



The Branchline

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

March 2024

From the Pastor's Desk....



"It is in solitude that we discover that being is more important than having and that we are worth more than the results of our efforts. In solitude we discover that our life is not a possession to be defended but a gift to be shared."

Henri Nouwen

Welcome to the Month of March,

As we yearn for the warmth and light of spring to come to us, and as we patiently wait for Easter to herald in Christ's glorious resurrection, we are still called to continue our good works in this important season of Lent. We may ask why it is important to continue our preparation in the wilderness. We may be saying:

"Let's get out of this dreary season as quickly as we can!"

We must recognize that Lent is a learning and gathering experience, beckoning us to grow spiritually, gathering us together as a body of Christ, and granting us a window into the life and public ministry of Jesus Christ. For Christian people, this season leading up to Easter is also a necessary time to gain insight and understanding into the great sacrifice which Jesus made on our behalf. Our Lenten journey helps us to better understand the enormity of Christ's sacrifice to the world.

continued on page 2

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

If we didn't experience this time, we would go from Christmas to Easter, from birth to death without really understand what being a Christian is truly about.

Perhaps to more fully appreciate the sacrifice, we need to better understand the life of Jesus; to live as he lived, giving a little more of ourselves for the good of those around us, healing others with our acts of kindness and generosity, doing things which are life-serving and generous, like Jesus did. Perhaps then and only then we may gain a little more insight into the depth of what Jesus gave and what he endured for our sake, for our eternal selves.

As we journey to Easter, let us set our minds on what it means to be Christian people, followers of Christ, and children of God.

In Praise of Easter,

Rev Janet



Work of the Interim Meetings will pause until after Easter.

A poster for Holy Week services. The background is a sunset sky with a wooden cross on the left. The text is as follows:

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MARCH 24 - PALM SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10 A.M.
MARCH 28 - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT 7 P.M.
MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT 12 P.M.
MARCH 31 - EASTER SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

All are welcome

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA

DID YOU KNOW? Our church has had a **Pastor/Parish Relations Committee** for many years. In our Bylaws, Section 4a, (Administration Commission), states "The Administration Commission fosters an honest and open relationship among the minister(s), all members of the church staff and the members of the congregation, and is empowered to appoint a Pastor/Parish Relations Committee in pursuit of this goal." The current members are Patti Colkos (Tricia30@charter.net), Judy Hoffman (imjrhoffman@hotmail.com), and Nan Shepard (sshep48622@aol.com). If any person has compliments or concerns about our minister(s) and/or members of our church staff, please contact us so that we can listen to you.



Hello! from the Music Room

This is a short collection of words but they are long in sentiment. It's a message to say Thank You to the players, ringers and singers who devote hours of time working on pieces of music from Homecoming Sunday to Celebration Sunday. These volunteers bring sounds of comfort, joy, soul searching and healing love that flow through the Sanctuary all those months.

Lent gives us a season of stretching as we move from Ash Wednesday into Holy Week. Palm Sunday leads us to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday culminating in Easter Sunday. As we recall this passage of time we are given the invitation to express all those sentiments of comfort, joy, soul searching and healing love in the music we bring on Sunday mornings. The number of days are few but the amount of music composers have been, and still are inspired to write for the glory of God, is vast. With this wide array of musical options, we are striving to bring sounds to you that bring meaning to the days of Lent and Easter.

Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement to the players, ringers and singers here at WUC, as we journey on to Holy Week.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Bobbie

**The April Branchline Deadline is March 29th. Please
submit items of note to
admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org**


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



News from
CHURCH COUNCIL
*Many hands make light work
 ...and we need many more hands!!!*

Our Church Council has many current open positions and will have even more come June.

Without help, WUC will struggle to continue several missions and programs

Time commitments range from weekly tasks, to a few hours a month and even as needed.

*For more info, please reach out to:
 Rev. Janet and/or Kim Ryan*

WANTED!

Candy to fill Easter eggs for the egg hunt

Donations of candy are needed to fill eggs for our Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. Please drop off pre-wrapped candy (small - sized to fit inside plastic eggs) before Wednesday March 27th in either the Church Office or the Christian Ed Office.



*Scenes from the 2024
Mother Son Dance*





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

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – March 2024 (Year B)

Friday., Mar. 1

Psalm 19
Exodus 19:9b-15
Acts 7:30-40

Sat., Mar. 2

Psalm 19
Exodus 19:16-25
Mark 9:2-8

Sun., Mar. 3

Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Mon., Mar. 4

Psalm 84
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tues., Mar. 5

Psalm 84
2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19
Hebrews 9:23-28

Wed., Mar. 6

Psalm 84
Ezra 6:1-16
Acts 15:36-41

Thurs., Mar. 7

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Genesis 9:8-17
Ephesians 1:3-6

Fri., Mar. 8

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Daniel 12:5-13
Ephesians 1:7-14

Sat., Mar. 9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Numbers 20:22-29
John 3:1-13

Sun., Mar. 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Mon., Mar. 11

Psalm 107:1-16
Exodus 15:22-27
Hebrews 3:1-6

Tues., Mar. 12

Psalm 107:1-16
Numbers 20:1-13
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wed., Mar. 13

Psalm 107:1-16
Isaiah 60:15-22
John 8:12-20

Thurs., Mar. 14

Psalm 51:1-12
Isaiah 30:15-18
Hebrews 4:1-13

Fri., Mar. 15

Psalm 51:1-12
Exodus 30:1-10
Hebrews 4:14–5:4

Sat., Mar. 16

Psalm 51:1-12
Habakkuk 3:2-13
John 12:1-11

Sun., Mar. 17

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm
119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Mon., Mar. 18

Psalm 119:9-16
Isaiah 43:8-13
2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tues., Mar. 19

Psalm 119:9-16
Isaiah 44:1-8; Acts 2:14-24

Wed., Mar. 20

Psalm 119:9-16
Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23
John 12:34-50

Thurs., Mar. 21

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Deuteronomy 16:1-8
Philippians 2:1-11

Fri., Mar. 22

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Jeremiah 33:1-9
Philippians 2:12-18

Sat., Mar. 23

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Jeremiah 33:10-16
Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sun., Mar. 24

Sixth Sunday in Lent
Passion Sunday or
Palm Sunday

Palms:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark
15:1-39 [40-47]

Mon., Mar. 25

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

Tues., Mar. 26

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

Wed., Mar. 27

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

Thurs., Mar. 28

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., Mar. 29

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., Mar. 30

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

Sun., Mar. 31

Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts
10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 6pm - Girl Scouts (Muttl) 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Phys Ops 7pm - WUP (FH)	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		9am - WUP (FH) 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	10am - Preschool (FH) 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	10am - Preschool (FH)	9am - WUP (FH) 10am - Junior Choir (CR) 1pm - Boy Scouts
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	10am - Preschool (FH) 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	10am - Preschool (FH)	9am - WUP (FH) 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 12pm - Church Without 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	6:30am - Loaves and 10am - Piece Makers 6:30pm - Trustees (Lib) 7pm - Church Council 7pm - WUP (FH)	11:30am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Called to Care (Lib) 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Discipleship 7pm - WUP (FH)	9:20am - Loaves and 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		9am - WUP (FH) 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AI- Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 5:15pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - MAUNDY	12pm - Good Friday 2pm - WUP (FH)	9am - WUP (FH) 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am - Worship 5pm - AI- Anon -YR						