



# The Branchline

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

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Wilbraham United  
Church  
500 Main St.  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
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*A note from  
Rev. Paul...*

Dear Church Family:

One of my favorite memories of growing up are the times when my extended family on my father's side got together. As I am one of thirty-five grandchildren on the Nesbit side, whenever we gathered it was an instant party with plenty to do. Swimming, softball and touch football were almost always on the agenda. My favorite part, of course, was when it was time to eat! But, as I look back, I remember how I loved to see various family members that we only saw at these particular times.

I am sure that many of us have certain memories of summer gatherings with our families and friends. People love to come together, either in a small group or larger gathering of friends. Beverages, food and the chance to share a meal are always a means to gather together to celebrate each other. In summers past, we have all enjoyed various barbeque and cook-outs where people may bring different dishes and salads to sample.

While the food may be good and nourishing, it is the act of sharing it that has become important. One of the most difficult things for me, as an extrovert, is the inability to get together with folks during the pandemic. Not only are we missing out on the nourishment of the food, but we are missing out on the nourishment of being with our friends, families and church community.

When we gather as a Church, we are able to become nourished on the Word of God. On Communion Sundays, we seek nourishment in the ritual of the breaking of the bread. And, of course, we seek nourishment in the repast and company at Fellowship Hour.

The Gospels remind us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." As we seek the nourishment of the Word through our live stream services as well as our personal prayer, let us be mindful of those who need the nourishment of personal interaction. Pick up the phone and call a church member or friend. If they need something and you are someone who is going out, perhaps you can offer to do an errand while they remain quarantined. If there is something you need or you just want to talk, let me know so that I can call you or make safe arrangements to meet with you in person.

Nourishment allows us to thrive. The Word of God, actual food for the journey, and some sort of fellowship all make for a well-balanced diet! Stay safe, please; God loves you and so do we!!

Peace and love,

*Paul*

# June Pledge Income Report

**Annual Pledge Income Budget: \$225,000**

**Pledge receipts through June: \$140,349**

We thank you for your gifts.

Pledge income through June is buoyed by \$71,367 full-year pledge donations. These early payments delay our taking of budgeted income from invested funds. When we amortize the full-year gifts to evaluate giving at mid-year, we find that pledge income is about \$7800 less than expected for the budgeted amount.

We are now 26 weeks into the budget year and an additional concern is that we have budgeted expenditures that exceed our budgeted income by \$14,763. We are falling behind in pledge income and not making any progress on this deficit.

We are in the season when church activity (and giving) slows. This has been compounded by the corona-virus pandemic, as such fund raisers as Thrift Shop are closed, plate income and Shopping Cards have slowed, while future events like the Holly Fair have been cancelled. We realize that this is a difficult time for many people, but have to ask “What can you do to help solve the budget deficit?”

The response to the worship events planned and so beautifully presented by Pastor Chip, Pastor Paul, Mark and Deb has been wonderful, as has the generosity of people to the food and toiletry collections at WUC. We have much to celebrate.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help and, again, thank you for your gifts.

Your Finance Commission



# Finance Commission Updates

For those wondering about the Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program loan the church received, here is some information. I am happy to field any questions, and must gratefully acknowledge the breadth and depth of help afforded by Lisa Fallon in all matters relating to this loan.

- The church applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan in mid April, we were approved and received \$56,200 in early May, and the 8 week "usage window" started then
- The rules and parameters for usage & forgiveness have seen numerous revisions since then
- A majority of the proceeds must be used for payroll costs, with a lesser amount allowed for utilities
- The primary requirement is that payroll and staff levels be maintained at the same level over the usage window, so it benefitted us to pay the Nursery School staff one extra pay period beyond their original ending date
- Then the government changed the usage window from 8 weeks to 24 weeks, which we expect will allow us full loan forgiveness even with the closing of the nursery school in June
- The loan has helped us so far to avoid the possibility of layoffs or pay reductions as we see some of our income sources greatly reduced or temporarily eliminated

Covid has had quite an impact on some of our typical income resources, as well as the Nursery School's end of year, Thrift Shop, Holly Fair and others. We are in no way relieved of the deficit by this loan, we are just better off than we would have been without it. We appreciate all who maintain their pledges through these times and prayerfully watch for how it all work out in the end.

Joseph Stiefel, Treasurer  
On Behalf of Finance Commission





# **Musical Notes from Mark...**

**The Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, Lutheran pastor and author offered this reflection recently.**

**I do not know when we can gather together again in worship, Lord.**

**So, for now I just ask that:**

**When I sing along in my kitchen to each song on Stevie Wonder's Songs in The Key of Life Album, that it be counted as praise. (Happy 70th Birthday, SW!)**

**And that when I read the news and my heart tightens in my chest, may it be counted as a Kyrie.**

**And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the cashier may it be counted as passing the peace.**

**And that when I water my plants and wash my dishes and take a shower may it be counted as remembering my baptism.**

**And that when the tears come and my shoulders shake and my breathing falters, may it be counted as prayer.**

**And that when I stumble upon a Tabitha Brown video and hear her grace and love of you may it be counted as a hearing a homily.**

**And that as I sit at that table in my apartment, and eat one more homemade meal, slowly, joyfully, with nothing else demanding my time or attention, may it be counted as communion.**

**Amen.**

**-Nadia Bolz-Weber**

# Wilber's Summer Adventures



"I'm all by myself so I went exploring!"

It's easy to bounce from place to place when you're made of rubber!



I really get into my music!



Nothing like a quick dip to cool down on a hot day!



# Outreach



**Are you looking for another way to serve your church, God, and community?**

**Consider supporting Loaves and Fishes!**

***Every third Thursday of the month at 11 am*** volunteers from this worthwhile ministry gather to deliver dinners and desserts to the South Congregational Church in Springfield.

Stuart Johnsen makes casseroles while additional volunteers make cakes and transport the food. In usual circumstances, the food is served by members of this mission to those in the community who are underserved and unhoused. Currently due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our volunteers are not serving the food.

If you are interested in baking casseroles or in a larger role in Loaves and Fishes, please contact Stuart Johnsen. Please contact Judy Hoffman if you are interested in baking or Nancy Peck to assist with transporting food.



Judy - Email:  
[imjrhoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:imjrhoffman@hotmail.com),  
Phone: 413-596-8353  
Nancy - Phone: 413-596-6952

*Thank You*



*for your Kindness*

# WUC Supporting our Community

WUC continues to support our local community during these difficult times.

We have had many people donate non perishable food and personal hygiene items which were donated to the Community Survival Center.



# Christmas in July Drive thru Collection



**Thank you to all the volunteers  
for helping make the Christmas  
in July Drive thru  
a great success.**

**We appreciate all of you who  
planned, donated, delivered and  
volunteered.**





# BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



To benefit  
Springfield Public  
Schools in the  
South End

**Saturday, August 22, 2020**

**Wilbraham United Church**

**9:30-11:00 am**

**Back Parking Lot**

## **We need:**

- Mechanical Pencils
- Regular Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Individual hand-held sharpeners
- 1 subject notebooks
- Glue sticks
- Post it notes
- Crayons
- Pencil Boxes
- Pens

## **How does this work?**

- Please have the things in the trunk or hatchback; we will take the bags out for you.
- All volunteers will be masked.
- We cannot accept "loose" items. Please have everything in a plastic/paper bag or baggie.

**THANK YOU!!**

Contact: Rev. Paul Nesbit, Acting Pastor  
[christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

413-596-2511, ext. 105

# Piecemakers



The Piecemakers, normally a quilt-making group, have morphed into a mask-making at-home group over the past several weeks because of needs arisen by the Covid19 pandemic. They are fortunate to have two additional women who have made and donated masks. They have created nearly 600 masks to date! Early on they gave masks to St. Francis Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Glenmeadow in Longmeadow, the Mental Health Association, Orchard Valley and Church Without Walls in downtown Springfield. More recently they have given masks to Life Care in Wilbraham, Armbrook Village assisted living in Westfield, Ludlow town nurses, Loaves and Fishes workers and clients in Springfield and have now expanded to members and friends of Wilbraham United Church.

Since nearly everyone in Massachusetts is supposed to be wearing a mask when out in public and not able maintain six feet of distance between people, members are continuing to work on this project. If church members or friends need masks or know of any organization that needs them, please notify:

Rev. Paul at [christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org).

Thank you to all the women who have been contributing to this project. They are Pam B, Candy D, Joyce E, Judy M, Marcia M, Nancy P, Judy P and Suzanne Z. We really appreciate all you have been doing!!!

Thank you also to Pastor Chip and Rev. Paul for their support.

# Behind the Scenes at WUC



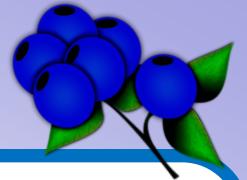


August Recipes  
From the Kitchen of  
Phyllis Walsh



# Recipe

## Easy Blueberry Pie



### Ingredients

- \* 1 cooked pie crust
- \* 2 1/2 Cups Raw blueberries
- \* 1 jar of red current jelly
- \* Whipped cream

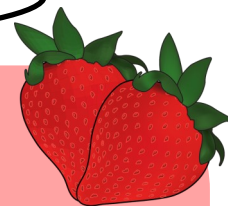
### Directions

- \* Mix blueberries with almost the whole jar of jelly
- \* Pour into cooked pie crust
- \* Serve and enjoy with whipped cream on each



# Recipe<sup>P</sup>

## Strawberry Shortcake Cookies



### Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 3/4 C of chopped strawberries
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 C plus 1 tbsp. sugar
- 2 C all purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 C butter, softened
- 1/4 C packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

### Filling

- 4 tbsp. cream cheese
- 3 tbsp. powdered sugar
- Zest of 1 lemon

Preheat oven to 350 and line baking sheets with parchment paper and grease with cooking spray.

### Directions

1. Stir strawberries, lemon juice and 1 tbsp. gran. Sugar until combined, let sit for 10 min then drain
2. In medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt
3. In a large bowl use a hand mixer to combine butter, 1/2 C sugar and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla then stir in flour mixture until just combined.
4. Fold in strawberries and set aside
5. For filling: combine cream cheese, powdered sugar and lemon zest until smooth.

### Directions

6. Scoop filling into 12 small balls and place on lined baking sheet.
7. Scoop heaping tbsps. of dough (24) and flatten into pancake like circles on baking sheets.
8. Place cream cheese filling on top of 12 pieces of dough. Place remaining dough on top of filling and pinch edges together. Roll gently into balls.
9. Arrange stuffed cookie dough balls 2" apart on baking sheets and bake until golden and set, about 18 min.



# Hello



## **How can I stay connected?**

- **Watch our Sunday morning Worship service at 9:55 a.m. on Facebook Live**
- **Watch our Wednesday Evening prayer service at 7:15 p.m. on Facebook Live**
- **Socially distanced Office hours with Rev. Paul on Tuesdays: 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Village Store and 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Church lawn. Thursdays: 10:00-11:00 a.m. Rice's Fruit Farm**
- **Participate in our monthly supply drives**
- **Socially distanced drumming circle on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. on the church lawn**
- **Read the monthly Branchline newsletter to share in all the great happenings at WUC**
- **Visit our website to stay up to date on events, hours, bulletins and our monthly calendar**
- **As always, feel free to call us at 596-2511  
Rev. Paul: Ext. 105**

# OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Tired of being locked in your home, maintaining Social Distancing a problem, want to do something for your church? Here are opportunities. You can work independently or with family members in the great outdoors by weeding a portion of the church gardens, trimming some shrubs, transporting yard waste to the recycle center (vehicle sticker required), renewing a few garden areas with new plantings, seal cracks in the front entrance sidewalk, wash windows, regrade spot areas in the lawn.



Really ambitious? The exterior wood panel under the Altar window needs scraping and painting. There are other exterior portions around the church building which could use painting.

Interested in any of the above?

Contact Bill Sanderson at [linwood36@yahoo.com](mailto:linwood36@yahoo.com) for further details.



## The Thrift Shop

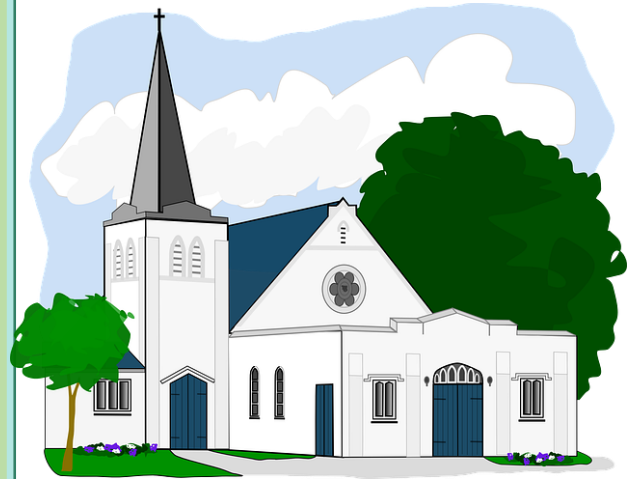
At Wilbraham United Church

Our Thrift Shop continues to be closed and is not 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?

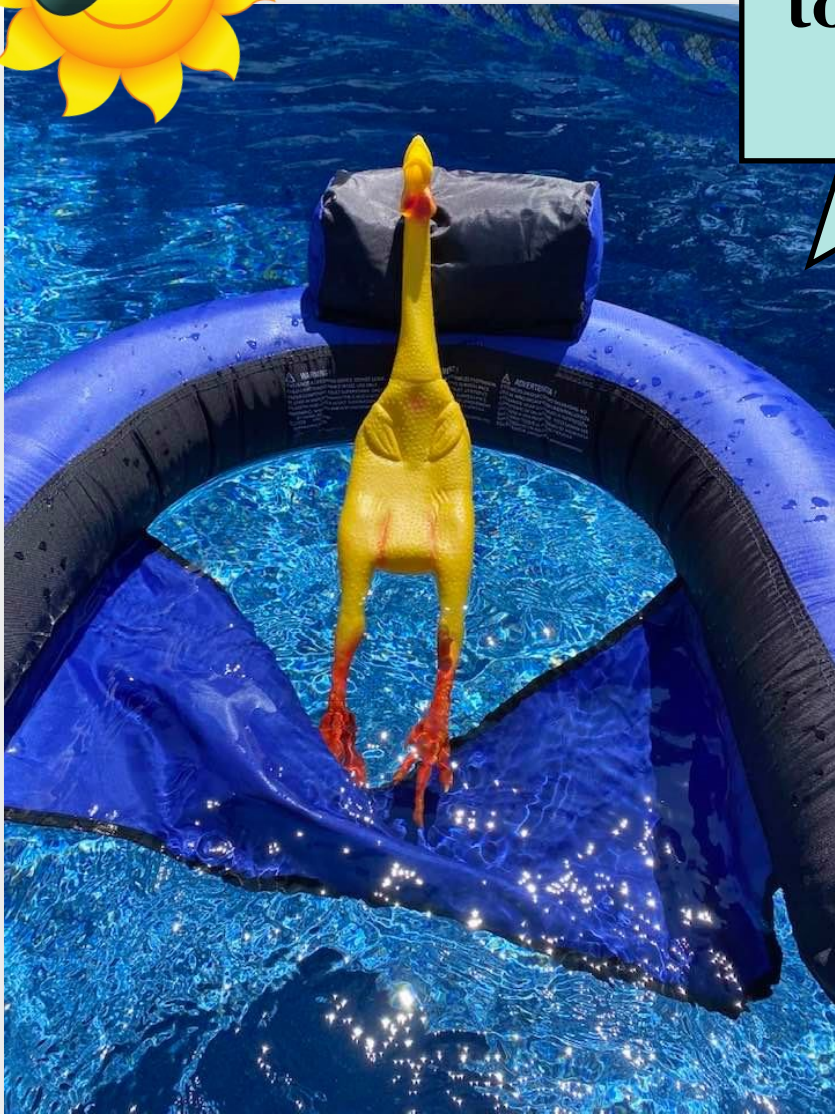
**Would you, a family member or friend like to receive this newsletter by mail? If so, please contact [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) or call Aimee Walat at 413-596-2511 ext. 100.**

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





**I am already looking forward to next month's Branchline!**



## **Coming up in September's Branchline...**

We are so thankful for all of our Church members and would like to create Gratitude page. Please send along your personal notes of thanks—pictures are always great too!



# Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References -Aug. 2020 (Year A)

### Sat., Aug. 1

Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Genesis 31:1-21  
Matthew 7:7-11

### Sun., Aug. 2

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

### Mon., Aug. 3

Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Genesis 31:22-42  
Romans 1:8-15

### Tues., Aug. 4

Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Genesis 32:3-21  
Acts 2:37-47

### Wed., Aug. 5

Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Isaiah 43:1-7  
Matthew 15:32-39

### Thurs., Aug. 6

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Genesis 35:22b-29  
Acts 17:10-15

### Fri., Aug. 7

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Genesis 36:1-8  
Acts 18:24-28

### Sat., Aug. 8

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Genesis 37:5-11  
Matthew 16:1-4

### Sun., Aug. 9

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

### Mon., Aug. 10

Psalm 28  
Genesis 37:29-36  
2 Peter 2:4-10

### Tues., Aug. 11

Psalm 28  
Genesis 39:1-23  
Romans 9:14-29

### Wed., Aug. 12

Psalm 28  
Genesis 40:1-23  
Matthew 8:23-27

### Thurs., Aug. 13

Psalm 133  
Genesis 41:14-36  
Revelation 15:1-4

### Fri., Aug. 14

Psalm 133  
Genesis 41:37-57  
Acts 14:19-28

### Sat., Aug. 15

Psalm 133  
Genesis 42:1-28  
Matthew 14:34-36

### Sun., Aug. 16

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*  
Genesis 45:1-15  
Psalm 133  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

### Mon., Aug. 17

Psalm 130  
Genesis 43:1-34  
Acts 15:1-21

### Tues., Aug. 18

Psalm 130  
Genesis 44:1-34  
Romans 11:13-29

### Wed., Aug. 19

Psalm 130  
Genesis 45:16-28  
Matthew 8:1-13

### Thurs., Aug. 20

Psalm 124  
Genesis 49:1-33  
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

### Fri., Aug. 21

Psalm 124  
Genesis 49:29-50:14  
2 Corinthians 10:12-18

### Sat., Aug. 22

Psalm 124  
Genesis 50:15-26  
Matthew 16:5-12

### Sun., Aug. 23

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 1:8-2:10  
Psalm 124  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

### Mon., Aug. 24

Psalm 8  
Exodus 1:1-7  
Romans 2:1-11

### Tues., Aug. 25

Psalm 8  
Exodus 2:11-15a  
Romans 11:33-36

### Wed., Aug. 26

Psalm 8  
Exodus 2:15b-22  
Matthew 26:6-13

### Thurs., Aug. 27

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Exodus 2:23-24  
Ephesians 5:1-6

### Fri., Aug. 28

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Exodus 3:16-25  
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

### Sat., Aug. 29

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Exodus 4:1-9  
Matthew 8:14-17

### Sun., Aug. 30

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

### Mon., Aug. 31

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18  
Exodus 4:10-31  
Revelation 3:1-6

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# August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:55 am - Worship – FB Live	27	28	29 7:15 pm – Evening Prayer Service – FB Live	30	31 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	1 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
2 9:55 am - Worship – FB Live	3	4	5 7 pm – Technology Committee Meeting 7:15 pm – Evening Prayer Service – FB Live	6	7 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	8 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
9	10	11	12 7:15 pm – Evening Prayer Service – FB Live	13	14	15
16 9:55 am - Worship – FB Live 1 pm – Church Without Walls	17	18	19 7:15 pm – Evening Prayer Service – FB Live	20	21 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	22 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
23	24 7 pm – Finance Commission	25	26 7:15 pm – Evening Prayer Service – FB Live	27 9:15 am – Loaves and Fishes	28 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	29 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
30 9:55 am - Worship – FB Live	31	1	2 7:15 pm – Evening Prayer Service – FB Live	3	4 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	5 9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed
9:55 am - Worship – FB Live			7 pm – Technology Committee Meeting 7:15 pm – Evening Prayer Service – FB Live		9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed	9:30 am - Thrift Shop – Closed

# Church Staff



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