



The Branchline

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

September 2024

From the Pastor's Desk....



"Fallen leaves on the ground are the golden song of immortal creativity."

Amit Ray

Welcome to September,

A new church season is on the horizon and it is exciting. Wilbraham United is a happening church full of wonderful people who give of themselves and accomplish really positive things. Yes, I know summers are great, full of sunshine, vacations, s'mores.... Yup, summer is a marvelous time. But you know, autumn is also really great, and coming back to a new church season is even better.

Now, let me ask you this: "Where would church be without you?" The simple answer is, it wouldn't. You are the church! And it just can't happen without you. Next question: "Where would you be without the church?" Roll that around in your head for a while!

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From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

It is important to remember that our gathering together: worshipping, praising, praying, serving others, celebrating our relationship with the Divine, is a witness to others that we are God's own. It is our testimony to those around us. We are led by the Spirit and we are called to spread that Spirit to others.

Just a reminder for all who have been away, that our Homecoming Sunday is September 8, 2024 and we have a myriad of good things to look forward to with the kick off of this season. For instance, the pumpkin patch is coming, as is the Blessing of the Animals, Discipleship events, Bible Study, Confirmation, Bell concert, Fairs and Pageants.... See how great we are?

This church is full of reasons to participate. God does work in the world through us in profound and amazing ways. We may question God at times, we may be frustrated by our lack of knowledge regarding our Creator, but we are called to be faithful. Make no mistake, a strong community, steeped in Christ, is one of the best ways I know to grow strong in our faith. And we need a strong faith---for the journey ahead.

As it is written in the Gospel according to John:

“God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.” These are powerful words that speak volumes about who we are in our relationship to the Divine. Thus it is so essential that this church remain open, active and strong.

And it just can't happen-----without you.

September Blessings,

Rev Janet



Wilbraham United Church
Sunday, September 08, 2024



Everyone is Welcome!!

Worship Service 10:00am

- Church School Registration
- Fellowship Hour
- Information on
 - Family Ministries
 - Music Ministries
 - Other Opportunities

Invite a Friend/Neighbor/Family Member!



Hello! from the Music Room

From the Music Room

Aside from “passing a tad too quickly,” how has summer been for everyone? Maybe it’s been “full” - full of warm weather activities, travel, involvement in gatherings for pleasure/special events..... or maybe discovering restoration from time spent around home and yards to soak in that sunshine and green appeal of the season.

I’m looking forward to the return of our church calendar with music groups and other activities we associate with the church year. Our choirs will have some great new music to learn and some tunes to polish from the past. It takes both to bring nine months of “joyful sounds” into the sanctuary.

Mark your calendar.... We have a special Bell Choir event coming up on Sunday afternoon, December 1 - the first Sunday in Advent. The Wilbraham Cultural Council has invited us to present a Christmas Concert for their programming season which will be held in our sanctuary. Watch for more details as the date gets closer.

It happened on June 16th, the first Sunday following Celebration Sunday, when no choirs were gathering to prepare for the 10 AM service. I missed it more than I ever thought I would or could. For me, this Homecoming Sunday and season are reasons to celebrate getting back to the schedule of rehearsals and Sunday morning opportunities to ring, sing and play!! May it be a fine and full season. Soli deo gloria!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Blessings, Bobbie



A Sign of the Times!

The church's sign on the corner has been replaced with a newer sign.

Check it out the next time you come to visit!

Thank you to some very kind church members who donated to replace the old sign.



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

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

STEEPLE UPDATE

Collected to date \$34877.84

Total Amount Paid to Repair

Steeple \$48269

Balance to Raise \$13391

The October Branchline Deadline is September 25. Please submit items of note to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



Blessing Box



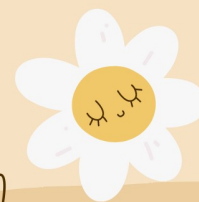
Don't forget to stock the box over the summer!

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!

Mum orders need to be given to Andrea Stephenson by Sunday September 8th!



Annual Mum Sale

to benefit ACTS

(Action Centered Tutoring Services)

*Providing free tutoring and mentoring
to the children of Springfield!*

**Please make checks payable to “ACTS”
and have orders ready for pick-up at Church by Sept. 14**

| 8” Pot | 10” Pot | 12” Pot | 14” Pot |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| \$4 each or 3/\$10 | \$10 each or 2/\$18 | \$15 each or 2/\$25 | \$20 each |

Colors: purple, yellow, bronze and red. Please note first and second choices.

Name: _____

Phone/e-mail: _____

| Pot Size | How Many | First Color Choice | Second Color Choice |
|----------|----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 8” | | | |
| 10” | | | |
| 12” | | | |
| 14” | | | |

Thank you for your order!

MONDAY THROUGH
SATURDAY 10 - 6

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY 12 - 6

Pumpkin Patch

DAILY THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST



Our annual Pumpkin Patch is coming! **Volunteers** will be needed to unload the truck on Sunday afternoon October 6th (at approx. 4PM) . We also need people to sign up for 2 hour shifts to run the Pumpkin Patch each day from October 7th through the 31st. See the sign up sheets in the church office, or contact Deb at admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch and let her know when you are available to help out! Last year we raised over \$3000 for the steeple fund. Let's see if we can do better than that this year!

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH MINI-GOLF & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

2:00 P.M.

FENWAY GOLF, 112 ALLEN ST, EAST LONGMEADOW, MA

JOIN US

FREE





Coffee Hours will return in September if we have volunteers. Everyone enjoys the camaraderie and it would be lovely to have five teams or MORE with more participation. Please contact Edna Colcord at ednajcolcord@gmail.com or 596-6666 if you can help out by being a member of a Fellowship Hour Team!

A graphic with a brown background. At the top center is a cartoon yellow chick. Below it, the word "Wednesday" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Underneath the text is a paragraph of black text. At the bottom left and right corners are cartoon yellow egg characters with faces.

Wednesday

We are looking for volunteers to come in on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. beginning September 18th to monitor the building during Boy Scout meetings. If you can help, even just periodically, please contact the church office.

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.



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

September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14



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.

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.





Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –September 2024 (Year B)

Sun., Sept. 1

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mon., Sept. 2

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 3:6-11
1 Timothy 4:6-16

Tues., Sept. 3

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 5:2—6:3
1 Peter 2:19-25

Wed., Sept. 4

Psalm 144:9-15
Song of Solomon 8:5-7
Mark 7:9-23

Thurs., Sept. 5

Psalm 125
Proverbs 1:1-19
Romans 2:1-11

Fri., Sept. 6

Psalm 125
Proverbs 4:10-27
Romans 2:12-16

Sat., Sept. 7

Psalm 125
Proverbs 8:1-31
Matthew 15:21-31

Sun., Sept. 8

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Mon., Sept. 9

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 8:32—9:6
Hebrews 11:29—12:2

Tues., Sept. 10

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 11:1-31
Hebrews 12:3-13

Wed., Sept. 11

Psalm 73:1-20
Proverbs 14:1-9
Matthew 17:14-21

Thurs., Sept. 12

Psalm 19
Proverbs 15:1-17
Hebrews 11:17-22

Fri., Sept. 13

Psalm 19
Proverbs 19:24-29
James 2:17-26

Sat., Sept. 14

Psalm 19
Proverbs 21:1-17
Matthew 21:23-32

Sun., Sept. 15

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19 or Wisdom 7:26—8:1
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Mon., Sept. 16

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 22:1-21
Romans 3:9-20

Tues., Sept. 17

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 25:1-28
Colossians 3:1-11

Wed., Sept. 18

Psalm 73:21-28
Proverbs 29:1-27
John 7:25-36

Thurs., Sept. 19

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Fri., Sept. 20

Psalm 1
Proverbs 30:18-33
Romans 11:25-32

Sat., Sept. 21

Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
Matthew 23:29-39

Sun., Sept. 22

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Mon., Sept. 23

Psalm 128
Proverbs 27:1-27
James 4:8-17

Tues., Sept. 24

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 4:9-16
James 5:1-6

Wed., Sept. 25

Psalm 128
Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
John 8:21-38

Thurs., Sept. 26

Psalm 124
Esther 1:1-21
Acts 4:13-31

Fri., Sept. 27

Psalm 124
Esther 2:1-23
Acts 12:20-25

Sat., Sept. 28

Psalm 124
Esther 3:1-15
Matthew 5:13-20

Sun., Sept. 29

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Mon., Sept. 30

Psalm 140
Esther 4:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|-----|----------------------|
| 1 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 2 LABOR DAY | 3 | 4 11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Farmer's Market | 5 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR) | 6 | 7 |
| 8 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 9 Church Office Closed 7pm - WUP (FH) | 10 Church Office Closed | 11 11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Called to Care (Lib) 2pm - Farmer's Market 6pm - Boy Scouts (front) 7pm - WUP (FH) | 12 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR) | 13 | 14 1pm - WUP (FH) |
| 15 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 16 6:30pm - Deacons (ZR) 7pm - Church Council | 17 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Loaves and Fishes 11am - Woman's 6:30pm - WUP (FH) | 18 11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Called to Care (lib) 2pm - Farmer's Market 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - WUP (FH) | 19 9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR) | 20 | 21 9am - WUP (FH) |
| 22 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - Stewardship 1pm - WUP (FH) 2pm - WUC Open at 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 23 7pm - WUP (FH) | 24 7pm - WUP (FH) | 25 11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Farmer's Market 5:15pm - Discipleship 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - WUP (FH) | 26 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR) | 27 | 28 |
| 29 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - Confirmation 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 30 7pm - WUP (FH) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |