



The Branchline

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

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Wilbraham United Church
500 Main St.
Wilbraham, MA 01095

*A note from Pastor
Chip...*

Dear Church Family:

As you read this, we are preparing for Holy Week. Usually, these preparations would have been completed long before now. The palms, the seder meal, the readers for Maundy Thursday would all be set. The trumpets, the timpani, and the Easter egg hunt would all be planned out and ready to go. But we are not in a usual time.

We have not met in public worship since Paul's ordination. We have not gathered in our sanctuary in nearly a month. We have not found ourselves in our usual pew or lingered over coffee with our usual church family. We are not in a usual time.

Yet, in all of the upheaval and disruption, in all of the extraordinary and all of the *unusual* in which we find ourselves, we are still busy being the church. We are still busy making it our mission to bring the Good News of the gospel to all God's children, in Wilbraham, in the Pioneer Valley, and throughout the world. We are still busy showing an extravagant welcome to all even as the doors to our church remain closed. We are still busy trying to be the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, by living into love and practicing our faith.

We have fed the hungry by filling a pickup truck with food at our Drive-By Food Drive. We have helped to clothe the naked by donating over 1000 gloves and 80 surgical masks and sewing 150 masks, and donating them to medical professionals who are in need of these important items of personal protective equipment. We have visited the sick and welcomed the stranger by writing cards to patients at Baystate and by picking up our own phones to call those who are staying home in order to stay safe.

And we have continued to share in worship and community through Facebook Live. We have prayed with one another and sung with one another, offered hope to one another and mourned with one another, joined together as one from our own homes. We have reached out in these online services to many who could never worship with us in our sanctuary, but who have come to find us -- or reunite with us -- in our new space, and discovered a vibrant community of faith and service, of welcome and love.

As Paul (the apostle) would write, I give thanks to God for your faithfulness. I give thanks to God for your commitment to this church and its mission. I give thanks to God for your love of God and neighbor. I give thanks to God for your support and encouragement of the staff. And I give thanks to God that we are rising to the challenges of this unusual time together.

Blessings,

Chip

A Note from Rev. Paul

It seems odd to say that the last time we gathered for worship was at the Ordination on March 8. With that in mind, I want to extend a huge THANK YOU to the Wilbraham United Church community for making the day extra-special. My family remarked on the music, the feeling of love, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the food, hall, and desserts. There are so many people to thank but I don't want to start listing names in fear of leaving someone out of my heartfelt thanks. I love you all so much. It was a wonderful day and a great start to ordained ministry.

Speaking of the presence of the Holy Spirit, she has certainly made Herself known in the past few weeks. So many people were able to participate in our Drive-By Food Drive, mask making, donating supplies and the large amount of card making for Baystate Medical Center that took place. For over five years I have said that you have never disappointed when a call for help went out to the community. It is crucial that we, as Wilbraham United Church, stay involved in the community to spread the Good News of Jesus by our thoughts, words, and deeds. Congratulations on a job well done!

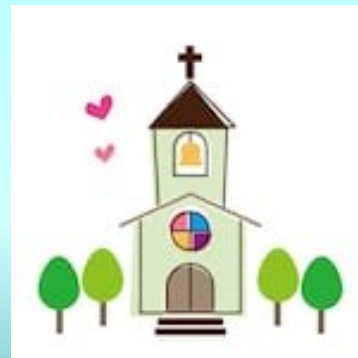
The Holy Spirit has been present as we have been literally forced into new ways of worshiping together. We've initiated "At Home Church School" and sent out materials and videos to our parents each week. We have reached thousands of people through our worship services, evening prayer, Q & A with Chip and our Bedtime Bible Stories with Rev. Paul and Friends. Some of us had been discussing new ways to reach people who cannot come to church for whatever reason. Our "Facebook Live" services have allowed us to connect and reconnect with people all over the US. It is our hope that we continue with some of these new ventures even after we get the "all clear" to gather again for worship.

In the meantime, our prayer for you is that you stay safe, be healthy, and wash your hands! I cannot wait (but I shall) until we can gather again in person for worship.

Peace and Love,

Paul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit
Associate Pastor
Wilbraham United Church





- Sat. April 4th 10 a.m-noon: Pick up Palms in Church parking lot or Contact Pastor Chip for delivery**
- Sun. April 5th 9:55 a.m: Palm Sunday Worship - Facebook Live**
- Tues. April 7th 7:15 p.m. Bedtime Bible Stories - Facebook Live with Rev. Paul and friends**
- Thurs. April 9th 7:15 p.m: Maundy Thursday Worship - Facebook Live**
- Fri. April 10th 7:15 p.m: Good Friday Worship - Facebook Live**
- Sun. April 12th 9:55 a.m: Easter Sunday Worship - Facebook Live**

*He is not here;
he has*

Risen!

Luke 24:6

Congratulations!

Reverend Paul!







News from the Choir Room

WORSHIP PLANNING COVID19 PANDEMIC EDITION

Breathe on Me, Breath of God.....NOPE
Precious Lord, Take my Hand.....NOPE
Just a Closer Walk with Thee.....NOPE
Gather Us In.....NOPE
Close to Thee.....NOPE

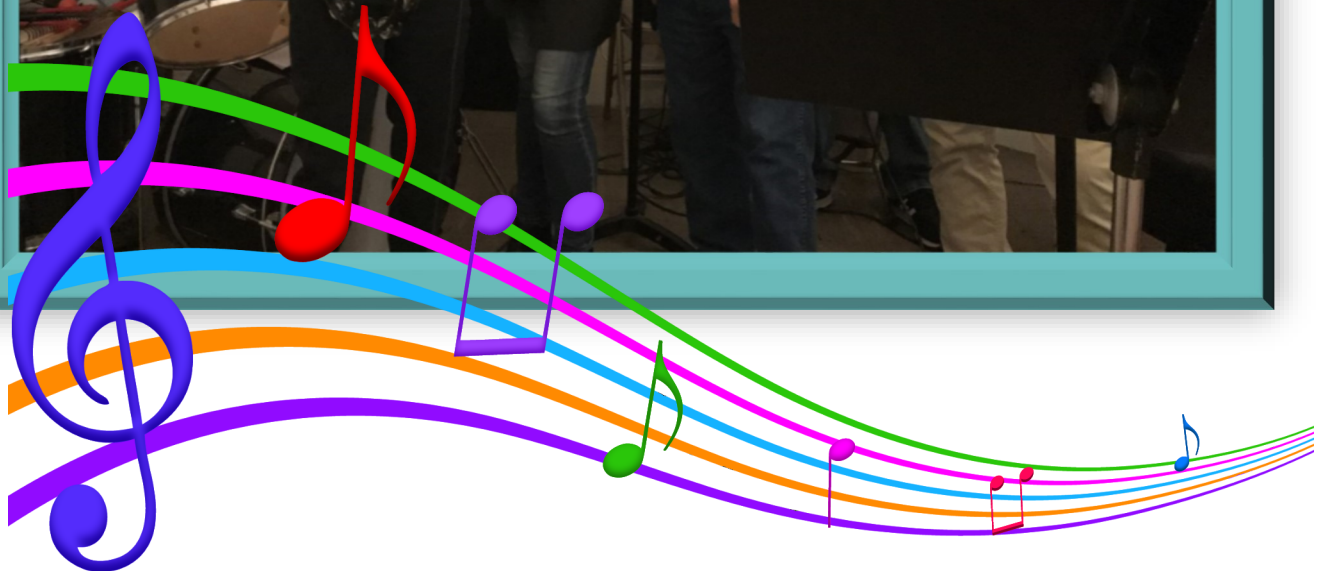
COULD WORK

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley
I Come to the Garden Alone
Trust and Obey

@STEPHSCHLIMM



Praise Band



Outreach



The Mental Health Association (MHA) in the Greater Springfield area helps individuals who have mental health issues with basic needs and guides them on a path toward more independent living. Wilbraham United Church (WUC) supported MHA with a cash donation in 2019 which was used to help pay for moving costs for several individuals as they moved into their own apartments. Two of these stories were published in the Branchline (December, 2019 and February, 2020 issues).

MHA opened a residence in Wilbraham in 2019 and is planning to open a second Wilbraham home in 2020. Outreach Commission is exploring possible ways in which WUC members can support residents who live in these and several other MHA sponsored homes in the Springfield area.

One proposed project would involve WUC members providing residents with “wish list” items. This would be one way in which church members could become acquainted with residents. Other forms of support might be developed over time.

Are you interested in participating in such a WUC-MHA project? Please respond to any member of the Outreach Commission to indicate your interest or with comments and suggestions.

**Amo Beal
Norma Hill
Phyllis Walsh**

**Monica Gubala
Ruth Karlson
Kelcie Walters**

Staying Connected in faith



How can I stay connected?

- Sun. Worship service - 9:55 a.m. Facebook Live
- Tues. Bedtime Bible Stories - 7:15 p.m. Facebook Live
- Wed. Evening prayer service - 7:15 p.m. Facebook Live

As always, feel free to call us at 596-2511
Pastor Chip: Ext. 103 Rev. Paul: Ext. 105

Helping our Community

On Friday, March 20th Rev. Paul and WUC hosted a Drive-thru Food Donation event to benefit the Community Survival Center.

We are so thankful and blessed that we collected a truck full of food donations to help those in need.



Thank you to those who created beautiful cards for patients at Baystate, as well as donated gloves and face masks for area healthcare facilities.

We joined together in prayer and thanksgiving for these blessings during our Wednesday Evening Prayer Service.



The Thrift Shop
At Wilbraham United Church

Our Thrift Shop at this time is not open or accepting donations until further notice.

We are always thinking of you and are so thankful for all of your support.

We look forward to when we can be together again.

Donna and Nancy

Do you love reading the Branchline?

Would you, a family member or friend like to receive this newsletter by mail? If so, please contact admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org or call Aimee Walat at 413-596-2511 ext. 100.

We would be happy to send along a copy of the Branchline and share all the great happenings here at Wilbraham United Church!



Connie Law	4/9
Nancy Porter	4/24
Rich Hoffman	4/30

Do you sew?
If you would like to sew surgical masks to be donated to area hospitals and facilities please see the link below:

<https://sweetredpoppy.com/how-to-sew-a-surgical-face-mask/>

**If you have any questions: contact Pastor Chip
Nancy Peck and
Nancy Krawczynski
nkrawski@charter.net or 413-596-2152**

Shopping Card Program



Dear Church Family,

I hope you are all healthy and staying safe during this time of uncertainty. As we continue to social distance and fill our cupboards, please keep our gift card program in mind. This is one way we can keep contributing to our church while shopping for grocery and other essentials (gas and pharmacy, for example, as well as Amazon). As the nice weather of spring is approaching, maybe you'll be outside working on some projects (I have Lowes, Home Depot and Walmart cards available).

Please contact me at cdstiefel@gmail.com or 413/949-1057 (text or call) to arrange pick up or delivery of cards from a healthy household, of course respecting social distance. I am happy to accommodate your requests. And now may be a good time to check out online ordering at www.shopwithscrip.com. The easiest way is to let me know you're interested and I can send you a link to set up an account. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with your gift card needs and questions.

Thanks,
Connie Stiefel

Physical cards of retailers available by texting, calling or emailing me~

Amazon, Big Y (includes Fresh Acres, gas, Table and Vine), Chipotle, CVS, Dunkin, Home Depot, Lowes, Olive Garden, Panera, Shell, Starbucks, Stop&Shop, Subway, Unos, Walgreens, and Walmart

Shopping Card Program

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



Support our organization while you shop

More than 50,000 organizations have used gift cards to turn everyday shopping into earnings—our organization is one of them. Pay with gift cards and offset costs for our organization.



Buy gift cards at face value



Earn a rebate up to 20%



Use gift cards for everyday shopping

Shop 750+ top brands

Use eGift cards and physical gift cards, and earn on gas, groceries, eating out, clothes—the list goes on. It's easy, it's rewarding, and it fits right into your busy schedule.

See a full list of brands at ShopWithScrip.com or MyScripWallet.com



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey



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

Daily Lectionary Scripture References -April 2020 (Year A)

Wed. April 1

Psalm 32
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41
Matthew 22:23-33

Thurs., Apr. 2

Psalm 31:9-16
1 Samuel 16:11-13
Philippians 1:1-11

Fri., Apr. 3

Psalm 31:9-16
Job 13:13-19
Philippians 1:21-30

Sat., Apr. 4

Psalm 31:9-16
Lamentations 3:55-66
Mark 10:32-34

Sun., Apr. 5

Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew
27:11-54

Mon., Apr. 6

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tues., Apr. 7

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wed., Apr. 8

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thurs., Apr. 9

Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Apr. 10

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews
4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

Sat., Apr 11

Holy Saturday
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9,
19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-
42

Sun., Apr. 12

Easter
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Mon., Apr. 13

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
Colossians 3:5-11

Tues., Apr. 14

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Exodus 15:1-18
Colossians 3:12-17

Wed., Apr. 15

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 3:1-17
Matthew 28:1-10

Thurs., Apr. 16

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 2:8-15
Colossians 4:2-5

Fri., Apr. 17

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sat., Apr. 18

Psalm 16
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
John 20:11-20

Sun., Apr. 19

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 20

Psalm 114
Judges 6:36-40
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tues., Apr. 21

Psalm 114
Jonah 1:1-17
1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wed., Apr. 22

Psalm 114
Jonah 2:1-10
Matthew 12:38-42

Thurs., Apr. 23

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:1-5
1 Peter 1:8b-12

Fri., Apr. 24

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 26:1-4
1 Peter 1:13-16

Sat., Apr. 25

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 14:12-14

Sun., Apr. 26

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Mon., Apr. 27

Psalm 134
Genesis 18:1-14
1 Peter 1:23-25

Tues., Apr. 28

Psalm 134
Proverbs 8:32-9:6
1 Peter 2:1-3

Wed., Apr. 29

Psalm 134
Exodus 24:1-11
John 21:1-14

Thurs., Apr. 30

Psalm 23
Exodus 2:15b-25
1 Peter 2:9-12

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April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
						Palm Pick up Drive thru Church Parking Lot 10 am - noon
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Palm Sunday Worship Facebook Live 9:55 am		Bedtime Bible Stories Facebook Live 7:15 pm		Maundy Thursday Worship Facebook Live 7:15 pm	Good Friday Service Facebook Live 7:15 pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Easter Sunday Worship Facebook Live 9:55 am		Bedtime Bible Stories Facebook Live 7:15 pm	Evening Prayer Service Facebook Live 7:15 pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday Worship Facebook Live 9:55 am		Bedtime Bible Stories Facebook Live 7:15 pm	Evening Prayer Service Facebook Live 7:15 pm			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sunday Worship Facebook Live 9:55 am		Bedtime Bible Stories Facebook Live 7:15 pm	Evening Prayer Service Facebook Live 7:15 pm			



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