



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

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

**May 21, 2023**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

**10:00AM**

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## GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: *Be Still, My Soul* with *Be Still and Know*

arr. M. McDonald

Bell Choir: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

arr. R. Broth, K. McChesney

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Rae Teed**

Leader: Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters;

**All: Incline your ear, and come to me;**

Leader: Listen, so that you may live,

**All: And I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 308 (UMH)**

*Thine Be the Glory*

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us!

**People: He is with us indeed!**

Leader: In joy and contrition we come before God. Let us confess our sins.

**All: Merciful God, forgive the halting nature of our discipleship. We confess that so little of your love has reached others through us. We confess that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation and reluctant in our forgiveness. Forgive us, we beseech You, in the name of Him who 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.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## **RESPONSIVE PSALM # 792 (UMH)**

Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35

### **\*SONG OF PRAISE # 2284 (FWS)**

*There'll be joy in the morning on that day,  
There'll be joy in the morning on that day,  
For the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,  
There'll be joy in the morning on that day.*

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Junior Choir: *In God's House*

B. Pearson & S. Pearson

## **MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Acts 1: 6-14

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

### **GOSPEL READING**

I Peter 5: 6-11

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**SERMON** *Spirit of Witness: Cast all your anxiety on him* Pastor Loesch

**HYMN # 534 (UMH)** *Be Still, My Soul*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

**Sung Response # 186 (UMH)**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

Offertory Chancel Choir: *Come, Come Unto Me*

K. Dosso

**\*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 # 154 (UMH)**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 665 (UMH)**

*Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
May the love of God surround you everywhere,  
everywhere you may go.*

**FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH** Organ: *Toccata in E Minor*

J. Pachelbel

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

*The altar flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Ross Karlson by his family.*

**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:** Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch

**Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical and Artistic Directors:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Bill Lynch, Tom Toman

**Liturgist:** Rae Teed

**Greeters:** Edna Colcord, Joyce Emerle



**Please Pray For:** the Clements family, Jim Trimble, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, 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 May 21, 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.

**Scholarships** are available for church members who will be attending college in the fall of 2023. The application deadline is May 21<sup>st</sup>. Applications are available through the church office or by contacting Judy Hoffman at 596-8352 or [imjrhoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:imjrhoffman@hotmail.com).

### **Wilbraham United Church Staff**

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## ***Wilbraham United Church***

# ***Arts and Crafts Fair***

***June 3, 2023  
9AM - 3PM***

### **Volunteers Needed**

- Bake Sale
- Vendor assistance
- Raffle
- Refreshments

See Deb with  
questions

Welcome to our guest pastor

## ***Rev. Robert Loesch***

Rev. Dr. Loesch is a graduate of Oberlin College, Yale Divinity School and Hartford International University for Religion and Peace. He has been an active ordained United Church of Christ clergy for 57 years and active in peace and justice activities for 60 years. Bob has served as pastor of 9 United Church of Christ congregations in CT, MA and NY.

He is an active member of Foster Memorial Church, UCC, serving currently as facilitator of the Just Peace Team, Writer in Residence and Executive Board member. Bob is active in the Campaign Non Violence chapter of Greater Springfield, the Interfaith Council of Greater Springfield and several other local organizations.

He is co-leader of the volunteer Neighborhood Support Team walking alongside a family of twelve Afghan refugees. Bob is the author of several books, including *Out On A Limb* and *Other Stories*, a collection of short fiction. This book includes his Christmas story "Seeing Red" which takes place at the Wilbraham United Church

## **WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH**



## **VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2023**

**JULY 31 - AUGUST 4**

**REGISTRATION OPEN NOW**

**[WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDCHURCH.ORG)**

## **Wilbraham United Church Annual Program Year Meeting**

**June 11, 2023**

The Annual Program Year Meeting of the Wilbraham United Church will be held immediately after Worship in the sanctuary to transact the following business:

- VOTE ON ANNUAL REPORTS
- VOTE ON 2023-2024 LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS
- VOTE ON BYLAW CHANGES
- ACT UPON ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING

The meeting will be followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall.  
Nan Shepard, Clerk





**Steeple  
repair has  
officially  
begun!**

Please keep out of the construction  
area at all times.

We will keep everyone updated on  
the progress throughout the  
project.

--The Phys Ops Commission

## Save Our Steeple!



The iconic steeple  
which sits high  
above Main Street  
is in need of costly  
repairs.

How to donate:



Cash



Check

[WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org](http://WilbrahamUnitedChurch.org)

From all of us at Wilbraham United Church,  
we thank you for your generosity!

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

### **Sunday, May 21, 2023**

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

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour**

**12:00 p.m. – Church Without Walls**

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

### **Monday, May 22, 2023**

*Church Office open 8:30 – 1:30*

**10:00 a.m. – Piecemakers**

**6:30 p.m. – Trustees (ZR)**

### **Tuesday, May 23, 2023**

*Church Office open 8:30 – 1:30*

**10:00 a.m. – Yoga (YR)**

### **Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

*Church Office open 8:30 – 1:30*

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

**6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (SS Rooms)**

### **Thursday, May 25, 2023**

*Church Office Closed*

**6:00 p.m. – Girl Scouts (YR)**

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

**7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)**

**8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (CR)**

### **Friday, May 26, 2023**

*Church Office open 8:30 – 1:30*

### **Saturday, May 27, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)**

### **Sunday, May 28, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. –Worship**

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour**

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

*The Church will be closed Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> for the Memorial Day Holiday*

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**The Promise  
of the Holy Spirit**  
from John 14:15-21.

**Easter 6**

**Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to be with us always.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Promise
- Trust
- Spirit
- Commandments
- Advocate

The Holy Spirit reveals itself in several forms in Bible stories—as a dove at the baptism of Jesus and as wind and fire on Pentecost.

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

Spark Story Bible pages 450-451

Spark Bible page 1192

**Family Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father,

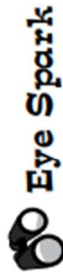
May the Holy Spirit be around us and inside us. May it guide us as we learn, work, and play. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Have you ever made a promise? Did you keep it? What promise did Jesus make this story?
- 2 Who do you trust? How do you know you can trust them? How do your friends and family know they can trust you?
- 3 What proof do we have that the Holy Spirit is present in our lives everyday? How do we know it is at work in each of us?
- 4 How do you see the Holy Spirit at work? at school? At work? At church? In our community?



### Eye Spark

Look at a map of your city or state. Map out a route to favorite cities or attractions. Trace the route with your fingers. Just as a map guides you to a destination, the Holy Spirit guides your heart to do God's work in the world!



### Ear Spark

Listen with your heart instead of your ears. As you make choices this week, pause and think about what your heart is telling you to do. Trusting your heart is a way that we trust the Holy Spirit's guidance in our daily lives.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Play this game to remind you that the Holy Spirit is always with you, even when you don't expect it. Start this week-long game by giving each member of your family a stickynote with a cross on it. Each family member can remind other members of the family of the Holy Spirit's presence by hiding the sticky notes in unexpected places. Sticky notes can be hidden on the inside of a cupboard door, in a lunch box, or on a windshield. Be creative. When a family member finds a stickynote, they must hide it again. Distribute new stickynotes each day and see how many you find by week's end!

### For younger kids

Remind a friend about the God's promise to be with us by reading or sharing a story from the Spark Story Bible or another Bible storybook.

### For older kids

Use your computer to listen to the song, "Holy Spirit" by Third Day. Look up the lyrics and follow along as you listen to the song.



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