



# *The Branchline*

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

## *Summer 2024*

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



*"The great thing to remember is though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."*

**C.S. Lewis**

Welcome to August,

Here we are in the grip of summer, yet there is this voice whispering to us, telling us that fall will be here before we know it, and we will need to find our bliss in another season. But make no mistake, wonderful things happened this summer; Vacation Bible Camp was a fun and exciting time. "All Creatures Great and Small" was the theme and the children who participated enjoyed crafts and games, a water slide and a zoo, great music, great snacks, Bible stories, and hopefully a deeper appreciation of all the creatures who share this world with us. It was a bright and successful time, enjoyed by many who attended.

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From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

Also, worship this summer has been more relaxed, but hopefully just as rich. And even though it has been a very hot summer, the rain has fallen, the days are longer, gardens have yielded, and God has been very present in our lives.

So, this is why we like to hang on to summer for as long as possible and we don't like to see it end. But preparing ahead for a spiritually rich church season is essential. It is positive and good!

One of our goals in this church is not only getting a wide variety of people to attend worship, but getting people excited about their faith. We want to help people actively participate in this community of faith, as well as helping others to grow closer to God in their own lives. All the things that this church does is vital in keeping that spiritual energy flowing and reminding all of us that we are God's own. Church is where we are further reminded of God's love for us and of Jesus' great teachings and sacrifice. Church is a place where we come together to share in the worship experience as one spiritual community, as one body of faith.

The theologian, Henri J.M. Nouwen wrote that: "every time you do something for the glory of God, you will know God's peace in your heart and find rest there."


I would bid you to be excited about your church for all the good that it does, and for all the blessings which come from being a body of Christ. I would bid you to remember that we belong to a God who loves us well and without measure. I would further bid you to love God gluttonously and share that love with a hurting and needy world.

As we move toward the future, let us never stray too far from God and Christ, for it is our faith which will help us rise to the challenges that are placed in our path, and ultimately help us to triumph.

August Blessings,

Rev Janet





Families with teens  
interested in  
Confirmation  
Classes should  
contact Rev. Janet  
by 8/30



PASTOR@WILBRAHAM  
UNITEDCHURCH.ORG



## Hello! from the Music Room

From the Music Room

Have you noticed some of the voices from the pipe organ and piano sounding a little different - for lack of better terminology..... a little “off” and literally out of tune? The weather plays a big role in the way these instruments speak. Too hot, too cold, too humid, too dry.... all these weather related circumstances create conditions that make various sound anomalies show up.

Some of it is an overall sound variation that happens when several notes are slightly out of tune. But when they’re played together in chords or octaves all the notes being played sound strange. Some notes are so out of tune that they can’t be used. In the pipe organ, entire groups (ranks) of pipes have historic issues of difficulty staying their course with tuning issues. The reed pipes - the ones that sound like trumpets, horns, clarinets..... they are notorious for leaping out of tune with very minimal changes in conditions.

The sanctuary piano is assisted in its stability by a humidifier which is added by the owner (WUC in this case). I’m always amazed when I check on it during humid weather and it’s still wanting a supply of water. The strings or the sound board can alter ever so slightly, and there goes the perfectly tuned piano. It is much like the organ in the overall sound being “off” when several notes are not perfectly in line. In general there is more often a chance that a piano will stay closer in tune than a pipe organ. But no matter what, they are wonderful to use even if those little waves show up in the sounds produced. Both instruments are happy in their surroundings and are sized very well for the sanctuary space.

Enjoy the remains of the summer. It always goes so fast!!!

Blessings, Bobbie





**Handbell  
National  
Conference  
July 9 - 13**

M H  
U A  
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I P  
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S

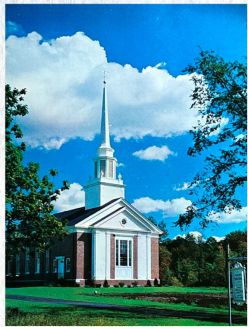
From July 9—13, Bobbie with members of our Handbell Choir took part in the Handbell Musicians of America National Conference which was held this year in Hartford! 5 days of ringing, classes, concerts and fun! Our ringers along with Western Mass area representative Audrey, (who frequently rings with WUC) make up the core of the Western Mass Area contingent of Area 1.

**VBC 2024 Music Team**

We are blessed with a talented group of musicians to lead our campers in song!



# 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 \$34377.84

Total Amount Paid to Repair Steeple \$48269

Balance to Raise \$13891

## SUMMER PLANS

Worship Time Remains at 10 AM

Staff Vacations (plan accordingly!)

- Bobbie will be on vacation August 18 through September 1
- Deb will be on vacation September 9 and 10



## Blessing Box



Don't forget to stock the box over the summer!

### Items most in need:

Pasta Sauce & Whole grain Pasta  
Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Cereal  
Canned soups and stews  
Shelf-Stable Milk

### Other nice-to-haves:

Cake mixes and frosting  
Cooking Oil  
Packaged Nuts  
Crackers  
Applesauce  
Dried Herbs and Spices



Commission  
Chairs

REMINDER - PLEASE SEND PLANNED MEETING DATES TO THE CHURCH OFFICE SO THEY CAN BE ADDED TO THE CALENDAR!



## Catie's Closet

Wilbraham United Church is hosting a collection for Catie's Closet for the month of August and September. Donations of new or very gently used clothing is needed. The program is accessible to children of school age in the Pioneer Valley. A collection box is in the narthex.

### “Mission

Catie's Closet gives children in need life-changing access to clothing and basic necessities so they can thrive in school and in life.

<https://www.catiescloset.org/>



## Pillowcases for Springfield Rescue Mission

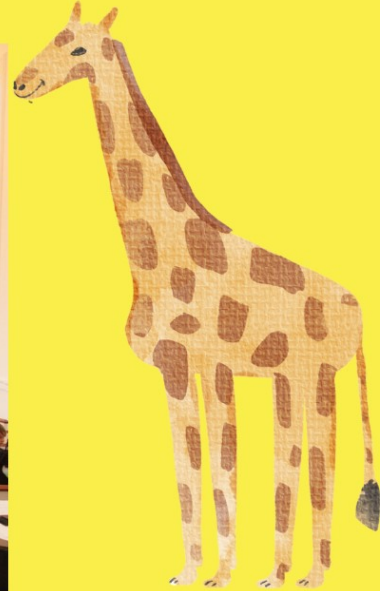
There will be a pillowcase making event on September 7, from 10-2, at Wilbraham Senior Center. We are surrounded by a loving community of quilters and needleworkers who have been very generous with their fabric donations and their talent. Karen will have kits prepared to make pillowcases. No experience is necessary. If you want to come along you are welcome. If you are unable to come to this event but would like to make a pillowcase or have masculine fabric that you would like to hand it please contact Karen.

All are welcome to these events regardless of ability. Please contact Karen Gatchell for more information. 413-237-1598 [gatchell@charter.net](mailto:gatchell@charter.net)

**The September Branchline Deadline is August 29. Please submit items of note to [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)**



# VBC 2024 - All Creatures Great and Small









**Knit, Stich, Pray** will be meeting again this fall, on the second Saturday of the month from 10-12. Karen Gatchell is hosting at her home 15 Raymond Drive, Wilbraham, Ma 01095. All are welcome. No experience is necessary. Our mission is to make items for others that will bring comfort, peace and love, whether it be a prayer shawl, a quilt, sweater, hat, or scarf. 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.



**Prayer Shawls** “In 1998, Janet Severi Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in this program of applied Feminist Spirituality under the direction of Professor Miriam Therese Winter, MMS. Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every stitch.” <https://www.shawlministry.com/>



There has been a ministry of prayer shawls at Wilbraham United Church through the Call to Care committee for a long time. Karen Gatchell is willing to teach anyone who would care to learn about making a shawl and is happy to take the time with individuals either at a meeting or at the learner's convenience. There is no need to purchase yarn as there is a supply on hand. If you would like to make a prayer shawl in your own time, please do so and when you are finished hand it into the office at church, to Pastor Janet or to Karen. If you know of anyone who needs a shawl, please let the pastor or Karen know.

All are welcome to these events regardless of ability. Please contact Karen Gatchell for more information. 413-237-1598 [gatchell@charter.net](mailto:gatchell@charter.net) September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14





## Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

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

**Thurs., Aug. 1**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Exodus 32:19-26a  
1 Corinthians 11:17-22

**Fri., Aug. 2**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Joshua 23:1-16  
1 Corinthians 11:27-34

**Sat., Aug. 3**

Psalm 51:1-12  
Judges 6:1-10  
Matthew 16:5-12

**Sun., Aug. 4**

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*  
2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

**Mon., Aug. 5**

Psalm 50:16-23  
2 Samuel 12:15-25  
Ephesians 4:17-24

**Tues., Aug. 6**

Psalm 50:16-23  
2 Samuel 13:1-19  
1 Corinthians 12:27-31

**Wed., Aug. 7**

Psalm 50:16-23  
2 Samuel 13:20-36  
Mark 8:1-10

**Thurs., Aug. 8**

Psalm 130  
2 Samuel 13:37—14:24  
Romans 15:1-6

**Fri., Aug. 9**

Psalm 130  
2 Samuel 14:25-33  
Galatians 6:1-10

**Sat., Aug. 10**

Psalm 130  
2 Samuel 15:1-13  
Matthew 7:7-11

**Sun., Aug. 11**

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*  
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33  
Psalm 130  
Ephesians 4:25—5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

**Mon., Aug. 12**

Psalm 57  
2 Samuel 15:13-31  
Ephesians 5:1-14

**Tues., Aug. 13**

Psalm 57  
2 Samuel 18:19-33  
2 Peter 3:14-18

**Wed., Aug. 14**

Psalm 57  
2 Samuel 19:1-18  
John 6:35-40

**Thurs., Aug. 15**

Psalm 111  
1 Kings 1:1-30  
Acts 6:8-15

**Fri., Aug. 16**

Psalm 111  
1 Kings 1:28-48  
Romans 16:17-20

**Sat., Aug. 17**

Psalm 111  
1 Kings 2:1-11  
John 4:7-26

**Sun., Aug. 18**

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14  
Psalm 111  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

**Mon., Aug. 19**

Psalm 101  
1 Kings 3:16-28  
Acts 6:1-7

**Tues., Aug. 20**

Psalm 101  
1 Kings 7:1-12  
Acts 7:9-16

**Wed., Aug. 21**

Psalm 101  
1 Kings 8:1-21  
Mark 8:14-21

**Thurs., Aug. 22**

Psalm 84  
1 Kings 4:20-28  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**Fri., Aug. 23**

Psalm 84  
1 Kings 4:29-34  
Romans 13:11-14

**Sat., Aug. 24**

Psalm 84  
1 Kings 5:1-12  
Luke 11:5-13

**Sun., Aug. 25**

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11] 22-30, 41-43  
Psalm 84  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

**Mon., Aug. 26**

Psalm 11  
1 Kings 5:13-18  
Ephesians 5:21—6:9

**Tues., Aug. 27**

Psalm 11  
1 Kings 6:1-14  
Ephesians 6:21-24

**Wed., Aug. 28**

Psalm 11  
1 Kings 6:15-38  
John 15:16-25

**Thurs., Aug. 29**

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
Song of Solomon 1:1-17  
James 1:1-8

**Fri., Aug. 30**

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
Song of Solomon 2:1-7  
James 1:9-16

**Sat., Aug. 31**

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
Hosea 3:1-5  
John 18:28-32

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				8:30am - Vacation Bible 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)	8:30am - Vacation Bible	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR		6:30pm - WUP Auditions	11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Farmer's Market 6:30pm - Phys Ops	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR			11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Farmer's Market	9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)	2pm - Gloria Russell	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	6:30pm - Trustees (ZR) 7pm - Church Council		11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Farmer's Market	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR			11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Farmer's Market 6:30pm - Discipleship	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)		