



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

June 1, 2025

7th 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: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

arr. J. B. Taylor

Bells: Amazing Grace

arr. S. Eithun

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #89 (UMH)**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ed McCorkindale

Liturgist: The Lord moves about our lives in marvelous ways, so we worship with gladness, and we come before our Maker in all faithfulness. The Lord makes us ready for the surprises of life and gives heed to our prayers and our supplications.

People: We open ourselves to the presence of God and we trust that the Lord is active and working in every time and place. May the Lord help us to be true people of the Spirit, spreading the richness of the Word wherever we go. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, We gather as your people to worship you, but also to grow in abiding faith and truth. We depend on your presence to guide us as we strive to answer your call and to do as you would have us do. Come to us we pray, and quiet the noise which distracts us from hearing you. Transform our hearts so that we may be open to receiving your love and sharing that love with others. 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

SERVICE FOR NEW MEMBERS –refer to insert

Received into membership this morning is:

Jeffrey Smith

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 1: 10-20

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats.

When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more! Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool? If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 16: 16-34

One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to

you the way of salvation.” She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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 17: 20-26

“I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Communion Meditation

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #593 (UMH)**

Here I Am, Lord

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Sit Down, Servant

arr. L. Shackley

Chancel Choir

***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

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: God be with you

People: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words of Remembrance

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***PARTING HYMN #618 (UMH)**

Let Us Break Bread Together

***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: Hymn to Joy

arr. A.L. Travis

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: Sandy Harris, Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Ed McCorkindale

Greeter: Edna Colcord

Communion: Sandy Harris, Kathy Timpson, Marty Lyman



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

David Wapner: Sexton (wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x107



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, Marilyn, 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.*

“News for the Pews” for the Week of June 1, 2025

CPR Training will be held today after worship downstairs in the Youth Room.

The **Annual Program Year Meeting** of the Wilbraham United Church will be held June 8, 2025 immediately following worship in the Sanctuary to transact the following business:

- Vote on the 2024-2025 Annual Reports
- Vote on the 2025-2026 Leadership Nominations
- Act on any other business properly brought before the Meeting

The Meeting will be followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Nan Shepard, Clerk

We are in need to fill **vacancies** on three commissions before the Annual Meeting takes place. The following list of vacancies are in order of urgency to have each commission function at its best:

- Hospitality – This commission is in need of someone who can serve as the chairperson. The commission already has dedicated and experienced members, who graciously agreed to stay on, but can no longer fill the need of a chairperson.
- Physical Operations – This commission has a chairperson and one other member, but could use at least one or two others to share the responsibilities.
- Finance – This commission has two experienced members who have served many terms, but would love to have additional member(s) to assist with their duties.

If you have any interest or questions regarding these commission opportunities, please contact John Colkos prior to June 1st at jcolkos64@charter.net, or contact Deb in the church office.

Our Discipleship Team is sponsoring a **clothing drive** to benefit residents of Christina's House. They are in immediate need for spring and summer clothing for a boy size 2T and a girl size 2T as well as a boy youth size 8 tops and 10 bottoms. They are also in need of women's summer clothes, sizes small, medium, large and extra-large in new or "like-new" condition. We've also been notified that they have a need for Men's XL tops and tops size 10 boys as well, women's 1x leggings, and women's scrubs size Small Med & Large. Discipleship will have a marked container near the shopping cart for donations until June 8th.

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, June 1, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)
11:30 a.m. – CPR Training (YR)
1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al Anon (YF)

Monday, June 2, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Church Office 11:00 – 2:00

- 11:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

Thursday, June 5, 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, June 6, 2025

Church Office closed

- 5:00 p.m. – Arts and Crafts Fair Setup

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Church Office closed

- 9:00 a.m. – Arts and Crafts Fair

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Sunday, June 8, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:15 a.m. – Annual Meeting
11:30 a.m. – Celebration Sunday Cookout (FH)
2:30 p.m. – Al Anon (FH)

Wilbraham United Church
Vacation Bible Camp
2025



Messengers
of
God

Volunteers also
needed!

July 28 – August 1, 2025

enroll at
[www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/
vacation-bible-camp](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/vacation-bible-camp)



Wilbraham United Church
**Arts and
Crafts Fair**
June 7, 2025
9AM - 3PM

Volunteers Needed

- Bake Sale
- Vendor assistance
- Raffle
- Refreshments

See Deb with
questions

READ IT

This week's Bible story is



Easter 7

Paul and Silas

from Acts 16:16-40.

Paul and Silas were confident that God would act!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Paul
- Silas
- Jail
- Earthquake

Paul was both a Jew and Roman citizen. This put him in two worlds — his primary loyalty was to God, but as a Roman citizen he was guaranteed certain legal and social rights. Both of these roles were at work in this story.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 536-539

Spark Bible pages 1224-1225

Family Prayer

Say this prayer around a globe as you touch a region affected by earthquakes.

Thanks, God, for all of the amazing situations we have to tell people about Jesus. Give us good courage and faith that you are always with us. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 I wonder what songs Paul and Silas sang while they were in jail.
- 2 Why do you think Paul and Silas did not run when they could?
- 3 Have you ever been in an uncomfortable or dangerous situation because of your religious beliefs?
- 4 Pray a "squeeze prayer." Hold hands and have one person start. When their prayer is finished they squeeze a hand next to them and that person offers a prayer and then squeezes the hand next to them. The person who starts also finishes with "In Jesus' name, AMEN."



Eye Spark

When you see people praying or singing songs about God and Jesus, join in!



Ear Spark

When you hear about earthquakes or other natural disasters, say a prayer for the people who live in that place that they would know God is with them.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Paul and Silas sang songs when they were in jail. You don't have to go to jail to do that! Sing some of your favorite songs together in a family sing-along. Try camp songs, Sunday school songs, silly songs, church hymns, or make one up together!

For younger kids

Make something for the bags (purse, backpack, briefcase, diaper bag) of every person in your family that will remind them that God is always with you.

For older kids

Make a playlist of all of your favorite songs about Jesus. Play them for your family in the car or at home.



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