



The Branchline

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

April 2023

From the Pastor's Desk....



April signifies Spring, new beginnings. We at Wilbraham United Church continue to face new beginnings and rise to the occasion. We're hopeful that a new pastor will help us forge new paths in our ministry and discern what WUC will look like for the future.

While we wait, we've been blessed in March to have the services of Rev. William Ault and Rev. Susan Tarantino to lead us in worship. And Rev. Marisa Brown Ludwig who has signed on for the services during Holy Week.

In the meantime we pray for a successful resolution to our Search Committee's process. The pastor's desk may be empty but hopefully not for long!

INTERIM PASTOR UPDATE

Our search committee is currently checking references on a potential candidate.

Stay tuned!!!





Greetings from the Music Room

It's been busy times as we enter this season which brings excitement and preparations. All the choirs are in full swing getting ready for Holy Week. Palm Sunday – Maundy Thursday – Good Friday (being held at Christ the King Epiphany – WUC is invited to attend the service and also sing in the choir) – and finally Easter Sunday. Each of these services carry different parts of the message about the journey experienced by Jesus during this week.

Junior Choir and Chancel Choir will sing Antiphonal Hosanna together on Palm Sunday, which opens up Holy Week with a clear message of that day, making it a significant part of the whole picture as it unfolds. Bell Choir, Chancel Choir and Junior Choir will contribute additional music with sounds and texts that bring emphasis to the events of the week.

We will welcome Richard Cuoco on Easter Sunday as he joins the Bell and Chancel choirs with sparks of trumpet sounds. We will also hear him on the French Horn with organ accompaniment for a short postlude, leading into the Easter Egg hunt, a joyous conclusion to the morning and the week.

This is a brief synopsis from the Music Room, of the week ahead as we move toward and through Holy Week. We look forward to seeing you then.

Blessings, Bobbie

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 2 - PALM/PASSION

SUNDAY (10 AM)

APRIL 6 - MAUNDY

THURSDAY (7:30 PM)

APRIL 9 - EASTER SUNDAY

(10 AM)



2023 COFFEE HOUR TEAMS & SCHEDULE

TEAM 1 Edna Colcord, Sean and Nicholas Kennedy
TEAM 2 Marge Trimble, Patti Colkos, Kathy Timpson
TEAM 3 Nancy Peck, Genny Keddy, Candy Dearborn, Gail Lima
TEAM 4 Sherrie & Ralph Ridgeway
TEAM 5 Sandy Harris, Steve Mattocks, Carianne Stebenne
TEAM 6 Pam Byers, Capen Family

SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| APRIL 9 | EGG HUNT (no coffee hour) | MAY 7 | TEAM 3 |
| APRIL 16 | TEAM 2 | MAY 14 | MOTHER'S DAY (no coffee hour) |
| APRIL 23 | TEAM 5 | | |
| APRIL 30 | TEAM 6 | MAY 21 | TEAM 4 |
| | | MAY 28 | TEAM 5 |
| | | JUNE 4 | TEAM 6 |
| | | JUNE 11 | TEAM 1 (Celebration Sunday) |



Thank
you!

**For your donations and help
to put together over 100
Women's Hygiene Kits for
Church World Services!**

-Discipleship Commission





**Adam from Church World Services
talked to us about the great need
for women's hygiene kits**



Pancake Team!





**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES AT
THE FOOD BANK OF
WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS**

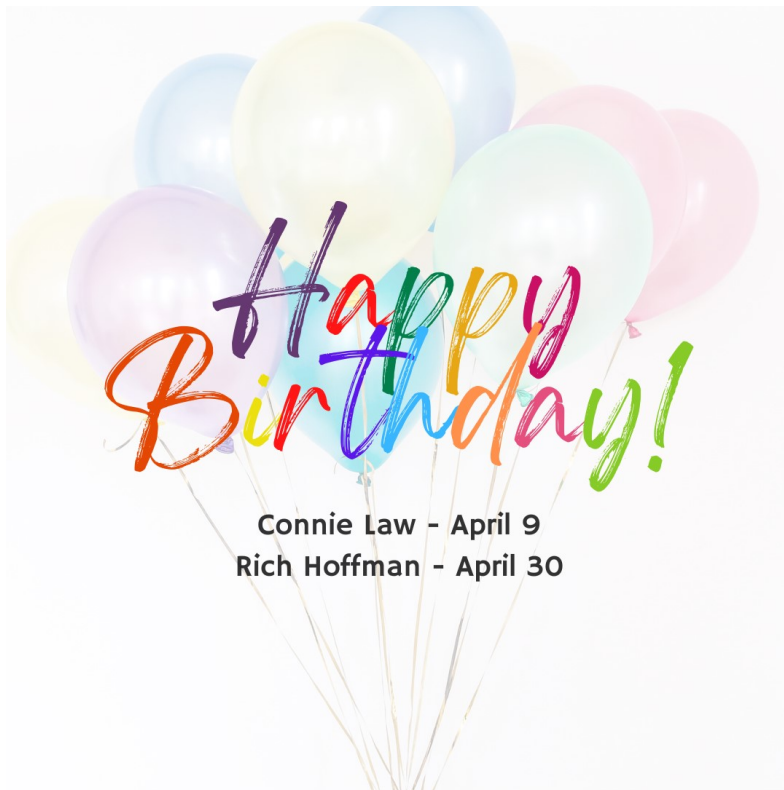
The Food Bank Farm will be hosting Family Farm Days throughout the growing season starting April 15th. Families will learn about regenerative farming practices and The Food Bank's mission to community food security. Volunteer activities include planting seedlings, maintaining farm beds, harvesting, and taking a nature walk on the 142 acres of farmland in Hadley. Sign up by emailing the names and ages of your family to philiph@foodbankwma.org. Other volunteer opportunities are available. For more information <https://www.foodbankwma.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

The April Branchline Deadline is April 26. Please submit items of note to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



Blessing Box: Wilbraham United is now the host of a Blessing Box. Local boy scout Luke Whalen-Sylver from Troop 359 has installed a Blessing Box at the rear of the church adjacent to the parking lot. The box has been stocked with food pantry and hygiene items for those who may be in need. The box is intended to be stocked not only by the church but by others who wish to donate items to keep the box filled. We've already observed members of the community who have stopped by with donations! Donations may be placed directly in the box. Our Discipleship Commission will monitor the box to make sure that it remains stocked with items that will be available for those who need immediate food relief. We are excited about our new ability to aid our community in fighting hunger. We will need a reliable stream of food items and right now we are asking for dry goods such as cereal, rice, baking mixes, dried beans and pasta. Once the weather is warmer Luke intends to come back to paint the box. More information can be found at www.littlefreepantry.org.





Wilbraham's Council on Aging is looking for two new members. If you are interested you can call the Selectman's office (413-596-2800 ext. #1). You will be asked to fill out a Volunteer Form and may need to participate in a brief interview (which can be done remotely). Members of the Council must be town residents but do not need to be "senior citizens". The council's mission statements can be found on the town's website: www.wilbraham-ma.gov/432/Council-on-Aging

You can also speak with Theresa Munn who is a current Council member.

The Wilbraham United Players will present their Spring 2023 musical—**Little Women** on the Fellowship Hall Stage beginning April 21st. Tickets may be purchased at www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buytickets.

Tickets are \$27 for reserved seating. General Admission tickets are \$22 and there is a Senior Citizen or Student Discount of \$5.

If you don't want to buy tickets on line, you may contact Deb in the Church office. Tickets are available there!

A Wilbraham United Players Production

Little Women

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

BOOK BY ALLAN KNEE
MUSIC BY JASON HOWLAND
LYRICS BY MINDI DICKSTEIN
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY LOUISA MAY ALCOTT



APRIL 21 - 30, 2023

FELLOWSHIP HALL STAGE
WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
500 MAIN STREET
WILBRAHAM, MA

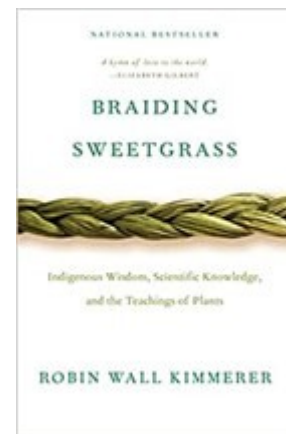
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE
WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDPLAYERS.ORG

Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (aka SNEUCC) is sponsoring a free online book study. The book is **Braiding Sweetgrass** written by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Book study meetings are **Tuesdays, April 11 - May 9, 6:30 PM**

Environmental Justice Intern Lillian Steinmayer will lead this discussion of this book in the context of environment, gratitude, and our role as Earth's children. To register click the link below

(or go to <https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/17337530>)



'Braiding Sweetgrass' Online Book Study

SAVE OUR STEEPLE (SOS) PLANNING

SEEKING FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Spaghetti Supper

Hill Climb activities

Booth/Table at Farmer's Market,
Fountain Park Concerts, Peach Fest

Restaurant Dine-Out Nights
???

More input and support is MUCH needed!

Save the Date

**Vacation Bible Camp planning
meeting—May 3 at 7PM in FH**
Wilbraham Hill Climb—May 13
**WUC Arts and Crafts Festival—
June 3**

If you have ideas or would like to support the Save Our Steeple fund raising events please contact Moderator Kim Ryan at ModeratorWUC@gmail.com

Our current fund raising amount for this project is \$5666.33!

SEEKING HELPERS

THIS IS NOT ANOTHER COMMITTEE!
RATHER, BRAINSTORMING AS A WHOLE
CHURCH AND THEN INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE
ON A FEASIBLE TASK

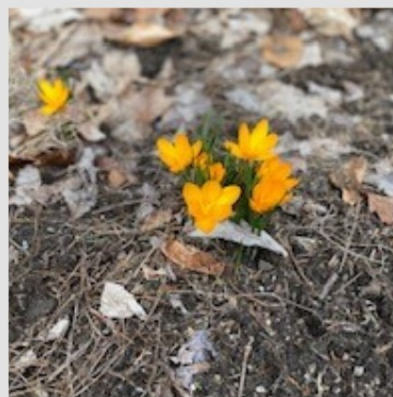
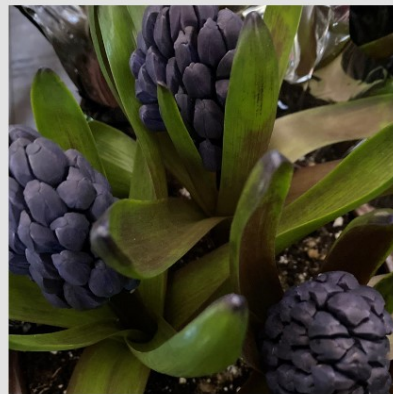
EXAMPLES:

- SIGNING UP TO HEAD UP A TABLE AT A FARMERS MARKET
- BRINGING SOME FLYERS TO AREA BUSINESSES
- BUYING SAUCE FOR A SPAGHETTI DINNER

Not a huge time commitment! Truly a divide and conquer task at hand! But we need a little help from everyone who is able to
SAVE OUR STEEPLE!



Spring flowerings
at WUC!





Our Junior Choir hard at work preparing for Palm Sunday!

Piecemakers hard at work on some quilting projects!



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <div>26</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Fellowship</div> <div>1pm - WUP</div> <div>5pm - AI- Anon -YR</div> | <div>27</div> <div>10am - Piecemakers</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>28</div> <div>7pm - Autism Support</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>29</div> <div>6pm - AI-Anon-YR</div> <div>6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>30</div> <div>6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB)</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scouts (YR)</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Chancel Choir</div> | <div>31</div> <div>6:30pm - Peach Blossom</div> | <div>1</div> <div>9am - WUP</div> <div>10am - Jr. Choir</div> |
| <div>2</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Fellowship</div> <div>1pm - WUP</div> <div>5pm - AI- Anon -YR</div> | <div>3</div> <div>10am - Piecemakers</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts Troop</div> <div>6:45pm - Praise Band</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>4</div> <div>7pm - Wilb Welcome Proj</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>5</div> <div>6pm - AI-Anon-YR</div> <div>6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS</div> <div>7pm - Phys Ops</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>6</div> <div>6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB)</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scouts-(YR)</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Chancel Choir</div> | <div>7</div> <div>5pm - WUP</div> | <div>8</div> <div>9am - WUP</div> <div>10am - Jr. Choir</div> |
| <div>9</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Easter Egg Hunt</div> <div>5pm - AI- Anon -YR</div> | <div>10</div> <div>10am - Piecemakers</div> <div>5pm - WUP</div> | <div>11</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>12</div> <div>11am - Keiser Funeral</div> <div>6pm - AI-Anon-YR</div> <div>7pm - Deacons Meeting-</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>13</div> <div>9am - WUP-Lighting</div> <div>6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB)</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Chancel Choir</div> | <div>14</div> <div>9am - WUP</div> | <div>15</div> <div>9am - WUP</div> |
| <div>16</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Fellowship</div> <div>12pm - Church Without</div> <div>1pm - WUP</div> <div>5pm - AI- Anon -YR</div> | <div>17</div> <div>10am - Piecemakers</div> <div>5pm - WUP</div> <div>7pm - Church Council</div> <div>7pm - PTO Meeting</div> | <div>18</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>19</div> <div>10am - Called To Care</div> <div>6pm - AI-Anon-YR</div> <div>7pm - Discipleship</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>20</div> <div>9:20am - Leaves and</div> <div>12pm - WUP</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts-YR</div> <div>6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB)</div> | <div>21</div> <div>5pm - WUP-Performance</div> | <div>22</div> <div>10am - Jr. Choir</div> <div>5pm - WUP-Performance</div> |
| <div>23</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Fellowship</div> <div>12:30pm - WUP-</div> <div>5pm - AI- Anon -YR</div> | <div>24</div> <div>10am - Piecemakers</div> <div>5pm - WUP</div> <div>6:30pm - Trustees Mtg</div> | <div>25</div> <div>6:30pm - Finance Comm</div> <div>7pm - Autism Support</div> | <div>26</div> <div>6pm - AI-Anon-YR</div> <div>6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS</div> <div>7pm - WUP</div> | <div>27</div> <div>6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB)</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Chancel Choir</div> | <div>28</div> <div>5pm - WUP-Performance</div> | <div>29</div> <div>5pm - WUP-Performance</div> |
| <div>30</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Fellowship</div> <div>12:30pm - WUP-</div> <div>5pm - AI- Anon -YR</div> | <div>1</div> <div>9am - WUP-Lighting</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts Troop</div> | <div>2</div> <div>7pm - Wilb Welcome Proj</div> | <div>3</div> <div>6pm - AI-Anon-YR</div> <div>6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS</div> <div>7pm - Phys Ops</div> <div>7pm - VBC Organization</div> | <div>4</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts-YR</div> <div>6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB)</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Chancel Choir</div> | <div>5</div> | <div>6</div> <div>9am - WUP -FH</div> <div>10am - Jr. Choir</div> |



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – April 2023 (Year A)

Sat., Apr. 1

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

Sun., Apr. 2

Palm/Passion Sunday

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

Holy Week**Mon., Apr. 3**

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

Tues., Apr. 4

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

Wed., Apr. 5

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

Thurs., Apr. 6

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. 7

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. 8

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. 9

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. 10

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

Tues., Apr. 11

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

Wed., Apr. 12

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

Thurs., Apr. 13

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

Fri., Apr. 14

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

Sat., Apr. 15

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

Sun., Apr. 16

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

Mon., Apr. 17

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

Tues., Apr. 18

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

Wed., Apr. 19

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

Thurs., Apr. 20

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

Fri., Apr. 21

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

Sat., Apr. 22

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

Sun., Apr. 23

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. 24

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

Tues., Apr. 25

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

Wed., Apr. 26

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

Thurs., Apr. 27

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

Fri., Apr. 28

Psalm 23
Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
1 Peter 2:13-17

Sat., Apr. 29

Psalm 23
Ezekiel 34:1-16
Luke 15:1-7

Sun., Apr. 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10