



Wilbraham United Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
and the United Methodist Church*

**500 Main Street
Wilbraham MA 01095**

Phone: (413) 596-2511

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday After Epiphany

10:00AM

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

Bells & Piano: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sisters and brothers – arise.

Arise and lift your hearts,

Arise and lift your eyes,

Arise and lift your voices.

**People: The living God, the living, moving Spirit of God
has called us together -in witness, in celebration, in struggle.**

Leader: Reach out toward each other.

People: Our God reaches out toward us! Let us worship God!*¹

***GATHERING HYMN # 660 (UMH)**

God Is Here

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: God, our Light and Salvation,

**People: forgive us for those moments when we have walked in darkness,
stumbling in the wilderness of quarrels, division, and bickering.**

You have called us to follow you and to fish for people

but too often we think that *our* way is the *only* way to do your will.

Forgive us, Lord, for the brokenness that we bring upon ourselves.

Leader: God, the Stronghold of our Life,

People: hear our cry as we come to you for unity.

Send your Spirit to gather us as you desire us.

Remind us that unity does not mean uniformity.

**Teach us that the “same mind” you call us to have
is not ours, but the mind of your Son, Jesus Christ,**

in whose name we pray. Amen.*²

**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.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: This is the good news! Our God has come near in Jesus Christ, and he calls us to him. When we come and follow, we are liberated from every darkness.

People: Our sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 27:1, 4-9 pg. 758(UMH)

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Many: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: ⁴One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek:

**Many: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

One: ⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

**Many: ⁶Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

One: ⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

**Many: ⁸“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, LORD, do I seek.
⁹ Do not hide your face from me.**

One: Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

Many: Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

***SONG OF PRAISE #92 (UMH) Refrain**

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of joyful praise!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 9:1-4

⁹ ^[a]But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² ^[b]The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;^[c]

you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE

The Calling of the Disciples

Matthew 4:12-23

¹² Now when Jesus^[a] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[b]

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus^[c] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news^[d] of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

One: Our God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

SONG

Drawn to You

by Audrey Assad & Matt Maher

SERMON

Drawn to You

by Rev. Marisa Brown Ludwig

HYMN #344 (UMH)

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Response #2200 (FWS)

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come, and listen to me.*

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory Chancel Choir: *The Summons*, Traditional Scottish,

arr. J. Bell

***Doxology #94 (UMH)**

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!

***Prayer of Dedication**

***PARTING HYMN # 2129 (FWS)**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #2238 (FWS) Refrain**

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,

We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Piano: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, Folk Melody from India

arr. L. Larson

*1 ~ written by Elizabeth Rice. Posted on the **Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand** website.

*2 ~ written by Stephen Fearing, and posted on **Wild and Precious Life**. <http://www.stephenmfearing.com/>

*3 Adapted from a prayer ~ posted on **beliefnet.com**. <http://www.beliefnet.com/ilovejesus/features/10-great-prayers-from-ephesians.aspx?p=2#2Fx15YHzCLC4gS4l.99>

** All who are able to stand, may do so.*

***Welcome Visitors!** Is this your first visit to United Church? Please sign a Pew Card. Immediately after the service, we invite you to continue down the central hallway and join us for Fellowship and Refreshment in our Fellowship Hall.*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Preaching Today: Reverend Marisa Brown Ludwig

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Directors: Deb Trimble and Don Schmidt

Ushers: Bill Lynch and Biff Simpson

Liturgist: Patti Colkos

Greeters: Frias Family



Please Pray For: Phyllis Walsh, Theresa Munn, Daniel, Catherine, Lynne, Terry, Ray, Theresa, Ann, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Patti Keiser, Sue Pereira, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.

“News for the Pews” for the Week of January 22, 2023

Heifer International: A huge thanks goes out to all who participated in Heifer International this year. With your help we donated \$1480.00 to send a cow, a pig, a goat, a sheep, honey bees, two alpacas, and flocks of chicks to empower communities around the world. Our generous giving helps families become more economically independent and that leads to cleaner water, more girls attending school and a brighter future. Many thanks!

The Piecemakers: will meet on Monday's, January 16, 23, and 30, 10:00a.m. - Noon. Just come to a meeting, or contact Nancy at ncpeck10@gmail.com (weather permitting)

Junior Choir: Saturday, January 21 and 29 2023, Music Room at 10:00a.m.

WELCOME TO OUR
GUEST PASTOR

**REV. MARISA
BROWN LUDWIG**

Rev. Marisa Brown Ludwig, MSW, MDiv is an ordained minister in the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ (UCC) and has most recently served as Associate Pastor at First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, UCC, from 2013- 2022. Marisa has served as Vice President of the Interfaith Council of Greater Springfield and serves on the SNEUCC Task Team on Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations (Chair 2012-2018). She is active in issues of Racial Justice, LGBTQ Rights, Climate Change, Women's Rights/Reproductive Justice and hosted a weekly interfaith Coffee & Conversations locally for more than 6 years. She received a MICAH Award in 2020 from the Pioneer Valley Project. Marisa is a licensed social worker, with a 15-year career in medical and mental health settings, including being director of a mid-size community mental health center in Holyoke for ServiceNet, Inc. for six years. While working full time and raising two boys with her husband Peter, she attended seminary at both Hartford Seminary and Andover Newton Theological School, with special emphasis on Women's Spirituality and Interfaith/Ecumenical Relations.

MARISA WILL BE JOINING US 1/8-1/29

**THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL
MEETING OF THE WILBRAHAM
UNITED CHURCH**

When: February 5, 2023, immediately following worship
Where: WUC Sanctuary

We will transact the following business:

- Vote on the Steeple Repair Proposal including the plan for financing it
- Approve the Treasurer's Report
- Adopt a 2023 budget
- Act on any other business properly brought before the meeting

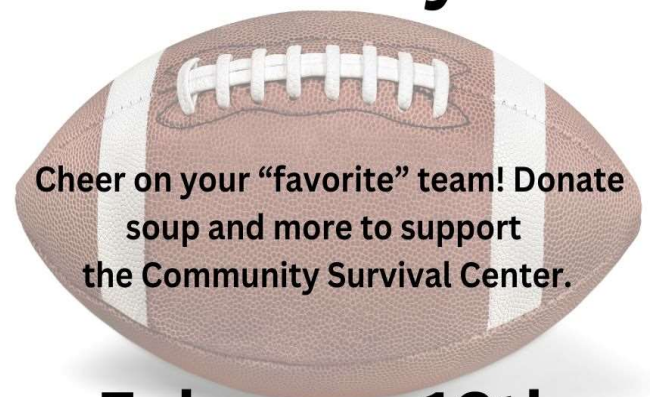
Nan Shepard (Clerk, Wilbraham United Church)

Weekly Updates

INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH:
Our profile is (finally) officially posted
There was some confusion...and then there were delays..and then additional reviews... and then vacations at Christmas which all held up the official posting.
But now! As of 1/12/23, our profile is LIVE and ready for applicants!

FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION:
This past fall, Union Church in Ludlow sadly needed to close.
We have contacted the former members and extended an invitation to worship with us. We hope to welcome any or all with open arms!

Souper Bowl Sunday



Cheer on your “favorite” team! Donate soup and more to support the Community Survival Center.

February 12th

It Takes Two

An evening of musical duets by the members of
Wilbraham United Players
January 28, 2023

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main St
Wilbraham MA

7PM

A Free Will Donation will be taken

Wilbraham United Church presents our annual

Mother-Son Dance



Saturday, February 11, 2023

Fellowship Hall at Wilbraham United Church

6:30pm-8:30pm

(Open at 6pm for photos only)

\$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



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Monday, January 23, 2023

10:00a.m. – Piecemakers

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

6:00p.m. -Al-Anon-YR

6:30p.m. - Boy Scouts

Thursday, January 26, 2023

7:00p.m. - Bell Choir

8:00p.m. - Chancel Choir

Friday, January 27, 2023

WUP

Saturday, January 28, 2023

10:00a.m. - Junior Choir, Music Room

4:00p.m. WUP-Sanctuary Benefit

Sunday, January 29, 2023

10:00a.m. Sunday Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)

11:00a.m. – Fellowship

5:00p.m. - Al-Anon YR

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Susan Dentzau: Administrative Assistant(admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) 596-2511 x100

Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) 596-2511 x106

Eric True: Custodian (wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) 596-2511 x107



a just
world
for all
ucc.org



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

READ IT

This week's Bible story is **The Disciples**



from Matthew 4:12-23, 9:9-13, 10:1-4.

Jesus called his disciples and began teaching among unpopular people.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Repent
- Cast
- Mercy
- Sacrifice
- Summon
- Unclean spirit
- Authority

Having 12 disciples symbolically refers back to the 12 tribes of Israel.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 258-263

Spark Bible pages 1061, 1068-1069

Family Prayer

Dear Lord, pull us onto your path and free us from doubt and fear. We want to do your will among those who most need your love. In Jesus' name we pray for help. Amen.

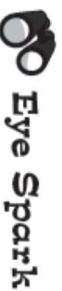
TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

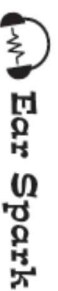
As his disciple, what would Jesus like you to do today?

- 1 The Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating with tax collectors. Who would you be criticized for eating lunch with? Why?
- 2 What groups of people are disliked, feared and/or singled out today?
- 3 Act out the calling of the disciples. One person takes Jesus' role and walks along. Everyone else picks a spot and pantomimes some kind of work. When you are called, stop immediately and follow. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be Jesus.



Eye Spark

Watch for fish this week. Each time you see one, remember that Jesus' disciples were called to fish for people.



Ear Spark

Listen for God in the sounds of nature this week. How many ways can God call you?

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Play a game of Follow the Leader—either through the house or through the neighborhood. The leader gets to be Jesus, and the followers are the disciples. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to be Jesus.

For younger kids

For the next week, every time your parent calls you, immediately drop what you are doing and go find out how you can help.

For older kids

Choose someone who really appears to be living his or her life as a disciple of Jesus. Read up about that person's life or interview that person if possible. What has s/he done to follow Jesus?

Lectionary, The Disciples Family Page, Spark™ Sunday School © 2010 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.

