



# 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 12, 2024**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

**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: The Gift of Love

arr. J. Carter

Bells: For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. K. McChesney

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### WELCOME

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 89 (UMH)**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Marty Lyman**

Liturgist: Our God is a God of nurture and nourishment, compassion and righteousness, goodness and grace. All of these bear witness to our Creator's presence in our lives, and to the proximity of the Divine who watches over us.

**People: Our lives are blessed by the One who sees us in all our ways, and holds us close, all for love's sake. Thanks be to God**

### UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Gracious God,**

**You breathed life into us and made us in your image. You have called us worthy, despite our brokenness and imperfections. You continually fill us up because you don't like to see us empty, and you forgive us even when we are undeserving. Come to us we pray, and remind us that you live wherever we look, you listen whenever we pray and your love for us is without measure and forever. Amen**

**\*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**

**MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Ruth 1: 15-18**

So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**1 Corinthians 13: 1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

## 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 # 186 (UMH)**

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

## GOSPEL READING

**John 17: 6-10**

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.”

## SERMON

*A Mother's Day Meditation*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #2050 (TFWS)**

*Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Gentle Voice

*Chancel Choir*

L. Dengler

**\*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 See insert**

*Earth and All Stars*

**\*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: Go Out with Joy!

arr. M. McDonald

*\*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? 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 Director:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** April Beston and Steven Mattocks

**Liturgist:** Marty Lyman

**Greeters:** Gail and Chris Lima



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



# Earth and All Stars!



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing

snow - storm!  
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done  
 work - ers!  
 mem - bers!

mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!

## **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

## **“News for the Pews” for the Week of May 12, 2024**

**Together in Fellowship:** Wilbraham United Church is a church on the brink of becoming a strong and vibrant presence of Christian and Social ministries, above and beyond where we stand today. We have a Leadership group led by our Minister, focused on growing in our fiscal future, our future in outward ministries, and our place in the local community as well as our expanding community.

I believe we are a family that puts our faith in God to lead us in our daily lives. When we open our hearts to receive God’s call, we can accomplish great things together. By doing so, we can handle the day to day struggles easier and rejoice in His daily gifts.

I have recently answered the call to serve our church on its Fellowship Commission and I do so gladly and I embrace the opportunity to serve along other members of our Leadership Council. I asked myself a familiar question “If not me, who? If not now, when?” It was an easy answer for me, after ignoring the call for quite some time.

With that being said, a few of our Commissions are in need of bolstering the number of their members. These commissions are vital in serving the church and its missions to do the work that God has called us to do. The areas that would embrace your interest are Physical Operations, Fellowship and Discipleship.

I implore You, as a valued and loved one of our church family, to answer the call to take advantage of the opportunity to serve YOUR church in a greater way that will result in a rewarding experience. If you have an inkling of interest or any questions, please reach out to me personally. We would love to have all committees filled before the Annual Meeting on June 9, 2024.

God Bless,

John Colkos (413-575-1305) / [jcolkos64@charter.net](mailto:jcolkos64@charter.net)

**A Work of the Interim** meeting will take place this morning after the worship service in the Zeckhausen Room. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

There are many Sunday's available for sign-up for the dedication of **Altar Flowers**. Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex. Altar Flowers are \$30 and can either be taken home after the worship service, or directed to be delivered to our Shut-Ins.

We have **scholarships** that were set up by the families in memory of church members. The only application requirement is to be a member of WUC and to have participated in church activities. Please contact Deb at [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) and she will email an application form to you. Please return the completed form to her by May 26. If you have questions, please email Judy Hoffman at [imjrhoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:imjrhoffman@hotmail.com) or call her at 413-544-5908.

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

#### **Sunday, May 12, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. –Worship**

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)**

**11:30 a.m. – Work of the Interim  
(ZR)**

**5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)**

#### **Monday, May 13, 2024**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers**

**6:30 p.m. – Meet the Candidates  
Event (FH)**

**7:00 p.m. – WUP Board Meeting  
(ZR)**

#### **Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**11:00 a.m. – Women's Fellowship  
(ZR)**

**2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)**

#### **Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group**

**11:00 a.m. – Staff meeting (office)**

**1:00 p.m. – Called to Care (Lib)**

**6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (SS Rooms,  
TS, Youth Rm)**

#### **Thursday, May 16, 2024**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**9:20 a.m. – Loaves and Fishes**

**6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)**

**7:00 p.m. – Bells (Sanctuary)**

**8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (CR)**

#### **Friday, May 17, 2024**

*Church Office closed*

#### **Saturday, May 18, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)**

#### **Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. –Worship**

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)**

**11:30 a.m. – VBC Planning Meeting  
(ZR)**

**5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)**



## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

# The Holy Spirit Comes Down

Easter 6

from Acts 10:44-48.

**Jesus wants everyone to follow him—that means you!**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Peter
- Holy Spirit
- Gentiles
- Baptism

The word *gentile* refers to people who are not Jewish. In the Old Testament, the term usually referred to pagans, or people who worshipped false gods (or no god at all).

In the New Testament, *gentile* sometimes referred to early Christian communities.

After Jesus' death, many of Jesus' followers came to believe he was the Messiah. Despite many cultural similarities, this belief put them outside of the Jewish religious heritage.

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 524-525

Spark Bible page 1217

## Family Prayer

Dear God, you offer your Holy Spirit to everyone. Help us accept your grace and mercy as shown through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT

### Family Conversations

- 1 What symbols do we use to talk about the Holy Spirit?
- 2 Why were the disciples surprised when the Holy Spirit came down on the Gentiles?
- 3 The disciples wanted to baptize the Gentiles after they received the Holy Spirit. How do you think baptisms looked during Jesus' time? How does your church perform baptisms today? What are some similarities and differences?
- 4 What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Do you talk about it much at your church or in your family?



### Eye Spark

The next time you see a dove, feel a gust of wind, or see a flame, remember how the Holy Spirit moves in your life.



### Ear Spark

In another well-known Bible story, people spoke in foreign languages after receiving the Holy Spirit. The next time you hear someone speaking a language other than your own, remember how God invites everyone to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Lectionary: The Holy Spirit Comes Down Family Page.

Spark™ Sunday School

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## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Does your church host weekly dinners or other meals? If you do, consider starting a compost bin on your church grounds. Composting helps turn leftover food into fertilizer for news plants. You can learn more about composting at your library, online, or a local hardware or gardening store.

### For younger kids

The Holy Spirit is one third of the Trinity, but it is talked and taught about the least. How often do you talk about the Trinity in your church or family? The next time you go to church, count how many times people talk about the Holy Spirit.

### For older kids

Do some research on serotinous pine cones. If you live near the Rocky Mountains, you may even have some near your home. Something surprising happens to these cones during forest fires. Can you think of anything else that gets new life from fiery flames?

