

Wilbraham United Church
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

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

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

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.

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. J. Carter

Bells: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. J.A. Behnke

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Frias Family

Advent---Hope

Leader: Today is the beginning of Advent. It is a time of preparation for celebrating Christ's birth. This a holy time made brilliant by a great love set down before us, to lead us out of darkness and into the way of peace.

Leader: We light this candle to proclaim God's light coming into the world. The coming of this light brings hope: hope that righteousness may prevail over evil, that salvation may triumph over sin, and hope that light may chase away the darkness.

UNISON PRAYER

O God, We thank you for bringing us the light of hope and salvation to a hurting and needy world. We thank you also for showing us the way to do good things in the world, so that our acts of worship may translate into actions which drive away sin, and which heralds in the light of Christ, all the year long. Amen

***GATHERING HYMN #211 (UMH) vs. 1-4**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CALL TO WORSHIP

April Beston

Liturgist: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, for the glory of God will be revealed among us. Let us prepare for the light, which will guide our ways and give us a respite from the darkness.

People: We wait for the Lord with anticipation and with Joy, for the coming of the Lord brings hope and salvation to a weary world. Let us sing and let us offer up our praise, for the One who is coming to guide us into the way of salvation. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God,

Come to us we pray, make our hearts ready to receive you. Help us to open ourselves to your Good News; that we are saved by your coming and filled by your Spirit. You bring hope and light and salvation to your creation, yet sometimes it is difficult for us to imagine your extravagant gift, a gift which is beyond all measure. Help us to understand what you have done for us in the redemption of the world. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE #207 (UMH)**

*Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

NEW TESTAMENT READING

II Thessalonians 2: 13-17

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

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 # 204 (UMH)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21: 25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Communion Meditation

Rev. Janet

*HYMN #626 (UMH)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Blessed Are They
Chancel Choir

K. Crane & J. Klein

*Doxology #221 (UMH) vs. 4

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him, give him my heart.*

*Prayer of Dedication

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: God be with you

People: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words of Remembrance

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*PARTING HYMN #198 (UMH)

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 211 (UMH)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. E.T. Childs

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*

The altar flowers this morning are given by Judy Marek in memory of Eunice Lamb.



Please Pray For: the family of Jane Godfrey, the family of George Keddy, 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.

*If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Janet or the Church Office.
After office hours, Rev. Janet can be reached at (978)350-3463.*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Kim Ryan, Steve Mattocks

Liturgist: April Beston

Greeter: Gennie Keddy

Communion: Bill Lynch, Poppy Nelson, Nan Shepard



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

“News for the Pews” for the Week of December 1, 2024



Calling all **cookie bakers!**

Once again we're looking for your most special cookies, bars and barks for our world famous cookie walk at this year's Holly Fair! Items can be dropped off to the church kitchen by the morning of Friday, 12/13. Not a baker yourself? Maybe you have a family member or friend who is and they might be willing to bake for us. This is always one of the most popular stops at the Holly Fair all because of your support! Reach out to Chrissy Plumb with any questions - plumb1993@charter.net.

Order forms for **Christmas Poinsettias** are available in the Narthex or in the church office. Orders must be received in the office no later than December 5th.

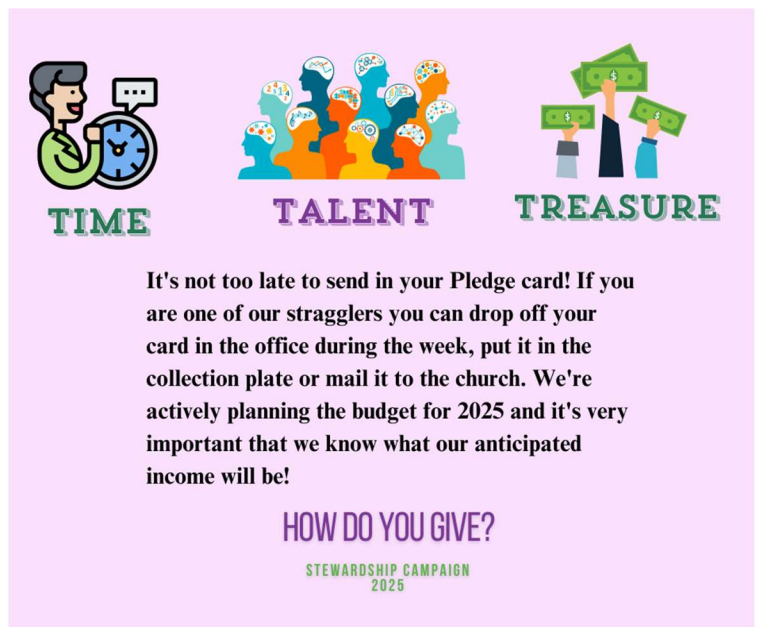


HOLLY FAIR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
HELP WANTED!

We are in need of volunteers to help make this fair a super success!

Volunteers are needed for:
Decorating, Cookie Walk, Bakers, Raffle,
Lug Nuts, Greeting, Furniture moving,
Holly Cafe...

Contact Kim Ryan:
WUChurchEvents@gmail.com
519-6335



TIME **TALENT** **TREASURE**

It's not too late to send in your Pledge card! If you are one of our stragglers you can drop off your card in the office during the week, put it in the collection plate or mail it to the church. We're actively planning the budget for 2025 and it's very important that we know what our anticipated income will be!

HOW DO YOU GIVE?
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
2025

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, December 1, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

3:00 p.m. – Handbell Concert (Sanc)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, December 2, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 3:00

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

4:30 p.m. – Circle of Support (ZR)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Church Office 11:00 – 2:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (TS, SS, YR)

6:30 p.m. – Phys Ops Comm. (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Church Office Closed

6:30 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. –Bell Choir (Sanc)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

Friday, December 6, 2024

Church Office closed

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Church Office closed

10:00 a.m. – Knit, Stitch, Pray
(KG's house)

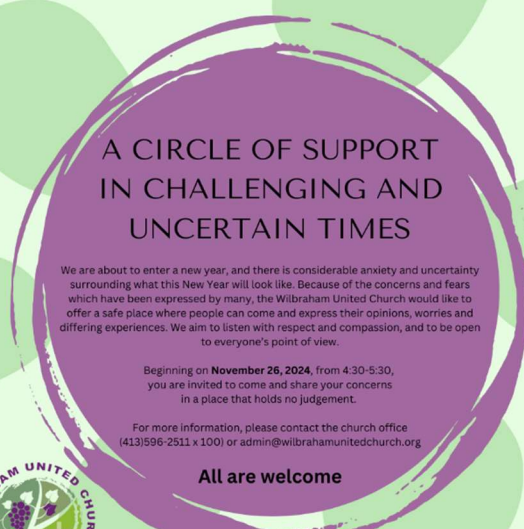
Sunday, December 8, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)



**A CIRCLE OF SUPPORT
IN CHALLENGING AND
UNCERTAIN TIMES**


We are about to enter a new year, and there is considerable anxiety and uncertainty surrounding what this New Year will look like. Because of the concerns and fears which have been expressed by many, the Wilbraham United Church would like to offer a safe place where people can come and express their opinions, worries and differing experiences. We aim to listen with respect and compassion, and to be open to everyone's point of view.

Beginning on **November 26, 2024**, from 4:30-5:30, you are invited to come and share your concerns in a place that holds no judgement.

For more information, please contact the church office (413)596-2511 x1001 or admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

All are welcome

Additional Meeting Dates December 3 & 17



WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
"I am the vine, you are the branches"



**RING
IN THE
SEASON
WITH
UNITED WE RING
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE**

Sunday
December 1, 2024
3:00 p.m.

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA

sponsored in part by the Wilbraham Cultural Council

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

A Good Ruler

from Jeremiah 33:14-17



Advent 1

Jeremiah spoke God's promises to the people.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- King David
- Hope
- God
- Israelites

The prophet Jeremiah delivered messages from God to the Israelites during a time of national turmoil. His message contained words of warning, hope and promise.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 178-179

Spark Bible page 858

Family Prayer

Thank you God, for all of the wonderful promises you have made to your people. Give us hope-filled hearts and help us to further the message of your love in our world. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What are some of your most fantastic hopes?
- 2 What do you hope God is doing in our world?
- 3 What do you do when you have trouble feeling hopeful?
- 4 Sit at a table with a small ball. Roll the ball from person to person. The one who catches it lists a one-word trait of a fantastic ruler.



Eye Spark

When you see a crown or rich robe, remember the promise God made to his people to send them a righteous king.



Ear Spark

Whenever you hear King David mentioned, remember when Jeremiah told the people that another great king like David was coming.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Read stories together from your Spark Story Bible or Spark Bible about King David. What made him such a great king? Were there any things about him that weren't particularly good? What attributes of David do you think the people were hoping for in a Messiah?

For younger kids

Make something to hang on your family's fridge to remind everyone that God's good promises are true.

For older kids

King David was very musical and wrote many songs about God's love and promises—some of those are included in our Book of Psalms. What are some modern songs that have similar themes?

