



The Branchline

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

September 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....



"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing." Hebrews 13:1

Welcome to September! Welcome to a new church season,

The church will soon be in full swing, beginning with our Homecoming Sunday, and I believe that abundance and blessings do abound here at Wilbraham United Church. I know that this community has wonderful events, services, good purpose, and many wonderful things happening. There is much to look forward to as we propel ourselves into fall and strive to discern what God wants of us.

As people of faith, we know that God moves in mysterious ways. We know that there exists a Divine plan before and around us, moving and working, and yes at times, shaking things up, sometimes a little, sometimes A LOT. But our faith tells us that God does indeed have a powerful plan for us, and we are drawn together, with hope, to better understand that plan.

To Quote Job who, was bold enough to demand answers from God, and who ultimately admitted his lack of understanding, said:

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

"I know that you can do all things, and no purpose of yours can be thwarted....Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

Indeed, it is true that we don't always see immediate results from our prayers and supplications. We know that the world doesn't always move in ways that we would like, but that does not mean that God, well, ISN'T, and not loving us all the more. Let us never be oblivious to the fact that God also work's in the world through us, in the works that we do, in the love that we give, in the goodness that we exemplify.

This is why church is so important and why it is so important that we grow together as a strong, vibrant community of faith.

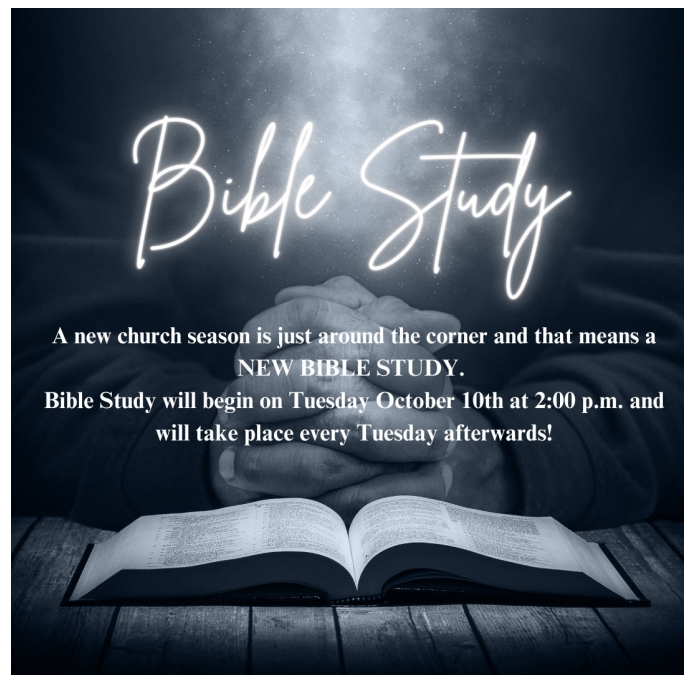
Jesus said:

"I can do nothing on my own...because I seek to do not my own will but the will of Him who sent me"

Let us rejoice in a wonderful church season and remember to do God's work, for we are God's people.

September Blessings,

Rev Janet



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

admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org





Hello! from the Music Room

There's an old saying about travelers who've been out on the road a while. When they arrive home, their souls are still out on the path. That's how it feels sitting here at the far edge of summer. We're flying smack into September, but our souls are stuck somewhere between June and July. Eventually we'll all show up, but surely, there's some longing for summer that still hangs on in most of us.

But I hope (trust) that choir members are looking forward to rebooting for rehearsals beginning September 7 so we can prepare for Homecoming Sunday, the 10th. If you have thoughts about participating in one of the choirs, this is a great time to do so. Any time is fine, but there's no catching up when you get in at the beginning of a new season.

Some Thank You(s): First of all to Kathy and Tim who put together a lovely Sunday afternoon Choir(s)/ Church picnic for us in early July. (It poured rain and stormed on our way home – no GPS – we got lost, but turned around and finally found our way....) Thanks also to the member and guest participants who have supplied special music this summer: Bell and Voice Choir members who gathered for Rev. Janet's first Sunday; Ben and Marcia who were guest organists while I was away; Patti with two vocal solos; the VBC Quintet (with congregation); Audrey, Candy, Deb, Karen and Patti with Bell Quartets organized by Deb; and finally three hymn sings. A great variety – this participation is highly appreciated by all of us.

So..... even though some (or many) of us are hanging out in June and July, let's show up and get going – greeting each other and enjoy making music for the glory of God.

Soli Deo Gloria – See you in church!!

Bobbie

On August 25th members of the Bell Choir spent the day taking apart all of the handbells, washing, polishing, and having them “tuned” by a representative of the manufacturer. We also invited the Bell Choir from the Easthampton Church, members of which are our “bell buddies”! Both groups’ bells look shiny and new and ring so much better. Let us know if you can tell the difference!





VBC
2023





Save Our Steeple!



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



Cash

Check

How to donate:



Current donation
total

\$11691.58

WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org

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

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH MINI-GOLF & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 2:00 P.M.
FENWAY GOLF, 112 ALLEN ST, EAST LONGMEADOW, MA**

JOIN US

FREE



SAVE THE DATE!

Oct. 29 - Trunk or Treat from 1-3

Nov. 18 - Charlie Brown Thanksgiving 4:30 - 6:30





Karen Gatchell will be starting up Knit, Stitch, Pray Most meetings will be held on the second Saturday of the month from 10-12. The dates and times are subject to change and are being hosted at Karen's home: 15 Raymond Drive, Wilbraham. All are welcome. No experience is necessary.

"What we have in common is a desire to make things for others, whether it be a prayer shawl (I can teach you to knit one and give you needles and yarn!), a quilt, a sweater, a hat, or any other project that needs some hand work. Please invite a friend, even one who doesn't have any project in mind but would like some company. We talk about life and share each other's experiences, joys, and concerns."

Also on October 8 from 1-6, Karen is sponsoring Pillowcases for Children.

"This event is in memory of my daughter, Ellen Gourlay who died 10 years ago. She made pillowcases and quilts for family and friends. I would like to give back to the community with your help by making pillowcases for Shriners Hospital for Children, Ronald McDonald House, Open Pantry Homeless Shelter, and Springfield Rescue Mission. While most of the pillowcases I make are for children I have given to men and women in need also. I am surrounded by a loving community of quilters who have been very generous with their fabric donations and their time in the past. I will have kits prepared to make pillowcases. Again, no experience is necessary. If you want to come along and have a chat you are welcome."

To contact Karen directly about these events: gatchell@charter.net or 413-237-1598

Here are the dates for Knit, Stitch, Pray:

2023

September 9, 10-12

October 14, 10-12

November 4, 10-12

December 9, 10-12

2024

January 6, 10-12 (note this is the 1st Saturday)

February 10, 10-12

March 9, 10-12

April 13, 10-12

May 11, 10-12

June 8, 10-12

July 13, 10-12

August 10, 10-12

September 14, 10-12

October 12, 10-12

November 9, 10-12

December 14, 10-12

Thank you to all who have supported the **Shopping Card Program** to help support WUC. In an effort to increase our fundraising via the Shopping Cards, we will be initiating a monthly “pre-order” opportunity. You will be able to pre-order just about any shopping card you are interested in during the first 2 weeks of the month. At the end of the month, you can pick up your shopping cards at church or in the church office. There is a link to the complete list of shopping cards as well as the order form on our website. You can stop at the shopping card table if you’d like more information, or to pick up an order form.

Ordering Form Shopping Cards

Card	%	\$ Amt	Qty
Applebees	8%		
Barnes & Nobles	8%		
Buffalo Wild Wings	8%		
Chili's	11%		
Cracker Barrel	8%		
Dicks Sporting Goods	8%		
DSW	8%		
Gap	14%		
Harry & David	12%		
Lands End	15%		
Legal Sea Food	13%		
LL Bean	16%		
Longhorn Steakhouse	8%		

Card	%	\$ Amt	Qty
Ninety Nine	13%		
Old Navy	14%		
Olive Garden	8%		
On the Border	11%		
Outback Steakhouse	10%		
Panera	8%		
Sally's Beauty	12%		
Talbots	13%		
Texas Roadhouse	8%		
The Children's Place	12%		
UNOs	12%		

Write In Card Name		\$ Amt	Qty
Target		\$50	2

Write In Card Name		\$ Amt	Qty
Total Amount Due:			

Print Name

Tel. #

Payment \$

(cash or check)

A list of other cards available can be found at <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>



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

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – September 2023 (Year A)

Fri., Sept. 1

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 3:16-25
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Sat., Sept. 2

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Exodus 4:1-9
Matthew 8:14-17

Sun., Sept. 3

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Mon., Sept. 4

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 4:10-31
Revelation 3:1-6

Tues., Sept. 5

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 5:1-6:13
Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Sept. 6

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 7:14-25
Matthew 12:22-32

Thurs., Sept. 7

Psalm 149
Exodus 9:1-7
2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Fri., Sept. 8

Psalm 149
Exodus 10:21-29
Romans 10:15b-21

Sat., Sept. 9

Psalm 149
Exodus 11:1-10
Matthew 23:29-36

Sun., Sept. 10

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Mon., Sept. 11

Psalm 121
Exodus 12:14-28
1 Peter 2:11-17

Tues., Sept. 12

Psalm 121
Exodus 12:29-42
Romans 13:1-7

Wed., Sept. 13

Psalm 114
Exodus 13:1-10
Matthew 21:18-22

Thurs., Sept. 14

Psalm 114
Exodus 13:17-22
1 John 3:11-16

Fri., Sept. 15

Psalm 114
Exodus 14:1-18
Acts 7:9-16

Sat., Sept. 16

Psalm 114
Exodus 15:19-21
Matthew 6:7-15

Sun., Sept. 17

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Mon., Sept. 18

Psalm 77
Joshua 3:1-17
Hebrews 11:23-29

Tues., Sept. 19

Psalm 77
Nehemiah 9:9-15
Romans 14:13-15:2

Wed., Sept. 20

Psalm 77
2 Kings 2:1-18
Mark 11:20-25

Thurs., Sept. 21

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 15:22-27
2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Fri., Sept. 22

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:1-21
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Sat., Sept. 23

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Exodus 16:22-30
Matthew 19:23-30

Sun., Sept. 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Mon., Sept. 25

Psalm 119:97-104
Exodus 16:31-35
Romans 16:1-16

Tues., Sept. 26

Psalm 119:97-104
Numbers 11:1-9
Romans 16:17-20

Wed., Sept. 27

Psalm 119:97-104
Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32
Matthew 18:1-5

Thurs., Sept. 28

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Isaiah 48:17-21
James 4:11-16

Fri., Sept. 29

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 20:1-13
Acts 13:32-41

Sat., Sept. 30

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Numbers 27:12-14
Mark 11:27-33

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	28 10am - Piece Makers	29 7pm - Autism Support	30 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Farmers market 7pm - Discipleship (ZR)	31 11am - Staff Meeting	1	2
3 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	4 LABORDAY	5 7pm - WUP (FH)	6 7pm - Phys Ops 7pm - WUP (FH)	7 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	8	9
10 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	11 10am - Piece Makers 6pm - Girl Scouts (Mutti) 7pm - WUP (FH)	12 7pm - WUP (FH)	13 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 5pm - Meeting with WCP 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	14 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	15 6am - ACTS Mum Sale	16
17 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - Church Without 1pm - WUP (FH) 2pm - Fenway Golf 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	18 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - Church Council 7pm - WUP (FH)	19 6:30am - Loaves and 7pm - WUP (FH)	20 10am - Call to Care (Lib) 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Discipleship 7pm - WUP (FH)	21 9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	22	23
24 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	25 10am - Piece Makers 5:15pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	26 7pm - Autism Support 7pm - WUP (FH)	27 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	28 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	29	30