



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

January 12, 2025

1st 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

Praise Band: Light of the World Sing Hallelujah

We the Kingdom

Bells: Pizzicato Bells

S. Lloyd

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN** *see insert*

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Although Christmas has come and gone, the joy of the Lord continues on. We are sustained by the gift of Jesus, who teaches us how to live in an upright way, and who offers us life anew.

People: We are called to feast on the abundance of the Lord; who made heaven and earth, mighty mountains and great deeps, righteousness and strength, and a brilliant light to guide our way home. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, We come before you with trust in your great plan. We call upon your holy name to fill us and be amongst us. Touch us with your healing radiance and speak to us so that we might better understand the mystery of your Being. Do not let us fall down and away, but instead allow us to be buoyed by your presence. Let us worship you with a special joy, and then send us back into the world renewed and eager to serve you fervently all our days. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE #238 refrain (UMH)**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***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

RESPONSIVE PSALM p. 761 (UMH)

Psalm 29

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 8: 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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 # 230 vs 4 (UMH)

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.*

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3: 15-22

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Jesus, All Grown Up

Rev. Janet

*HYMN #267 (UMH) verses 1-4

O Love, How Deep

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Out of the East

Chancel Choir

arr. R. Fote

*Doxology #254 (UMH)

*Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light*

*Prayer of Dedication

*PARTING HYMN #247 (UMH)

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 251 refrain (UMH)

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Piano: I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing

arr. M. Hayes

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: Matt Capen, Steven Mattocks

Liturgist: Marty Lyman

Greeter: Joyce Emerle



The altar flowers this morning are given by Ed McCorkindale and Janet Vitkus-McCorkindale in memory of the deceased members of the McCorkindale and Stomsky families.



Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Larry Emerle, 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

243 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

F C/E F Dm C/E F C/E F Dm Gm/Bb A

1 Songs of thank-ful-ness and praise, Je-sus, Lord, to you we raise;
 2 God re-vealed at Jor-dan's stream, proph-et, priest and king su-preme;
 3 God re-vealed in val-iant fight, con-quer-ing the dev-il's might;
 4 Stars shall fall and heav-ens fade, sun and moon shall dark be made;

Dm Gm C F G7/D C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

once re-vealed, when heav-en's star brought the wise men from a-far;
 once re-vealed in power di-vine chang-ing wa-ter in-to wine;
 sins for-giv-en, sick-ness healed, life re-stored and God re-vealed;
 Christ will then like light-ning shine, all will see the glo-rious sign;

C C/Bb F/A C7/G F F/Eb Bb/D F7/C Bb

branch of roy-al Da-vid's stem in your birth at Beth-le-hem,
 Ca-na's ho-ly wed-ding guest keep-ing to the last the best;
 once re-vealed in gra-cious will ev-er bring-ing good from ill,
 all will then the trum-pet hear, all will see the Son ap-pear,

D/F# D Gm C/E C F Bb/D Bb F/A Dm F/C C7 F

Word be-fore the world be-gan, God re-vealed to us in man.

“News for the Pews” for the Week of January 12, 2025

Altar Flower sign-ups are 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.

W U C F A M I L Y
**BOWLING
NIGHT!**



SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2025 5-7 PM
SHAKER BOWL, EAST LONGMEADOW
\$10 per person - Lanes of 6
(includes bowling, shoes, pizza, soda)

Email RSVP's by noon Jan. 18 or email questions to
discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

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, January 12, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, January 13, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

- 10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
6:30 – Trustees (ZR)
7:00 – Church Council (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30

- 8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group
9:00 a.m. – Loaves and Fishes prep
2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Church Office 10:30 – 2:30

- 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, January 16, 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, January 17, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Church Office closed

Sunday, January 19, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class (ZR)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Jesus' Baptism

from Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



Baptism of
Our LORD

I am God's child and God loves me!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jesus
- John
- Jordan River
- Baptize
- Spirit

John baptized the people with a baptism of repentance. The people who came to John to be baptized recommitted themselves to avoiding evil and promised to follow God's path.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 242-245

Spark Bible page 1132

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Do you remember when you were baptized?
- 2 Who baptized you?
- 3 Where were you baptized?
- 4 Make a simple paper banner with all of your family's baptism dates on it. Hang it where you'll see it and remember to celebrate each person's baptism day.



Eye Spark

When you see a bird, remember that God's Spirit looked like a dove coming out of the sky during Jesus' baptism.



Ear Spark

When you hear water splashing, remember your baptism!

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Do something with water to celebrate the gift of baptism. Have a water fight, go swimming, or sit in a hot tub. Enjoy water! It played a part in declaring you a beloved child of God!

For younger kids

Leave secret notes for your family and friends (under pillows, in lunch boxes, in shoes) that say "You are a beloved child of God!"

For older kids

Think of ideas for Baptism Day gifts. Think creatively - what would be a great (maybe unusual?) gift to give someone on their Baptism Day, the yearly anniversary of their baptism?

