-Anon - FH	6:30 pm – Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – WUP - FH	3:30 pm - Office Hours w/Rev. Paul at Church	10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 6:30 pm Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – WUP - FH	10:00 am - Office Hours with Pastor Chip 5:30 pm - Office Hours w/ Rev Paul - Church 6:30 pm - Al-Anon - FH 7:00 pm - Bell Choir	9:30 am - Thrift Shop - Closed	9 am – WUP – FH 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed 1 pm – Trunk or Treat – Parking Lot
31	-	2	3	4	5	9
10 am – Worship –Sanctuary and FB Live 2 pm – WUP – FH 5 pm – Al-Anon – FH	6:30 pm – Al-Anon - ZR 7 pm – WUP - FH	3:30 pm – Office Hours w/Rev. Paul at Church 5 pm – WUP – FH	10:00 am – Office hours w/ Pastor Chip 6:30 pm Al-Anon 7 pm – WUP - FH	10:00 am – Office Hours with Pastor Chip 5 pm – WUP – FH 5:30 pm – Office Hours w/ Rev Paul - Church 6:30 pm – Al-Anon – FH	WUP – FH 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	9 am – WUP - FH 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed



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

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

Mark Jacobson, Director of Music Ministries markjacobson104@gmail.com Ext. 106

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