



The Branchline

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

From the Pastor's Desk....



"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

Maya Angelou

Welcome to April,

Christ has risen and we are blessed! How we rejoice in the Good News of Jesus, for he showed us what was possible through his acts of love and faith. He modeled for us those possibilities which come from living in his light and walking in his way. It is indeed wonderful to be followers of Christ, for we have been changed by the transformative power of the resurrection. This is the joy of Easter!

Even still change can be frightening and anxiety producing. We may at times resist it, but the truth is, we cannot grow, we cannot move forward without embracing certain change throughout our life's journey. But isn't it best to meet that change with a solid faith in God and Christ, and the support of a Christian community to remind us of who we are and where we are going.

I am reminded of what the apostle Paul said in his letter to the Romans: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for

continued on page 2

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope, we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

The Christian life is a challenging one, as it is transformative. But make no mistake, it is a rich life, full of blessings, grace and love. It is a life which lifts us up when we are wanting and give us strength for the journey. It is a life that promises renewal and abundant life. Being Christian means that we are joint heirs with Christ. That great certainty involving our transformation, our salvation, comes from a divine gift. Through our relationship with Jesus, we are made children of God.

Easter has passed, but it is not over. Let us remember that Christ does not go away when our celebration ends. God does not pack it up til the next holiday. God is all the time and everywhere. God is eternal.

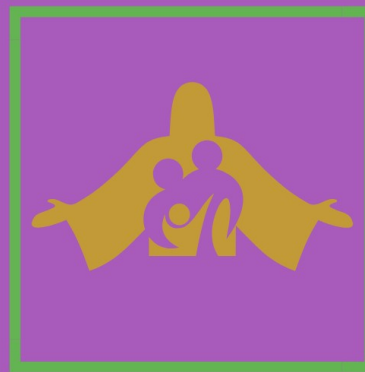
Easter may serve as an occasion of remembrance and it is indeed a joyous day. But our Christian faith goes way beyond one day. It remains to nourish us, provide comfort and to remind us that we are Easter people all year long. As we reflect on Easter, let us be ever mindful of why we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, why we call ourselves Christian.

Easter Blessings,

Rev Janet



Our next Work of the Interim gathering will be after worship on April 21st in the



New
Members

Individuals who are interested in joining the church are welcome to attend an information session on Sunday May 5th, after worship, in the Zeckhausen Room

New Members will be received into the congregation on Sunday May 19th



Hello! from the Music Room

We are now in Easter Season which lasts until Pentecost on May 19th. You might hear some Easter tunes from the choirs in these weeks.

Holy Week was incredible at many levels – the music for each part of it held special sounds and sensations.

Palm Sunday asks us to imagine what it must have been like for Jesus to ride into a city calling him to be their King when that wasn't his intention at all – a bursting celebration of his arrival with majestic songs and palms.

Maundy Thursday led us into the realization of what would unfold with hymns and anthems expressing the traumatic events with the service of Tenebrae making it all very real.

Good Friday – The music that day was filled with deep meaning and passion. The biblical texts always bring me to tears as I remember the story and feel the impact of those words.

And then Easter..... A remarkable celebration of joy with hymns, anthems, and a procession to turn those scars into new light and hope. It was a beautiful day.

Now we journey on to Pentecost – but may we always be mindful of the incredible story remembered during Holy Week! Blessings and gratitude to all who shared these spaces during the past days!

Have you heard about the Spring Zinger Bell Workshop coming up on Saturday, April 27th? Wilbraham United will host the nationally recognized leader, Jane Nolan, for this one-day event. She will take us through a review of bell ringing techniques in the morning and into new territory for some of us in the afternoon. It promises to be an adventure throughout the day.

If you know a bell ringer or someone who might be interested in learning more about the ins and outs of ringing, please let them know about this great chance to do so. This will be a day to enjoy and grow in our skills! More information can be found at: <https://area1.handbellmusicians.org/spring-rings/western-ma-spring-zinger-workshop/>.

You can also email me at musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org.

Stay well and enjoy Springtime!

Bobbie

**Save
the
Dates**

**Pancake Supper
And
Community Service Project**



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

**Wilbraham United Church
April 27th 5:00 to 7:00**

Wilbraham United Church
**Arts and
Crafts
Fair**
June 8, 2024
Vendor applications now available
wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/summer-arts-and-crafts-fair

Save the Date
Wilbraham United Church
Vacation Bible Camp 2024
All Creatures Great and Small
July 29 - August 2

A collection of colorful, cartoon-style animal illustrations on a yellow background. At the top, a white sloth hangs from a branch, a brown monkey hangs upside down, and a giraffe stands next to a leopard. Below, there is a brown bear, a lion, a dog, a rabbit, and a cat.

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



Easter at WUC



CANVA STORIES



CANVA STORIES



CANVA STORIES



Easter at WUC



Easter at WUC



A WILBRAHAM UNITED PLAYERS PRODUCTION

THE MYSTERY OF

FELLOWSHIP HALL STAGE AT
WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
500 MAIN ST. WILBRAHAM MA

EDWIN DROOD

A MUSICAL BY RUPERT HOLMES

APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20 AT 7:30 PM

APRIL 14 & 21 AT 2:30 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDPLAYERS.ORG/BUY-TICKETS

The
musical comedy
where you choose
the ending!



Reminder

APRIL 22

DEACONS - 6:30 PM

CHURCH COUNCIL - 7:00 PM



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

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – April 2024 (Year B)

Mon., Apr. 1

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Genesis 1:1-19
1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Tues., Apr. 2

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Genesis 1:20–2:4a
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Wed., Apr. 3

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Song of Solomon 3:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Thurs., Apr. 4

Psalm 133
Daniel 1:1-21
Acts 2:42-47

Fri., Apr. 5

Psalm 133
Daniel 2:1-23
Acts 4:23-31

Sat., Apr. 6

Psalm 133
Daniel 2:24-49
John 12:44-50

Sun., Apr. 7

Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1–2:2
John 20:19-31

Mon., Apr. 8

Psalm 135
Daniel 3:1-30
1 John 2:3-11

Tues., Apr. 9

Psalm 135
Daniel 6:1-28
1 John 2:12-17

Wed., Apr. 10

Psalm 135
Isaiah 26:1-15
Mark 12:18-27

Thurs., Apr. 11

Psalm 4
Daniel 9:1-19
1 John 2:18-25

Fri., Apr. 12

Psalm 4
Daniel 10:2-19
1 John 2:26-28

Sat., Apr. 13

Psalm 4
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 22:24-30

Sun., Apr. 14

Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Mon., Apr. 15

Psalm 150
Jeremiah 30:1-11a
1 John 3:10-16

Tues., Apr. 16

Psalm 150
Hosea 5:15–6:6
2 John 1-6

Wed., Apr. 17

Psalm 150
Proverbs 9:1-6
Mark 16:9-18

Thurs., Apr. 18

Psalm 23
Genesis 30:25-43
Acts 3:17-26

Fri., Apr. 19

Psalm 23
Genesis 46:28–47:6
Acts 4:1-4

Sat., Apr. 20

Psalm 23
Genesis 48:8-19
Mark 6:30-34

Sun., Apr. 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Mon., Apr. 22

Psalm 95
1 Samuel 16:1-13
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tues., Apr. 23

Psalm 95
1 Chronicles 11:1-9
Revelation 7:13-17

Wed., Apr. 24

Psalm 95
Micah 7:8-20
Mark 14:26-31

Thurs., Apr. 25

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:1-7
Acts 8:1b-8

Fri., Apr. 26

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 8:11-13
Acts 8:9-25

Sat., Apr. 27

Psalm 22:25-31
Amos 9:7-15
Mark 4:30-32

Sun., Apr. 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Mon., Apr. 29

Psalm 80
Isaiah 5:1-7
Galatians 5:16-26

Tues., Apr. 30

Psalm 80
Isaiah 32:9-20
James 3:17-18

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 6pm - Finance (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	2:30pm - Erickson 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	1pm - WUP Lighting Load in	9am - WUP (FH) 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 6pm - Girl Scouts (Mutti) 7pm - WUP (FH)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Phys Ops 7pm - WUP (FH)	6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	WUP Performance	WUP Performance 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP Performance 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	PATRIOT'S DAY 6:30am - Loaves and	11:30am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - Discipleship 7pm - WUP (FH)	9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)	WUP Performance	WUP Performance 10am - Junior Choir (CR)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP Performance 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers 5:15pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Deacons (Lib) 7pm - Church Council 7pm - WUP (FH)	2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	10am - Preschool (FH) 6pm - Girl Scouts (Frias) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir (CR)		9am - Regional Handbell 5pm - Family Service
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	10am - Piece Makers	2pm - Bible Study (ZR)				