

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

February 2, 2025

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.

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

arr. C. Berry

Bells: A Joyful Alleluia

C. Dobrinski

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN #126 (UMH)

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ed McCorkindale

Liturgist: Rejoice and be glad for God is in our midst!

People: We are made glad for our faith in God brings us joy and hope. Our trust in God's plan fortresses our being and helps us to move through the challenges of life.

Liturgist: We pray that what we do pleases the One who made us and makes us ready to do God's good works in the world. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, We give thanks for bringing us to into your church and for calling us to be your people. We want you to speak to us, so that we may hear your Word, and know your will for us. Please, Dear One, give us the strength and courage to follow Jesus boldly.

Guide us by your Spirit through the mire, so that we may travel lightly and land upright.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

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

*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 4: 21-30

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Communion Meditation

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #629** (UMH) verses 1-4

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Somebody's Knockin'
Chancel Choir

arr. J.M. Martin

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

***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 #617 (UMH)**

I Come with Joy

***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: Jubilation

J.D. Payne

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: Poppy Nelson, Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Ed McCorkindale

Greeter: Judy Marek

Communion: Nan Shepard, Marty Lyman, Edna Colcord



The altar flowers this morning are given by Sandy and Larry Harris in memory of Albert and Gerard Phoenix.



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.

*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) (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 February 2, 2025

Altar Flower sign-ups are still available for many Sundays in 2025. Please consider dedicating the flowers to a loved one on a special Sunday. Flowers are \$35. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Financial Meeting

Sunday February 16

immediately following worship



Mother-Son Dance



WANTED!

Helpers

on

Saturday

February 8, 2025

Sign up sheet on the Main Hallway Bulletin Board

CHILI & CORNBREAD TAKE-OUT SUPPER

Sunday Feb 9th

Pick-up between 4-5:30 PM

Pre-orders by February 6th

www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org

8 oz chili and slice of cornbread \$11

16 oz chili and 2 slices cornbread \$16

32 oz and 4 slices of cornbread \$26

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, February 2, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)
5:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class (ZR)

Monday, February 3, 2025

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

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)
4:30 p.m. – Circle of Support (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
12:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS Rms)
6:30 p.m. – Phys Ops Meeting (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, February 6, 2025

- 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, February 7, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, February 8, 2025

- Church Office closed
6:00 p.m. – Mother Son Dance
Sunday, February 9, 2025
10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
1:00 p.m. – WUP Take Out Chili
(Kitchen)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Wilbraham United Church presents our annual

Mother-Son Dance



Saturday, February 8, 2025

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

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
Jeremiah
from Jeremiah 1:4-10



Epiphany 4

Jeremiah spoke for God to the people.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jeremiah
- God
- God's Hand
- Prophet

Jeremiah is perhaps the most reluctant prophet in the Bible. He *really* hated his calling. The entire book of Jeremiah is filled with the prophet's personal spiritual struggles.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 176-177

Spark Bible page 813

Family Prayer

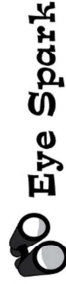
Thank you, God, for prophets who speak for you. Open our ears and hearts that we might hear your word as spoken through other's voices. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What do you think God's hands feel like?
- 2 Jeremiah is told that God will put words in his mouth. What does that mean?
- 3 What would it be like to be a prophet?
- 4 Use old magazines and newspapers to look for words that God might use when trying to tell us what is going on in the world. Make a collage of "God words" to hang in your home.



Eye Spark

When you're brushing your teeth, look in the mirror at your mouth. Remember the story of how God touched Jeremiah's mouth.



Ear Spark

Next time you hear the noise of a music group or sports team practicing, remember that God and Jeremiah were a team.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make cupcakes or cookies and decorate them with God words—Love, Kindness, Generosity, Joy, and Peace. Then eat God's words! Put them in your mouth, just like God put words in Jeremiah's mouth!

For younger kids

Send a picture or thank you card to someone who teaches you about God.

For older kids

God called Jeremiah as a boy to help the world in important ways. Look for stories in the newspaper or online of other kids who are working as a team with God and helping the world in important ways.

