



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

January 4, 2026

2nd Sunday after Christmas

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.*

UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS – The “small black” book Faith We Sing Hymnal

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. P. Choplin

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN # 247 (UMH)**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

People: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

Liturgist: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

People: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

Liturgist: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

People: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Liturgist: May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

People: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you, almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Make us truly contrite. Fill us with a holy awareness of our sin and give us grace to amend our lives according to your Word, for the glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***SONG OF PRAISE #238 *refrain* (UMH)**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 3: 1-12

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in 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 # 230 vs 4 (UMH)

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Hope Reborn

Rev. Bill Ault

***HYMN #251**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Carol Sing from UMH

*Doxology #254 (UMH)

*Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light*

*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 #254 (UMH)

We Three Kings

*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 246 vs 4 (UMH)

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Postlude on "Unto Us Is Born a Son"

arr. J.S. Dixon

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.*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Guest Pastor: Rev. William Ault

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble




Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106

Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

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

*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.*



Please Pray For:

Catherine Gardner
Larry Harris
Connie Law
Sharon McAbee
Shey McAbee
Michelle McBride
Bill McCullough
Claire McCullough
Theresa Munn
Jim Trimble
The Hungry
The Homeless

The victims of violence and their families
Our troops, our country and our world

“News for the Pews” for the Week of January 4, 2026

Altar Flower sign-ups are available for many Sundays in 2026. Please consider dedicating the flowers to a loved one on a special Sunday. Flowers are \$35.

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, January 5, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Group

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS Rms)

7:00 p.m. – Phys Ops meeting (ZR)

Thursday, January 8, 2026

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, January 9, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Church Office closed

Sunday, January 11, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)