



The Branchline

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

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November 2019

Wilbraham United
Church
500 Main St.
Wilbraham, MA 01095

A Note from Pastor Chip

Dear Church Family:

November is the time that we have historically spoken about stewardship in our congregation. We set aside a few moments each week during worship to hear about what our pledges and donations have accomplished in our church and in our community. We hear a few words from the pastor about how important -- how necessary -- our giving is. We get a letter from the Stewardship Commission asking us to prayerfully and faithfully discern what we can give back to God through the church. Finally, we fill out our pledge cards and move on.

It's good that we take the time to talk about how our giving to the church allows the church to do good work in the world: to provide vibrant worship, with inspiring music and (hopefully!) thought-provoking sermons; to foster and nurture community and relationship among our members; to be a force for faith, hope and love in the community beyond our doors; to advocate for peace and justice through prayers and action all over the world. With our time, talent, and treasure, Wilbraham United Church has done much good and great work! We should all be grateful to one another and to God for all that we have been able to do together as a community of faith. Our stewardship is a part of our discipleship, a way of showing the world what love can do, what is possible by faith, and what can be accomplished when we have hope. The many missions and ministries of our church are

blessings to those in need, when they feed the hungry and when they nourish the soul. Our common faith in God and one another, with the help of the Holy Spirit, enriches our lives and the world. It also strengthens us and encourages us in times of trouble, when we are called upon to do more, to speak out, to take action. It gives us the wisdom to discern where we are being called by God here and now. And it gives us joy in the collaborative work of the church, which is an expression of that faith.

We will still discuss stewardship this November. We will still hear words, receive letters, and fill out pledge cards. We will still have to sit at our kitchen tables and talk about our giving. We will still have to pray and think and decide what we are able to give back to God and the church.

As we walk forward, together, into the future that God has envisioned for us, let us not leave those thoughts and prayers and actions for November. Let us make stewardship about more than pledge cards. Let us make stewardship about our relationship with one another, the church, and God. Let us make stewardship an orientation toward loving sacrifice and gratitude, and praise. Let us make stewardship more than a pledge card, and more than a check. Let us make stewardship a blessing to the world, given in glory to God, that the blessings of faith, hope, and love we have received can be given to others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Chip

September Pledge Report

SEPTEMBER PLEDGE INCOME REPORT

Annual Pledge Income Budget: \$217,000

Pledge receipts through June 30: \$176,361

Thank you for your gifts.

Pledge receipts through September 30 contain \$60,574 of full-year pledge donations. When we amortize the full-year gifts to evaluate giving, we find that pledge income is about \$1500 less than the budgeted amount. Pledge statements will be sent to pledge donors this month.

We are now about three-fourths through the budget year. At Annual Meeting we voted an expense budget that exceeds our income by \$32,408. There is no sign that we are making any progress on this deficit. What can you do to help solve the budget deficit? This is especially important as we are about to prepare a budget for the 2020 budget year. Please prayerfully consider a significant increase to your giving.

Again, thank you for your gifts.
Your Finance Commission



For the last three months, Aimee Walat has done a tremendous job as our Interim Administrative Assistant. She's expertly managed our office. She's demonstrated great care for and love of our community. She's created vibrant and welcoming bulletins, emails and issues of the *Branchline*.

Aimee has been a joy and a pleasure, and we're grateful for all the gifts that she has brought to our church office and our community. This current *Branchline* issue will be Aimee's last one with us. As we thank her for all that she's accomplished in her time here, we also wish her well in all that lies ahead for Aimee and her family.

Next week, we will welcome Debbi Kruzel as our new Administrative Assistant. We invite you to stop by the office during office hours in the coming days and weeks to introduce yourself and get to know her. Debbie comes to us with a wealth of experience and tremendous enthusiasm for the work. We're excited to have her on our team and can't wait to get started!

Welcome

News from the Choir Room

Keep your ears open for two interesting choir anthems. We will sing the music of Richard Purvis. Richard Purvis was born in 1913 and died in 1994 . He was a child prodigy, a conservatory virtuoso, and a WW2 prisoner of war. He was the organist, choirmaster and composer at the historic Grace Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco. He became a San Francisco legend and (along with Alexander Schreiner, E. Power Biggs, and Virgil Fox) made mid-20th century American organ music popular with the masses through records, recitals and the press.

He was known for his daring harmonies, colorful registrations, and evocative melodies. His compositions got the attention of Hollywood and Purvis was offered jobs to write music for the movies. He turned them down, and continued to write for the church. Listen for “Jubilate Deo” on November 17 and “What Strangers Are These” on December 22.



Gifts of Song on Thursday night



“It is good to give God thanks and praise”

Family Ministries and Faith Formation

On Sunday, October 27, I was the subject of an Ecclesiastical Council. The purpose of the Council was determine my fitness for Ordination in the United Church of Christ. At this time, I was able to tell of my faith journey as well as field questions about a paper I had written for Ordination. The “panel” was composed of clergy and lay delegates from the Hampden Association. To my pleasant surprise, a large number of members from Wilbraham United were also on hand to lend their support. With Glory to God, I am pleased to announce that I was unanimously “approved for ordination, pending a call. I humbly ask of your prayers during my own “search and call” process.

On Friday, November 1, I had the pleasure of serving as storyteller to the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. I was able to share the story of how we have grown our VBC and Family Ministries. Thanks to all of you for your help as we continue to grow. We have worked together to put Wilbraham United Church on the map for all the right reasons!!! Amen!!!!

Thank you to all who helped with our Halloween Party. We had 100 people here to enjoy the festivities and be the recipients of our extravagant welcome. Part of why we do this is to let families know that we are here and they are welcome. It has worked as we have a new family with us from the Halloween Party!

Our next Family Night event will be on Saturday, November 23 from 4:30-6:30pm in the Youth Room for a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive has begun. We will provide dinner for needy families as well as donate much needed food to the Survival Center of Springfield. If you know of a family in need, please reach out to Pastor Chip. Our High School and Middle School students thank you for your participation in this special project. Please see the flyer in the Branchline for details.

**It continues to be an absolute pleasure to serve the community of Wilbraham United Church. Thanksgiving Blessings to one and all!!
Peace and Love,**

Paul



Youth Fellowship

HALLOWEEN PARTY!



was a SPOOKY success

Family Night

Saturday, November 23, 2019



Wilbraham United Church

4:30pm-6:30pm

- Watch "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" on the Big Screen/Smart TV
- Arts n Crafts
- Games
- Kid-friendly dinner (that looks a like the video, with some "real" food as well, probably cheese pizza and carrot sticks)
- Everyone is welcome
- FREE ADMISSION but please RSVP at christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org or call Paul Nesbit at 413-596-2511, ext. 105 by noon on Saturday November 18.

Church School

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We are now in the midst of our Thanksgiving Food Drive in cooperation with the Springfield Survival Center. This food drive is to help complete dinner baskets for Thanksgiving. We seek the following food items:

- ♦ Monetary donations for turkeys (Big Y cards from our table are great!)
- ♦ five pounds bags of potatoes
- ♦ instant potatoes
- ♦ gravy mix or jars of turkey gravy
- ♦ stuffing for turkeys
- ♦ cranberry sauce
- ♦ canned vegetables such as beans, corns and peas
- ♦ bags of carrots
- ♦ butternut squash
- ♦ canned pumpkin
- ♦ autumnal/thanksgiving paper tablecloths and napkins
- ♦ **BIG Y GIFT CARDS FROM OUR TABLE ARE ACCEPTED!!**

Please bring these items to the narthex and place them in the provided baskets by **NOVEMBER 24!!**. The Church School classes and our teen volunteers will work to sort food and make delivery to the Survival Center. Any assistance you can give to food delivery will be appreciated. Contact: Paul Nesbit





Outreach

Our Loaves and Fishes Ministry


For many, many years our church has been involved with Loaves & Fishes in Springfield. At first we prepared & served one meal a year. Then Betsy Johnsen suggested we prepare & serve a meal each month. Stuart & she became involved at that point.

In recent years Stuart prepares 6 very large casseroles of chicken/rice & vegetables that are popular w/our guests at South Congregational Church. Nancy Peck is in charge of getting volunteers to serve on the 3rd Thursday noon of each month. Judy Hoffman finds bakers who are willing to bake a 9 by 13 inch cake each month. (The cakes are also popular.)

We would like to have a few more volunteers to help us serve on the third Thursdays of the month. It does not have to be an every month commitment. We send out an email every month to see who is available from our list of volunteers. We need between 4-6 people each month. If you would like to be put on our email list, please send an email to ncpeck10@gmail.com or call or speak to Nancy Peck.



Outreach



Loaves & Fishes is a mission of our church that takes place once a month throughout the year. It occurs on the third Thursday of each month.

The group meets at the church at 11 am & takes casseroles & cakes to South Congregational Church in Springfield where the hungry & homeless come twice a day to eat.



MONTHLY MOMENT FOR MISSION

Please join the Outreach Commission after church on November 17th while guest Mary Cassidy speaks about the importance of the Survival Center in Indian Orchard to the local community. We hope to see you there!



Marilyn Heiney 11/15

Millie Carew 11/23





Women's Evening Fellowship Welcomes Local Author

On Tuesday November 19 at 7:00 PM in the Zeckhausen Room, Women's Evening Fellowship will host an evening with Bill Wells, sports writer and editor for *The Springfield Republican*. Bill will share selections from his book *Run for Rwanda*, the inspiring story of Simi, a boy orphaned at 12 who grows up to compete in the 800 meter run in the 2004 Olympic games. Bill will bring books for sale. There will be time for fellowship, and delicious refreshments will be served. Please note that men are cordially invited to join us for this meeting.



The Old Meeting House Museum, 450 Main St., will be open on Monday, Veteran's Day, 11/11, from 1:00-3:00. Uniforms will be on display.



**PieceMakers
Will be meeting
November 25th
from
10 am -12 pm
In the Bliss Room**



Wilbraham United Church Nursery School

Are you or is someone you know looking for a quality preschool program? Wilbraham United Church Nursery School offers specialized preschool and pre-K programs for children between the ages of 2.9 and 5.

Currently, the preschool has openings in both the Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten programs. We offer a creative curriculum that includes music, yoga, Spanish and much more!

Contact us today to set up a visit or to learn some more information about this unique Program!

**Wilbraham United Nursery
School**

500 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-536-2511 ext. 108



The Thrift Shop
At Wilbraham United Church

Time to think about the upcoming holidays. Beginning the first week of November there will be sprinklings of the holidays throughout the shop just to get you in the spirit.

You can see a preview each Friday and Saturday morning on Facebook using Wilbraham United Church Thrift Shop page. Be sure to check us out.

We are also planning a Thank You volunteer luncheon. Every Friday and Saturday from 9:30-12:30 there are two volunteers who operate the shop. We could not do it without them!

If you would like to be a part of this group please speak with Donna Carlson or Nancy Krawczynski. The time commitment is generally once every month or two. And you get to see the merchandise first before it opens!



AED/CPR/”STOP THE BLEED” TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE



WHEN

Two options: Sunday Dec 1, 1-3 PM or
Monday Dec 2, 10 AM-12 PM

INSTRUCTOR

Matthew Sterling from Wilbraham Emergency Medical Response

WHERE

WUC Fellowship Hall

WHO

Open to church members of all ages. No previous CPR or first aid training required.

COST

Free (paid thanks to donations to the AED Fund)

WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

This class is designed for lay people and provides training in basic CPR, use of the AED, and first aid for severe bleeding. The focus is learning in a no-stress environment so skills are easily understood and remembered. There are no tests or certification, but you will walk away empowered to respond to an emergency.

HOW TO SIGN UP

Call or email the church office at 596-2511 or
admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org. Sign up early, class size is limited.

QUESTIONS?

Email or speak to Nan Shepard (sshep48622@aol.com) or Carol Piel (carolpiel@gmail.com).

Looking for two or three locations for our lawn signs.

Locations should be on fairly high traffic roads/intersections. Have a location? Contact Bill Sanderson at linwood@yahoo.com to offer your location or locations. Plan to place signs in mid November and remove December 14.



**Holly
Fair
Yard
Signs**



The Holly Fair will be Saturday, December 14 from 9-3!

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need EVERYONE'S help!!! Please start thinking about what YOU can do to help! We need help in the following areas: greeters the day of the fair, cookie bakers, help in the kitchen, help with moving and clean up, parking help, PR and advertising, help with the raffle, and more!

Information can be found on our website under the Holly Fair tab.

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org.

Questions can be emailed to wuchurchevents@gmail.com

Please contact Tammy Trudeau with any questions:

wotrudeau@charter.net or 413-575-0416.



The Wilbraham United Players will present **THE 1940's RADIO HOUR** this November on the Fellowship Hall Stage at Wilbraham United Church.

Show dates are:

November 15, 16 at 7:30

November 17 at 2:30.

November 22, 23 at 7:30

November 24 at 2:30

Book by Walton Jones. Music by various composers. This show is full of 1940s music, dancing and old-time sound effects, the play portrays the final holiday broadcast of the Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade on the New York radio station WOV in December 1942. The harassed producer, the leading singer who is often drunk, the second banana who dreams of singing a ballad, the delivery boy who wants a chance in front of the mic, and the trumpet player who chooses a fighter plane over Glenn Miller. All of this wrapped up in holiday charm and nostalgia. It's a great way to kick off the holidays!

Music Direction by BENJAMIN MANISCALCHI.

Directed by DEB TRIMBLE. Tickets are now on sale through our website at wilbrahamunitedplayers.org

Daily Lectionary Scripture References November 2019 (Year C)

Fri., Nov. 1

Psalm 119:137-144
Habakkuk 1:5-17
2 Peter 1:1-11

Sat., Nov. 2

Psalm 119:137-144
Habakkuk 2:5-11
John 8:39-47

Sun., Nov. 3

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119:137-144
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Mon., Nov. 4

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 2:12-20
1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Tues., Nov. 5

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 3:1-16
Jude 5-21

Wed., Nov. 6

Psalm 142
Habakkuk 3:17-19
Luke 19:11-27

Thurs., Nov. 7

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Zechariah 1:1-17
Acts 22:22-23:11

Fri., Nov. 8

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Zechariah 6:9-15
Acts 24:10-23

Sat., Nov. 9

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
Haggai 1:1-15a
Luke 20:1-8

Sun., Nov. 10

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Mon., Nov. 11

Psalm 98
Haggai 2:10-19
2 Peter 1:16-21

Tues., Nov. 12

Psalm 98
Haggai 2:20-23
2 John 1-13

Wed., Nov. 13

Psalm 98
Zechariah 8:1-17
John 5:19-29

Thurs., Nov. 14

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 57:14-21
Romans 1:18-25

Fri., Nov. 15

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 59:1-15a
2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Sat., Nov. 16

Isaiah 12
Isaiah 59:15b-21
Luke 17:20-37

Sun., Nov. 17

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Mon., Nov. 18

Psalm 76
Isaiah 60:17-22
Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Tues., Nov. 19

Psalm 76
Isaiah 66:1-13
1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Wed., Nov. 20

Psalm 76
Isaiah 66:14-24
Matthew 23:37-24:14

Thurs., Nov. 21

Luke 1:68-79

Jeremiah 21:1-14
Hebrews 9:23-28

Fri., Nov. 22

Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 22:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-9

Sat., Nov. 23

Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 22:18-30
Luke 18:15-17

Sun., Nov. 24

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Mon., Nov. 25

Psalm 1175
Jeremiah 30:1-17
Revelation 21:5-27

Tues., Nov. 26

Psalm 117
Jeremiah 30:18-24
Revelation 22:8-21

Wed., Nov. 27

Psalm 117
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Luke 1:1-4

Thurs., Nov. 28

Thanksgiving Day
Deut. 26:1-11
Psalm 100
Phil. 4:4-9
John 6:25-35

Fri., Nov. 29

Psalm 122
Genesis 6:1-10
Hebrews 11:1-7

Sat., Nov. 30

Psalm 122
Genesis 6:11-22
Matthew 24:1-22



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November 2019

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

3 10 am – Worship 1 pm – WUP – FH 6 pm – Al-Anon – YR 6 pm – Drumming	4 10:30 am – Yoga w/ Michelle 7 pm – WUP - FH	5 5 pm – Girl Scouts 7 pm – Tues. Eve. Yoga- Youth Room 7 pm – WUP - FH	6 12:30 Thrift Store Lunch 3:30 Girl Scouts 4:15 Girl Scouts 6 pm – Al- Anon – YR 6pm – Called to Care - Lib 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts 7 pm – Band 7 pm – Tech Com – Lib 7 pm – WUP- FH	7 6 pm HRC – Lib 6:30 Al-Anon – YR 7 pm – Bell Choir 7:45 pm – Adult Choir	8 9:30 am – Thrift Shop 12 pm – WUP - FH	9 9 am – WUP - FH 9:30 am – Thrift Shop 10 am – Jr. Choir	10 10 am – Worship 6 pm – Al-Anon – YR 6 pm – Drumming	11 10:30 am – Yoga w/ Michelle 12 pm – WUP – FH 7 pm – Phys Ops – ZR 7:30 pm – WUP - FH	12 5 pm – WUP- FH 7 pm – Tues. Eve. Yoga- Youth Room	13 3:30 Girl Scouts 4:15 Girl Scouts 5 pm – WUP - FH 6 pm – Al- Anon – YR 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts 7 pm - Band	14 6:30 Al-Anon – YR 7 pm – Bell Choir 7:45 pm – Adult Choir	15 9:30 am – Thrift Shop 10 am – Springfield Garden Club 5 pm – WUP - FH	16 9:30 am – Thrift Shop 10 am – Jr. Choir	17 10 am – Worship 6 pm – Al-Anon – YR 6 pm – Drumming	18 7 pm – Finance – Library 7:30 pm – Gov Board - ZR	19 Fire Department Testing All Day 7 pm – Tues. Eve. Yoga- Youth Room 7 pm – WEF - ZR	20 3:30 Girl Scouts 4:15 Girl Scouts 6 pm – Al- Anon – YR 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts 7 pm - Band	21 5:30 pm Daisy Sign up- FH 6:30 Al-Anon – YR 7 pm – Bell Choir 7:45 pm – Adult Choir	22 9:30 am – Thrift Shop 5 pm – WUP - FH	23 9:30 am – Thrift Shop 10 am – Jr. Choir 10 am – Girl Scouts FH 4:30 – Family Night 5 pm – WUP - FH	24 10 am – Worship 6 pm – Al-Anon – YR 6 pm – Drumming	25 10 am – Piecemakers – Bliss Room 10:30 am – Yoga w/ Michelle 12 pm – WUP - FH	26 7 pm – Tues. Eve. Yoga- Youth Room WUP- FH	27 3:30 Girl Scouts 4:15 Girl Scouts 6 pm – Al- Anon – YR 7 pm - Band	28 Thanksgiving – office closed 6:30 Turkey Trot 6:30 pm – Al –Anon -YR	29 9:30 am – Thrift Shop	30 9 am – WUP - FH 9:30 am – Thrift Shop 10 am – Jr. Choir

Church Directory

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Wilbraham United Church Nursery School

www.wucns.org

Missed church?

Watch the service on Wilbraham Public Access, Channel 191,
8 PM on Mondays and 8 AM on Tuesdays.

Services are also available on-line.

Go to www.wilbraham-ma.gov

On the left click Public Access Schedules

- Channel 191.

Find the service you'd like to watch

by selecting a date on the calendar and a time, 8pm Mondays or 8am on Tuesdays.

Click Watch Now