



The Branchline

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

November 2024

From the Pastor's Desk....



"The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for."

Norman Vincent Peale

Welcome to November,

The holidays are upon us; as are darker days, really chaotic schedules, frantic holiday travel... frost. Yes, the holidays are coming, but are we ready to receive them? Of course we are! With a little help from the Lord.

We may turn the clocks back on November 3rd, but the darkness does not overwhelm us. We are God's people and the brightness of a spiritually rich community of faith will serve to sustain us through the darkest of seasons, the most chaotic of times. Let us be uplifted by the knowledge that we are blessed in so many ways, and even though things are about to get busy and chilly, muddled and maybe snowy, we are God's own and safe in God's care.

So let us get our gobble, gobble on and embrace this time of Thanksgiving because we have much to be thankful for.

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From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

There is something else that I need to mention, that happens every November---Stewardship. I know, I know, it is a tough subject and it kind of spoils that holiday glow, but it is vitally important. So, please lend me your time in reading this:

Stewardship Sunday is November 10 and that day is a reality that we all must face, even though it's tough to talk about...money stuff. The Church depends on the support and generosity of its congregation in order to do its good works, provide great music, meaningful worship, a myriad of fun and feel good events. Church is a living, pulsing, serving, dynamic, marvelous, wonderful beacon of hope and Divine presence. But it can't happen without you. You are the church!

Maybe you are only able to pledge a few dollars, so pledge those dollars. Your pledge matters. Don't for one minute think that it doesn't serve a good and necessary purpose, because it does. For the future of the church, we must lend our support, our generosity, our commitment to this wonderful, spirit-filled community of faith.

November is Stewardship and we are God's stewards. Let us give to the church, so the church can give back to us, abundantly!

November Blessings,

Rev Janet

In her sermon on November 3, Rev. Janet read this poem

The Church of my Dreams by: John Milton Moore

The Church of my dreams is
a church of the warm heart,
the open mind, the adventurous spirit –
The Church that cares,
that heals hurt lives,
that comforts old people,
that challenges young people;
The Church that knows no divisions of culture or class,
no boundaries, geographical or social;
The Church that inquires as well as affirms,
that looks forward as well as backward.
It is the Church of the Master,
the Church of the people
–high as the ideals of Jesus and low as the humblest human.
It is a working Church,
a worshipping Church,
a winsome Church.
It is a Church that interprets the truth in terms of the Bible,
that inspires courage for this life
and hope for the life to come.
It is a Church for all people,
...A Church of the Living God!





Stewardship Sunday is

November 10th.

Please bring your pledge cards to church that day so that they can be a part of the Stewardship Blessing!

The December Branchline Deadline is November 26. Please submit items of note to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



**IT'S NOT
Christmas
WITHOUT
Cookies**



**Attention
Cookie
Bakers!**

Once again we're looking for your most special cookies, bars and barks for our world famous cookie walk at this year's Holly Fair! Items can be dropped off to the church kitchen by the morning of Friday, 12/13. Not a baker yourself? Maybe you have a family member or friend who is and they might be willing to bake for us. This is always one of the most popular stops at the Holly Fair all because of your support! Reach out to Chrissy Plumb with any questions - plumb1993@charter.net.



Hello! from the Music Room

It's the season of darker evenings. I love this time when the skies grow softly dark and we bring light out of that darkness with candles, holiday lights – even night lights that lead us along our way from place to place. That quality of light is precious.

That's a primary reason for the music we embrace in a church – to bring a sense of light into our midst through word and song. Music is held differently in this digital era. Anything you might want to hear is available – and it's performed with lights and sound controls that make it a perfection of auditory awesomeness. We may not bring sounds exactly like those, but there's a light from our souls that grows and glows with the Spirit of God. It's the light I hear every time a group plays or sings here at WUC..... not the hyper-polished, balanced out sounds that can be enjoyed through digital listening, but the real unfiltered, unaltered and light-filled sounds that we make because we have the calling to do so. This music ministry could also be called the ministry of light.

All choirs are preparing for Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24th. Each Sunday is a chance to hear the light – however on Thanksgiving Sunday that light and beauty will be bouncing in the Sanctuary with added joy to have all choirs on board.

In the same way, our United We Ring handbell ensemble will bring the light of sound into the WUC Sanctuary at 3:00 pm on December 1st. This is the first Sunday in Advent and the first concert for this group of ringers. We would love to see you there.

Let's all spread our light in any way we can.

Happy Thanksgiving wishes!

Soli Deo Gloria! Blessings and Peace, Bobbie

**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

Wilbraham United Church

THANKS FOOD DRIVE GIVING

We would love your help in providing Thanksgiving baskets to families in need. Additional items will be donated to our Blessing Box and the Community Survival Center

We Are Collecting The Following Items:

Canned Gravy Canned Vegetables Stuffing Mix Cranberry Sauce Corn Bread Mix Canned Yams Instant Mashed Potatoes Mac and Cheese	Can Openers Tablecloths & Napkins *Rolls/Biscuits *Bags of Fresh Carrots *Bags of Fresh Potatoes *Fresh Fruit Grocery Gift Cards Monetary Donations
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*Please Bring any Perishable Items on 11/ 24

Items Will Be Collected Until **NOVEMBER 24**

DROP OFF LOCATION:
 Wilbraham United Church
 During Office Hours: M-Th 8:30am-1:30pm
 Or Sundays During Church

FOR MORE INFORMATION Discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

Winter Clothing Drive

**Saturday, November 9, 2024
9am-12pm**

Wilbraham United Church
(Back Parking Lot)
500 Main St, Wilbraham

Collecting Gently Used and New Items for Women, Men and Children:

- Coats (special need for Men's sizes L, XL & XXL)**
- Winter Boots & Sneakers**
- Hats, Gloves, Mittens & Scarves**
- Sweatshirts & Sweatpants**

*Monetary donations accepted and will be used to purchase items on above list.
All donations to benefit Big Blue Ministry of Springfield*

Email: Discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org with any questions

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 \$45910.27

Total Amount Paid to Repair Steeple \$48269

Balance to Raise \$2358.73

A lot of progress was made this month with the proceeds from the Pumpkin Patch plus some generous donations that came in!

2024 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS



POINSETTIA PLANT @ \$12
order by Dec. 5, 2024

Name _____

Number of plants ____ () cash ____ () check number ____

In Memory of _____

Given by: _____

() I wish to have my poinsettia(s) delivered to a special-care person designated by the church. Will be delivered 12/22 by Called to Care members.

() I will pick up my poinsettia(s) after the 7:30 Christmas Eve Service

() I will collect my plant(s) after the Dec. 29th service

Orders MUST be returned to Church Office by noon on Thursday, Dec 5, to insure getting a plant.

Pumpkin Patch 2024





MONDAY THROUGH
SATURDAY 10 - 6

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY 12 - 6

Pumpkin Patch

DAILY THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the Pumpkin Patch this year: unloading pumpkins and setting them out for display, taking a Pumpkin Shift (or two...or three!), maintaining the Patch making sure that all of our pumpkins stayed in tip-top condition, and helping to spread the word about the patch! We had a really successful year! In total we sold \$11,634.50 in pumpkins! We also took in \$652.50 in donations. Our earnings percent for the pumpkin sale was 33% which resulted in our portion of \$3753.30. All of the pumpkin patch money plus donations have been earmarked to the Steeple fund.



We've been having a lot of fun with our First Sunday Coffee Hour Pot Luck themes!

In October the theme was Pumpkins. In November we had a Harvest Theme.

Our December 1st theme will be Leftovers! (It is the Sunday after Thanksgiving.)

We are still looking for people to take responsibility for making the coffee on the First and last Sunday's of the month. There is no requirement to bring food items or set things out except for coffee cups and fixings. If you can be a coffee maker please sign up on the sign up sheet.



Daily Lectionary Scripture References – November 2024 (Year B)

Fri., Nov. 1
Psalm 146
Ruth 2:1-9
Romans 3:21-31

Sat., Nov. 2
Psalm 146
Ruth 2:10-14
Luke 10:25-37

Sun., Nov. 3
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

Mon., Nov. 4
Psalm 18:20-30
Ruth 2:15-23
Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10

Tues., Nov. 5
Psalm 18:20-30
Ruth 3:1-7
Acts 7:17-29

Wed., Nov. 6
Psalm 18:20-30
Ruth 3:8-18
John 13:31-35

Thurs., Nov. 7
Psalm 127
Ruth 4:1-10
Romans 5:6-11

Fri., Nov. 8
Psalm 127
Ruth 4:11-17
Hebrews 9:15-24

Sat., Nov. 9
Psalm 127
Ruth 4:18-22
Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

Sun., Nov. 10
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Mon., Nov. 11
Psalm 113
Genesis 24:1-10
1 Timothy 5:1-8

Tues., Nov. 12
Psalm 113
Genesis 24:11-27
1 Timothy 5:9-16

Wed., Nov. 13
Psalm 113
Genesis 24:28-42
Luke 4:16-30

Thurs., Nov. 14
1 Samuel 2:1-10
1 Samuel 1:21-28
1 Timothy 6:11-21

Fri., Nov. 15
1 Samuel 2:1-10
1 Samuel 2:18-21
Colossians 2:6-15

Sat., Nov. 16
1 Samuel 2:1-10
1 Samuel 3:1-18
Mark 12:1-12

Sun., Nov. 17
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18]
19-25
Mark 13:1-8

Mon., Nov. 18
Psalm 3
1 Samuel 3:19-4:2
Hebrews 10:26-31

Tues., Nov. 19
Psalm 3
Deuteronomy 26:5-10
Hebrews 10:32-39

Wed., Nov. 20
Psalm 3
1 Kings 8:22-30
Mark 13:9-23

Thurs., Nov. 21
Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18]
2 Kings 22:1-10
Acts 7:54-8:1a

Fri., Nov. 22
Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18]
2 Kings 22:11-20
1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Sat., Nov. 23
Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18]
2 Kings 23:1-14
John 3:31-36

Sun., Nov. 24
Reign of Christ
2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18]
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

Mon., Nov. 25
Psalm 63
2 Kings 23:15-25
Revelation 11:1-14

Tues., Nov. 26
Psalm 63
1 Samuel 17:55-18:5
Revelation 11:15-19

Wed., Nov. 27
Psalm 63
2 Samuel 2:1-7
John 16:25-33

Thurs., Nov. 28
Thanksgiving
Psalm 25:1-10
Nehemiah 9:6-15
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Fri., Nov. 29
Psalm 25:1-10
Nehemiah 9:16-25
1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Sat., Nov. 30
Psalm 25:1-10
Nehemiah 9:26-31
Luke 21:20-24

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - Work of the 1pm - WUP (FH) 2pm - Trunk or Treat 5pm - AI-Anon -YR	28 PUMPKIN PATCH 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	29 PUMPKIN PATCH 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	30 PUMPKIN PATCH 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	31 PUMPKIN PATCH 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	1 9am - WUP (FH)	2 9am - WUP (FH)
3 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AI-Anon -YR	4 10am - Piece Makers 10am - WUP (FH)	5 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5:30pm - WUP (FH)	6 11am - Staff Meeting 5:30pm - WUP (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	7 5:30pm - WUP (FH) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	8 7:30pm - WUP	9 10am - Knit, Stitch, Pray 7:30pm - WUP
10 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 2:30pm - WUP 5pm - AI-Anon -YR	11 VETERAN'S DAY 7pm - WUP (FH)	12 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	13 11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Called to Care (Lib) 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	14 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	15 7:30pm - WUP	16 7:30pm - WUP
17 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 11:30am - Hospitality 2:30pm - WUP 5pm - AI-Anon -YR	18 9:30am - WUP Load Out 10am - Piece Makers 5pm - Girl Scout 6:30pm - Deacons (ZR) 7pm - Church Council	19 9am - Loaves and Fishes 11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 6pm - Finance Comm	20 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	21 9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	22 1pm - Set up for	23 9am - WUP (FH) 4:30pm - Charlie Brown
24 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 5pm - AI-Anon -YR 5pm - Confirmation Class	25 10am - Piece Makers 10am - Preschool	26 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Preschool 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5:30pm - Discipleship	27 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Turkey Trot Set Up 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	28 THANKSGIVING 7am - Turkey Trot (FH) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)	29	30