

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 26, 2026

4th 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.*

UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Gentle Shepherd

arr. W. Gaither

Bells: Lord of the Dance

arr. J.W. Krug

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Charles Morkin

***GATHERING HYMN #62 (UMH) vs1-4**

All Creatures of Our God and King

CALL TO WORSHIP

Theresa Munn

Liturgist: At God’s table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

People: Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the realm of God is revealed.

Liturgist: At God’s table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

People: Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the realm of God is revealed.

Liturgist: At God’s table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

People: Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the realm of God is revealed.

Liturgist: Let us worship God!

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy One, we affirm the unfailing renewal of life.

Rising from the earth, and reaching for the sun, all living creatures shall fulfill themselves.

Holy One, we affirm the steady growth of human companionship. Rising from ancient cradles and reaching for the stars, people the world over shall seek the ways of understanding. Holy One, we affirm a continuing hope. That out of every tragedy the spirits of individuals shall rise to build a better world.

*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

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Patti Colkos

RESPONSIVE PSALM 23 King James Version

Liturgist: The LORD is my shepherd;

People: **I shall not want.**

Liturgist: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

People: **He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

Liturgist: He restoreth my soul:

People: **He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

Liturgist: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

People: **I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Liturgist: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

People: **Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

Liturgist: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

People: **And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 Excerpts from "The Message" by Eugene Peterson John 10:1-10

"Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it." Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. "I'll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Who Wants to Be a Sheep?

The Rev. Dr. Charles Morkin

***HYMN #381 (UMH)**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Lord, Give Us Grace
Chancel Choir

J. Carter

***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 #2238 (TFWS)**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

***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: O Sons and Daughters
Easter Alleluias!

arr. D. Lasky
D. Lasky

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.*

This morning the Altar Flowers are given by Chrissy Plumb in memory of Linda Plumb.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Charles Morkin.

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Joyce Pierangelo & Skip Dearborn

Liturgist: Theresa Munn

Greeter: Judy Marek




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

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

Thalia Mwanilelo: 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 McAbee
- Shay McAbee
- Michelle McBride
- Bill McCullough
- Claire McCullough
- Ed McCorkindale
- Jean Michon
- 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 April 26, 2026



The Finance Commission is organizing a **Church Tag Sale** to coincide with the Town-Wide Tag sale on Saturday May 16th. We'll be gratefully accepting tag sale donations from our church members and friends. Donations may be dropped off in Fellowship Hall in the designated area until Thursday May 14th. Please no clothing or bedding items. (Clothing can be put in the church's clothing donation box in the parking lot!) If you've been cleaning out your collections now is a good time to clean house by donating items to the church! Items do not need to be priced or tagged.

We'll also be looking for a few folks to help out with setting up the sale on the evening of May 14th at 5PM and a few to work the Tag Sale from 8-2 on the 16th. Sign up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall!!

Please mark your calendars! The **Pumpkin Patch delivery date** will be Saturday October 3 at 9 a.m. We'll need many hands to help unload and set up the Patch!

Please help support our **Blessing Box**. All non-perishable donations appreciated. The following suggestions seem to go fast: peanut butter, jelly, Mayo, tuna, cereals, granola bars, bread, pasta, sauce.

Please be aware that the church's phone system is not currently functioning. We are working on a solution as quickly as possible. The best way to contact the church office is by email. Rev. Janet can be contacted by cell phone.



WILBRAHAM CLEAN UP DAY



MAY 2ND 9AM-12PM

Meet in the church parking lot at 9am to be a part of Wilbraham United Church's clean-up crew for this town event, then stay for pizza in Fellowship Hall at noon.

We Will Provide:

- **Black Trash bags** (All trash should be placed in these)
- **Clear Plastic Bags** (For Returnables/ NIPS Bottles to go to Scouts)
- **PIZZA at noon!**

Please Bring the Following:

(we will have some on hand if you don't have your own):

- **Gloves**
- **Reflective Safety vests**
- **Trash grabbers**
- **5-gallon buckets**



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, April 26, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, April 27, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

5:30 p.m.- Discipleship Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

6:30 p.m. – Scouts

Thursday, April 30, 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, May 1, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Church Office closed

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Sunday, May 3, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)