



The Branchline

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

February 2025

From the Pastor's Desk....



"The true meaning of love one's neighbor is not that it is a command from God which we are to fulfill, but that through it and in it we meet God.

Martin Buber

Welcome to February,

February is the month of love! Didn't you know this? You should, because there are reminders of love everywhere at this time of the year. For instance, you walk into a store and you can just feel the love in row after row of heart shaped chocolates and confections, calling to you in different forms and flavors, reminding you that it just isn't love without a myriad of chocolates to ignite the passions.

And let's not forget those greeting cards, with their great, big, red, (maybe pink) hearts, plastered on the front of each and every glorious assertion of love. Nothing says love like one of these gorgeously decorated cards. Moreover, the card needs to accompany the chocolates, so that love can truly be revealed. After all, it is the card which declares those loving sentiments and makes those chocolates extra delicious. And, certainly love would not be complete without red roses, at least a dozen, maybe more, depending on how much love needs to be declared.

And never, ever forget the truffles!

Continued on page 2

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

You know, we really like Valentine's Day; the chocolates, the roses, the love..., but where did this special day come from? And why have we come to love it so much? Well, this holiday evolved from a certain person, a priest called Valentine. Saint Valentine was a 3rd century Roman clergyman who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred on February 14, and his feast day became associated with a tradition of courtly love. Thus, Valentine eventually became widely recognized as a Saint devoted to romance and devotion.

Also, during the Middle Ages, it was believed that birds mated in mid-February, furthering the legend of this saint who was made for love. By the way, Saint Valentine was the patron saint of bee-keepers. So, you know, the birds and the bees.....

There is another story attributed to Valentine and it is rather sad. As the story goes, Valentine performed secret Christian weddings for young couples even though the Emperor had declared it unlawful. Valentine was eventually caught and thrown into prison. While in prison, Valentine fell in love with his jailor's daughter, also forbidden. But before Valentine was led away for execution, he left her a note declaring his love and signing it; "From Your Valentine".

So these are some of the stories associated with Saint Valentine and they are rather bittersweet. But there is one more thing which should be mentioned again, which is relevant to us in the times we are living in now. Saint Valentine is the patron saint of persecuted Christians. And in the times we are living in, some of God's children are feeling persecuted. Sometimes, we all may feel as if the world is upside down, with new challenges, new crises, new uncertainties arising every day. But we must remind ourselves that God does not leave us alone in our struggles, in our despair. God does provide for us. We must have faith that we belong to the One who made us, and that we are beloved. It is our faith in God's love and in his great plan that will see us through these difficult times that we are living in.

Let us not forget that our God is a God of love. Jesus told us that.

February Blessings,

Rev Janet



The **Annual Financial Meeting** of the Wilbraham United Church will be held February 16, 2025 in the Sanctuary immediately following Worship to transact the following business:

-Receive the Treasurer's Report

-Adopt a budget

Act on any other business properly brought before the Meeting

Nan Shepard, Clerk



Hello! from the Music Room

Thank you for the many affirmative signals and comments about music being heard at Wilbraham United Church - especially your appreciation for the choirs! Many volunteer hours are put forth to bring these sounds to life. I admire what they can do.

During this month when many people share messages of affection, is a perfect time to give gratitude to ringers, singers, instrumentalists and very importantly, to those who honor the effort they give.

I send you wishes for peace, hope, love and joy - Happy Valentine's Day!

Blessings, Bobbie
Soli Deo Gloria!

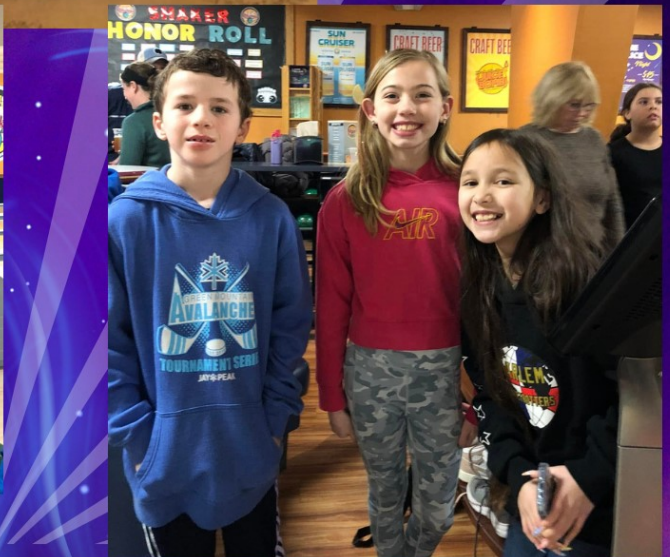
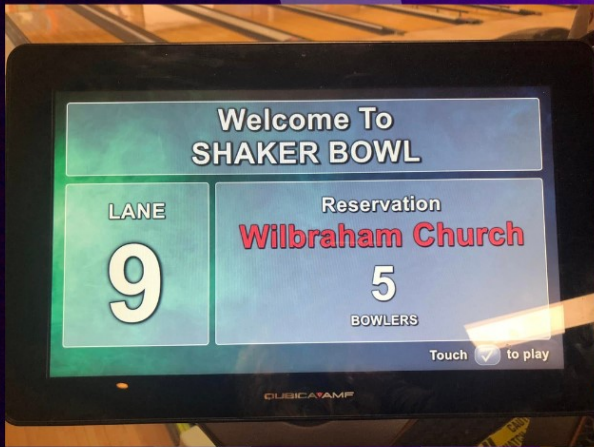
**The March Branchline Deadline is February 27. Please
submit items of note to
admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org**


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

FAMILY BOWLING

Night

Jan. 25



Wilbraham United Church presents our annual

Mother-Son Dance



Saturday, February 8, 2025

Fellowship Hall at Wilbraham United Church
6:00pm-8:00pm

\$20 per couple and \$5 each additional guest

All Sons and Moms (or those who are like a Mom to you) are welcome!

- Professional DJ
- Professional Photo Booth (Photo included)
- Refreshments



To purchase tickets, please scan the QR code here or visit

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org.

Tickets are limited, so please purchase early to avoid missing out!

Please email discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org with any questions

A promotional poster for a Super Bowl Food Drive. The background is a green football field with white yard lines and stadium lights at the top. The text is bold and white. It features a central graphic with 'AFC' on the left, 'VS' in a red diamond in the middle, and 'NFC' on the right. Below this, it says 'SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9'. Two columns of text provide details about bringing food to church and voting for a team, and how the food will be used for a community center.

**SUPER BOWL
FOOD DRIVE**

AFC VS NFC

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9

Bring your non-perishable food items to church and vote for your favorite team to win!

All food items will be used to stock our Blessing Box or donated to the Community Survival Center!

A poster for a chili and cornbread take-out supper. The background is a close-up of a red bowl filled with chili and topped with cheese, next to several golden-brown cornbread slices on a wooden cutting board. The text is bold and black.

**CHILI & CORNBREAD
TAKE-OUT SUPPER**

Sunday Feb 9th

Pick-up between 4-5:30 PM

Pre-orders by February 6th

www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org

8 oz chili and slice of cornbread \$11
16 oz chili and 2 slices cornbread \$16
32 oz and 4 slices of cornbread \$26

A poster for a theatrical production of 'Cabaret'. The background is dark with glowing yellow text. It includes the title 'CABARET' in large letters, the book author 'JOE MASTEROFF', and the play author 'JOHN VAN DRUTEN'. It also lists the music and lyrics authors. The production details include the location 'FELLOWSHIP HALL STAGE AT WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH' and the dates 'MARCH 28, 29 AND APRIL 4, 5 AT 7:30' and 'MARCH 30 AND APRIL 6 AT 2:30 2025'. A QR code is located on the right side.

A WILBRAHAM UNITED PLAYERS PRODUCTION

CABARET

BOOK BY JOE MASTEROFF
BASED ON THE PLAY BY JOHN VAN DRUTEN AND
STORIES BY CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD
MUSIC BY JOHN KANDER LYRICS BY FRED EBB

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

MARCH 28, 29 AND APRIL 4, 5 AT 7:30
MARCH 30 AND APRIL 6 AT 2:30
2025

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDPLAYERS.ORG/BUY-TICKETS

CABARET IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF TAMS-WITMARK LLC.
WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM



Removal of the dangerous Ash tree was accomplished very safely on January 10 with no one climbing the tree. Both workers kept their feet on the ground all the time. In two hours the tree was on the ground. A controller on the operator moved the tower arm, clamp/grabber and self contained chain saw. Top 1/3 of the tree (all 3 trunks) were found to be very brittle, in danger to fall at any time. Pictures show progression of the removal.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - Fellowship</p> <p>1pm - WUP (FH)</p> <p>5pm - Al- Anon -YR</p> <p>5pm - Confirmation Class</p>	<p>10am - Piece Makers</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>2pm - Bible Study (ZR)</p> <p>4:30pm - Circle of</p> <p>7pm - WUP(FH)</p>	<p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Boy Scouts (TS,</p> <p>6:30pm - Phys Ops</p> <p>7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)</p> <p>7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc)</p> <p>8pm - Chancel Choir</p>		<p>9am - WUP (FH)</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - Fellowship</p> <p>12pm - WUP Chili Take</p> <p>5pm - Al- Anon -YR</p>	<p>10am - Piece Makers</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>8:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>2pm - Bible Study (ZR)</p> <p>7pm - WUP(FH)</p>	<p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Boy Scouts (TS,</p> <p>7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)</p> <p>7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc)</p> <p>8pm - Chancel Choir</p>		<p>6pm - Mother Son Dance</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - Fellowship</p> <p>11:15am - Annual</p> <p>1pm - WUP (FH)</p> <p>5pm - Al- Anon -YR</p>	<p>President's Day</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>11am - Woman's</p> <p>2pm - Bible Study (ZR)</p> <p>4:30pm - Circle of</p> <p>7pm - WUP(FH)</p>	<p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Boy Scouts (TS,</p> <p>7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>9:20am - Loaves and</p> <p>6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)</p> <p>7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc)</p> <p>8pm - Chancel Choir</p>		<p>8am - Scouts Pinewood</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - Fellowship</p> <p>1pm - WUP (FH)</p> <p>5pm - Al- Anon -YR</p>	<p>10am - Piece Makers</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>8:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>2pm - Bible Study (ZR)</p> <p>7pm - WUP(FH)</p>	<p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:15pm - Discipleship</p> <p>6pm - Boy Scouts (TS,</p> <p>7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)</p> <p>7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc)</p> <p>8pm - Chancel Choir</p>		<p>9am - WUP (FH)</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
<p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - Fellowship</p> <p>1pm - WUP (FH)</p> <p>5pm - Al- Anon -YR</p>	<p>10am - Piece Makers</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>8:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>2pm - Bible Study (ZR)</p> <p>7pm - WUP(FH)</p>	<p>11am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:15pm - Discipleship</p> <p>6pm - Boy Scouts (TS,</p> <p>7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)</p> <p>7pm - WUP (FH)</p>	<p>6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR)</p> <p>7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc)</p> <p>8pm - Chancel Choir</p>		



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References –February 2025 (Year C)

Sat., Feb. 1

Psalm 71:1-6
2 Chronicles 36:11-21
John 1:43-51

Sun., Feb. 2

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Mon., Feb. 3

Psalm 56
1 Kings 17:8-16
1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Tues., Feb. 4

Psalm 56
2 Kings 5:1-14
1 Corinthians 14:13-25

Wed., Feb. 5

Psalm 56
Jeremiah 1:11-19
Luke 19:41-44

Thurs., Feb. 6

Psalm 138
Numbers 20:22-29
Acts 9:19b-25

Fri., Feb. 7

Psalm 138
Numbers 27:12-23
Acts 9:26-31

Sat., Feb. 8

Psalm 138
Judges 3:7-11
Luke 4:42-44

Sun., Feb. 9

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Mon., Feb. 10

Psalm 115
Judges 5:1-11
1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Tues., Feb. 11

Psalm 115
1 Samuel 9:15–10:1b
1 Timothy 3:1-9

Wed., Feb. 12

Psalm 115
Isaiah 8:1-15
Luke 5:27-32

Thurs., Feb. 13

Psalm 1
Jeremiah 13:12-19
Acts 13:26-34

Fri., Feb. 14

Psalm 1
Jeremiah 13:20-27
1 Peter 1:17–2:1

Sat., Feb. 15

Psalm 1
Jeremiah 17:1-4
Luke 11:24-28

Sun., Feb. 16

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Mon., Feb. 17

Psalm 120
2 Kings 24:18–25:21
1 Corinthians 15:20-34

Tues., Feb. 18

Psalm 120
Ezra 1:1-11
2 Corinthians 1:12-19

Wed., Feb. 19

Psalm 120
Jeremiah 22:11-17
Luke 11:37-52

Thurs., Feb. 20

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
Genesis 43:16-34
Romans 8:1-11

Fri., Feb. 21

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
Genesis 44:1-17
1 John 2:12-17

Sat., Feb. 22

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
Genesis 44:18-34
Luke 12:57-59

Sun., Feb. 23

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

Mon., Feb. 24

Psalm 38
Genesis 33:1-17
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Tues., Feb. 25

Psalm 38
1 Samuel 24:1-22
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33

Wed., Feb. 26

Psalm 38
Leviticus 5:1-13
Luke 17:1-4

Thurs., Feb. 27

Psalm 99
Deuteronomy 9:1-5
Acts 3:11-16

Fri., Feb. 28

Psalm 99
Deuteronomy 9:6-14
Acts 10:1-8