



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 26, 2025

3rd 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: You Are Mine

D. Haas

Change My Heart, O God

E. Espinosa

Bells: Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him

arr. L. Schole

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN #577 (UMH)

God of Grace and God of Glory

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joe Hegarty

Liturgist: The Lord is our refuge, and the Sustainer of our being. God walks with us through the shadows and holds us close against the storms. How great and mighty is our Lord!

People: We need our God to be with us in every time and space. And we need our prayers to be powerful and good, so that darkness may be driven away. May the work that we do inspire an abundance of righteousness to flow, and may our gratitude to the One prevail.

Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, You guide us with your counsel and you inspire us with your Word. We cannot do without you, leading us forward and guiding our way. Even in the darkest times, you are continually with us, for you dwell in the ground of our very selves. We may fail at times and wander away, but you are there to lead us back. For you are the strength of our heart and our portion forever. 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

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Nehemiah 8: 1-3

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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

Matthew 18: 23-35

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Having Mercy, Having Heart

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #731 (UMH)**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

The Gift of Love
Chancel Choir

arr. H. Hopson

***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.*

*Prayer of Dedication

***PARTING HYMN #79 (UMH) Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5**

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

***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

Piano: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

arr. J. Purifoy

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: John & Taylor Colkos

Liturgist: Joe Hegarty

Greeter: Gennie Keddy



The altar flowers this morning are given in recognition all those who are enduring challenges in their lives, that they may find guidance and peace.



Please Pray For: the family of Larry Emerle, 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 January 26, 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.

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, January 26, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)
11:30 a.m. – Work of the Interim
(FH)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, January 27, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30
8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group
11:00 a.m. – Women's Fellowship
(ZR)

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)
5:30 p.m. – Discipleship (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Church Office 12:00 – 3:00
12:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS Rms)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, January 30, 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 31, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, February 1, 2025

Church Office closed

Sunday, February 2, 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)
5:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class (ZR)

READ IT



This week's Bible story is

Jesus Goes to Nazareth

from Luke 4:14-30

Epiphany 3

God's love and grace is for everyone!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Nazareth
- Jesus
- Synagogue
- Grumbling
- God

Although there was only one temple in Jesus' time, there were many synagogues. The synagogue was the local gathering place for study, prayer and sometimes even meals.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 252-253

Spark Bible pages 1133-1134

Family Prayer

Thank you, God, for always loving us, no matter what. Thanks for sending Jesus to tell us this over and over. In his name we pray... AMEN

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Whom does God love?
- 2 When does God love us?
- 3 People in Jesus' time studied and prayed and ate at the synagogue. What kinds of things do you do at your church?
- 4 Play a game where you throw a ball to each other (like hot potato) and when you catch it, list a person or group of people whom God loves. See how fast you can go!



Eye Spark

When you see a picture of Jesus, remember his message: God loves everyone!



Ear Spark

Next time you hear someone say "I love you," remember that God loves you, too.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Send "God Valentines"! Make simple valentines with messages like "Jesus Loves You!" and "God Loves You Always & No Matter What!" and "God Loves Everybody!" Have fun mailing or delivering them anonymously so that the recipients feel the real surprise of the message.

For younger kids

Page through your Spark Story Bible and find pictures of people loving each other in God's name.

For older kids

Jesus read the words from Isaiah from a scroll. See if you can find them in your Bible or by using a computer search engine. When you find the reference, make a scroll of your own!



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