



The Branchline

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

June 2024

From the Pastor's Desk....



"Your true character is most accurately measured by how you treat those who can do 'nothing' for you."

Mother Teresa

Welcome to June,

Summertime is almost upon us and that opens the door for warm weather activities; like going to exotic places, (Maine for instance) visiting friends and family, frolicking in the waves, having barbecues on the deck, eating ice cream....all manner of good things. Indeed, summer is a time of fun and adventure! But just a gentle reminder, there is a bounty of things happening right here, at church, in the month of June. Our spring, (almost summer) Fair is happening on June 8th with a myriad of vendors, a bake table, a café and a lot of good spirit. It should not be missed!

The following day is Celebration Sunday, our teachers will be recognized and our young people will participate in the service. Come and celebrate with them and rejoice in all the wonderful things that this church does, and will continue to do.

Continued on page 2

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

Ok, so after our time of celebration, we will have our Annual Meeting. It might not be as much fun as other almost summer pursuits, but it is very important. We need you there to do the business of the church, for you ARE the church. And your reward for your due diligence? There will be more food to eat and good spirit to share, and we know that the food in this church is pretty amazing. What's not to love?

And if you love food and fairs, the following weekend is the Peach Blossom Festival. We support this as a community event and it is a wonderful way to spend a Friday or Saturday.

So that's the major stuff that's happening in the month of June, but I have one more very important thing to mention, the most important, and that is our time of worship together. We want you to come to worship when you are not off visiting or frolicking or going to exotic places. And to make it easier, worship will remain at 10am, because sleeping in is important. And we want you to have plenty of time to get ready and not feel rushed before coming to worship.

Moreover, the best way to build a relationship with God is to come to church. This is also one of the best remedies against a sometimes scary and uncertain world. The church is here for all of us, but church needs our presence and our support.

So please rejoice in this warm weather, this beautiful season; be well, be rested and refreshed, but remember that church is here for you and waiting to be filled by your presence.

June Blessings,

Rev Janet

SUMMER PLANS

Worship Time Remains at 10 AM

Staff Vacations (plan accordingly!)

- Rev. Janet will be on vacation July 1 through July 23
- Bobbie will be on vacation July 9-13 and August 18 through September 1
- Deb will be on vacation July 10 & 11 (church office will be open)





“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”

Ecclesiastes 3: 1

Dear People of God,

I wanted to offer a brief update regarding the work of the Interim. When we left off, we had been gathering to review your responses to the questions asked at previous meetings. And indeed, it had been a rich and informative time. Unfortunately, due to the flu that I contracted followed by pneumonia, everything was put on hold.

Now, we are heading into the summer season, with many people away; traveling, visiting, vacationing... So it feels sensible to begin again in the fall. We will finish our large group meetings, and then begin to meet in small groups.

I look forward to the fall and resuming our work once more.

Have a very blessed summer,

Rev Janet





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) – or speak with anyone in the choirs.

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

Blessings and Peace - Bobbie



Thoughts about our church

“The Church” is not dead or dying; neither is our church. Our church, like many other churches, is battling against a changing culture that is prioritizing sports, leisure, and pushing Jesus and his teachings further from their lives. God's not dead, though many think it may be irrelevant, whether he exists or not.

Wilbraham United Church is going through another transition, which requires all of our efforts of faith and stewardship. We need to collectively face the ongoing challenges in all aspects of stewardship. We need to reach out and welcome new members to our family. We need to increase our presence in the local community as well as the greater community.

With all of the gifts that God gives to us freely, we need to share those blessings with everyone in need. Yes, we need our resources to continually live as comfortably as we are accustomed to, but by increasing our giving we can ensure that God's will may be done. Please consider increasing your pledges, and know that we will continue making a difference through the sacrifices that we make as a church family.

John Colkos

The Fellowship Commission



Save the Dates



Sign Up Now!
Wilbraham United Church
Vacation Bible Camp 2024
All Creatures Great and Small
July 29 - August 2

wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/vacation-bible-camp/
\$50 per child
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
500 Main Street ~ Wilbraham, MA
(413)596-2511 ext. 100 for questions

Our annual Vacation Bible Camp is coming! We need many hands to help out. Particularly needed are Adults (over 18) to serve as group leaders. This involves walking with your group to each activity and supervising the teen volunteers who will be assigned to help you. We also need two or three folks to help out with signing the campers in and out each day. This involves being here at 8:45 each morning and at 11:50 each day to man the tables in the narthex as parents drop off and pick up their children. You don't need to be here all five days or both in the drop off and pick up times. You can choose just a few! Also needed will be donations of refreshments for our volunteers. Sandy Harris will be coordinating those snacks. Muffins, donuts and other baked goods, crackers and cheese, fruit and chips are all popular items!

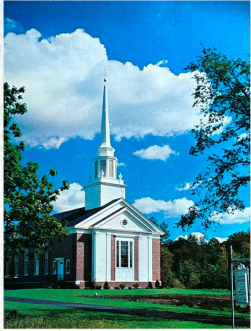
We always have a great time with the kids at VBC! We hope you can find some time to join us and help out! Let Deb know if you'd like to volunteer or you can sign up online on the church's website VBC page.

**The MIDSUMMER Branchline Deadline is July 19. Please
submit items of note to
admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org**



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

Save Our Steeple!



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



Cash

How to donate:



Check



WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org

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

STEEPLE UPDATE

Collected to date \$34377.84

Total Amount Paid to Repair Steeple \$48269

Balance to Raise \$13891

On June 2nd we bid a fond farewell to long-time member Ruth Karlson who is moving to Oregon to be closer to her family. She will certainly be missed!



Arts and Crafts Fair



Celebration Sunday



We awarded scholarships and bibles and our church school children served in worship!







Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – June 2024 (Year B)

Sat., June 1

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Samuel 2:1-10
John 7:19-24

Sun., June 2

Second Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23–3:6

Mon., June 3

Psalm 99
1 Samuel 2:11-17
Romans 9:19-29

Tues., June 4

Psalm 99
1 Samuel 2:18-21
Acts 15:1-5, 22-35

Wed., June 5

Psalm 99
1 Samuel 2:22-36
John 5:1-18

Thurs., June 6

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 4:1-22
1 Peter 4:7-19

Fri., June 7

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 5:1-12
2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Sat., June 8

Psalm 138
1 Samuel 6:1-18
Luke 8:4-15

Sun., June 9

Third Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15] 16-20 [11:14-15]
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Mon., June 10

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 7:3-15
Revelation 20:1-6

Tues., June 11

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 8:1-22
Revelation 20:7-15

Wed., June 12

Psalm 108
1 Samuel 9:1-14
Luke 11:14-28

Thurs., June 13

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 9:15-27
Hebrews 2:5-9

Fri., June 14

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 10:1-8
Hebrews 11:4-7

Sat., June 15

Psalm 20
1 Samuel 13:1-15a
Mark 4:1-20

Sun., June 16

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 15:34–16:13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Mon., June 17

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 13:23–14:23
Galatians 6:11-18

Tues., June 18

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 15:10-23
Revelation 21:22–22:5

Wed., June 19

Psalm 53
1 Samuel 15:24-31
Luke 6:43-45

Thurs., June 20

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 16:14-23
Acts 20:1-16

Fri., June 21

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 17:55–18:5
Acts 21:1-16

Sat., June 22

Psalm 9:9-20
1 Samuel 18:1-4
Luke 21:25-28

Sun., June 23

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49
or 1 Samuel 17:57–18:5, 10-16
Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 133
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Mon., June 24

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 18:6-30
Acts 27:13-38

Tues., June 25

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 19:1-7
Acts 27:39-44

Wed., June 26

Psalm 119:113-128
1 Samuel 19:8-17
Mark 6:45-52

Thurs., June 27

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 19:18-24
2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Fri., June 28

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 20:1-25
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Sat., June 29

Psalm 130
1 Samuel 20:27-42
Luke 4:31-37

Sun., June 30

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 3:30pm - AL- Anon -FH	6pm - Girl Scouts (Mutt) 6pm - Girl Scouts	2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 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)		Arts and Crafts Fair
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am - Worship - 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	5:15pm - Girl Scouts 6pm - WUP Annual	11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Phys Ops	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	6:30pm - Deacons (Lib) 7pm - Church Council		JUNETEENTH 2pm - Farmer's Market	9:20am - Loaves and 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)		1pm - WUP Auditions
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL- Anon -YR		6:30pm - WUP Auditions	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Farmer's Market 6:30pm - Discipleship	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL- Anon -YR						
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - VBC Planning 5pm - AL- Anon -YR						