

# Wilbraham United Church

500 Main Street  
Wilbraham MA 01095

Phone: 596-2511 x 100 Fax: 596-2512  
Email: [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)  
Website: [www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2017

10:00A.M

**PRELUDE:** "Varitations on Hymn Tune 'Dix'" Smith

### GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Register (found at the center aisle end of each pew)  
and pass it to your neighbor.

**PASSING OF PEACE:** Please greet each other with the Peace of God.

### INTROIT

**\*\*GATHERING HYMN:** "For the Beauty of the Earth" stanzas 1-3,6 # 92

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

Patricia Colkos

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are invited here today to bless and to praise God.

**All: We will let the sound of God's praise be heard, loud and clear, from every one of us.**

Leader: Somehow, despite all the pitfalls along the way, all the trials and tribulations in each of our lives, God has kept us among the living.

**All: We have been confined and burdened; we have walked through fire and water; we have been tested to the max, but now we have become as true as silver.**

Leader: God has heard me, because in my heart I cherish truth and not wickedness.

**All: God hears us all and continues to love us with a steadfast and undying love.  
Together let us praise God!**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

*Let us cast all our anxiety on you, O Bearer of Burdens, as we seek to follow in your footsteps. Even when we are reviled, even when we feel abandoned, even when we suffer physically and mentally and emotionally, we ask that you will help us to remember that we are, no matter what, your children. Even when we pretend to hide from you, ashamed of our wandering, ashamed of our weakness, we know you will find us and forgive us when we ask. We want to resist evil, and to remain steadfast in our faith, because we know there are many who share in our suffering. Direct us toward them, o Healing God, that we might not shy away but instead deeply engage those who are in need of your love. AMEN.*

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE WITH SUNG LORD'S PRAYER

#271

Leader: "For this God in whom we live and move and have our being never leaves us orphaned, alone, abandoned, but reaches out with forgiveness, grace, and mercy. Alleluia!

Let us sing the prayer Jesus taught us to pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**PSALTER:**

**Psalm 66:8-20**

**pg. 790-791**

**SUNG RESPONSE:**

**Glorify Thy Name**

**# 2016 (FWS small black book)**

*Father, we love you, we worship and adore you  
Glorify thy name in all the earth, Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.  
Jesus, we love you... Spirit, we love you...*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Thanksgivings and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**#2201 (FWS, small black book)**

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

**Invitation to Give**

**Offertory Anthem:**

"The Gift of Love"

Trad./Hopson

**Doxology :**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God the source of all our gifts. Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Blessing the Gifts**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

*Acts 17:22-31*

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup>Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

*John 14:15-21*

<sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Leader: Our God is still speaking. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*HYMN** “Where the Spirit of the Lord Is” # 2119 FWS *small black book*

**SERMON:** *You Have An Advocate* Rev. Susan

**\*\*HYMN OF PARTING:** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" # 384

**\*\*WORDS OF DISMISSAL**  
Choral Response

**POSTLUDE:** "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" Bach  
**\*\*All, who wish to do so, may stand.**

*“There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force where there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.”* Mother Teresa

The *altar flowers* this morning are given in memory of Bob Fisk, by his family.

**MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY**

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Susan L. Gibson

**Director of Music:** Mark Jacobson

**Director of Christian Education:** Paul Nesbit

**Head Usher:** Lee Miner

**Ushers:** Shey McAbee, Sandy Harris, Sharon McAbee, David Pierangelo

**Greeters:** Ruth and Ross Karlson

**Nursery Care:** Phyllis Walsh, Heather Weinberg



**Attention Visitors!** Is this your first visit to United Church? We bid you a very warm welcome and invite you to sign our Guest Pad located in the Narthex. ♦ **Immediately after the service, please continue down the central hallway and join us for Fellowship and Refreshment in our Fellowship Hall.**

**TO REACH OUR CHURCH STAFF:**

Interim Pastor Susan L. Gibson,	<a href="mailto:slgib1960@icloud.com">slgib1960@icloud.com</a>	church ext. 103
Director of Music, Mark Jacobson	<a href="mailto:markjacobson104@gmail.com">markjacobson104@gmail.com</a>	church ext. 106
Dir. of Christian Ed., Paul Nesbit	<a href="mailto:christianeducationwuc@gmail.com">christianeducationwuc@gmail.com</a>	church ext. 105
Parish Administrator, Laurie Milne	<a href="mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org">admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org</a>	church ext. 100
Bookkeeper, Betsy Johnsen	<a href="mailto:betsy.ludlow.johnsen@gmail.com">betsy.ludlow.johnsen@gmail.com</a>	via church X 100
Maintenance, Eric True	Leave messages at:	church ext. 107
P R Coordinator, Dianne Lyons,	<a href="mailto:DianneLyonsPR@gmail.com">DianneLyonsPR@gmail.com</a>	

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF BEFORE THE SERVICE.**

☪ ☪ ☪

**FIRST 6 PEWS, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT, ARE A “SCENT FREE ZONE”**

☪ ☪ ☪

**IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE FOLLOW USHERS' DIRECTIONS TO EXIT THE SANCTUARY**

# Wilbraham United Church, UCC & UMC

“News for the Pews” for the week of April 30, 2017

**Please Pray for:**

The Porter Family, The Tracy Family, The Fisk Family, Nancy Schenk, Joe Gubala  
Laurie Milne, Bill and Claire McCullough, Joan and Gus Hoffmann, Jim and Gloria  
Russell, Our troops, our country and our world



Please pray for the members of our Senior Minister Search Committee and their diligent work.

Members are: Tom Toman, Deb Trimble, Kim Neelans, Phyllis Walsh, Steve Niederfringer and Tina Bazarian.

**Last Week's Statistics**

Last week's Attendance:	66	Total Offerings to date:	\$ 79,309
Last week's Offerings:	\$ 4,777	Where we would like to be budget-wise:	\$ <b>82,748</b>

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

In addition, for your convenience, our *Universal Missions envelopes* are in each pew every Sunday for your opportunity to donate to your favorite cause. Pick your envelope, write your name and donation, then check off which mission you would like to support. It's that simple! Thank you!

**This Week at Wilbraham United**

[www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

**TODAY, May 21**

10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:15 a.m.	Refreshment & Fellowship – FH
12:00 p.m.	Search Committee Update – San
1:00 p.m.	Fisk Visiting Hours – ZR
4:00 p.m.	Fisk Memorial Service – San
5:00 p.m.	Fisk Reception – FH
6:00 p.m.	Al Anon – 1G

**Mon. 05/22**

10:00 a.m. Piecemakers – Bliss

**Tues. 05/23**

6:30 p.m. Women's Evening Fellowship (La Cucina)

**Wed. 05/24**

3:30 p.m. Brownies – HR  
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts – Upstairs Rooms

**Thu. 05/25**

9:00 a.m.	Nursery School - FH
4:00 p.m.	Prayer Study Group – Lib.
6:00 p.m.	AlAnon/AlaTeen –HR
7:00 p.m.	Bells Rehearsal
7:45 p.m.	Sr. Choir rehearsal – Choir Room

**Fri. 05/26**

12:00 p.m. Nursery School Cookie Walk – FH  
Thrift Shop – Closed-Mem. Day

**Sat. 05/27**

1-3:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship at St. Cecilia's  
Thrift Shop – Closed-Mem. Day

**Sun. 05/28**

10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:15 a.m.	Refreshment & Fellowship – FH
6:00 pm	Al Anon – HR