



The Branchline

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

March 2026



From the Pastor's Desk....



"The great thing to remember is that though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."

C.S. Lewis

Welcome to March,

It has been a cold, snowy winter so far, a winter like it used to be, with snow days and power outages. You know, a real New England winter, not a wimpy, meager snow clad landscape where the temperature rests around forty. That's not a New England winter. Real winters are turbulent and frosty, with hanging icicles and drifts you can get stuck in. Real winters cultivate a desperate desire for hot chocolate with whipped cream on top, the real stuff. Absolutely essential after all that shoveling! You must admit, in recent years, winter has been a terrible disappointment to hardy New Englanders like ourselves. New England winters are supposed to be harsh, snowy and cold.

I can't wait for winter to be over!

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

Our Lenten season is very much a wilderness which cuts through the heart of winter. It's daunting! But as we wait for the winter season to pass and for the reemergence of life to spring forth, we can learn a few things and work on our relationship with God. Our wilderness experience can have tremendous purpose in helping us to look inward, cultivate our spirituality and focus ourselves on contemplation and prayer. This is a really good time to practice doing what Jesus did, modeling his wonderful work; like practicing generosity, loving our neighbor, working on those pesky sins... There is lots to do as we wait for winter to pass.

I fervently believe that God speaks to all of us in mysterious ways. So, we must practice our listening! Because, at times, we have difficulty hearing God speak, understanding God's proximity to us. The world is a noisy and chaotic place that often makes it difficult for us to hear God's voice. Remember, the Tempter is the master of chaos and he lives in the wilderness with us, working hard to lure us into his frenzy, obscure our vision and prevent us from hearing God's call.

We must remember Jesus' time in the wilderness, when the Tempter came, in the hopes of luring Jesus away from all that is good and holy. Of course, the devil did not succeed. Jesus was too strong, too good, too much his Father's son. We can take a lesson from this wilderness story, for there is so much to model, so much to learn from Christ's example of courage, endurance, unspeakable love and sacrifice. Like Jesus, let us take time to listen to the voice of God, put aside our distractions and noise and use our wilderness time to grow into the Spirit of God, and be a greater witness to God's grace and measure, a model for all the world to see.

Lenten Blessings,

Rev Janet



Our love offering to the world.

Your offering helps rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed, and restore hope.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

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

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The May Branchline Deadline is April 28. Please submit items of note to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org





Hello! from the Music Room

Good Morning from the Music Room!

We are in the season of Lent. Our sounds of music are often more introspective during these weeks. It helps us to look at who we are and where we fit into the workings of God's unimaginable Universe. If we think of the inner strength of Jesus to follow what he knew he had to do, perhaps that can motivate us to attempt to do likewise.

I attended the concert, Journey to the Past, presented by Carolyn Averill and friends in the WUC sanctuary last Saturday evening. Everyone there would totally agree, it was well done and beautiful. Many people buzzed around following the event, taking down and removing equipment used for the concert so that the space could be transformed into the Sunday morning worship space. Two people had volunteered to assist getting the bells returned to their location. The amazing thing to me was that before I knew it, there were seven of us working on that project and the job was accomplished in a fraction of the time. This was a gift – a contribution – a generous assist given by persons not associated with ringing bells. This is something not seen everywhere – all the time. Giving of one's own self to help others as they make their way through the demands facing them. Sincere thanks to all who donated their time and effort!

May this season bring us all closer to the strength seen in the life of Jesus, and give us the courage to do same.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Bobbie

Mother-Son Dance



Mother-Son Dance



Valentines for Shut-Ins





REMINDER

MARCH 16

TRUSTEES AT 6:30PM

CHURCH COUNCIL AT

7:00PM

Pancake Supper and Community Service Project



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSEMBLING VARIOUS
HYGIENE KITS TO SUPPORT
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
APRIL 11TH 5PM-6PM

A Wilbraham United Players Production



THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) [REVISED] [AGAIN]

the hilarious comedy originated
by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield

March 20-29, 2026

The Stage at Fellowship Hall
Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA

Tickets available at
www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets

Originally produced by Reduced Shakespeare Company



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - Al-Anon -YR	2 10am - Piece Makers 10:30am - Fellowship 7pm - WUP (FH)	3 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	4 WUP (FH) 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Scouts 7pm - Phys Ops (ZR)	5 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH) 8pm - Chancel Choir	6 WUP (FH)	7 9am - WUP (FH) 1pm - WUP Auditions (FH)
8 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 1pm - WUP Auditions (FH) 5pm - Al-Anon -YR 6:30pm - WUP REH (FH)	9 10am - Piece Makers 6:30pm - WUP Auditions 7pm - WUP Board (FH)	10 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 7pm - WUP (FH)	11 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	12 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 7pm - WUP (FH) 8pm - Chancel Choir	13 WUP (FH)	14 WUP (FH)
15 WUP (FH) 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship 5pm - Al-Anon -YR	16 WUP (FH) 10am - Piece Makers 6:30pm - Trustees (ZR) 7pm - Church Council (ZR)	17 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Loaves and Fishes 11:30am - Woman's 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5pm - WUP (FH)	18 11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Called to Care (lib) 6pm - WUP (FH) 6:30pm - Scouts	19 9:20am - Loaves and 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	20 WUP SHOW	21 WUP SHOW
22 WUP SHOW 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship (ZR) 5pm - Al-Anon -YR	23 10am - Piece Makers	24 2pm - Bible Study (ZR) 5:30pm - Discipleship	25 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Scouts 7pm - WUP (FH)	26 10:30am - Fellowship 6:30pm - AL-Anon (YR) 7pm - Bell Choir (Sanc) 8pm - Chancel Choir	27 WUP SHOW	28 WUP SHOW
29 PALM SUNDAY WUP SHOW 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship (ZR) 5pm - Al-Anon -YR	30 WUP Cleanup (FH) 10am - Piece Makers	31 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 2pm - Bible Study (ZR)	1	2	3	4