



*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)

**March 9, 2025**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**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: I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Bells: Joy and Delight

arr. C. Berry

B. Austin

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

### **WELCOME**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #435 (UMH)**

*O God of Every Nation*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Matt Capen**

Liturgist: What calls us to worship the Lord? What causes us to seek out that Divine Presence? What brings us together as God's people?

**People: The Spirit of God moves in our lives and beckons us to follow; boldly, courageously, joyously. We cannot resist the call, because we know that it is the power of the Holy One that is speaking.**

Liturgist: We come to worship our Creator, making sure that we put down strong roots in our faith and strong branches, so to resist the wiles of evil. In the wilderness we must empty ourselves of all that distracts us from the grace and fullness of God. Thanks be to God

## **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Holy God, We know that we are your creation. You have made us towards yourself and filled us with your Divine sparkle. We may sin and we may fall away at times, but we have a deep and true desire to know you better, and to serve you more. Help us to gain a truer understanding of what our relationship is to you and grant that we may grow ever closer to you with our prayers, our good works and our faithfulness. 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**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Deuteronomy 26: 1-11**

“When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

**Romans 10: 8-13**

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

## 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 4: 1-13**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*The Devil as Company*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #2222 (TFWS)**

*The Servant Song*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Glory, Glory! (I Feel Better)  
*Chancel Choir & Praise Band*

arr. A. & M. Podd

**\*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 see insert**

*Built on the Rock*

**\*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**

Organ: Marche Triumphant

W. Sassmannshausen

**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, Poppy Nelson

**Liturgist:** Matt Capen

**Greeter:** Gennie Keddy



*The altar flowers this morning are given by Ed and Janet McCorkindale in memory of Matthew McCorkindale on his birthday.*



**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

## “News for the Pews” for the Week of March 9, 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

## Built on the Rock

1 Built on the Rock the Church does stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
 2 Not in a tem - ple made with hands God the Al - might - y is  
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones built for his own hab - i -  
 4 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are

fall - ing; Christ builds his church in ev - ery land; bells still are  
 dwell - ing; high in the heavens his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
 ring - ing, man - y may come to hear God's word where he this

chim - ing and call - ing, call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heaven a - bove choos - es to  
 life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek God's face, he in their  
 prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 live with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
 midst would show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

WORDS: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig (1783-1872); tr. Carl Doving (1867-1937)

MUSIC: Ludvig M. Lindeman (1812-1887)

Words © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

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## *This Week at Wilbraham United Church*

### *Sunday, March 9, 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, March 10, 2025*

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Wednesday, March 12, 2025*

Church Office 11:30 – 2:30

11:30 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 13, 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, March 14, 2025*

Church Office closed

5:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Saturday, March 15, 2025*

Church Office closed

9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)

### *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)

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



## REMINDER

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

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

### **Tempted**

from Luke 4:1-13.



Lent 1

### **God can help us through hard times.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- 40 days
- Bread
- Worship
- Jump
- Tempted
- God

In this story, all of the temptations that Jesus faces encourage him to turn away from God and think only about himself. Jesus knew God was with him, however, and he knew God would help him through these temptations.

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

*Spark Story Bible* pages 248-251

*Spark Bible* page 1133

### **Family Prayer**

Say this prayer looking at a roof.

**Thank you, God, for being with us always. Thanks for helping us through times that are especially challenging. Help us to know you are with us when we face difficulties. AMEN.**

## TALK ABOUT IT



### **Family Conversations**

- 1 What is a temptation for you?
- 2 How do you deal with challenges?
- 3 What do you do when someone wants you to do something you know is wrong?
- 4 Play a game called Situations. Parent, describe a situation in which you would want your kid(s) to know how to make a good decision. Then ask your child what he or she would do. Then reverse the roles! Kids, come up with a situation for parents to answer.



### **Eye Spark**

Next time you are really *really* hungry and you see food, remember God's word: No one can live on food alone. What else do we need?



### **Ear Spark**

When you hear someone say "No!" to something that they know would be wrong, remember that God is always with us when we have to make difficult and brave decisions.

## LIVE IT

### **For families to do together**

Figure out a way to have mealtime be a reminder that it is Lent. Perhaps you'll use Lent's color (purple) and use purple napkins, serve purple grape juice, or use a purple tablecloth. Maybe you'll read a short Bible story together before you eat. Perhaps you'll use a different grace. Find something easy to mark this church season in your home.

### **For younger kids**

Find a different Bible story about Jesus each day this week and ask someone to read it to you. Try to continue this practice of reading through the season of Lent.

### **For older kids**

Memorize the three scripture verses that Jesus used to resist the temptations in this story. Find where they are by looking up Luke 4 in your Bible or online. Then memorize the verses.

