



The Branchline

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



From the Pastor's Desk....



"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil."

The Gospel according to Luke

Welcome to March,

March is a wily month. It's because when March comes along, you begin to envision things, bright things; like warm breezes and putting the snow shovels back in those dark, dusty corners from which they came. You start thinking about crocuses and daffodils, outings in the park, lawn care, salt free cars, Easter bunnies frolicking in the fresh green grass....., but then you get hit with another snow storm, dashing your hopes and leaving yourself bereft. Springtime? You just can't seem to get there!

So we wait it out, in what seems like an endless foray through the wilderness.

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

And speaking of wilderness, March heralds in the somber days of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5, all the way to Holy Week. The forty days of the Lenten season mirrors the forty days which Christ spent in the wilderness, enduring very human struggles. For in this wilderness time, Jesus lacked food and comforts, and was void of human companionship. Moreover, Jesus was visited by the evil one, who did his best to lure him into sin by offering him all manner of worldly riches and power. Even in his weakened state, Jesus did not succumb to the Tempter. There is much we can learn from Jesus's time in the wilderness.

For us, this Lenten season is the perfect time to build our faith, grow closer to our God, practice our spirituality and meditate on how Jesus dealt with suffering and temptation. While we wait in the wilderness of March madness, this is a perfect time to establish some Lenten rituals; prayer time, spiritual studies, generous acts of giving, worship.....our faith.

God speaks to all of us in marvelous and mysterious ways. We just have to still ourselves and be open to letting God in. God is always with us, although, we may not always be aware of God's proximity to us. The world is full of toils and snares, and the Tempter is hard at work causing misery and pain. Indeed, the Tempter is a master of distraction, chaos and deceit. He is always trying to make it difficult for us to hear God's voice and do God's work. Thus, we are called to fight evil and resist the call of the Tempter.

The theologian and author, Henri Nouwen once wrote:

"The more you are called to speak for God's love, the more you will need to deepen the knowledge of that love in your own heart. The farther the outward journey takes you, the deeper the inward journey must be. Only when your roots are deep can your fruits be abundant. The enemy is there, waiting to destroy you, but you can face the enemy without fear when you know that you are held safe in the love of Jesus."

Let us be assured that we are not alone in this wilderness. God is with us, and God will provide us the strength to bear ourselves standing up, and overcome our struggles ahead.

March Blessings,

Rev Janet

Wilbraham United Church

Holy Week Schedule

APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 A.M.

APRIL 17 - MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP 7 P.M.

APRIL 18 - GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 12 NOON

APRIL 20 - EASTER WORSHIP 10 A.M.

All are welcome! All are invited!

500 Main St
Wilbraham, MA
(413)596-2511
www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org



Hello! from the Music Room

March brings the beginning of Lent, Daylight Savings Time, Spring and St. Patrick's Day. All four days have significance for many of us. We might take time to be more introspective during Lent, which begins on March 5th, and reflect on the activities of Fat Tuesday. Daylight savings time messes with our internal clock as well as the ones keeping track of the time. (It's coming this Sunday, the 9th - we lose a precious hour of sleep.) St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, honors the patron Saint of Ireland and the arrival of Christianity to the island nation. St. Patrick lived c. 385 - 461; March 17 is the date of his death. Spring will arrive with the Vernal Equinox at 5:01 AM on March 20 when the sun crosses the equator at the point giving us almost equal lengths of day and night.

Sunday, March 9 (the first Sunday in Lent) will bring lively and celebratory sounds to the Wilbraham United Church sanctuary during our worship service. The combined Chancel Choir and Praise Band will present Glory, Glory! (I Feel Better), an arrangement of a traditional spiritual that's full of energy, life and sound. We've all been working on it for weeks now, and the 9th is going to invite listeners to tap their toes and say "Hallelujah!," as the anthem rolls along. In many churches, "Hallelujah" and "Alleluia" are reserved for the arrival of Easter Sunday and the seasons that follow right up to Lent the next year. Although we're already into Lent, on March 9 our schedules have lined up, just like the sun over the equator, so almost all choir members will be available to celebrate March and all that it brings.

Atomic and Digital clocks will set themselves - but if you have an alarm clock like mine, be sure to set it ahead on Saturday night!

Soli Deo Gloria!
Blessings, Bobbie



Mother Son Dance 2025

DATE CHANGE

Annual Financial Meeting

Sunday March 16

immediately following worship



REMINDER

March 17
Deacons at 6:30 p.m.
Church Council at 7:00 p.m.

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



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

WANTED!



Candy to fill Easter eggs for the egg hunt

Sunday March 9



Spring Forward
Set your clock forward one hour

BETHE LIGHT

You're here to be the light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. Matthew 5:14 (MSG)

ucc.org/oghs

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST **One Great HOUR OF SHARING**

Our Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will be on Sunday March 30th.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – March 2025 (Year C)

Sat., Mar. 1

Psalm 99
Deuteronomy 9:15-24
Luke 10:21-24

Sun., Mar. 2

Transfiguration of the Lord
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]

Mon., Mar. 3

Psalm 35:11-28
Exodus 35:1-29
Acts 10:9-23a

Tues., Mar. 4

Psalm 35:11-28
Ezekiel 1:1–2:1
Acts 10:23b-33

Wed., Mar. 5

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah
58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs., Mar. 6

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Exodus 5:10-23
Acts 7:30-34

Fri., Mar. 7

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Exodus 6:1-13
Acts 7:35-42

Sat., Mar. 8

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
John 12:27-36

Sun., Mar. 9

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Mon., Mar. 10

Psalm 17
1 Chronicles 21:1-17
1 John 2:1-6

Tues., Mar. 11

Psalm 17
Zechariah 3:1-10
2 Peter 2:4-21

Wed., Mar. 12

Psalm 17
Job 1:1-22
Luke 21:34–22:6

Thurs., Mar. 13

Psalm 27
Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18
Philippians 3:2-12

Fri., Mar. 14

Psalm 27
Genesis 14:17-24
Philippians 3:17-20

Sat., Mar. 15

Psalm 27
Psalm 118:26-29
Matthew 23:37-39

Sun., Mar. 16

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17–4:1
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36

Mon., Mar. 17

Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Exodus 33:1-6
Romans 4:1-12

Tues., Mar. 18

Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
Ezra 1:1-11
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Wed., Mar. 19

Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42
2 Chronicles 20:1-22
Luke 13:22-31

Thurs., Mar. 20

Psalm 63:1-8
Daniel 3:19-30
Revelation 2:8-11

Fri., Mar. 21

Psalm 63:1-8
Daniel 12:1-4
Revelation 3:1-6

Sat., Mar. 22

Psalm 63:1-8
Isaiah 5:1-7
Luke 6:43-45

Sun., Mar. 23

Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Mon., Mar. 24

Psalm 39
Jeremiah 11:1-17
Romans 2:1-11

Tues., Mar. 25

Psalm 39
Ezekiel 17:1-10
Romans 2:12-16

Wed., Mar. 26

Psalm 39
Numbers 13:17-27
Luke 13:18-21

Thurs., Mar. 27

Psalm 32
Joshua 4:1-13
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5

Fri., Mar. 28

Psalm 32
Joshua 4:14-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-15

Sat., Mar. 29

Psalm 32
Exodus 32:7-14
Luke 15:1-10

Sun., Mar. 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mon., Mar. 31

Psalm 53
Leviticus 23:26-41
Revelation 19:1-8

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	24 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	25 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5:30pm - Discipleship	26 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	27 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	28	1 9am - WUP (FH)
2 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	3 10am - Piece Makers 10am - Preschool Music 7pm - WUP (FH)	4 10am - Preschool Music 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP(FH)	5 ASHWEDNESDAY 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Ash Wednesday	6 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	7 4:30pm - Preschool	8 9am - WUP (FH) 5pm - Family Service
9 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 1pm - WUP (FH) 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	10 10am - Piece Makers 7pm - WUP (FH)	11 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP(FH)	12 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 6:30pm - Phys Ops 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	13 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	14 4pm - WUP (FH)	15 9am - WUP (FH)
16 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Annual 11:15am - Junior Choir 1pm - WUP (FH)	17 10am - Piece Makers 6:30pm - Deacons (ZR) 7pm - Church Council 7pm - WUP (FH)	18 9am - Loaves and Fishes 11am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP(FH)	19 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	20 9:20am - Loaves and 9:30am - WUP (FH) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	21 9:30am - WUP (FH)	22 9am - WUP (FH)
23 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 1pm - WUP (FH) 1pm - WUP (FH)	24 10am - Piece Makers 12pm - WUP (FH) 7pm - WUP (FH)	25 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5:30pm - Discipleship 5:30pm - WUP (FH) 7pm - WUP(FH)	26 11am - Staff Meeting 5:30pm - WUP (FH) 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH)	27 5pm - WUP (FH) 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	28 7:30pm - WUP	29
30 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 11:15am - Junior Choir 2:30pm - WUP 5pm - AL-Anon -YR	31 10am - Piece Makers	1 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 4:30pm - Circle of	2 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Boy Scouts (TS, 6:30pm - Phys Ops 6:30pm - WUP (FH) 7pm - Praise Band (Sanc)	3 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	4 7:30pm - WUP	5 7:30pm - WUP