



# The Branchline

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

## May 2024

### *From the Pastor's Desk....*



*"for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth: the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land"*

#### **Song of Solomon**

Welcome to the month of May,

May is a beautiful month. The flowers are appearing, birds nest are being made ready, there is buzzing and chirping all around us. What a joyful noise!

The grays and browns are disappearing. (I was getting so tired of those grays and browns) Green and yellow are the prominent colors right now. The air is getting balmy. T-shirts are now a distinct possibility. And God in his goodness is giving evidence of Himself –everywhere. In this moment, the world is made glad.

Continued on page 2

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

This doesn't mean that challenges don't exist, that suffering doesn't rear its ugly head and dampen our spirits. What it means is that God is showing God's great handiwork, which he has given for our sustenance and for our pleasure. That is a reason to rejoice in. And we need a place where we can go and celebrate together, where we can speak of our God winks, where we have assurance that we are a resurrection people.

I believe church is a best place to remind us of God's handiwork and God's amazing life serving wonders. Church is the place to share those small or large miracles, which cannot be luck or coincidence, but must come from a Divine plan. Yes, it calls on our faith and our faithfulness. And make no mistake, faith needs reinforcement and nourishment. And, faith needs reminding because, well, humanity is tough, and distracted, consumed by less godly pursuits, and who are down-right problematic at times. We need a faith community to nurture us, because without care, faith is too easily taken away by the uncertainty of what lies in wait around the next corner of our lives.

With faith we begin, and then we begin again. We need the church to help us in our faith on a regular basis.

The power of the church should never be underestimated.

You know how I love quoting people, so here is a quote by the author Ted Loder:

"Help me to believe in beginnings, to make a beginning, to be a beginning, so that I may not just grow old, but grow new each day of this wild amazing life you call me to live with the passion of Jesus Christ."

Let us remember that whatever we do, wherever we may find ourselves, God is in our midst. Our community can only be rich and spirit-filled if we are aware of the presence of God working in our lives, and in the inherent sacredness of the everyday. All begins with God and there is no ending.

May blessings

Rev Janet



Our next Work of the Interim gathering will be after worship on May 12th in the Zeckhausen Room.



## **Hello! from the Music Room**

Spring is finally here! The grass is green and the dandelions are blossoming – the sure signs. The neighborhood is filled with sounds of lawnmowers, leaf blowers and laughter as people gather around fire pits. The roads are clogged up with (necessary) road repairs and more vehicles carrying people out to see the sites. So yes..... spring is here.

We'll soon enter the season of Pentecost with a celebration of the Holy Spirit – that unseen, unheard and patient Spirit that's with us all the time even though we can't see it, hear it or sit behind it in traffic jams. That Spirit can give us a lift when difficult things happen over which we have no control, just as it can be present in the music we bring to Sunday worship services..... All of us together create a music on Sundays through hymns and anthems, a communal music as our sound waves mix together and become a new and stronger voice. This voice, whether from our singing or instruments playing, carries the Spirit.

Our choirs would love to welcome anyone interested in ringing or singing. We have Thursday evening rehearsals each week during the school year (with a week off here and there) for Bell Choir at 7:00 and Chancel Choir at 8:00. Junior Choir meets on Saturday mornings at 10:00 – not every week, so we try to have notices in bulletins and send email messages to let people know when they are happening. They usually sing once a month when several Juniors can come together. If you'd like to give one of these choirs a try, please let me know (my church email: [musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) – or speak with anyone in the choirs.

Enjoy the spring season – it's so full of wonder and beauty!

Blessings and Peace - Bobbie



**Save  
the  
Dates**

**Shopping Card  
Spring Special Order**

Prepare for this busy time of year and support Wilbraham United Church

- Graduations
- Anniversaries
- Birthdays
- Weddings
- Home & Garden
- Last Minute Gifts



Order by May 5th  
Cards will arrive in 1-2 weeks

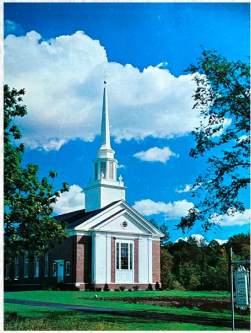
*Wilbraham United Church*  
**Arts and  
Crafts  
Fair**  
**June 8, 2024**  
*Vendor applications now available*  
[wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/summer-arts-and-crafts-fair](http://wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/summer-arts-and-crafts-fair)

**Save the Date**  
Wilbraham United Church  
Vacation Bible Camp 2024  
**All Creatures Great and Small**  
July 29 - August 2

The June Branchline Deadline is May 28. Please submit items of note to [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)



# Save Our Steeple!



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



How to donate:



Cash



Check

[WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org](http://WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org)

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

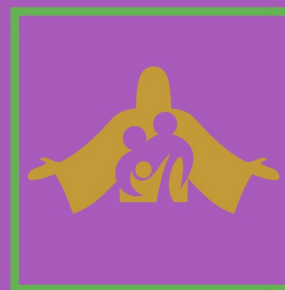
## STEEPLE UPDATE

Collected to date \$32525.84

Total Amount Paid to Repair Steeple \$48269

**Balance to Raise \$15744**

Our Women's Fellowship Group recently tackled updating the Save Our Steeple Thermometer that is placed on the front lawn. Thank you all!



# New Members

Individuals who are interested in joining the church are welcome to attend an information session on Sunday May 5th, after worship, in the Zeckhausen Room

New Members will be received into the congregation on Sunday May 19th





We have **scholarships** that were set up by the families in memory of church members. The only application requirement is to be a member of WUC and to have participated in church activities. Please contact Deb at [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) and she will email an application form to you. Please return the completed form to her by May 26. If you have questions, please email Judy Hoffman at [imjrhoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:imjrhoffman@hotmail.com) or call her at 413-544-5908.





# WUC at work

On April 27th members of our church community came together to assemble over 100 Hygiene Kits for Church World Services. We then gathered for a delicious pancake dinner!





# WUC at work





# Moments for children (of all ages)

**This “Shepherd” (aka Rev. Janet) stopped by our worship on Good Shepherd Sunday to speak to the children about what it means to be a Shepherd and why Jesus was the Shepherd of us all!**



# COMMUNITY SURVIVAL CENTER

SINCE 1983

240 Main Street, Indian Orchard, MA 01151  
413-543-3930 [survivalcenterio@gmail.com](mailto:survivalcenterio@gmail.com)  
[www.communitysurvivalcenter.org](http://www.communitysurvivalcenter.org)

April 25, 2024

Contact: Mary Cassidy  
Phone: 413-543-3930  
Email: [survivalcenterio@gmail.com](mailto:survivalcenterio@gmail.com)  
[www.communitysurvivalcenter.org](http://www.communitysurvivalcenter.org)

For Immediate Release

## **Please Leave a Food Donation by your Mailbox**

Indian Orchard – The National Association of Letter Carriers will hold their annual food drive on Saturday, May 11th. Don't forget to leave your donation of nonperishable food in cans and jars, by your mailbox, to be picked up by your letter carrier.

This drive is a national event and helps many pantries provide food to local families in need. The food donated in Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Indian Orchard will be brought to the Community Survival Center that day. Last time, we received over 7,000 pounds of food from the Letter Carriers drive. With everyone's help, we hope to surpass that this year.

The Community Survival Center's Emergency Food Pantry provides bagged groceries, up to six times a year, to low-income households from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden, as well as from the Indian Orchard and Sixteen Acres neighborhoods of Springfield. Senior clients may reside anywhere in Hampden County and visit the Pantry each month. Families enrolled in the Preschool Program also visit the Pantry every month to collect 20 breakfast, lunch, and snack items for their children who are not yet enrolled in school.

The Center also has a Thrift Shop that sells donated clothing, jewelry, shoes, dishes, etc. and uses the proceeds to help support the pantry.



*On April 7th we celebrated the Baptism of one of our newest members of the congregation—Eloise Margaret Marie Frias, daughter of Aurora Pierangelo and Ruben Frias; granddaughter of David and Joyce Pierangelo.*

***Welcome Child of God!***





## Daily Lectionary Scripture References – May 2024 (Year B)

**Wed., May 1**

Psalm 80  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
John 14:18-31

**Thurs., May 2**

Psalm 98  
Isaiah 49:5-6  
Acts 10:1-34

**Fri., May 3**

Psalm 98  
Isaiah 42:5-9  
Acts 10:34-43

**Sat., May 4**

Psalm 98  
Deuteronomy 32:44-47  
Mark 10:42-45

**Sun., May 5**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

**Mon., May 6**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 7:1-11  
1 Timothy 6:11-12

**Tues., May 7**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 11:1-17  
1 Timothy 6:13-16

**Wed., May 8**

Psalm 93  
Deuteronomy 11:18-21  
Mark 16:19-20

**Thurs., May 9**

*Ascension Day*  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

**Fri., May 10**

Psalm 47  
Exodus 24:15-18  
Revelation 1:9-18

**Sat., May 11**

Psalm 47  
Deuteronomy 34:1-7  
John 16:4-11

**Sun., May 12**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

**Mon., May 13**

Psalm 115  
Exodus 28:29-38  
Philippians 1:3-11

**Tues., May 14**

Psalm 115  
Numbers 8:5-22  
Titus 1:1-9

**Wed., May 15**

Psalm 115  
Ezra 9:5-15  
John 16:16-24

**Thurs., May 16**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Genesis 2:4b-7  
1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

**Fri., May 17**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Job 37:1-13  
1 Corinthians 15:50-57

**Sat., May 18**

Psalm 33:12-22  
Exodus 15:6-11  
John 7:37-39

**Sun., May 19**

*Pentecost Sunday*  
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**Mon., May 20**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Joel 2:18-29  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

**Tues., May 21**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Genesis 11:1-9  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**Wed., May 22**

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
John 20:19-23

**Thurs., May 23**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20  
Romans 8:1-8

**Fri., May 24**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
Romans 8:9-11

**Sat., May 25**

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 5:15-24  
John 15:18-20, 26-27

**Sun., May 26**

*Trinity Sunday/First Sunday after Pentecost*  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

**Mon., May 27**

Psalm 20  
Numbers 9:15-23  
Revelation 4:1-8

**Tues., May 28**

Psalm 20  
Exodus 25:1-22  
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

**Wed., May 29**

Psalm 20  
Numbers 6:22-27  
Mark 4:21-25

**Thurs., May 30**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Samuel 1:1-18  
Acts 25:1-12

**Fri., May 31**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Samuel 1:19-27  
Romans 8:31-39

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - New Member 5pm - AL-Anon -YR			8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Phys Ops	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		10am - Junior Choir (CR)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - New Member 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	6pm - Girl Scouts (Mutti)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		WUP EVENT 8:30am - HILL CLIMB 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - Work of the 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	6:30pm - Meet the 7pm - WUP (ZR)	11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Called to Care (Lib) 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		10am - Junior Choir (CR)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - VBC Planning 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	6:30am - Loaves and 5:15pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Trustees (ZR) 7pm - Church Council	2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Discipleship	6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		10am - Junior Choir (CR)
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	MEMORIAL DAY	2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		