

*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](http://Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

**February 1, 2026**

**4th Sunday After Epiphany**

**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: Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. T. Keeseker

Bells: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

arr. K. McChesney

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

**WELCOME**

**Rev. Janet**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 66(UMH)**

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Ed McCorkindale**

Liturgist: Let us worship our God with gladness, for the Lord has gathered us up in prayer and in wonder. God has shown us a better way of being and has illuminated a path of righteousness for us to follow all our days.

**People: The love of our Creator carries us through our difficult times and inspires us to be better than we are. God leads us with a powerful and blessed hand so that we do not falter or lose our way. Thanks be to God**

## UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Gracious God, You touch our lives in mighty ways and you inspire us to follow the path which you have set out for us. Sometimes what you ask of us seems too hard and we struggle to fulfill your will for us. Help us with our desire to be ever closer to you, and lead us to do what is pleasing to you. Enfold us with your Spirit and keep us in your care, for that is where we want to be. Amen**

### \*SONG OF PRAISE #2016 (TFWS)

*God, we love you, we worship and adore you, glorify your name in all the earth.*

*Glorify your name, glorify your name, glorify your name in all the earth.*

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Micah 6: 1-8**

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

## 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

## 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

*Breath of God, Breath of Peace, Breath of love, Breath of life,  
Breath of justice, Breath of passion,  
Breath creating, Breath of healing, Breath of singing, Breath of praying,  
Come upon us, come restore us, come inspire us, Breath of God.*

## GOSPEL READING

## Matthew 5: 1-12

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**

*The Blessed*

Rev. Janet

\*HYMN #344(UMH) verses 1-4

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

## **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

Offertory

The Seed

G. Lehmann

Chancel Choir

\*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 #206 (UMH)**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 251 Refrain (UMH)**

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

**MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH**

Organ: Fanfare on “The Boar’s Head Carol”

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.*

*The flowers on the Altar have been given by Suzanne Zeckhausen in memory of Paul Zeckhausen on his birthday.*

**MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY**

**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

**Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Sherrie and Ralph Ridgeway

**Liturgist:** Ed McCorkindale

**Greeter:** Gennie Keddy

**Communion:** Sandy Harris, Joyce Pierangelo



**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

Connie Law

Sharon McBee

Shey McBee

Michelle McBride

Bill McCullough

Claire McCullough

Ed

Jim Trimble

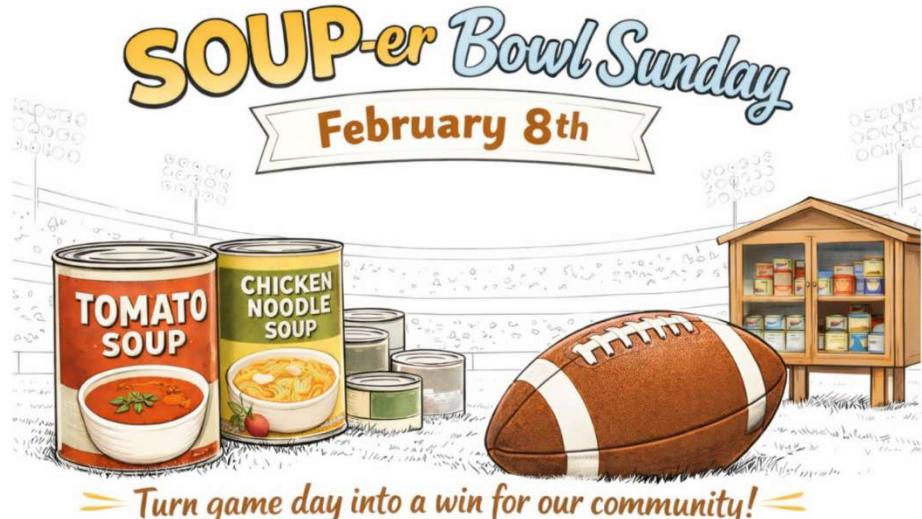
The Hungry

The Homeless

The victims of violence and their families

Our troops, our country and our world

## “News for the Pews” for the Week of February 1, 2026



We are collecting cans of soup and more to help stock the  
**Community Survival Center & our Blessing Box.**

**\*Pull-Tab Cans Preferred\***

Wilbraham United Church presents our annual

## *Mother-Son Dance*



**Saturday February 7, 2026**

Fellowship Hall at Wilbraham United Church

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**\$25 per couple and \$10 each additional guest**  
All Sons and Moms (or those who are like a mom to you) are welcome!

- Professional DJ
- Professional Photo Booth (Photo included)
- Refreshments

To purchase tickets, please scan the QR Code here  
or visit  
[www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/)

Tickets are limited, so please purchase early to avoid  
missing out!



Please email [discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) with any questions.

## *Carolyn Averill in concert Journey to the Past*

Saturday February 28, 2026

4PM

Wilbraham United Church  
500 Main St Wilbraham MA

recommended donation \$20  
to benefit the Wilbraham United Players

A Wilbraham United Players Production



**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
(ABRIDGED) (REVISED) (AGAIN)**  
the hilarious comedy originated  
by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield

**March 20-29, 2026**

The Stage at Fellowship Hall  
Wilbraham United Church  
500 Main Street  
Wilbraham, MA

Tickets available at  
[www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets](http://www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets)

Originally produced by Reduced Shakespeare Company



## *This Week at Wilbraham United Church*

### *Sunday, February 1, 2026*

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

### *Monday, February 2, 2026*

*Church Office* 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – PieceMakers

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Tuesday, February 3, 2026*

*Church Office* 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Grp

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

6:45 p.m. – Search Comm. (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Wednesday, February 4, 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 (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Thursday, February 5, 2026*

*Church Office* 8:30 – 1:30

9:30 a.m. – Preschool in FH

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

### *Friday, February 6, 2026*

*Church Office closed*

9:30 a.m. – Preschool in FH

### *Saturday, February 7, 2026*

*Church Office closed*

9:00 a.m. – Scouts (FH)

6:00 p.m. – Mother Son Dance

### *Sunday, February 8, 2026*

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)