



# Wilbraham United Church

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

**500 Main Street**

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[Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch](https://Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

**March 12, 2023**

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

**10:00AM**

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## GATHERING MUSIC

**Piano: Joyful Song**

**C.G. Allen, arr. C. Berry**

**Bells: Joyous Acclamation**

**M.W. Joy**

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Sirach 15*

Ed McCorkindale

**Leader: If you choose, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice.**

**People: Before each person are life and death, and whichever one chooses will be given.**

**Leader: For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything;**

**People: He has not commanded anyone to be wicked, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 731 (UMH)**

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

## UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

**Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life. We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you. Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ. May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them," be fulfilled in us. Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise and honor you, God Most High. Amen.**

**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: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.**

**People: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

## RESPONSIVE PSALM

from Psalm #95

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**People: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**People: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE #2029 (FWS)**

*Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.*

*Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.*

*From the rising of the sun*

*May the Lord be praised. Praise to the name of the Lord!*

**\*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

### EPISTLE LESSON

*Christ Died for Sinners*

*Romans 5: 1-11*

*[In this passage, Paul witnesses to the grace of God and encourages others to boast in the saving power of Christ.]*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### GOSPEL SCRIPTURE

*The Woman at the Well*

*John 4: 5-42*

*[In another instance of Jesus reaching out to the outcast of that society, John tells of Jesus' interaction with the woman at the Samaritan well.]*

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give

me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

**SERMON**

“Spirit and Truth”

Reverend William N. Ault

**HYMN # 175 (UMH)**

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

### Sung Response

*Breath of God, Breath of peace, Breath of love, Breath of life,  
Breath of justice, Breath of passion, Breath creating, Breath of healing,  
Breath of singing, Breath of praying, Come upon us, come restore us,  
Come inspire us, Breath of God.*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory Chancel Choir: *How Can I Keep From Singing?*

*Arr. B.S. Mayo*

### \*Doxology #87 vs. 4 (UMH)

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token,  
These words can convey it, the joy of this day!  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
This song we now offer in honor and praise!*

\*Prayer of Dedication

### \*PARTING HYMN # 138 (UMH)

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

### \*BENEDICTION

### \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 666 (UMH)

*Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.  
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving,  
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

## FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH Organ: *Hornpipe in D for Organ*

*J.S. Dixon*

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

*The altar flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God*

**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 William N. Ault

**Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical and Artistic Directors:** Deb Trimble and Don Schmidt

**Ushers:** Kim Ryan and Steve Mattocks

**Liturgist:** Ed McCorkindale

**Greeters:** Ruth Karlson



**Please Pray For:** the family of Helen Pickett, 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 March 12, 2023**

**Pastoral Coverage:** Contact Judy Hoffman: 413-596-8352 or [imjrhoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:imjrhoffman@hotmail.com) or Ruth Karlson at 413-596-6526 or [ruth@thekarlsons.com](mailto:ruth@thekarlsons.com). The WUC Call to Care team will continue with all routine supportive care and outreach to our members and friends in need.

**Easter Flower Order Forms** Order forms for Easter plants – daffodils or lilies are available in the Narthex. Order forms can be left in the office or given to Edna Colcord.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – The Discipleship Commission will be holding the annual Easter Egg Hunt after church on Easter Sunday. Candy (pre-wrapped) donations are being accepted and can be left in the Church School Office or in the Main Office.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** – You are invited to donate to One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 19th. Our donation helps us be responsive to hunger issues, no matter the cause, both locally and globally. Make a world of difference!

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST PASTOR

## REV. BILL AULT

Reverend William Ault retired in January 2021 after 16+ years as sole pastor at the First Church of Templeton, MA. A graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, Pastor Bill is a second career pastor, having used his undergraduate chemical engineering degree and master's degree in management from Worcester Polytechnic Institute working for Norton Company in Worcester for 28 years. Bill and his wife Holly (professor emeritus of mechanical engineering at WPI) built their dream retirement home on her family homestead of 30 acres in Pelham, MA.

## COMMUNION HELP NEEDED!

**QUICK INFO & TRAINING SESSION:**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH AFTER WORSHIP**

**Prep:** Cutting bread, pouring juice, setting up trays

**Clean up:** washing glasses, trays

**Serving** during worship

All members of the congregation are able to volunteer. Even a little help will go a long way in supporting our Hospitality Commission!

They cannot do it alone.

Communion is only once per month. The more who volunteer, the less of a time commitment for all.

We need 4 people per month  
(2 for prep/clean up and 2 to serve).

Any questions, please contact:

Marty Lyman  
Edna Concord



## Pancake Supper And Community Service Project



Join us for an evening of fun and community service  
assembling Women's Hygiene Kits to support  
Church World Service.

**Wilbraham United Church**  
**March 25th 5:00 to 7:00**



## **Wilbraham United Church Staff**

**Deb Trimble:** Administrator ([admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x100  
**Bobbie Morkin:** Music Director ([musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x106  
**Eric True:** Custodian ([wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x107

## **This Week at Wilbraham United Church**

### **Monday, March 13, 2023**

*Church Office open 8:30 - 1:30*

**10:00 a.m. – Piecemakers**

**7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)**

### **Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

*Church Office open 8:30 – 1:30*

**7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)**

### **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

*Church Office open 8:30 – 1:30*

**10:00 a.m. – Called to Care (LIB)**

**6:00 p.m. - Al-Anon (YR)**

**6:30 p.m. - Boy Scouts – (SS Rooms)**

**7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)**

**7:00 p.m. – Discipleship Meeting (Zeck)**

### **Thursday, March 16, 2023**

*Church Office open 8:30 – 1:30*

**9:20 a.m. – Loaves and Fishes (Kitch.)**

**5:30 p.m. – Girl Scouts (FH)**

**6:30 p.m. - Al-Anon (YR)**

**7:00 p.m. - Bell Choir (Sanc.)**

**8:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir (CR)**

### **Saturday, March 18, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)**

**10:00 a.m. – Jr. Choir (CR)**

### **Sunday, March 19, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. - Worship**

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship**

**12:00 p.m. - Church Without Walls**

**1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)**

**5:00 p.m. - Al- Anon (YR)**

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**Woman at the Well**



Lent 1

from John 4:5-42.

**Everyone may receive living water, God's word, from Jesus.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Samaria
- Jacob
- Eternal
- Water
- Spirit
- Messiah
- Rabbi

Samaritans and Jews disagreed about the proper place to worship God. Samaritans believed God wanted them to worship at Mount Gerizim; Jews believed worship should happen in the temple at Jerusalem.

**Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 420-425

*Spark Bible* pages 1175-1176

## Family Prayer

Dear God, through Jesus you offer what we need in spirit. Please help us hear, understand and accept your word. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Describe a time you were VERY thirsty and the water you drank never tasted so good.
- 2 Who is somebody from school with whom you and your friends don't ever play or sit?
- 3 As Jesus' disciples, what could we offer those people with whom we never interact?
- 4 Take a long walk together. As you walk, talk about everything you see, hear, feel, and smell. Imagine you are travelling all the way to the next town on foot. When you get home, each person can offer a glass of water to another. How does the water taste? How would living water compare to it?



### Eye Spark

Pick one thing you noticed as a family during your walk. Each time you see that thing this week, remember Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.



### Ear Spark

Pick one thing you heard as a family during your walk. When you hear it, thank Jesus for bringing us living water.

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## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

As a family, honor the importance of water: with gloves and a bag, pick up trash along a nearby water source.

### For younger kids

Make a sign that will remind everyone to turn off the water while they brush their teeth. Put it in the bathroom.

### For older kids

Investigate how to make a rain barrel and how the collected rainwater could be used. Perhaps you could make one with your family.

