

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

April 27, 2025

2nd Sunday of Easter

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: Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

arr. E. Butler

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #304 (UMH)**

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alan Druckenmiller

Liturgist: Alleluia! Christ is risen and we are blessed. Our fears have been calmed in the bright light of Christ's Resurrection. We are a saved people because of God's great love.

People: We rejoice in all that God has done and in all that God has made. We shout out our adoration, for we are Easter people and Jesus Christ is our Savior. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God,

We thank you for this season of new life, new energy, and new ideas. We thank you that you have gathered us into your presence and poured your love out upon us. Remind us that we are your people, and we have been gifted with a saving grace through your son, Jesus. Grant that we may better understand that Good News which Christ has blessed us with and may that knowledge rest upon our hearts and nourish us in both fertile and fallow times. Let our joy be complete, let our fear be assuaged, for Christ has opened the door to heaven and we are saved. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE # 2284 (FWS)**

*There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
For the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
There'll be joy in the morning on that day.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

RESPONSIVE PSALM –p. 862 in red hymnal

Psalm 150

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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 # 186 (UMH)

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*

GOSPEL READING

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

After Easter

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #327 (UMH)**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Laudate Dominum

Deb Trimble, soloist

W.A. Mozart

Translation: Praise the Lord, all nations; Praise Him, all people.

For He has bestowed His mercy upon us,

And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever,

and for generations of generations. Amen.

***Doxology #94 (UMH)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts. Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Prayer of Dedication

***PARTING HYMN #261 (UMH)**

Lord of the Dance

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

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ## 665 (UMH)**

*Go now in peace, go now in peace,
May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Crown Him with Many Crowns

arr. M. McDonald

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: Skip Dearborn, Tom Toman

Liturgist: Alan Druckenmiller

Greeter: Gennie Keddy





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) (413)596-2511 x 103
Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100
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David Wapner: Sexton (wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x107

“News for the Pews” for the Week of April 27, 2025

There is a **Work of the Interim Meeting** scheduled for this morning after worship. Please join Rev. Janet in further discussions about the future of our church. All are invited.

Fellowship Hour for next Sunday, May 4th is another **Pot Luck**. The theme is...Cereal! Please bring an item to share related to cereal. Feel free to use your imagination!

We are pleased to announce a **CPR training session**, open to all interested participants ages 10 – adult on **June 1, 2025** at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. This hour-long session will teach the skills of hands-on CPR and will be led by members from the TimmyStrong Foundation. We encourage everyone to attend to learn or to refresh their skills in CPR. Please confirm your attendance by signing up on the bulletin board outside the office. We look forward to seeing you there!

Scholarship applications are available! If you need an application please email Deb in the office at admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org. Completed applications are due May 19.



**Fanfare Brass
Ensemble
In Concert**

**Sunday May 4
3:00 p.m.**

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main St
Wilbraham, MA
www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org
(413)596-2511



*A free will offering to benefit the church's
Repair the Roof fund will be taken.*



Repair the Roof

Be a Shingle Sponsor!

Sponsorship is \$50 and will include your name on our Repair the Roof Dedication List proudly displayed in our church!

Donations are tax-deductible!

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This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, April 27, 2025

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

Monday, April 28, 2025

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
6:30 p.m. – Trustees (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – Church Council (ZR)

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*
2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)
6:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*
11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

Thursday, May 1, 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, May 2, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, May 3, 2025

Church Office closed

Sunday, May 4, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)
12:00 p.m. – Fellowship Comm.
(ZR)
1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)
3:00 p.m. – Fanfare Brass Concert
(Sanc)
5:00 p.m. – Al Anon (YF)

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Doubting Thomas

from John 20:19-31.



Easter 2

Jesus comes to all in peace!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Locked doors
- Jesus
- Thomas
- Disciples
- Peace be with you

After Jesus died, his disciples were in grave danger. They could have been arrested — and even executed. No wonder they were hiding!

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 492-495

Spark Bible pages 1199-1200

Family Prayer

Say this prayer together by your home's front or back door.

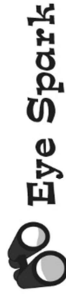
Thank you, Jesus, for the peace you give to all of us. Thank you for calling us to believe. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What does it feel like to be afraid?
- 2 Who can you tell if you are afraid of something?
- 3 What does it feel like to be at peace?
- 4 Toss a ball around. Each time you catch it, tell about a time when you felt afraid. Do it again and tell about a time when you felt at peace.



Eye Spark

When you see a locked door, remember you can't lock Jesus out! Jesus always finds us!



Ear Spark

When you hear the words, "Peace be with you!" in worship, think of Jesus giving peace to his disciples.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make cards or postcards with Jesus' words "Peace be with you!" on them. Use photos or art supplies or design programs — whatever makes this a fun activity for everyone in your family. When you are done, mail the cards to someone who might not expect it.

For younger kids

Learn how to sign peace using American Sign Language. Put the right flat hand on the left flat hand, then the left on the right with palms down. Move both flat hands down and to your sides. PEACE!

For older kids

Research how to say "Peace" in different languages. Make a slide show or PowerPoint of the different languages. Intersperse peaceful scenes, people from all over the world, or artwork of Jesus.

