

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 23, 2025

7th 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: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, Folk Melody from India arr. L. Larson

Bells: The Church's One Foundation arr. L. Larson

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN #110 (UMH)

A Might Fortress Is Our God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joe Hegarty

Liturgist: The Lord calls us to follow the ways of righteousness. God calls us to be generous with our being and giving of our spirits. God calls us to love our neighbors and pray for one another. The Lord calls us and wants us to answer.

People: We hear the voice of God in our daily lives. It is a voice that beckons us to follow as we move through our challenges, and as we rejoice in the knowledge that we are God's own. We give thanks for this day and every day, for the Lord is our strength and the model for our lives. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, Come to us we pray as we gather before you. In your presence our way becomes clearer, for you provide the spark which lights our way through the darkness. We seek your encouragement in doing your will, for doubts will come upon us, and we risk becoming tangled in toils and snares. Help us with our weakness and our burdens, all which keep us from embracing you wholly. For we are always in need of you. 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

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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 6: 17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Blessed

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #150 (UMH)**

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Be Still

D.L. Ray

Chancel Choir

***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 #662 (UMH)**

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

***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: Festivity on "Holy Manna"

arr. D.E. Wagner

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 and April Beston

Liturgist: Joe Hegarty

Greeter: Joyce Emerle



The altar flowers this morning are given by Karen Gatchell in loving memory of Ellen Gourlay and Muir Gardner.



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 23, 2025

The **Annual Financial Meeting** of the Wilbraham United Church was postponed and will now be held **Sunday March 16th** 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

Pancake Supper And Community Service Project



Join us for an evening of fun and community service
assembling various Hygiene Kits to support
Church World Service

Wilbraham United Church
March 8th 5:00 to 7:00



Our Current Shopping Card Inventory includes:

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

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

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

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, February 23, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:30 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)

Monday, February 24, 2025

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

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*
8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group
11:00 a.m. – Women's Fellowship
2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)
5:30 p.m. – Discipleship Meeting
(ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

- Church Office 11:00 – 2:30*
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 27, 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 28, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Church Office closed

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

Sunday, March 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)

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



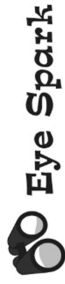
Family Conversations

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 of 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.

