



# 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)

**November 19, 2023**

**25th Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00AM**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

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*We ask that everyone wear nametags so that we can be welcoming to all. There are listening devices available for those that may need them. An usher will be happy to assist you. Following the service, everyone is invited to our time of refreshments and friendship in our Fellowship Hall. Please make a left out of our sanctuary, down the hall, and up the stairs. If you are unable to use the stairs, an elevator is available.*

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

Piano: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. J. Purifoy

Bells: Now Thank We All Our God

arr. L. Larson

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

### **WELCOME**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 694 (UMH)**

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Marty Lyman**

Leader: Let us come before the Lord with thanksgiving for all that he has done for us. The Lord sows the clouds across the sky and drenches the earth with abundance. He takes pleasure in his creative works and he shares his bountiful ways with his beloved ones.

People: We will praise our Maker with our whole hearts for he fills us, body, mind and spirit. We will uplift our thanksgiving to the Lord, for he nourishes us with good things. We know that we are his and we are made glad in it. Thanks be to God.

### **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Holy God, We gather today to worship you and to express our gratitude for the powerful ways that you touch our lives. You have called us to be your people and you have inspired us to put aside our earthly pursuits and instead seek out moments which are committed only to you. Remind us to make time for occasions of prayer and service to others. Help us to grow in our faith, give generously of our being and spread the good news of our faith for others to witness. Let us always give to you the praise of our spirits and the affection of our hearts. Amen

**\*SONG OF PRAISE # 2026 (TFWS)**

*Halle, Halle, Halleluja!*  
*Halle, Halle, Halleluja!*  
*Halle, Halle, Halleluja!*  
*Halleluja! Halleluja!*

**\*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**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Psalm 108 3-5**

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**I Thessalonians 5: 16-18**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**Sung Response # 2200 (TFWS)**

*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.*

## GOSPEL READINGS

**Luke 22: 17-19**

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Matthew 15: 36-38**

He took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled, and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children.

**John 11: 41-44**

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**Matthew 11: 25**

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;

## SERMON

*A Thanksgiving Meditation*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN # 2222 (TFWS)**

*The Servant Song*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

In All Things, Give Thanks

V.C. Johnson

*Chancel Choir*

**Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God above, you heavenly host:***

***Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*PARTING HYMN # 102 (UMH)**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

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

**\*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.*

**MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH**

Organ: We Gather Together

arr. M. McDonald

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

*The altar flowers this morning are being in loving memory of Lois Peck from her 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**

**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

**Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical and Artistic Directors:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Kim Ryan and John Colkos

**Liturgist:** Marty Lyman

**Greeters:** Chris and Gail Lima



**Please Pray For:** The family of C. Noel Chambers, Catherine Tucker, Connie and Bob Law, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, 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 November 19, 2023

A **concert** of classical piano duo music by Quin Facey and Virginia Zheng will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday November 25th at 4PM. Admission is free but donations will be gratefully accepted.

Our **Loaves and Fishes** program is in need of financial support. Monetary donations should be made payable to the church and earmarked for Loaves and Fishes. Online donations can also be made through our website's giving page. In addition, the Loaves and Fishes team are looking for donations of canned beans for the casseroles they make. Cans may be left in the church kitchen.

Please help us spread the Christmas cheer, one cookie at a time, and make this year's **Holly Fair Cookie Walk** another success! We're looking for your special Christmas cookies, bars and barks. Items can be left in the church freezer or dropped off in the kitchen anytime on **Friday, December 8th**. Please be in touch with Chrissy Plumb if you have any questions (plumb1993@charter.net). Thank you for all your help!!!

**Volunteer** Sign-up sheets for our **Holly Fair** are on the bulletin board outside the Christian Ed Office. Please find a spot where you can help the church with this event!

### Wilbraham United Church Staff

**Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind:** Pastor ([pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x 103

**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



It's not too early to order gift cards for holiday giving!

Please consider our Shopping Card Program for your gift list.

Many retail cards are available for purchase. See the full list at <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

Order forms are available at the Shopping Card table in the Narthex.

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

### **Sunday, November 19, 2023**

*Thanksgiving and Stewardship Sunday*

**10:00 a.m. – Worship**

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)**

**1:00 p.m. – WUP Auditions (FH)**

**5:00 p.m. – Al- Anon (YR)**

### **Monday, November 20, 2023**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**9:30 a.m. – Wilbraham Comm.**

**Preschool (TS)**

**5:15 p.m. – Girl Scouts (TS)**

**6:30 p.m. – Trustees (Lib)**

**7:00 p.m. – Church Council (ZR)**

**7:00 p.m. – WUP Auditions (FH)**

### **Tuesday, November 21, 2023**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**9:30 a.m. – Wilbraham Comm.**

**Preschool (TS)**

**10:00 a.m. – Yoga (YR)**

**2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)**

**7:00 p.m. – WUP Auditions (FH)**

### **Wednesday, November 22, 2023**

*Church Office 10:00 – 3:00*

**8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Club**

**11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting (Office)**

**6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS & SS)**

### **Thursday, November 23, 2023**

*Church Office Closed for the Holiday*

**6:30 a.m. – Turkey Trot (FH)**

### **Friday, November 24, 2023**

*Church Office closed*

### **Saturday, November 25, 2023**

*Church Office Closed*

**10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)**

**4:00 p.m. – Piano Concert (Sanc)**

### **Sunday, November 26, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. – Worship**

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)**

**5:00 p.m. – Al- Anon (YR)**

## **Blessing Box**

As winter quickly approaches, we need to shift our donations to items that can handle the freezing temperatures. This could include dry goods such as pasta, nuts, baking supplies, dried fruit, pancake mix, crackers and personal care products. Wilbraham United Church works towards meeting the needs of our community in many ways. Food drives, Loaves and Fishes, Winter Clothing Drive, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets are just a few examples that have a positive local impact-all made possible through your generous donations.

**Many thanks!**



# 2023 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS



Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia Plant(s) @ \$16 each

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

- ( ) I wish to have my poinsettia(s) delivered to a special-care person designated by the church.  
*Will be delivered 12/17 by Call to Care members.*
- ( ) I will pick up my poinsettia(s) after the 7:30 Christmas Eve Service.
- ( ) I will collect my plant(s) after the Dec 31st service.

Please return order form to the Church Office on or before December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.



## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

### Parable of the Talents

from Matthew 25: 14-30.



**God gave us special skills and talents so that we can use them to spread God's love.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Talents
- Multiplied
- Buried

In the story, the word talent has a double meaning. First of all, talent meant money. A talent was worth more than 15 years of wages for a laborer in Jesus' time. Secondly, talent also meant "life" in the story. God gave us lives of love to share, not bury.

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 316-317

Spark Bible page 1091

## Family Prayer

Dear God, sometimes we're afraid. We're afraid that we will lose the things we own. So we huddle down and keep our hopes buried inside us. Please help us to trust you. Show us the families who make a leap of faith to live their lives, trusting that you will provide. Please teach us to not be afraid. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT

### Family Conversations

1 Did you know that this story is about you? You probably know how to use what God gave you. Maybe you love to dance or sing; maybe you love to do a summersault. Show your family something you love to do.

2 Pre-adolescents and adolescents may be less afraid of risk than their parents are. Challenge the kids of your family to teach the adults how to take risks for God! You may volunteer in a new place, make friends with a neighbor, or eat out less and donate the money you save to a charity or your church.

3 Make a pie chart that shows your family finances. What percentage of your income goes to housing, food, and transportation? What percentage of your income do you give as an offering at church or to other charitable causes? You could serve pie as you talk about your pie chart. What would Jesus think of your investments?

4 Distribute paper and pencil (or crayons) to family members. Each person writes down or draws something they're afraid of. Gather the fears in a bowl and pray that God will help you deal with your fears. Invite family members to talk about their fears aloud, if possible.



### Eye Spark

Place a shovel or a toy sand shovel in your living space this week to remind you of the Parable of the Talents. When you see it, ask yourself, "Am I living in fear or love?"



### Ear Spark

The man who buried his talent didn't get to see it grow. He was sad about that. God was sad about that. Do some loud sighing. Sighing is the sound of regret. Who can make the saddest sigh in your family?

Lectionary, Parable of the Talents Family Page. Spark™ Sunday School © 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

What's buried in your home that you could share? Go on a buried treasure hunt around your home. (You could plant some of these items ahead of time to keep little ones excited.) Search for loose change under couch cushions that you could share with hungry families. Look for stale bread that you could share with the ducks at the park. Seek out outgrown shoes or clothes that could be passed on to donation centers or families you know.

### For younger kids

Practice leaps of faith. Mark how far you can leap, and keep practicing to leap further. Remember, giving our lives to God takes some trust and some oomph!

### For older kids

Make a short video about the special person you are. Work together with siblings on this if possible, and share the product with the whole family. In the video, make sure you demonstrate how you love to use the talents God gave you.

