



*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](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

[Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch](https://Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

**February 16, 2025**

**6th Sunday after Epiphany**

**10:00AM**

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*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: How Firm a Foundation

arr. J. Purifoy

Bells: The Church's One Foundation

arr. L. Larson

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

### **WELCOME**

**GATHERING HYMN #606 (UMH)**

*Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Bob Mantler**

Liturgist: God's light shines through all creation, making a path of righteousness and filling our lives with an amazing presence. How wonderful it is to find a brightness of Spirit as we worship God this day!

**People: We give thanks to the One who created order out of chaos and brought forth a message of hope and salvation to a people seeking to walk ever closer to the God who made us.**

**Thanks be to God**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Holy God, We come seeking your holy love and a deepening understanding of who you are in our lives. We come desiring to know more about your mysterious ways and the generous gifts that you give to us that make our lives meaningful and whole. Please continue to help us to understand your marvelous ways that we might grow into your wonder, and spread that wonder to those whom we meet. 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**

**Isaiah 6: 1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

## 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 5: 1-11**

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*It's all about the fish!*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #158 (UMH)**

*Come Christians, Join to Sing*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Grant Us Peace  
*Chancel Choir*

D. & J. Perry

**\*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

**\*PARTING HYMN #431 (UMH)**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

**\*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: They'll Know We Are Christians

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:** Ralph and Sherrie Ridgeway

**Liturgist:** Bob Mantler

**Greeter:** Sandy Harris



*The altar flowers this morning are given by Gail Lima in memory of her daughter, Heather.*



**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](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 February 16, 2025**

The **Annual Financial Meeting** of the Wilbraham United Church will be held **Today** in the Sanctuary immediately following Worship to transact the following business:

-Receive the Treasurer's Report

-Adopt a budget

Act on any other business properly brought before the Meeting

Nan Shepard, Clerk



**Our Current Shopping Card Inventory includes:**

<u>Restaurants</u>		<u>Stores</u>
99's		Gap/Old Navy
Olive Garden/Longhorn Steakhouse		Land's End
Uno's	<u>Quick Eats</u>	LL Bean
	Dunkin'	TJ Max/Marshalls
<u>Home Improvement</u>	Domino's	
Home Depot	Subway	
Lowe's		
Home Goods/Home Sense		

**And the usual Big Y and Stop & Shop**

**Don't forget that E Cards can also be purchased online! See Deb for more details!**

A WILBRAHAM UNITED PLAYERS PRODUCTION

# CABARET

BOOK BY JOE MASTEROFF  
 BASED ON THE PLAY BY JOHN VAN DRUTEN AND  
 STORIES BY CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD  
 MUSIC BY JOHN KANDER LYRICS BY FRED EBB



FELLOWSHIP HALL STAGE  
 AT WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH  
 500 MAIN STREET  
 WILBRAHAM, MA

MARCH 28, 29 AND APRIL 4, 5 AT 7:30  
 MARCH 30 AND APRIL 6 AT 2:30  
 2025

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT [WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDPLAYERS.ORG/BUY-TICKETS](http://WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDPLAYERS.ORG/BUY-TICKETS)

CABARET IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF TAMS-WITHMARK LLC.  
 WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM



The Wilbraham United Players still have some chili left-over from last Sunday. If you're interested in purchasing a container please see Deb!

**CHILI**

16 oz = \$12  
 32 oz = \$24

There's a small amount of cornbread left as well - first come first served!

## *This Week at Wilbraham United Church*

### *Sunday, February 16, 2025*

- 10:00 a.m. –Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Annual Financial Meeting (Sanc)  
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)  
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

### *Monday, February 17, 2025*

*Church Office closed*

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Tuesday, February 18, 2025*

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

- 11:00 a.m. – Women’s Fellowship  
2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)  
4:30 – Circle of Support (ZR)  
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Wednesday, February 19, 2025*

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

- 11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting  
6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS Rms)  
7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)  
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Thursday, February 20, 2025*

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

- 9:20 a.m. - Loaves and Fishes  
6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)  
7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)  
8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

### *Friday, February 21, 2025*

*Church Office closed*

### *Saturday, February 22, 2025*

*Church Office closed*

9:00 a.m. - WUP (FH)

### *Sunday, February 23, 2025*

- 10:00 a.m. –Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)  
11:15 a.m. – Work of the Interim (ZR)  
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)



## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

# The Beatitudes

from Luke 6:17-26



Epiphany 6

## God wants to bless everybody!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jesus
- Blessed
- Mountainside
- Happy
- Crowd

Jesus went up on a mountainside to teach the large crowd about God's blessings, which are for all of us.

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 264-267

Spark Bible page 1137

## Family Prayer

Dear God, thank you for all the blessings you give each person in our family. Help us share our blessings with others. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Jesus taught the people about God's blessings from a mountainside. Where do you go to learn about God?
- 2 God blesses all of us. What ways has God blessed you?
- 3 God's blessings can come in unexpected ways. When has God blessed you in a way you didn't expect?
- 4 What do you think God's blessings look like? Can we see all blessings? Why or why not?



### Eye Spark

Creation is one of God's blessings for us. When you're outside look for God's blessings in nature.



### Ear Spark

People often use words like *bless*, *blessed*, and *blessing*. For example, we say "bless you" when someone sneezes. Listen for those words this week. When you hear them, say thank you for the blessings God has given you.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

We can share God's blessings with others. Do you know of a neighbor or someone in your congregation who is homebound or lonely? Visit them as a family. Bring flowers, play a game, offer to help with chores, or just sit and keep them company. Your presence will be a blessing.

### For younger kids

Color pictures or make cards for the elderly or homebound in your church.

### For older kids

Help bake cookies or another treat to bring for your visit.

