



The Branchline

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

November 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....



"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive: and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."

Maya Angelou

Welcome to November!

This is a great month, for November is a gateway to many wonderful and necessary things: the bounty of the harvest, the blessings of family, friends and neighbors, the gathering joy of Thanksgiving, the beginning of the Advent season.... And yes, stewardship. So many really important things can be found in this month of November. After all, November is a time when we place a lot of our attention on God's good gifts and we uplift to him what we have to be grateful for. And in our thanksgiving, let us not forget to offer up our gratitude for the care and support of this community of faith, for from this church many good things happen and many blessings do flow.

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From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

The church is an important place, teeming with activity, alive with the Spirit, filled with people who desire a deeper connection with the One who made us. Church is a nurturing place and a sanctuary for those who seek to grow in faith and walk in the ways of Christ. The church is vitally important! We need the church and we need to support the church so that it may continue, for how many places are there where we can gather together in the light of Christ and share our worries as well as our joys? How many places are there where we can come with our uncertainties, our troubles, our sorrows, and know that through pray, we have invited answers? How many sacred spaces do we know where we are surrounded by a community of people who care about what happens to us?

Church is the answer and church is the place! It cannot survive without good stewards like you! And we don't want to just survive, we want to thrive as a community of faith: serving God, modeling Christ and sharing our passion, our laughter, our compassion with one another.

So, you see, the church is without measure. It must continue, but it can't without the care and support of people. Thus, we must be good stewards of the church, for where would we be without it.

November Blessings,

Rev Janet

The December Branchline Deadline is November 22nd. Please submit items of note to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN!

HOLLY FAIR!

December 9th!

Help Wanted:

Volunteer Coordination
Santa Photo "Supervisor" OR Wrapping Station

Please contact Kim Ryan
WUChurchEvents@gmail.com

The poster for the Holly Fair features a festive design with several green Christmas trees of varying sizes, some decorated with red and white ornaments. Snowflakes are scattered throughout the design, and the background is a light, textured blue.

REMINDER

Turn Back your clocks
Sunday November 5

The reminder poster has a warm, autumnal theme. It features a large, round clock with a black face and white numbers, showing the time as approximately 10:10. The clock is surrounded by a border of yellow and orange autumn leaves and sunflowers. The text 'REMINDER' is written in a large, serif font, and 'Turn Back your clocks Sunday November 5' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.



Hello! from the Music Room

People have been noticing those orange things out on the church lawn for the past couple of weeks. Most thought of jack-o-lanterns, pies or pumpkin-spice-something-or-other. They might have been pumpkins to us, but to Ancient Greek philosophers they would have been “spheres.”

Have you ever heard the term, “music of the spheres?” Credit that term to Pythagoras and other ancient philosophers who perceived some kind of harmony emanating throughout the cosmos. When you drive by a yard filled with orange things, think of Pythagoras - and music.

With thanks to the generous ringers, singers and all musicians who orbit around the WUC church music program, our worship will be blessed by spirited harmonies circulating throughout the sanctuary. Some great hymns will accompany us from the Reformation season, through Thanksgiving and then Advent and Christmas.

Yes, these holiday seasons are shaped by particular human traditions, but they also build us up as a community of faith. Every song carries a message of peace, love, joy and hope. Each person, whether up front making sounds or hearing them from the pews, is part of that ancient sphere. It makes me think of the title and opening words to one of the Junior Choir songs: “All God’s Critters Have a Place in the Choir.” It takes all of us to bring about true harmony - we’re each invited to open ourselves to the music surrounding us as we close off 2023.

May God bless all ringers, singers and everyone hearing that *music of the spheres*!

Bobbie



The Praise Band is in need of a guitarist. Rehearsals are flexible and we hope to play once a month for our church services. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please contact Patti Colkos at tricia30@charter.net

Stewardship 2024



CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

Thoughts about Stewardship

Deciding What to Give

While there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church. Without your gifts, we would not be able to engage in the ministry and worship experiences that define our community life.

Deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. We encourage our community to think of giving as a percentage of annual income. The average gift to charitable causes in our country is 2% of annual income (per household). It is hard to imagine what our church would look like without these generous gifts that do so much good. Fortunately, we are not being asked to consider what the church would be without these gifts! Instead, we are being asked to imagine what just 1% or more might make happen!

Giving even 1% more of annual income to the church would be transformative for our congregation and the community that we serve.

We are each on a journey toward abundant generosity. What next step can you take in your generosity journey? Every gift to our congregation helps strengthen who we are and what we can do together.

Paying your Pledge

Did you know...?

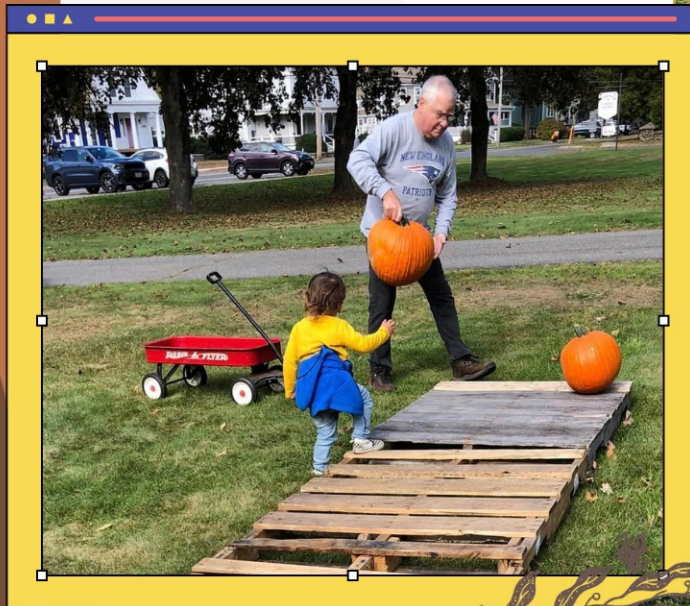
We currently have 104 Families who could be pledging to the church. Only 52% actually pledge.

As of November 1st, 48 of the pledging families are behind on their pledges for the year; and 12 of those have paid \$0.00. We know that people move in their own time and way. We hope that this is received as a gentle reminder that our church family depends on you!

Our church's annual budget and the cash flow to pay bills are dependent for the most part on our pledges coming in, as planned, at the beginning of the year. As of November 1st, pledges and plate giving are about \$19,000 behind. Our average monthly expenses are exceeding our income by about \$1800 a month, which correlates directly to the unpaid pledges.

One way to keep your pledge up to date is to set up online giving payments. Your weekly (or monthly) pledge can be directly withdrawn from your bank account, or charged to your credit card. Refer to the Online Giving information on our website or on the insert provided with the Stewardship mailing.

PUMPKIN PATCH 2023







First Day



Last Day



How We Did

Over the course of 17 days beginning with our unloading day October 15th, through Halloween, October 31st, we sold \$7,792 in pumpkins and raised \$1596 in donations!

Our total sales made us eligible for a higher earnings bracket—moving us from the base percent of 25% to 30% raised by the church for our Steeple.

Countless volunteers helped us unload the truck on the 15th and we were selling pumpkins while they were still coming off the truck!

We sat outside in the sun and heat as well as the cold and the rain and we sold some pumpkins every day! While our Fall Festival on the 21st got rained out, we still were very successful with our bake sale!

Thank you thank you to everyone who moved pumpkins, sold pumpkins, baked and sold baked goods and helped paint pumpkins! And to those who also came back to get rid of the left-overs! Don't worry—pumpkins were donated to local farms for animal feed, as well as put out for the wildlife to enjoy.

Overall we made **\$3933.78** for the Save Our Steeple fund and became a visible minister to our neighbors!

We're looking forward to Pumpkin Patch 2024!!



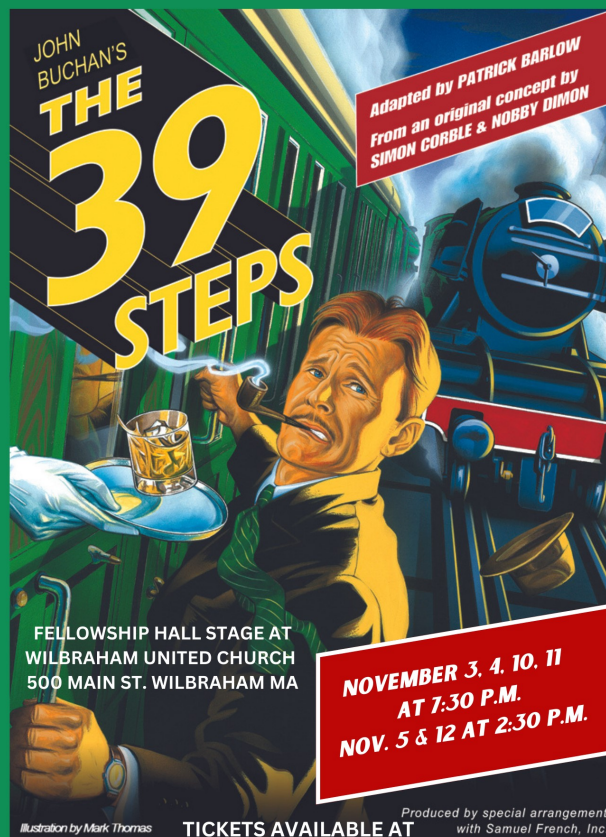
In an effort to increase our fund raising, we will be initiating a monthly "pre-order" opportunity.

We are hoping to expand to more stores by having the chance to pre-order (and pre-pay) for cards that offer a higher return.

Forms to order gift cards and a complete list of all available gift cards is attached to our weekly email or at the shopping card table.

Thank you,
Shopping Card Team

A WILBRAHAM UNITED PLAYERS PRODUCTION



Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

All are welcome to join us for a movie, themed dinner and craft!

Saturday, November 18th
4:30 - 6:30 PM
Zeckhausen Room

WE NEED A Holly Fair SANTA!

DO YOU HAVE OR
KNOW SOMEONE
WITH A SANTA
SUIT?

DO YOU OR
SOMEONE YOU
KNOW WANT TO
DONATE TIME TO
BE A SANTA?



WHEN:
SATURDAY
12/9
12-3PM

WHERE:
WILBRAHAM
UNITED CHURCH

THEN WE NEED YOU!

PLEASE CONTACT KIM
519-6335 OR
WUCHURCHEVENTS@GMAIL.

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 – November 2023 (Years A&B)

Wed., Nov. 1

Psalm 119:41-48
Deuteronomy 26:16–27:7
Matthew 19:16-22

Thurs., Nov. 2

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 1:1-11
Romans 2:17-29

Fri., Nov. 3

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:1-14
2 Peter 2:1-3

Sat., Nov. 4

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Joshua 2:15-24
Matthew 23:13-28

Sun., Nov. 5

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Mon., Nov. 6

Psalm 128
Joshua 4:1-24
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Tues., Nov. 7

Psalm 128
Joshua 6:1-16, 20
Acts 13:1-12

Wed., Nov. 8

Psalm 128
Joshua 10:12-14
Matthew 15:1-9

Thurs., Nov. 9

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 5:10-12
Revelation 8:6–9:12

Fri., Nov. 10

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 8:30-35
Revelation 9:13-21

Sat., Nov. 11

Psalm 78:1-7
Joshua 20:1-9
Matthew 24:1-14

Sun., Nov. 12

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Mon., Nov. 13

Psalm 78
Joshua 24:25-33
1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Tues., Nov. 14

Psalm 78
Nehemiah 8:1-12
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Wed., Nov. 15

Psalm 78
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Matthew 24:29-35

Thurs., Nov. 16

Psalm 123
Judges 2:6-15
Revelation 16:1-7

Fri., Nov. 17

Psalm 123
Judges 2:16-23
Revelation 16:8-21

Sat., Nov. 18

Psalm 123
Judges 5:1-12
Matthew 12:43-45

Sun., Nov. 19

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Mon., Nov. 20

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Judges 4:8-24
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Nov. 21

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Exodus 2:1-10
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Wed., Nov. 22

Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18
Esther 7:1-10
Matthew 24:45-51

Thurs., Nov. 23

Thanksgiving
Psalm 100
Genesis 48:15-22
Revelation 14:1-11 **OR**
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 and
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19

Fri., Nov. 24

Psalm 100
Isaiah 40:1-11
Revelation 22:1-9

Sat., Nov. 25

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:25-31
Matthew 12:46-50

Sun., Nov. 26

Reign of Christ
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Mon., Nov. 27

Psalm 28
Numbers 27:15-23
2 Timothy 2:8-13

Tues., Nov. 28

Psalm 28
Zechariah 11:4-17
Revelation 19:1-9

Wed., Nov. 29

Psalm 28
Jeremiah 31:10-14
John 5:19-40

Thurs., Nov. 30

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Zechariah 13:1-9
Revelation 14:6-13

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - Pumpkin 1pm - Trunk or Treat 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	WUP (FH) 10am - Piece Makers 10am - Pumpkin Patch	10am - Pumpkin Patch 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5:30pm - WUP (FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Phys Ops 7pm - WUP (FH)	1pm - WUP (FH) 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 6:30pm - Bell Small 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	7:30pm - WUP	10am - Junior Choir (CR) 7:30pm - WUP
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 2:30pm - WUP 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	6pm - Girl Scouts (Mutti)	10am - Yoga (YR) 2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Called to Care 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 6:30pm - Bell Small 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	7:30pm - WUP	10am - Junior Choir (CR) 7:30pm - WUP
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 2:30pm - WUP 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	9:30am - WUP Lighting 7pm - WUP (FH)	10am - Yoga (YR) 11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Discipleship	9:20am - Loaves and 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 6:30pm - Bell Small 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		Cub Scouts Raking 10am - Junior Choir (CR) 4:30pm - Charlie Brown
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - Church Without 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	6:30am - Loaves and 9:30am - Wilb Comm 5:15pm - Girl Scouts 6pm - WUP (FH) 6:30pm - Trustees (Lib) 7pm - Church Council	9:30am - Wilb Comm 10am - Yoga (YR) 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 6pm - WUP (FH)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	THANKSGIVING 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)		10am - Junior Choir (CR) 2pm - Facey Concert
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL- Anon -YR		10am - Yoga (YR) 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - Autism Support	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	6pm - Finance Comm 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 6:30pm - Bell Small 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		10am - Junior Choir (CR) 12:30pm - WUP (FH)