



# *The Branchline*

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

**March 2023**

## *From the Pastor's Desk....*



While our Pastor's desk is, of course, empty at this time we have had the joy of welcoming a variety of Supply Pastors for the last few months. Our Pastor Search Committee has been working hard interviewing prospective candidates for our Interim position. Sunday Services are being covered by the Rev. William Ault (March 12), Rev. Susan Tarantino (March 19 & 26) and by Rev. Marisa Brown Ludwig for Palm Sunday through Easter.

Our thanks to Rev. Stephen Beals who provided messages during February.

## **WEEKLY UPDATES**

### **INTERIM SEARCH COMMITTEE**

We have offered one candidate a formal in person interview. Stay tuned and keep us in your prayers!

Just a reminder that this is a confidential process.



## Greetings of Lent – the time of preparation!

Along with other members and friends of Wilbraham United, six of us from the Chancel Choir went to Christ The King Epiphany on the first night of Lent, Ash Wednesday. We sang with the choir from the CTK congregation for the service they held that evening. Preparation for entry into the season of Lent was demonstrated with ashes placed on many foreheads in a sign of the cross followed by the distribution of communion. It was a meaningful service.

We are also making preparations in the Sanctuary and Music Room for the Lenten season going forward into Holy Week. It's a time of significant leaps in our spiritual landscape during these days. We're invited to look more deeply inside ourselves to ponder the gifts and the difficulties that live within us, and then allow our focus to shift from inward to outward. From ourselves to others. It makes me recall the words of our Lenten Doxology:

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise!*

It's Lent and we have joy for our days.

Thank you to all volunteers ringing bells and singing in Choirs. It takes a group effort to make it happen. If anyone is able, willing, interested (you pick the word) to join up for the Easter Sunday service, you would be awesomely welcomed. Just talk to me after worship or send me a message at:

[musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org). We have great groups of ringers and singers who would love participating with you.

Looking for the joy –

**Blessings and peace, Bobbie**



*Cafe Team!*



# *Mother-Son Dance*



*Discipleship Team!*



*Check-In*





# DANCE PARTY

Thank you to all our bakers, servers,  
movers, decorators & attendees!







**Fellowship Hall on Saturday March 4th was the site of the Cub Scout Annual Pinewood Derby where many fine cars constructed by the Scouts (with help from parents) could be found racing down the track! Despite the snowy weather the showing was good and the scouts had a great time!**

# Pancake Supper And Community Service Project



Join us for an evening of fun and community service  
assembling Women's Hygiene Kits to support  
Church World Service.

**Wilbraham United Church**  
**March 25th 5:00 to 7:00**

Candy donations  
may be dropped  
off in the  
Christian  
Education  
Office or the  
Main Office any  
time before April  
8th! Please bring  
wrapped candy  
only and no plastic  
eggs are  
needed!





# 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, Kerry  
TEAM 6 Pam Byers, Capen Family

### SCHEDULE

MAR 19	TEAM 3	MAY 7	TEAM 3
MAR 26	Meagan and Joe	MAY 14	MOTHER'S DAY (no coffee hour)
APRIL 2	TEAM 5 (Palm Sunday)	MAY 21	TEAM 4
APRIL 9	EGG HUNT (no coffee hour)	MAY 28	TEAM 5
APRIL 16	TEAM 6	JUNE 4	TEAM 6
APRIL 23	TEAM 1	JUNE 11	TEAM 1 (Celebration Sunday)
APRIL 30	TEAM 2		





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](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/432/Council-on-Aging)

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

The Springfield College Department of Physical Therapy is conducting a fall-prevention study for adults ages 65 and older. If you are interested in participating you can contact them at [fittlabsc@gmail.com](mailto:fittlabsc@gmail.com) or 413-748-5659.

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](http://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.

*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](http://WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDPLAYERS.ORG)





You are invited to  
donate to  
**One Great Hour of  
Sharing**  
on  
**Sunday, March 19th.**

Our donation helps us be responsive to hunger issues, no matter the cause, both locally and globally. Make a world of difference!

**The April Branchline Deadline is March 27.**

Please submit items of note to  
**[admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)**



The Discipleship Commission is collecting items for the Women's Hygiene Kits that are being assembled at the March 25th Pancake Supper and Community Service Project Event. If you can donate items from the list below they will be gratefully received. Items can also be purchased off of the event's Amazon Wish list found here:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2UA4VXZB6UI3C?type=wishlist>

## Women's Hygiene Kit

- 1 gallon Ziploc bags
- Small Ziploc bags
- 2 oz bottle hand sanitizer
- 4 gallon bathroom trash bags
- Wet Ones travel pack
- Regular unscented tampons
- Super Absorbency unscented tampons
- Long super ultra-thin unscented sanitary napkins
- 3oz or larger bath-size bar of soap in the original package (No Ivory or Jergen's soap.)
- Unscented pack of flushable wipes- 42 count
- Laundry detergent sheets

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
			8:30am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS 7pm - Phys Ops 7pm - WUP	6pm - Scouts setup derby 6:30pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Girl Scouts -YR 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir	(Note Derby set up in FH)	7:30am - Pinewood Derby 10am - Jr. Choir 1pm - Memorial Service
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP 5pm - AI-Anon -YR	10am - Piecemakers 6pm - Girl Scouts Troop 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP	9am - Electrician in FH 7pm - WUP 7pm - Wilbraham	6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS 7pm - Deacons Meeting- 7pm - WUP	6:30pm - AI-Anon-YR 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir		9am - WUP 10am - Jr. Choir
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP 5pm - AI-Anon -YR	10am - Piecemakers 7pm - WUP_FH	7pm - WUP	10am - Called To Care 6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS 7pm - Discipleship 7pm - WUP	9:20am - Loaves and 5:30pm - Girl Scouts-6: 6:30pm - AI-Anon-YR 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir		9am - WUP 10am - Jr. Choir
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - Church Without 1pm - WUP 5pm - AI-Anon -YR	10am - Piecemakers 7pm - PTO Meeting 7pm - WUP	7pm - WUP	6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS 7pm - WUP	6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB) 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir		9am - WUP 10am - Jr. Choir 5pm - Family Pancake
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP 5pm - AI-Anon -YR	10am - Piecemakers 7pm - WUP	7pm - Autism Support 7pm - WUP	6pm - AI-Anon-YR 6:30pm - Boy Scouts - SS 7pm - WUP	6:30pm - AI-Anon-(LIB) 6:30pm - Girl Scouts (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Chancel Choir	6:30pm - Peach Blossom	





# Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References - March 2023 (Year A)

### **Wed., Mar. 1**

Psalm 32  
Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28  
Matthew 18:10-14

### **Thurs., Mar. 2**

Psalm 121  
Isaiah 51:1-3  
2 Timothy 1:3-7

### **Fri., Mar. 3**

Psalm 121  
Micah 7:18-20  
Romans 3:21-31

### **Sat., Mar. 4**

Psalm 121  
Isaiah 51:4-8  
Luke 7:1-10

### **Sun., Mar. 5**

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

### **Mon., Mar. 6**

Psalm 128  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Hebrews 3:1-6

### **Tues., Mar. 7**

Psalm 128  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
Romans 4:6-13

### **Wed., Mar. 8**

Psalm 128  
Ezekiel 36:22-32  
John 7:53-8:11

### **Thurs., Mar. 9**

Psalm 95  
Exodus 16:1-8  
Colossians 1:15-23

### **Fri., Mar. 10**

Psalm 95  
Exodus 16:9-21  
Ephesians 2:11-22

### **Sat., Mar. 11**

Psalm 95  
Exodus 16:27-35  
John 4:1-6

### **Sun., Mar. 12**

*Third Sunday in Lent*  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### **Mon., Mar. 13**

Psalm 81  
Genesis 24:1-27  
2 John 1-13

### **Tues., Mar. 14**

Psalm 81  
Genesis 29:1-14  
1 Corinthians 10:1-4

### **Wed., Mar. 15**

Psalm 81  
Jeremiah 2:4-13  
John 7:14-31, 37-39

### **Thurs., Mar. 16**

Psalm 23  
1 Samuel 15:10-21  
Ephesians 4:25-32

### **Fri., Mar. 17**

Psalm 23  
1 Samuel 15:22-31  
Ephesians 5:1-9

### **Sat., Mar. 18**

Psalm 23  
1 Samuel 15:32-34  
John 1:1-9

### **Sun., Mar. 19**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### **Mon., Mar. 20**

Psalm 146  
Isaiah 59:9-19  
Acts 9:1-20

### **Tues., Mar. 21**

Psalm 146  
Isaiah 42:14-21  
Colossians 1:9-14

### **Wed., Mar. 22**

Psalm 146  
Isaiah 60:17-22  
Matthew 9:27-34

### **Thurs., Mar. 23**

Psalm 130  
Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8-3:3  
Revelation 10:1-11

### **Fri., Mar. 24**

Psalm 130  
Ezekiel 33:10-16  
Revelation 11:15-19

### **Sat., Mar. 25**

Psalm 130  
Ezekiel 36:8-15  
Luke 24:44-53

### **Sun., Mar. 26**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

### **Mon., Mar. 27**

Psalm 143  
1 Kings 17:17-24  
Acts 20:7-12

### **Tues., Mar. 28**

Psalm 143  
2 Kings 4:18-37  
Ephesians 2:1-10

### **Wed., Mar. 29**

Psalm 143  
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41  
Matthew 22:23-33

### **Thurs., Mar. 30**

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

### **Fri., Mar. 31**

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