

*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://www.facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

**March 16, 2025**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

**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 Zeckhausen Room which is immediately across from the sanctuary.*

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

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

Piano: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. J. Purifoy

Bells: It Is Well with My Soul

arr. L. Lamb

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WELCOME**

**\*GATHERING HYMN see insert verses 1-4**

*Said Judas to Mary*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Marge Trimble**

Liturgist: The Lord calls to us and enters our lives in marvelous ways. We do not always know how to receive the mercy and wonder of God, but we trust that our prayers and our worship do indeed reach God's Ear.

**People: We pray that our good works and our faithfulness are pleasing to the One who made us. Our hope lies in the Lord's love for us. We pray that our desire to be closer brings us closer to the mysterious Spirit of our Creator. Thanks be to God**

## **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Merciful God, We come to you in this season of turning and returning, of broken hearts and reborn truths. We come to you with our whole selves, needing you more than ever, and seeking you out with faith and fortitude. Come to us we pray, be our light and our guide as we struggle through the wilderness, as we embrace hopefulness, and as we strive to be a part of the circle of truth and righteousness made real in the love of Jesus. Amen**

**\* SONG OF PRAISE #2013 (TFWS)**

*Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.*

**\*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. 758-759 (UMH)**

**Psalm 27 vs. 1-6**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**1 Peter 2: 4-10**

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**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 #2200 (TFWS)

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come, and listen to me.*

## GOSPEL READING

**Luke 13: 31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*Like a Living Rock*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #520(UMH)**

*Nobody Knows the Trouble I See*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Seekers of Your Heart  
*Chancel Choir*

arr. M. McDonald

**\*Doxology #87 (UMH) vs. 1**

*What gift can we bring, what present, what token?  
What words can convey it the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
what song can we now offer in honor and praise?*

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*PARTING HYMN #530 (UMH)**

*Are Ye Able*

**\*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #664 (UMH)**

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.*

## MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Piano: How Majestic Is Your Name

arr. J. Carter

**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:** Marty Lyman, John Colkos

**Liturgist:** Marge Trimble

**Greeter:** Judy Marek



*The altar flowers this morning are given by Judy Marek in memory of Ken Lamb.*



**Please Pray For:** Susan Pereira, 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

John 12:1-8

Sydney Carter, 1964; alt.

1 Said Ju - das to Mar - y, "Now  
 2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, O  
 3 "To - mor-row, to - mor-row, I'll  
 4 Said Je - sus to Mar - y, "Your

what will you do with your oint-ment so rich and so rare?" "I'll  
 think of the poor. This oint-ment, it could have been sold; And  
 think of the poor; to - mor-row," she said, "not to - day; For  
 love is so deep, to - day you may do as you will. To -

pour it all o - ver the feet of the Christ, and I'll wipe it a-way with my  
 think of the blan-kets and think of the bread you could buy with the sil - ver and  
 dear-er than all of the poor in the world is my love who is go - ing a -  
 mor-row, you say, I am go - ing a - way, but my bod - y I leave with you

hair," she said, "I'll wipe it a-way with my hair." (2 "O  
gold," he said, "you could buy with the sil - ver and gold." (3 "To-  
way," she said, "my love who is go - ing a - way." (4 Said  
still," he said, "my bo - dy I leave with you still." (5 "The  
(6 -way.")

**REMINDER**

March 17  
Deacons at 6:30 p.m.  
Church Council at 7:00 p.m.

## **“News for the Pews” for the Week of March 16, 2025**

The **Annual Financial Meeting** of the Wilbraham United Church will be held this morning 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



# EASTER FLOWERS

**Order now for Easter Sunday  
Give order to Deb Trimble  
or put it in the Collection Plate  
Orders must be received by Tuesday March 25th**

Easter Lily @ \$15

Daffodils @ \$10

Tulips @ \$10

\$  TOTAL

(make check payable to Wilbraham United Church)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication wording \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Flowers will be available after church April 20th.*

I plan to take my flowers

I wish my flowers to be delivered to someone who is unable to attend church.

## *This Week at Wilbraham United Church*

### *Sunday, March 16, 2025*

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Annual Financial Mtg.

11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

### *Monday, March 17, 2025*

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

6:30 p.m. - Deacons (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – Church Council (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Tuesday, March 18, 2025*

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

9:00 a.m. – Loaves and Fishes Prep

11:00 a.m. –Women’s Fellowship  
(ZR)

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Wednesday, March 19, 2025*

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SSR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

### *Thursday, March 20, 2025*

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

9:20 a.m. – Loaves and Fishes

9:30 a.m. –WUP (FH)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

### *Friday, March 21, 2025*

*Church Office closed*

9:30 a.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Saturday, March 22, 2025*

*Church Office closed*

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

### *Sunday, March 23, 2025*

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

4:00 p.m. – Confirmation Field Trip

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

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-WITMARK LLC.  
WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM



## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

### God's Promises to Abram

from Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18.



Lent 2

#### God keeps promises!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Abram
- Promise
- Stars
- God
- Children

God did not fulfill this promise for a long time — Sarai and Abram were really old by the time they had their only child, Isaac. They sometimes forgot to trust in God — they even tried taking things into their own hands. (See Genesis 16.) So God had to keep reminding them of the promise over and over.

#### Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 30-33

Spark Bible pages 15-16

#### Family Prayer

Say this prayer outside when you can see the stars.

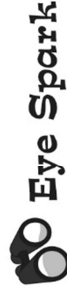
**Thank you, God, for always keeping your promises. Help us to trust in you always. AMEN.**

## TALK ABOUT IT



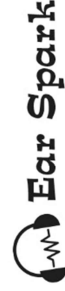
### Family Conversations

- 1 Have you ever tried to count the stars?
- 2 What kinds of promises do you make to each other?
- 3 Tell about a promise that was kept to you.
- 4 Together make a list for your refrigerator of the promises you keep in your family, like using kind words, providing food and clothing, and going to church together.



### Eye Spark

When you see a star, think of it as God's way of saying "I promise to love you always and no matter what."



### Ear Spark

When you hear someone say, "I promise..." remember God's promise to be with us always.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Make a family tree with stars instead of branches and leaves. Cut out or draw stars and make as many stars as people in your extended family that you know! You might make a mobile or mural or decorate someone's bedroom ceiling. Be creative and have fun with it.

### For younger kids

Ask someone to show you how to draw stars. When you learn (or if you already know), teach someone else.

### For older kids

Plan a star hunt for someone younger than you. Make some paper stars with a word on each one to spell a message, like GOD, LOVES, and YOU. Play a game of hiding the stars and guiding each other with clues to find them. Unscramble the message together.



Lectionary, God's Promises to Abram Family Page, Spark™ Sunday School © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.