



The Branchline

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

July/August 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....



"All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware"

Martin Bubar

Dear People of Wilbraham United,

It is my sincere pleasure to be your Interim Pastor and I cannot thank you enough for your warm welcome, for cakes and flowers, and for your presence. I was deeply touched by your kindness to me and my family. I am looking forward to serving you and walking with you on your Christian journey.

I know that summer tends to be a slower, quieter time for a lot of churches, but I have been delighted to see all the things that are taking place in these quieter, slower months; VBC, Loaves and Fishes, the Farmers Market, worship.... I know that it is a preview of things to come.

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From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

Even though we are still in the grip of summer, we know that September is right around the corner. Thus preparing for a spiritually rich church season is something to look forward. I know that we love the summer, and all that summer provides, but still, I am excited about the fall. I am excited about welcoming people back to the church who have been away, getting to know the congregation and perhaps welcoming new people in. I look forward to the choirs returning, to Bible study, Confirmation and other wonderful events. I look forward to partaking in all the wonderful happenings that the church season has to offer.

As we, as a community of faith moves towards the future, let us be ever mindful that our future lies with God and Christ. The Divine is our reason and purpose, our shield and fortress. And I fervently believe that as long as we stay close to the One who made us, we will rise to the challenges that we know will be placed in our path, and we will triumph.

Summer Blessings

Rev Janet



COFFEE HOUR UPDATE

Our Hospitality Team is now scheduling our Fellowship Hour Teams for Sept. through Dec. If you can either join a team, or collaborate with friends or family to create a new team please let Edna know (ednajcolcord@gmail or 596-6666). If you aren't able to join a team, but are willing to help out on any given Sunday, Edna is happy to assign you to a team or a Sunday with others who are available! Coffee preparation is easy, and snacks do not need to be complicated. See Edna for more information.

The September Branchline Deadline is August 25th. Please submit items of note to

admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org





Greetings from the Music Room

Greetings everyone, during these in between months – between Celebration Sunday and Homecoming Sunday. It's not that activity ceases – far from that. Soon following the Arts & Crafts Festival we welcomed our interim minister, Rev Janet. We're all glad for her ideas as plans are in the making. Preparations are being made for the upcoming VBC week; we're reviewing events from past weeks; enjoying the Farmer's Market; choir picnic; and are looking ahead to the next year of programming. We are centered on ways to best serve this community of faith with the love and direction we've been shown in the teachings of Jesus.

I enjoy conversations with people sharing their thoughts about the music being offered here at WUC – what's liked and also what might not be as favored. Music during the choirs' hiatus is differently structured as it changes from week to week. I like the variety of sounds that are happening and also rehearsing with partners for upcoming Summer Sundays.

I'm currently working on what our choirs will be doing for the months ahead, including the Advent and Christmas seasons. It's one of my favorite parts of the job. What's not to like about exploring new and formerly used anthems?! It's a little like putting a jigsaw puzzle together.

Hope summer is being a wonderful time for all of you. Our weather has been a sort of roller coaster – and we're hanging on for the ride.

Blessings and Peace,

Bobbie



Some of the members of our Handbell Choir attended the Handbell Musicians of America Area 1 Festival Conference held at Worcester State University from June 23-25. Our Choir for the last several years has joined with bell friends from the Easthampton Church and members pictured here are from both choirs.

The weekend is an intense time of handbell ringing in classes and rehearsals as well as attending and playing in several concerts!

As you can see from the picture above we have a LOT of Fun!

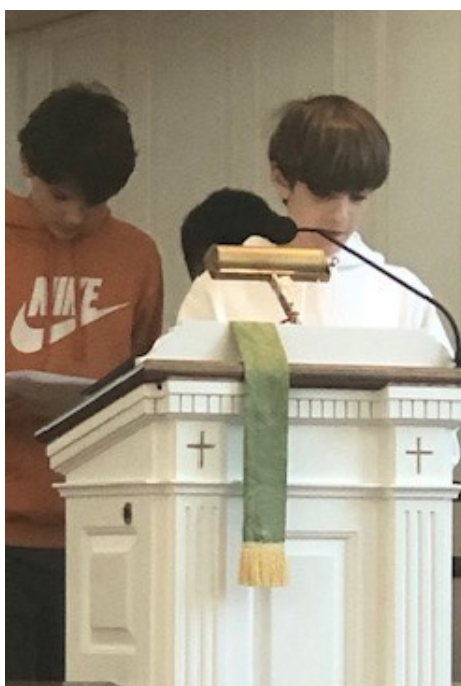
We were very grateful to see Ed and Janet McCorkindale in the audience supporting us!

Many of us are looking forward to next summer when the National Conference will be held in Hartford! It will be our first time attending Nationals so it's very exciting to have it located locally!



Celebration Sunday

On June 11th we celebrated the end of our Program Year honoring our Church School Teachers and other volunteers who served the church. Scholarships were awarded, “Mr. Rick” was recognized for his hard work for the church building and our Junior Choir members (past and present) sang together. Worship was followed by a brief Annual Meeting and then an all-church cookout!







Scholarship recipients Zachary Capen, Aleena Wilkinson and Reese Jordan. Zachary will enter his sophomore year at the University of Rhode Island, majoring in Supply Chain Management.

Reese will be a freshman at Westfield State University, and major in Nursing. Aleena will begin her college years at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and study Marine Biology.

We are grateful for the families who established scholarships in the names of their loved ones: the Byams, Cohns, Dinnies, Flathers, Fountains, Greens, Howes, Neelans and Vieiras.



HAPPY
Birthday!
—TO YOU—

Tom Toman - July 18

Reminder

There are many Sundays available to sign up
for Altar Flowers

&

Shopping Cards are available and make great
graduation gifts!

Save Our Steeple!



The iconic steeple
which sits high
above Main Street
is in need of costly
repairs.

How to donate:

Cash

Check



Current donation
total

\$11091.58

WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org

From all of us at Wilbraham United Church,
we thank you for your generosity!

Part Two of the Steeple Project
has begun! The painters re-
turned on July 25th to continue
with the steeple painting below
the spire. Donations continue to
trickle in and we are most grate-
ful to all of those who generously
contributed to the Save Our Stee-
ple Fund.



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – August 2023 (Year A)

Tues., Aug. 1

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 30:37-43
Ephesians 6:10-18

Wed., Aug. 2

Psalm 65:8-13
Genesis 46:2–47:12
Mark 4:30-34

Thurs., Aug. 3

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 14:1-2
Philippians 4:10-15

Fri., Aug. 4

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 41:8-10
Romans 9:6-13

Sat., Aug. 5

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 31:1-21
Matthew 7:7-11

Sun., Aug. 6

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Mon., Aug. 7

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 31:22-42
Romans 1:8-15

Tues., Aug. 8

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Genesis 32:3-21
Acts 2:37-47

Wed., Aug. 9

Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 43:1-7
Matthew 15:32-39

Thurs., Aug. 10

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 35:22b-29
Acts 17:10-15

Fri., Aug. 11

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 36:1-8
Acts 18:24-28

Sat., Aug. 12

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Genesis 37:5-11
Matthew 16:1-4

Sun., Aug. 13

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Mon., Aug. 14

Psalm 28
Genesis 37:29-36
2 Peter 2:4-10

Tues., Aug. 15

Psalm 28
Genesis 39:1-23
Romans 9:14-29

Wed., Aug. 16

Psalm 28
Genesis 40:1-23
Matthew 8:23-27

Thurs., Aug. 17

Psalm 133
Genesis 41:14-36
Revelation 15:1-4

Fri., Aug. 18

Psalm 133
Genesis 41:37-57
Acts 14:19-28

Sat., Aug. 19

Psalm 133
Genesis 42:1-28
Matthew 14:34-36

Sun., Aug. 20

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Mon., Aug. 21

Psalm 130
Genesis 43:1-34
Acts 15:1-21

Tues., Aug. 22

Psalm 130
Genesis 44:1-34
Romans 11:13-29

Wed., Aug. 23

Psalm 130
Genesis 45:16-28
Matthew 8:1-13

Thurs., Aug. 24

Psalm 124
Genesis 49:1-33
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Fri., Aug. 25

Psalm 124
Genesis 49:29–50:14
2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Sat., Aug. 26

Psalm 124
Genesis 50:15-26
Matthew 16:5-12

Sun., Aug. 27

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 1:8–2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Mon., Aug. 28

Psalm 8
Exodus 1:1-7
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Aug. 29

Psalm 8
Exodus 2:11-15a
Romans 11:33-36

Wed., Aug. 30

Psalm 8
Exodus 2:15b-22
Matthew 26:6-13

Thurs., Aug. 31

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 2:23-24
Ephesians 5:1-6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>30</div> <div>9am • Worship</div> <div>10am • Fellowship</div> <div>5pm • AI- Anon -YR</div>	<div>31</div> <div>VBC</div> <div>7pm • Preschool Task</div>		<div>1</div> <div>2pm • Farmers market</div>	<div>2</div> <div>11am • Staff Meeting</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5</div>
<div>6</div> <div>9am • Worship</div> <div>10am • Fellowship</div> <div>5pm • AI- Anon -YR</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10am • Piece Makers</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>2pm • Farmers market</div> <div>7pm • Deacons Meeting-</div>	<div>10</div> <div>11am • Staff Meeting</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div> <div>9am • Worship</div> <div>10am • Fellowship</div> <div>5pm • AI- Anon -YR</div>	<div>14</div> <div>10am • Piece Makers</div> <div>6:30pm • Bell Quartet</div>	<div>15</div> <div>6:30am • Loaves and</div>	<div>16</div> <div>2pm • Farmers market</div> <div>6:30pm • Bell Quartet</div> <div>7pm • Discipleship</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9:20am • Loaves and</div> <div>11am • Staff Meeting</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>20</div> <div>9am • Worship</div> <div>10am • Fellowship</div> <div>12pm • Church Without</div> <div>5pm • AI- Anon -YR</div>	<div>21</div> <div>10am • Piece Makers</div> <div>7pm • Church Council</div>	<div>22</div> <div>6:30pm • Bell Quartet</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Possible Bell</div> <div>2pm • Farmers market</div> <div>6:30pm • Bell Quartet</div>	<div>24</div> <div>11am • Staff Meeting</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Possible bell</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div> <div>9am • Worship</div> <div>10am • Fellowship</div> <div>5pm • AI- Anon -YR</div>	<div>28</div> <div>10am • Piece Makers</div>	<div>29</div> <div>7pm • Autism Support</div>	<div>30</div> <div>2pm • Farmers market</div> <div>6:30pm • Trustees (ZR)</div>	<div>31</div> <div>11am • Staff Meeting</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>