



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 28, 2024

4th Sunday after Epiphany

10:00AM

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: His Eye Is On the Sparrow

arr. J. Rouse

Bells: Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

arr. L. Scholes

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #61 (UMH)**

Come, Thou Almighty King

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marjorie Trimble

Liturgist: Let us give thanks to God for he is the Author of light and love and blessing. He adorns the world with his handiwork and he lights up the sky with his glory. God makes all things because it pleases him to do so.

People: **The Lord makes us glad by all that he does. We are continually awed by the One who made us, for he commanded and all was created. He is worthy of our worship and praise. Thanks be to God.**

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, The sun rises and sets because of you. The snow falls and the ice forms, but we know that warmer days will come. We trust in that, and we ask that you help us to always trust in you. Sometimes we falter in faith, but we know that you are there, enabling us to move forward. Grant that we may better follow in your ways, and help us to do our good in the world. Enfold us with your Spirit, and as we experience the joys and challenges of life together, keep us always in your care. Amen

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

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 12: 9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 READING

John 1: 14-18

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON

Being Saved

Rev. Janet

***HYMN # 448 (UMH) v. 1-4**

Go Down, Moses

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

I Choose Love
Chancel Choir

M.A. Miller

*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 # 397 (UMH)

I Need Thee Every Hour

*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #2238 (TFWS) 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.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Italian Hymn

arr. A.L. Travis

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

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

Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to United Church? If you wish to be contacted by a member of the church or our pastor, please leave your contact information with one of the ushers or place a visitor card in the collection plate. We invite you to join us in our time of Fellowship after the service. Our ushers or a member of the ministry team will be happy to accompany you and help you find your way!*

UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS – The “small black” The Faith We Sing Hymnal



MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Steven Mattocks, Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Marjorie Trimble

Greeters: Edna Colcord, Joyce Emerle



Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



**SUPER BOWL
FOOD DRIVE**

AFC VS NFC

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11

Bring your non-perishable food items to church and vote for your favorite team to win!

All food items will be used to stock our Blessing Box or donated to the Community Survival Center!

Wilbraham United Church presents our annual

Mother-Son Dance



Saturday, February 10, 2024
Fellowship Hall at Wilbraham United Church
6:00pm-8:00pm

\$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



Save the date

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Annual Financial Meeting

“News for the Pews” for the Week of January 28, 2024

REMINDER Work of the Interim Pastor - Now that our very busy season has passed, it is time for us to gather and engage in a time of discernment for the churches next chapter. This will be an opportunity to reflect on where this church is moving towards and where it has come from and to discuss this church's strengths and its growing edges. Our next meeting will take place after church this morning and we will continue to meet every Sunday following worship in the Zeckhausen room. You are cordially invited to attend these gatherings as often as you are able.

Tickets are on sale for our annual **Mother Son Dance!** We will also be looking for assistance in decorating, providing baked goodies and other assistance the evening of the dance. The dance will be Saturday February 10 from 6-8. If you are available to help please let a member of the Discipleship team know!

Super Bowl Chili Take Out – The Wilbraham United Players will be serving **homemade** chili and corn bread on Sunday February 11. Preorder chili on the Player's website: wilbrahamunitedplayers.org. Drive up to pick up your ready-made order between 4:00 and 5:30. The Players will deliver your ready-to-eat order to your car!

Altar Flower sign-ups are available for most of 2024. Please consider dedicating the flowers to a loved one on a special Sunday. Flowers are \$30 and are available as a single arrangement or a double arrangement. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Save the date – our **Annual Financial Meeting** will be held after church on Sunday February 18, 2024.

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103
Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100
Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, January 28, 2024

10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)
11:30 a.m. – Work of the Interim
Meeting (ZR)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, January 29, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30
2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Church Office 11:30 – 3:30
8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group
11:00 a.m. – Staff meeting (office)
6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts
(SS Rooms, TS, Youth Rm)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
6:00 p.m. – Girl Scouts (TS)
6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – Bells (Sanctuary)
8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (CR)

Friday, February 2, 2024

Church Office closed

Saturday, February 3, 2024

10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)
4:00 p.m. – Private Event (FH)

Sunday, February 4, 2024

10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)
11:30 a.m. – Work of the Interim
Meeting (ZR)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)



READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Jonah and the Big Fish

from Jonah 1-4.

Jonah runs away from God, and a fish swallows him.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jonah
- Nineveh
- Tarshish
- Prophet
- Prophecy

Today, Nineveh is the site of Mosul, Iraq.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 190-193

Spark Bible pages 1008-1010

Family Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sticking with us even though we misunderstand, mistrust and resist your directions. Please help us to be more obedient and accepting of your generosity—even towards those we don't like. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What do you think it would be like to travel inside a big fish?
- 2 What difficult things have you been asked to do?
- 3 How does God help us do difficult things?
- 4 Jonah gets really angry with God towards the end of this story. God can handle our anger. Take turns practicing "angry prayers" as well as prayers of thanksgiving and prayers asking for help. Go ahead and stomp your feet and wave your arms and throw a magnificent tantrum, then pick yourself up and say "Thank you, Lord, for sticking with me!"



Eye Spark

What fish can you see this week? When you spot them, think of Jonah and his ride.



Ear Spark

What sounds can you hear that make you think of the sea? Boats? Fish?

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Play a game of Go Fish as a family and remember Jonah.

For younger kids

Have some goldfish crackers as a snack. Share them with someone who is often left out.

For older kids

Jonah was in the Mediterranean Sea. Research what large fish might have lived in that sea or other bodies of water during Jonah's time.

