



# 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 10, 2024**

**Stewardship Sunday**

**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 the Zeckhausen Room which is the parlor directly across the hall from the Sanctuary.*

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

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

Piano: All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. J.B. Taylor

Bells: Tuya Es La Gloria

S.T. (Nelson) Sylvester

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

### **WELCOME**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #62 vs. 1-5 (UMH)**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Bob Mantler**

Liturgist: The Lord stretches out all measure of fine handiwork and fills us with gladness. God makes the earth to bear its fruits, to give its food in due season and to cover the world with glorious things.

**People: The Lord is faithful to those who follow in the ways of the Spirit. Our Lord finds delight in satisfying the needs of creation, for the Lord is the Maker of flowing blessings and mighty deeds. We are so blessed. Thanks be to God**

## **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Gracious God,

**We praise you for your wondrous acts and for the glorious things which manifest by your generous hand. Sometimes our worship of you is hard, for we are burdened by our limited selves. But we trust that in your great love, you will pardon our inadequacy and love us all the more. Come to us we pray and fill us with the richness of yourself, so that we may love you better and follow you with our whole hearts. Amen**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE # 334 (UMH)**

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face, And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

**\*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**

**1 Samuel 3: 1-10**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Hebrews 9: 24-28**

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the holy place year after year with blood that is not his own, for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

## 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

**Mark 12: 38-44**

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*A Stewardship Meditation*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #582 (UMH)**

*Whom Shall I Send?*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

A Prayer for Healing  
*Chancel Choir*

J.M. Martin

**\*Doxology #87 (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 # 399 (UMH)**

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

**\*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: A Mighty Fortress    arr. D. Cherwien & C. Callahan

**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, Skip Dearborn

**Liturgist:** Bob Mantler

**Greeter:** Edna Colcord



*The altar flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Veronica and Eddie Olbrych by Pat and Leo Olbrych.*



**Please Pray For:** the family of Jane Godfrey, Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Larry Harris, George Keddy, 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.*

### **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 November 10, 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](mailto:plumb1993@charter.net).



Wilbraham United Church

# THANKS FOOD DRIVE GIVING

We would love your help in providing Thanksgiving baskets to families in need. Additional items will be donated to our Blessing Box and the Community Survival Center

**We Are Collecting The Following Items:**

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canned Gravy            | Can Openers             |
| Canned Vegetables       | Tablecloths & Napkins   |
| Stuffing Mix            | *Rolls/Biscuits         |
| Cranberry Sauce         | *Bags of Fresh Carrots  |
| Corn Bread Mix          | *Bags of Fresh Potatoes |
| Canned Yams             | *Fresh Fruit            |
| Instant Mashed Potatoes | Grocery Gift Cards      |
| Mac and Cheese          | Monetary Donations      |

**\*Please Bring any Perishable Items on 11/ 24**

Items Will Be Collected Until **NOVEMBER 24**

**DROP OFF LOCATION:**  
Wilbraham United Church  
During Office Hours: M-Th  
8:30am-1:30pm  
Or Sundays During Church

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** [Discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:Discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

# Winter Clothing Drive

**Saturday, November 9, 2024  
9am-12pm**

**Wilbraham United Church**  
(Back Parking Lot)  
500 Main St, Wilbraham

**Collecting Gently Used and New Items for Women, Men and Children:**

- Coats (special need for Men's sizes L, XL & XXL)
- Winter Boots & Sneakers
- Hats, Gloves, Mittens & Scarves
- Sweatshirts & Sweatpants

Monetary donations accepted and will be used to purchase items on above list.  
All donations to benefit Big Blue Ministry of Springfield

Email: [Discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:Discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) with any questions

**A Wilbraham United Players Production**

# One Slight Hitch

by Lewis Black

**November 8, 9 & 15, 16 at 7:30**  
**November 10 & 17 at 2:30**  
\*\*contains mature language

Fellowship Hall Stage  
at  
Wilbraham United Church  
500 Main St  
Wilbraham MA

tickets may be purchased at [www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets](http://www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets)

# 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

# 2024 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS



**POINSETTIA PLANT @ \$12**  
**order by Dec. 5, 2024**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) cash \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) check number \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) I wish to have my poinsettia(s) delivered to a special-care person designated by the church. Will be delivered 12/22 by Called 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. 29th service

**Orders MUST be returned to Church Office by noon on Thursday, Dec 5, to insure getting a plant.**

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

### ***Sunday, November 10, 2024***

10:00 a.m. – Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)  
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)  
2:30 p.m. – WUP Performance (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

### ***Monday, November 11, 2024***

*Church Office closed*

6:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### ***Tuesday, November 12, 2024***

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

### ***Wednesday, November 13, 2024***

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

1:00 p.m. – Called to Care (Lib)

6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS Rms)

7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### ***Thursday, November 14, 2024***

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

### ***Friday, November 15, 2024***

*Church Office closed*

7:30 p.m. – WUP Performance (FH)

### ***Saturday, November 16, 2024***

*Church Office closed*

7:30 p.m. – WUP Performance (FH)

### ***Sunday, November 17, 2024***

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

11:30 – Hospitality Comm. (ZR)

2:30 p.m. – WUP Performance (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)



## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**The Widow's Offering**  
from Mark 12:38-44.  
 Pentecost 23

### How we share is important.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Widow
- Rich man
- Coins
- Money box
- Jesus
- Sharing

Offerings like this one were received in the courtyard of the temple. There were several money boxes for different causes and you chose which one to put your money in.

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

*Spark Story Bible* pages 342-345

*Spark Bible* page 1118

## Family Prayer

Give us grateful and generous hearts, O God. You give us all we need—help us to share all that we have like the poor widow. In Jesus' name. AMEN.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Which are your favorite—small or large coins? Why?
- 2 Jesus wants us to share with others. Who can you share with?
- 3 What kinds of gifts can we give that don't cost any money?
- 4 Talk about how your family decides how much money to give to church and organizations outside of the church.



### Eye Spark

When you see the offering being collected at church, think of this story of the widow and the rich man.



### Ear Spark

Hearing coins jangling can remind you of this story that teaches us how best to share.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Set up a money box in your home. Designate a recipient for the money then spend a few weeks "sneaking" coins into it. Encourage everyone to contribute a little bit everyday and try not to get caught doing it. Count it all up and give it to the recipient you chose.

### For younger kids

Choose two coins and include them in next week's offering at church. Use this as an opportunity to reinforce the names and the value of the coins. What sound do they make?

### For older kids

Find out what percent of each dollar given to your favorite charities actually goes toward their actual programs versus how much is considered "overhead." Use this information in your family's future giving plans.



Lectionary, The Widow's Offering Family Page, Spark™, Sunday School © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.