



The Branchline

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

October 2024

From the Pastor's Desk....



“The contradiction is resolved when you realize that for Jesus peace seems to have meant not the absence of struggle but the presence of love.”

Frederick Buechner

Welcome to October,

We often see this month as a time of treats. You know, the whole Trick or Treat thing. It is a grand time, with people opening their doors, their Hearts, their car trunks, handing out candy and other little treats, with a definite air of merriment and generosity. It is a moment in time when the giver is receiving as much enjoyment as is the getter. Of course our focus here at church, is on the treats rather than the tricks. We are Christians after all.

But you know, treats come in a variety of forms, candy being only one kind of generous offering. Treats are really gifts, which are given and received in a spirit of love and good purpose. As a body of Christ we are called to share our gifts, our treats with others.

Continued on page 2

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

This church is an amazing church, and what makes this church amazing is your presence, your commitment to God, your generosity of spirit. A church cannot thrive without the love and devotion of a community of people, like you.

What a treat you are!

As we continue to move into our very busy church season with all its wonderful events, activities...all of its treats, let us not forget to give of our gifts: our time, our talent, our treasure, because what we give will come back to us in life serving and spirit-filled ways.

Remember the words from Timothy:

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasures for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

Our faith and commitment to God is our guiding force. The work that we do and the gifts that we offer in Christian Love serve as our reminder that we are God's own, and that we are working towards something purposeful and good. In our world today, where we need generosity of heart more than ever, where uncertainty casts a very long shadow, let us hold on to the certainty of a God who loves us well.

October Blessings,

Rev Janet



Blessing of the
ANIMALS

Sunday
October 22
12 pm (noon)
Wilbraham United Church
500 Main St
Wilbraham, MA

We Invite you to
Bring your pet to be blessed.
Pets should be in carriers or on non-retractable leashes please!



Stop by and visit our pumpkin patch with your pet!

Blessings will be given outside on the front lawn of the church - weather permitting



Blessing Box



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

The November Branchline Deadline is October 29th. Please submit items of note to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



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



Gifts of Time

I've been an active member of Wilbraham United Church for almost 30 years. It's not as long as some of our senior members, but it's a bit longer than most of our newest members. I personally haven't witnessed a greater amount of caring, compassion and kind-heartedness that our church demonstrates on a daily basis.

When we are called to serve a Church member in crisis, or a cause that needs our support, or when an emergency fix is needed somewhere, Wilbraham United Church and our members always answer the call. That is what family does. Our church is made up of individuals, but together we make up a wonderfully strong family committed to God's work in the community.

The love that comes from our church shows through in its generosity in the giving of our time, talent and treasures. Each and every one of us is an integral part of the woven fabric of Wilbraham United Church. We lose a little bit of our identity when a member dies, moves away from our community or has decided it's time for a change in where they worship God.

Our current Church Council is committed to meet the needs of our church and the community and to ensure that we are providing a home where we are taught to serve as Christ has taught us. With everyone's effort, Wilbraham United Church will continue to be a vessel to serve others before ourselves, to do our best to ease the burdens of those in need, and to show what good works and positivity we can provide in a world in need.

Time is a gift. Each day should be looked at as a blessing and an opportunity to make the most of our time. Colossians 4:5 says "Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time." Basically, we are called to work with those within our church and especially outside of our church to show them Jesus' love and helping them experience that love.

Let us be Stewards of our time and use the time God gives us wisely and in a Godly way.



Hello! from the Music Room

Fall has arrived – schools are in full swing! And here at Wilbraham United, we are as well. We're excited to resume time with younger singers on Sunday mornings, immediately following the worship service. We start this Sunday, October 6th!!!! We'll have short rehearsals, with time used carefully to prep music for our singing dates. This was the best schedule for us at the end of last season – hopefully it can work out this fall as well. Junior Choir emails will begin this Friday with reminders about Sunday mornings.

Bell Choir and Chancel Choir began rehearsing September 5th and participating in worship on the 8th. Both groups are now rehearsing in the Sanctuary with the same time schedule as the past two years: Thursday evenings, 7 PM for Bells and 8:00 for voices. Our numbers vary from week to week as everyone has busy lives with demands for time and energy. In a conversation with an appreciative listener, the topic surfaced about our small groups with their great sound. This listener cited: Well, there were only four Beatles. Awesome observation! That being said, we would love to welcome any interested participants into the choirs. This is an invitation for you to join us if you can. We work at our practice, but we have good times too.

Here's another shout out for our December 1st Ring in the Season bell concert. It will be held in the Wilbraham United Sanctuary at 3 PM. December 1st is the first Sunday of Advent, making this an opportunity to start out with familiar and new sounds of Advent and Christmas as we Ring in the Season. Thank you to the Wilbraham Cultural Council for making the invitation.

Enjoy the early days of autumn while the weather is still mild and the air is sweet.

Soli Deo gloria! Blessings, Bobbie

A green poster with white snowflakes and yellow handbells with red bows. The text is in gold and white.

**RING
IN THE
SEASON
WITH
UNITED WE RING
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE**

Sunday
December 1, 2024
3:00 p.m.

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA

sponsored in part by the Wilbraham Cultural Council

A Wilbraham United Players Production

One Slight Hitch

by Lewis Black

**November 8, 9 & 15, 16 at 7:30
November 10 & 17 at 2:30**

****contains mature language**

Fellowship Hall Stage
at
Wilbraham United Church
500 Main St
Wilbraham MA



tickets may be purchased at www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets

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 \$40378

Total Amount Paid to Repair

Steeple \$48269

Balance to Raise \$7891

DISCIPLESHIP HAS MADE DONATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS SO FAR IN 2024

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL \$550

RICK'S PLACE \$1000

THE GRAY HOUSE \$1000

CHRISTINA'S HOUSE \$1500

MANY HANDS SUSTAINABILITY CENTER \$1000

FOREST PARK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY \$500

Future distributions planned for the 4th quarter will include:

Community Survival Center

Church World Service

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

another supporting payment to Heifer Project

Our
Outreach
\$ at work

These distributions are supported and mandated by our Endowment Fund Policy.

(This year's distributions represent an accumulation of funds that had not been paid out for the past 3 years)

Our church family has fun at WUC Mini Golf Open



Sept. 22nd





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 on the bulletin board in the main hallway, 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!



We'd love it if Jane was showered with Birthday good wishes! If you want to get a card to Jane for her birthday please drop it off in the church office, or you can reach out to Deb for Jane's address. Cards should be dropped at



Coffee Hour is an integral and important part of our church's ministry. It allows church members and guests to collaborate, socialize, discuss and nourish both bodies and souls. It also gives our children the opportunity to see a flourishing and engaged adult group as well as providing them time to play together and form important church bonds.

Our new plan for this church season is to do a Pot Luck coffee hour on the first Sunday of each month where members can bring food items related to a fun theme. (*This coming Sunday it's pumpkins!*) In order for this to work we need a person or two who can be responsible for making coffee, setting out food and coffee items and cleaning up after coffee hour has ended. If you are bringing items for the Pot Luck Coffee Hour they can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall or the kitchen on or before Sunday morning.

On the last Sunday of the month we will have "Simple Sunday" where some pre-purchased ingredients have been provided. Things are kept "simple" on those weeks. Again, we need a person or two who can be responsible for making coffee and cleaning up!

Sign up sheets for both the first and last Sundays are available on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

During the middle of the month our Coffee Hour teams will be providing Coffee Hour as we have normally experienced it. There is still room to be a member of a team or to start a new one! If you'd like to be a "coffee minister" please reach out to Edna Colcord or contact the church office.

Making coffee is easy and there are directions located near the coffee machine in the kitchen. In brief:

- arrive early and plug in the coffee system and run a pre-warming batch of hot water through
- open the required number of coffee packets into the filter in the basket and push the button on the machine for the desired amount of coffee
- When coffee has finished brewing, place the coffee receptacle on its base and move it to the window near refreshments
- Place creamer, sweeteners, cups and stirrers out



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –October 2024 (Year B)

Tues., Oct. 1
Psalm 140
Esther 5:1-14
1 John 2:18-25

Wed., Oct. 2
Psalm 140
Esther 8:1-17
Matthew 18:6-9

Thurs., Oct. 3
Psalm 26
Job 2:11—3:26
Galatians 3:23-29

Fri., Oct. 4
Psalm 26
Job 4:1-21
Romans 8:1-11

Sat., Oct. 5
Psalm 26
Job 7:1-21
Luke 16:14-18

Sun., Oct. 6
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Mon., Oct. 7
Psalm 55:1-15
Job 8:1-22
1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Tues., Oct. 8
Psalm 55:1-15
Job 11:1-20
1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Wed., Oct. 9
Psalm 55:1-15
Job 15:1-35
Matthew 5:27-36

Thurs., Oct. 10
Psalm 22:1-15
Job 17:1-16
Hebrews 3:7-19

Fri., Oct. 11
Psalm 22:1-15
Job 18:1-21
Hebrews 4:1-11

Sat., Oct. 12
Psalm 22:1-15
Job 20:1-29
Matthew 15:1-9

Sun., Oct. 13
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

Mon., Oct. 14
Psalm 39
Job 26:1-14
Revelation 7:9-17

Tues., Oct. 15
Psalm 39
Job 28:12—29:10
Revelation 8:1-5

Wed., Oct. 16
Psalm 39
Job 32:1-22
Luke 16:19-31

Thurs., Oct. 17
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b
Job 36:1-16
Romans 15:7-13

Fri., Oct. 18
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b
Job 37:1-24
Revelation 17:1-18

Sat., Oct. 19
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b
Job 39:1-30
Luke 22:24-30

Sun., Oct. 20
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1-7 [34-41]
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

Mon., Oct. 21
Psalm 75
Job 40:1-24
Hebrews 6:1-12

Tues., Oct. 22
Psalm 75
Job 41:1-11
Hebrews 6:13-20

Wed., Oct. 23
Psalm 75
Job 41:12-34
John 13:1-17

Thurs., Oct. 24
Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22]
2 Kings 20:12-19
Hebrews 7:1-10

Fri., Oct. 25
Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22]
Nehemiah 1:1-11
Hebrews 7:11-22

Sat., Oct. 26
Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22]
Job 42:7-9
Mark 8:22-26

Sun., Oct. 27
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22]
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

Mon., Oct. 28
Psalm 28
Isaiah 59:9-19
1 Peter 2:1-10

Tues., Oct. 29
Psalm 28
Ezekiel 18:1-32
Acts 9:32-35

Wed., Oct. 30
Psalm 28
Ezekiel 14:12-23
Matthew 20:29-34

Thurs., Oct. 31
Psalm 146
Ruth 1:18-22
Hebrews 9:1-12

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - WUP (FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 6:30pm - Phys Ops 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir		9am - WUP (FH)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 2pm - Hampden Assoc. 4pm - PUMPKIN 5pm - Al- Anon -YR	PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Preschool event 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Preschool event 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	PUMPKIN PATCH 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	PUMPKIN PATCH	PUMPKIN PATCH 9am - WUP (FH) 10am - Knit, Stitch , Pray
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - Work of the 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - Al- Anon -YR	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PUMPKIN PATCH 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Woman's 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	PUMPKIN PATCH	PUMPKIN PATCH 9am - WUP (FH)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - Blessing of the 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - Al- Anon -YR	PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Piece Makers 6:30pm - Trustees (ZR) 7pm - Church Council 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 11am - Staff Meeting 5:15pm - Discipleship 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	PUMPKIN PATCH 6pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 9am - WUP (FH) 11am - Memorial Service
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - Work of the 1pm - Trunk or Treat 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - Al- Anon -YR	PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	PUMPKIN PATCH 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir		