



# 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)

**February 25, 2024**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

**10:00AM**

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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: Poor Wayfaring Stranger

arr. J. Purifoy

Bells: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

arr. L. Larson

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## WELCOME

**\*GATHERING HYMN 131 (UMH)**

*We Gather Together*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Theresa Munn**

Liturgist: We gather to affirm our faith and to uplift our love for the One who made us. We gather to receive the nourishment of our faith and for the grace and mercy which strengthens our spirits. We gather to know our God better and to be in right relationship with the Divine.

**People: We give heartfelt thanks for our worship this day and for all the blessings which dwells within it. Thanks be to God.**

## UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Holy God, We gather today thankful that you love us as we are. We are made by your hand and in your image, so how can we doubt our connection to you? Remind us, when our memory fails us, that we have been granted grace upon grace because you deem us worthy, and because you love us so deeply. We worship you because you make us whole in the midst of brokenness, and when we look in the mirror, you are there. Amen**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE #2013 (TFWS)**

*Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.*

## **\*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 22: 23-31**

You who fear the Lord, praise the Lord! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God and stand in awe, all you offspring of Israel!

For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; God did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who worship the Lord. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord. For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

All who sleep in the earth shall bow down to the Lord; all who go down to the dust shall bow before the Lord, and I shall live for God.

Posterity shall serve the Lord; future generations will be told about the Lord and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

Surely the Lord has done it.

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Romans 7: 14-20**

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

## **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:**

*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.*

**GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 13: 31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

**SERMON**

*That Foxy Guy*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN** *see insert*

*Said Judas to Mary*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Be A Candle of Hope  
*Chancel Choir*

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 # 672 (UMH)**

*God Be With You*

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

**\*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.*

## MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: We Gather Together

arr. D. Lasky

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

*The altar flowers this morning are given by Gail Lima in memory of her daughter Heather, on her birthday.*

**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” book Faith We Sing Hymnal

## MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

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

**Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical and Artistic Directors:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Ralph and Sherrie Ridgeway

**Liturgist:** Theresa Munn

**Greeters:** Chris and Gail Lima



**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.



## 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

John 12:1-8

Sydney Carter, 1964; alt.

1 Said Ju - das to Mar - y, "Now  
2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, O  
3 "To - mor-row, to - mor-row, I'll  
4 Said Je - sus to Mar - y, "Your

what will you do with your oint-ment so rich and so rare?" "I'll  
think of the poor. This oint-ment, it could have been sold; And  
think of the poor; to - mor-row," she said, "not to - day; For  
love is so deep, to - day you may do as you will. To -

pour it all o - ver the feet of the Christ, and I'll wipe it a-way with my  
think of the blan-kets and think of the bread you could buy with the sil - ver and  
dear-er than all of the poor in the world is my love who is go - ing a -  
mor-row, you say, I am go - ing a - way, but my bod - y I leave with you

hair," she said, "I'll wipe it a-way with my hair." (2 "O)  
 gold," he said, "you could buy with the sil - ver and gold." (3 "To-)  
 way," she said, "my love who is go - ing a - way." (4 Said)  
 still," he said, "my bo - dy I leave with you still." (5 "The)  
 (6 -way.")

5 "The poor of the world are my bod-y,"  
 he said,  
 "to the end of the world they shall be.  
 The bread and the blan-kets you give  
 to the poor  
 you will know you have giv-en to me,"  
 he said,  
 "you'll know you have giv-en to me."

6 "My bod-y will hang on the cross  
 of the world  
 to-mor-row," he said, "not to-day.  
 And Mar-tha and Mar-y will find me  
 a-gain  
 and wash all my sor-row a-way,"  
 he said,  
 "and wash all my sor-row a-way."

## **"News for the Pews" for the Week of February 25, 2024**

**REMINDER Work of the Interim Pastor** – The next meeting will be held this morning, after worship in Fellowship Hall. You are cordially invited to attend!

The **Physical Operations Commission** is looking for volunteers to open the church, stay to monitor activities and then close the building on Sunday evenings, some Monday evenings and Wednesday evenings. Please let Rick Averill know if you can help out with this stewardship of our building. Once there is a list of available volunteers a schedule will be put together with details.

If you are a member or a regular attendee/visitor to our church and would like a **nametag** please let Deb know! This includes our children! Name Tags are stored in the cabinets in the Narthex and are filed by last name.

Order Forms for **Easter Flowers** are available in the Narthex.

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

### ***Sunday, February 25, 2024***

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

### ***Monday, February 26, 2024***

*Church Office 8:30 – 2:00*  
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers  
5:15 p.m. – Girls Scouts (TS)  
6:30 p.m. – Deacons (ZR)  
7:00 - Church Council (ZR)  
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### ***Tuesday, February 27, 2024***

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

### ***Wednesday, February 28, 2024***

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*  
8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group  
11:00 a.m. – Staff meeting (office)  
6:00 p.m. – Discipleship (ZR)  
6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (SS Rooms,  
TS, Youth Rm)  
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### ***Thursday, February 29, 2024***

*Church Office 11:00 – 3:00*  
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, March 1, 2024***

*Church Office closed*

### ***Saturday, March 2, 2024***

9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)  
10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)  
***Sunday, March 3, 2024***  
10:00 a.m. – Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)  
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

### Abraham and Sarah's Visitors

from Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; 18:1-15; and 21:1-7

#### God grants a seemingly impossible promised baby to Abraham and Sarah.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Almighty
- Favor
- Covenant
- Cease
- Ancestor
- Deny

The names of Old Testament characters provide information about the characters. God changes Abram's name to Abraham when God makes a covenant that Abraham will be the ancestor of many nations of people.

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 34-37

Spark Bible pages 17-18, 21

## Family Prayer

Lord God, please be with us as we struggle to understand your promises, to hope against hope, and to feel the peace of your presence as we wait. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Make up a name and a meaning for that name.
- 2 What is a promise that was made to you and kept? What promise have you made and kept?
- 3 How does your family show hospitality?
- 4 Take turns sharing something good. Laugh and be happy and remember God.



### Eye Spark

Look for babies and remember Abraham and Sarah's joy.



### Ear Spark

Listen for laughter and laugh along.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Bake treats or create "Welcome" cards to offer visitors.

### For younger kids

Have a play date and share your toys' names.

### For older kids

Is there anyone attending your school from another country? From another state or town? Find out what they miss from home. What are some ways you could offer hospitality?



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