



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

May 18, 2025

5th 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: O for a Closer Walk with God (with Where He Leads Me) arr. L. Larson

Bells: Just As I Am

arr. L.R. Lamb

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #62 (UMH) vs. 1-4**

All Creatures of Our God and King

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Mantler

Liturgist: Let us worship the eternal God, the Source of life who has made all things, and who has caused all blessings to flow. It is because of our creating God that we move and breathe and have our being. It is because of God's great love that we will live again.

People: We give thanks to the Lord who lifts us up and keeps us close, so that we do not fall. We give thanks to the One who can do all things and who has chosen to love us all the more. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, You know us - our good ways, and our ways that hurt. You know our doubts and fears and failures, but also our joys and our triumphs. We gather this day to express our devotion to you, but also to be reminded that you are with us in all our ways; nurturing our growth, opening our hearts and lending us grace upon grace. Come to us, pour your blessings down upon us, and hear our gratitude for calling us your own. 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

MUSICAL MOMENT

Open the Eyes of My Heart
Praise Band

P. Baloché

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

RESPONSIVE PSALM p. 861-862 (UMH)

Psalm 148

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 11: 1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

Matthew 5: 1-11

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

What Jesus Said

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #727 (TFWS) verses 1,2,3,5**

O What Their Joy and Their Glory Must Be

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Sing with Joy!
Chancel Choir

D. Besig & N. Price

***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 #554 (UMH) Verses 1-4**

All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord

***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: Postlude on “Webb”

arr. J.D. Payne

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*

The flowers this morning are given by Elsie and Mark Trimble in celebration of their daughter Marissa’s birthday!

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Matt Capen and Bill Lynch

Liturgist: Bob Mantler

Greeter: Sandy Harris



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.*

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 May 18, 2025

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 this week.

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

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

Volunteers Needed

- Bake Sale
- Vendor assistance
- Raffle
- Refreshments

See Deb with
questions

Concert Tour
Spring 2025

Celestial Light

*Merrimack
Valley Ringers
MVR*



Saturday, May 31
Workshop 12 noon-4:30 pm / Concert 7:00 pm
Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, May 18, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)
11:30 a.m. – VBC Planning Mtg (ZR)
1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class (ZR)

Monday, May 19, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30
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, May 20, 2025

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



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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Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Church Office 10:30 – 1:30
11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting
5:00 p.m. – Finance Comm. (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

Thursday, May 22, 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 23, 2025

Church Office closed
5:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class
Field Trip

Saturday, May 24, 2025

Church Office closed
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Sunday, May 25, 2025

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

*Please note the church will be closed
Monday May 26 for the holiday.*

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Peter's Dream

from Acts 11:1-18.



Easter 5

Absolutely everyone is welcome in God's family!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Peter's dream
- Animals
- Gentile
- Jew

In Biblical times, dreams were considered a way that God communicated with people.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 526-527

Spark Bible page 1217

Family Prayer

Say this prayer while everyone is in their pajamas.

Thank you, God, for loving everyone always and no matter what. Thank you, Jesus, for inviting everyone to your table, no exceptions. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 Who is in your family? Who is in your church family?
- 2 Have you ever had a strange dream? Tell about it.
- 3 How does God speak to us now?
- 4 Play a game of Telephone. The first person thinks of 3 - 10 people your family knows who are loved by God. (Remember, this is anyone and everyone!) This person whispers that list to the next person, who whispers it to the next and on around the circle of your family. The last person reports the list. Did you get them all telephoned through?



Eye Spark

When you see a person who seems really different from you, remember that you have at least one thing in common — God loves you both!



Ear Spark

When you hear or sing the song "Jesus Loves Me", sing about that Jesus loving everyone else, too. "Jesus loves you, this I know..."

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make a poster with the banner sign "All Are Welcome!" Draw all kinds of people — people you know, people you'd like to meet, people similar to you, people different from you. Hang this on your refrigerator or in another prominent place in your home.

For younger kids

Invite someone you have never played with to play.

For older kids

Is there a friend from school, a club, or a sports team who you could invite to your church? Could you invite that person's whole family? Make a plan and carry through!

