



The Branchline

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

September 2025

From the Pastor's Desk....



"We do not want to be beginners, but let us be convinced that we will never be anything but beginners, all our life."

Thomas Merton

Welcome to September,

Welcome to a new church season, a season which has the potential to be full of new ideas and new possibilities. I personally look forward to the possibilities found in new endeavors, for it encourages creativity in the way that we do church, and it inspires us to pursue fresh outlets, so we may serve better.

As we enter this new season, I would encourage this community to try and think outside the box, to embrace new challenges, new ways of worshipping, and new ways of welcoming people in. Church has changed, people's perception of church has changed. The importance of attending a religious institution is no longer what it used to be. This does not mean getting rid of all the old ways of doing church, not at all. There is so much value in the way we worship and share our faith, and share ourselves.

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From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

But in this new reality that we are living in, when there is so much sadness, so much violence and distraction, and so much spiritual bankruptcy, God just might be calling us to worship a little differently, do our mission work a little more boldly and act out our faith a little more decidedly.

I recently quoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer in my weekly prayer, and I think that it is worth repeating, because Bonhoeffer said:

"Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God"

Somehow we must be the witness to Christ's work all around us. We must find better ways of communicating the importance of God and faith, the importance of church, to the larger community. We cannot let the value of a spiritual community be lost to the secular world.

Now is a good time to shake things up and try something new. Let us remember that our presence together and what we do as a community bears witness to others that there is something greater and more powerful than ourselves at work in the world. For so many reasons church is vital and necessary and must continue. For it to continue, it might be calling us to change and grow, and speak boldly of what we believe.

As Scripture tells us: *"God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."*

We are called to live our faith and share that faith with those whom we meet.

September Blessings

Rev Janet



At our Annual Meeting on June 8th, our Vice Moderator and head of Fellowship, John Colkos got a chance to tell his own story, with the tables turned. Rev. Janet was left holding the signs this time!

The next Branchline Deadline is November 3. Please submit items of note to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org





July 28 through August 1st we held our Annual Vacation Bible Camp for almost 30 children. Over 55 volunteers helped out in a variety of ways! Our theme this year was "Messengers of God" where we learned about different people from the bible who helped to bring God's message to the world. We also learned how we can be messengers too!





In June members of our Handbell Choir attended the Handbell Musicians of America Area 1 (New England) Festival Conference. Over 3 and a half days of workshops and rehearsals ended in a concert with over 300 handbell musicians.



On Sunday August 17th we said a sad good-bye to our beloved music director, Bobbie Morkin.

We will miss her!!



Celebration Sunday

WUC now has a Clothing and Textile Recycle Bin



What you can place in bin:

Clothing
Shoes
Linens
Bedding
Comforters
Duvets
Athletic clothing and shoes

Please do NOT place in bin: Pillows, Firearms,
Lawn equipment, Appliances, Baby items,
Toys, Books, Electronics,
Mattresses, Box springs, Rugs

Bin is located in the back corner of our Parking Lot

Harvest Dinner

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2025
6PM

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
500 MAIN ST
WILBRAHAM

Roast Chicken & Sides

Apple Crisp

\$25 PER PERSON

TABLES FOR 4 OR 8 PEOPLE ALSO AVAILABLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE

WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDCHURCH.ORG



In Lieu of Mums

An ACTS Fundraiser

This is the time of year when our church would usually be supporting the Action Centered Tutoring Services organization through their annual MUM sale.

Checks made payable to ACTS and cash donations will be collected by Andrea Stephenson on Sept 7 & 14



Online donations can be made on the
ACTS website



SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 4

1. Our Pumpkin Patch Pumpkins will be delivered and we will need many hands to unload the truck!
2. The Fellowship Commission is planning a Fall Dinner and they will need volunteers to help serve, set up and clean up.



| Coffee Hour Schedule | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Team number and Names | Date | Team | |
| Team #1 Edna Colcord, The Hegarty's, Pat Olbrych | | | |
| Team #2 Marge Trimble, Patti Colkos, Kathy Timpson | September 7, 2025 | Homecoming Sunday | Stebenne's |
| Team #3 The Ridgeway's, Jean Michon | September 14, 2025 | Team #1 | |
| Team #4 Sandy Harris, Steven Mattocks, Carianne Stebenne | September 21, 2025 | Team #2 | |
| Team #5 Pam Byers, The Capen's | September 28, 2025 | Team #3 | |
| Team #6 Amie Singh, The Ridgeway's, The Dearborn's | October 5, 2025 | Potluck Sunday | Fall Themed |
| | October 12, 2025 | Team #4 | |
| | October 19, 2025 | Team #5 | |
| | October 26, 2025 | Team #6 | |
| Summer Time cordanator Karen Gatchell | November 2, 2025 | Potluck Sunday | Thanksgiving themed (Daylight saving) |
| | November 9, 2025 | Team #1 | |
| | November 16, 2025 | Team #2 | |
| | November 23, 2025 | Team #3 | |
| | November 30, 2025 | Team #4 | |
| | December 7, 2025 | Potluck Sunday | Red and Green themed |
| | December 14, 2025 | Team #5 | |
| | December 21, 2025 | Team #6 | |
| | December 28, 2025 | Team #1 | |
| | January 4, 2026 | Potluck Sunday | Healthy themed |
| | January 11, 2026 | Team #2 | |
| | January 18, 2026 | Team #3 | |
| | January 25, 2026 | Team #4 | |
| | February 1, 2026 | Potluck Sunday | Comfort food themed |
| | February 8, 2026 | Team #5 | |
| | February 15, 2026 | Team #6 | |
| | February 22, 2026 | Team #1 | |
| | March 1, 2026 | Potluck Sunday | Lucky Green themed |
| | March 8, 2026 | Team #2 | Daylight savings |
| | March 22, 2026 | Team #3 | |
| | March 29, 2026 | Team #4 | Palm Sunday |
| | April 5, 2026 | Easter Sunday Potluck | Spring Treats themed |
| | April 12, 2026 | Team #5 | |
| | April 19, 2026 | Team #6 | |
| | April 26, 2026 | Team #1 | |
| | May 3, 2026 | Potluck Sunday | Moms Recipe themed |
| | May 10, 2026 | Team #2 | Mothers Day |
| | May 17, 2026 | Team #3 | |
| | May 24, 2026 | Team #4 | |
| | May 31, 2026 | Team #5 | |
| | June 7, 2026 | Potluck Sunday | Celebration Sunday |

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH MINI-GOLF & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

2:00 P.M.

FENWAY GOLF, 112 ALLEN ST, EAST LONGMEADOW, MA

JOIN US

FREE



Roof Project Status

The total cost of the roof project was \$78755.76. The Phys Ops Endowment allotment of \$10,000 (for 2024 and 2025) is allocated to this project. In addition a portion of the bequest from the Vieira estate of \$51068 was used for the roof repair. To date \$8076 in Shingle Sponsor donations was raised! **The roofing work was paid off but we still need to raise \$9611.76 to cover the cost.**

If you haven't yet made the decision to be a sponsor now would be a good time to do so!

Donations by check should include "Roof Fund" in the subject line. Donations can also be made online!



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**



Our Piece Makers quilting group is looking for new folks to join them. The Piece Makers ministry is focused on making quilts to be donated to the Pediatric patients at Baystate Hospital.

If you enjoy quilting or sewing or have always wanted to learn how, the Piece Makers would love to have you join them.

Piece Makers meets on Monday mornings at 10 AM. First meeting will be October 6th.

If you have questions please reach out to Jo Miner (lpminer@msn.com).



*Now that summer has ended
and we are back to the new
program year*

Have you checked to make sure your pledge is up-to-date?

Typically, during the summer, giving dwindles down as folks take time off. However, our church expenses continue without a break. So please check on your pledge status. If you need a current Giving Statement just let Deb know.



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –September 2025 (Year C)

Mon., Sept. 1

Psalm 58
Jeremiah 2:23-37
Hebrews 13:7-21

Tues., Sept. 2

Psalm 58
Jeremiah 3:1-14
Titus 1:1-9

Wed., Sept. 3

Psalm 58
Jeremiah 3:15-25
Luke 14:15-24

Thurs., Sept. 4

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 15:10-21
Philippians 2:25-30

Fri., Sept. 5

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 16:14–17:4
Colossians 4:7-17

Sat., Sept. 6

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Jeremiah 17:14-27
Matthew 10:34-42

Sun., Sept. 7

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Mon., Sept. 8

Psalm 2
Jeremiah 18:12-23
1 Timothy 3:14–4:5

Tues., Sept. 9

Psalm 2
Jeremiah 19:1-15
1 Timothy 4:6-16

Wed., Sept. 10

Psalm 2
Jeremiah 20:1-18
Luke 18:18-30

Thurs., Sept. 11

Psalm 14
Jeremiah 13:20-27
1 Timothy 1:1-11

Fri., Sept. 12

Psalm 14
Jeremiah 4:1-10
2 Peter 2:1-10a

Sat., Sept. 13

Psalm 14
Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31
John 10:11-21

Sun., Sept. 14

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Mon., Sept. 15

Psalm 94
Jeremiah 5:1-17
1 Timothy 1:18-20

Tues., Sept. 16

Psalm 94
Jeremiah 5:18-31
2 Peter 3:8-13

Wed., Sept. 17

Psalm 94
Jeremiah 14:1-10, 17-22
Luke 22:31-33, 54-62

Thurs., Sept. 18

Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 12:14–13:11
Romans 3:1-8

Fri., Sept. 19

Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 8:1-13
Romans 8:31-39

Sat., Sept. 20

Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 8:14-17; 9:2-11
Mark 12:41-44

Sun., Sept. 21

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 8:18–9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Mon., Sept. 22

Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 9:12-26
Acts 4:1-12

Tues., Sept. 23

Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 10:1-16
1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Wed., Sept. 24

Psalm 106:40-48
Jeremiah 10:17-25
Luke 20:45–21:4

Thurs., Sept. 25

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 23:9-22
2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Fri., Sept. 26

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Jeremiah 23:23-32
Ephesians 2:1-10

Sat., Sept. 27

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Ephesians 2:1-10
Luke 9:43b-48

Sun., Sept. 28

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Mon., Sept. 29

Psalm 119:49-56
Jeremiah 32:16-35
Revelation 3:14-22

Tues., Sept. 30

Psalm 119:49-56
Jeremiah 32:36-44
James 5:1-6

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|-----|-----|
| 31 | 1 LABOR DAY | 2 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) | 3 11am - Staff Meeting | 4 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) | 5 | 6 |
| 7 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 8 5pm - Phys Ops Meeting | 9 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) | 10 11am - Staff Meeting | 11 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) | 12 | 13 |
| 14 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 2pm - Fenway Golf WUC 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 15 6:30pm - Trustees (ZR) 7pm - Church Council (ZR) | 16 9am - Loaves and Fishes 11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) | 17 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Scouts | 18 9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) | 19 | 20 |
| 21 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 22 | 23 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5:30pm - Discipleship | 24 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Scouts | 25 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - AL-Anon -YR | 29 | 30 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |