



The Branchline

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

May 2025

From the Pastor's Desk....



"May is the month when nature is reborn and everything is possible."

Unknown

Welcome to the month of May,

May is one of my favorite months because this is when everything in the created world begins to burst. Living things awaken from their winter's rest; flowers bloom, little buds appear, bees come out of their hives, all giving witness to God's marvelous handiwork. All this life springing forth is so in keeping with this season of Eastertide. Yes I know, the Big Event has happened, the resurrection of Jesus has taken place, the chocolate has been consumed, the Easter baskets have been emptied, the Easter flowers are looking a little wilted, but Easter is not over. We remain in the season of Eastertide.

Eastertide is a liturgical period which lasts for fifty days, beginning on Easter and ending on Pentecost Sunday. Eastertide, of course, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also commemorates his ascension into heaven, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and other subsequent events.

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From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

Eastertide is a time to celebrate the new life which we have been gifted because of Jesus's sacrifice, and to acknowledge his victory over death. In this season, the lectionary readings often focus on the Acts of the Apostles, which is about what those disciples did after the ascension of Jesus. The book of Acts also tells of the beginnings of the Christian church.

I often think of what those disciples did in their ministry, because it took them a little while to pull themselves together. We know that during Jesus's public ministry, they needed a lot of support from Jesus, as they tried to follow in his ways, model his good works, and fully comprehend what Jesus was trying to convey. It wasn't easy for them, but after the resurrection, the knowledge of Jesus transformed them. Jesus's presence and teachings fortified them and gave them the courage to move forward, do their good works and carry out their mission of spreading the Good News of Jesus and building up the Christian church.

There can be little doubt that Jesus changed those disciples profoundly, took them out of their comfort zone and transformed them into confident and resilient Apostles who were moving into a future which was assured.

Our Faith and our commitment to God will help to make us strong and resilient people, who have the courage to follow Christ, like the disciples did. And in a world that seems increasingly uncertain, the certainty of a loving and forgiving God, and the promise of life anew, eclipses all else.

May Blessings,

Rev Janet



A purple rectangular graphic with a green border. On the left, there is a yellow silhouette of a person with arms outstretched, holding a smaller yellow silhouette of a person. To the right of this, the words "New Members" are written in a large, white, cursive font. Below the graphic, the text "New Members will be received into the congregation on Sunday June 1st" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below that, the text "Anyone interested in becoming a church member should speak with Rev. Janet prior to that date." is written in a white, sans-serif font.

New Members

New Members will be received into the congregation on
Sunday June 1st

Anyone interested in becoming a church member should
speak with Rev. Janet prior to that date.



Scholarship Applications are available in the Church Office. Completed applications are due no later than May 19th.

The June Branchline Deadline is May 29. Please

submit items of note to

admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org





Hello! from the Music Room

First thing is to go back to Easter Sunday, April 20. All choirs, with added WUC participants and a guest musician, worked diligently to bring the music into being, including extra rehearsals at odd times. Many thanks to all who made it happen and to listeners who appreciated the sounds!

We had an early May concert on Sunday, May 4th, held in the Wilbraham United Church sanctuary. The Fanfare Brass Ensemble played a bright and joyful hour that included varied genres of brass music. They remarked about the great acoustic qualities of the space. It's the instrument without which, sounds usually cannot come forward into their full possibility. Yes, the space and its surfaces are an instrument of the sound.

Our attention is turned to preparations for Celebration Sunday coming up on June 8. Just ahead of that, on Saturday, May 31, we'll have a full day with the Merrimack Valley Ringers, an outstanding nationally known and appreciated handbell ensemble from New England. They will present bell workshops from 1:15 PM - 4:35 followed by an MVR rehearsal - followed by a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 - followed by a 7:00 concert in the WUC sanctuary, presented by this awesome group! Anyone wanting to participate in one or all of the workshops needs to register for them. (You can email me at: musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org if you're interested in that possibility.)

All are invited to the potluck dinner (please bring a dish to share) and concert!

Words and music are both important aspects of our lives. They are different but they are one in their need to communicate a message.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Blessings and Cheers, Bobbie

Fanfare Brass Ensemble In Concert





*Easter Music
at WUC*





Church Families and Friends





Easter Egg Hunt

Wilbraham United Church

Arts and Crafts Fair

June 7, 2025
9AM - 3PM

Volunteers Needed

- Bake Sale
- Vendor assistance
- Raffle
- Refreshments

See Deb with questions

Our Church's Annual Arts and Crafts Fair needs volunteers! Sign up Sheets are on the bulletin board in the main hallway. If you can bake for the bake sale, donate items for the raffle or provide assistance before or during the Fair please sign up! Any questions? See Deb about the Fair, Patti Colkos about Bake Sale or Carianne Stebenne about the raffle!

Roof Project Status

The total cost of the roof project (which started May 5th!) is estimated to be \$78,580. The Phys Ops Endowment allotment of \$10,000 (for 2024 and 2025) will be allocated to this project. In addition a portion of the bequest from the Vieira estate of \$51068 will be used for the roof repair. To date \$6246 in Shingle Sponsor donations and money from the Fanfare Brass Concert has been raised! After some small additional expenses we still need to raise \$11441.

We anticipate that the roofing work will be completed before the middle of May.



Repair the Roof

Be a Shingle Sponsor!

Sponsorship is \$50 and will include your name on our Repair the Roof Dedication List proudly displayed in our church!

Donations are tax-deductible!

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main St
Wilbraham, MA 01095
(413)596-2511
www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

Concert Tour
Spring 2025

Celestial Light

*Merrimack
Valley Ringers*
MVR



Saturday, May 31
Workshop 12 noon–4:30 pm / Concert 7:00 pm
Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA



CPR Training

We are pleased to announce a **CPR training session**, open to all interested participants ages 10 – adult on **June 1, 2025** at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. This hour-long session will teach the skills of hands-on CPR and will be led by members from the TimmyStrong Foundation. We encourage everyone to attend to learn or to refresh their skills in CPR. Please confirm your attendance by signing up on the bulletin board outside the office. We look forward to seeing you there!



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – May 2025 (Year C)

Thurs., May 1

Psalm 30
Isaiah 5:11-17
Revelation 3:14-22

Fri., May 2

Psalm 30
Isaiah 6:1-4
Revelation 4:1-11

Sat., May 3

Psalm 30
Genesis 18:1-8
Luke 14:12-14

Sun., May 4

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Mon., May 5

Psalm 121
Ezekiel 1:1-25
Acts 9:19b-31

Tues., May 6

Psalm 121
Ezekiel 1:26—2:1
Acts 26:1-18

Wed., May 7

Psalm 121
Isaiah 6:1-8
Luke 5:1-11

Thurs., May 8

Psalm 23
Ezekiel 11:1-25
Revelation 5:1-10

Fri., May 9

Psalm 23
Ezekiel 20:39-44
Revelation 6:1—7:4

Sat., May 10

Psalm 23
Ezekiel 28:25-26
Luke 12:29-32

Sun., May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Mon., May 12

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 37:15-28
Revelation 15:1-4

Tues., May 13

Psalm 100
Ezekiel 45:1-9
Acts 9:32-35

Wed., May 14

Psalm 100
Jeremiah 50:17-20
John 10:31-42

Thurs., May 15

Psalm 148
Ezekiel 2:8—3:11
Revelation 10:1-11

Fri., May 16

Psalm 148
Daniel 7:13-14
Revelation 11:15

Sat., May 17

Psalm 148
Daniel 7:27
Revelation 11:16-19

Sun., May 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Mon., May 19

Psalm 133
1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42
Acts 11:19-26

Tues., May 20

Psalm 133 65:17-25
2 Samuel 1:4-27
Acts 11:27-30

Wed., May 21

Psalm 133
Leviticus 19:9-18
Luke 10:25-28

Thurs., May 22

Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:1-5
Acts 15:36-41

Fri., May 23

Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:6-8
Acts 16:1-8

Sat., May 24

Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:9-15
Luke 19:1-10

Sun., May 25

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
John 14:23-29 *or*
John 5:1-9

Mon., May 26

Psalm 93
1 Chronicles 12:16-22
Revelation 21:5-14

Tues., May 27

Psalm 93
2 Chronicles 15:1-15
Revelation 21:15-22

Wed., May 28

Psalm 93
2 Chronicles 34:20-33
Luke 2:25-38

Thurs., May 29

Ascension Day
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 *or* Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 30

Psalm 97
Exodus 33:12-17
Revelation 22:6-9

Sat., May 31

Psalm 97
Exodus 33:18-23
John 1:14-18

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 12pm - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 3pm - Fanfare Brass 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP(FH)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 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		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 12pm - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 3pm - Fanfare Brass 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP(FH)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 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		2pm - WUP(FH)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	9am - Loaves and Fishes 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP(FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Called to Care (Lib) 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir		1pm - WUP(FH)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 1:30pm - WUP(FH) 5pm - AL- Anon -YR 5pm - Confirmation Class	10am - Piece Makers 7pm - Church Council 7pm - WUP(FH)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11:30am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP(FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 5pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir		1pm - WUP(FH)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 1:30pm - WUP(FH) 5pm - AL- Anon -YR	MEMORIAL DAY 6pm - WUP(FH)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5:30pm - Discipleship 7pm - WUP(FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir		Merrimac Valley Ringers