

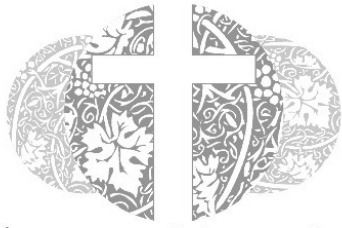


*He is Risen!*



Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026



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

**April 5, 2026**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**10:00AM**

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*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 enjoy a cup of coffee on the Front Lawn as the children partake in the Easter Egg Hunt. Please make a left out of our sanctuary, down the hall, and out the front door. For those who are not able to use the stairs, coffee can also be available in the Zeckhausen Room.*

*\*All who are able to stand, may do so.*

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

French Horn & Piano: Romance, C. Saint-Saëns, Op. 26 Edited, H. Voxman

Soloist: Richard Cuoco

Bell Choir: This Joyful Eastertide T. Osman

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

## **WELCOME**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #302 (UMH) verses 1,2,3,5**

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Marge Trimble**

Liturgist: Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed!**

Liturgist: Rejoice people of God, this is a day made glad. New life has blossomed and life has been poured out for us. Our Lord has made all things new and opened the gates of everlasting life. Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Eternal God, You have done great things for us. Hear our words of thanks and praise, for you have given us victory over death and brought life and light before us. Because of your great love, our sins are forgiven and our joy is made complete. Help us to leave behind our doubts and our despair and grant us a certainty that Christ is with us always. 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**

### **MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT**

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.” I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

#### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Colossians 3:1-4**

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.”

## 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 20: 1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**One:** This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**

*An Easter Day*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #315 (UMH) verses 1,2,3,5**

*Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Fanfare for Easter Day

M. Parks

*Chancel Choir with Richard Cuoco, trumpet*

**\*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 #306 (UMH)**

*The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

**\*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**

Piano and Trumpet: I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

arr. W. Fritchie

**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:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Kim Ryan & Matt Capen

**Liturgist:** Marge Trimble

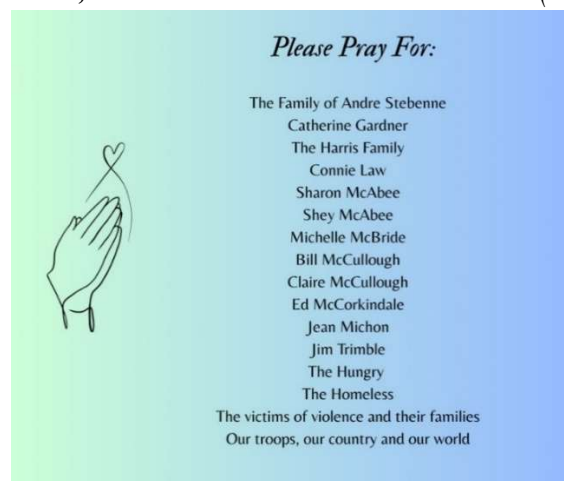
**Greeter:** Gail & Chris Lima

**Guest Musician:** Richard Cuoco

**Communion:** Joyce Pierangelo, Martha Lyman, Kim Ryan, Matt Capen.



*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](mailto:pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x 103

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

**Thalia Mwanilelo:** Administrator ([admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x100

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

## “News for the Pews” for the Week of April 5, 2026

The children are invited to meet in the Zeckhausen Room following the service to prepare for the Egg Hunt, which will take place on our front lawn.

*Pancake  
Supper and  
Community  
Service Project*



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSEMBLING VARIOUS  
HYGIENE KITS TO SUPPORT  
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

**WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH**  
APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> 5PM-7PM

**This Week at Wilbraham United Church**

**Sunday, April 5, 2026**

*Easter*

**10:00 a.m. –Worship**

**11:00 a.m. – Egg Hunt**

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)**

**5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)**

**Monday, April 6, 2026**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting**

**Thursday, April 9, 2026**

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**10:00 a.m. – Preschool (FH)**

**6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)**

**7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)**

**7:00 p.m. – Phys Ops (ZR)**

**8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir  
(Sanc)**

**Friday, April 10, 2026**

*Church Office closed*

**10:00 a.m. – Preschool (FH)**

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**

*Church Office closed*

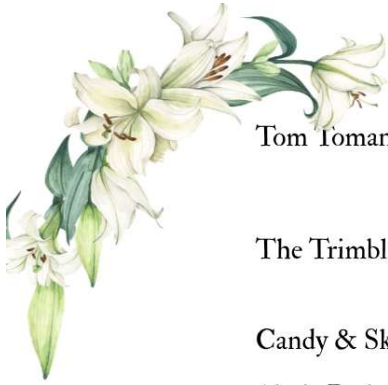
**5:00 p.m. – Pancake Supper  
and Service Night (FH)**

**Sunday, April 12, 2026**

**10:00 a.m. –Worship**

**11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)**

**5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)**



## *Easter Flower Dedications*

Tom Toman

Vivian Toman - Loving You  
Louise Capron - Thinking of You

The Trimble Family

In memory of Loved Ones

Candy & Skip Dearborn

In memory of Loved Ones

Alesia Peck

In memory of Alan & Lois Peck  
from the Peck, Dionne and Wilkinson families



Glenna Ford

In memory of Robert Ford

Sandra and Larry Harris

For loved ones we have lost this year

Greg & Marty Lyman

In loving memory of our parents,  
Bob & Eleanor Welch and Jack & Polly Lyman

Judy Marek

In memory of Eunice and Don Lamb, Ken Lamb, and Chris Burnor

Poppy Nelson

In memory of Terry missing you everyday

The Colkos Family

In memory of Loved Ones

Tim & Kathy Timpson

In memory of Loved Ones

The Plumb Family

In memory of Theresa O'Neill, Linda Plumb & John Marek

Chris & Kim Ryan

In loving memory of our grandparents

Phyllis Walsh

In memory of Sandra Hinkle





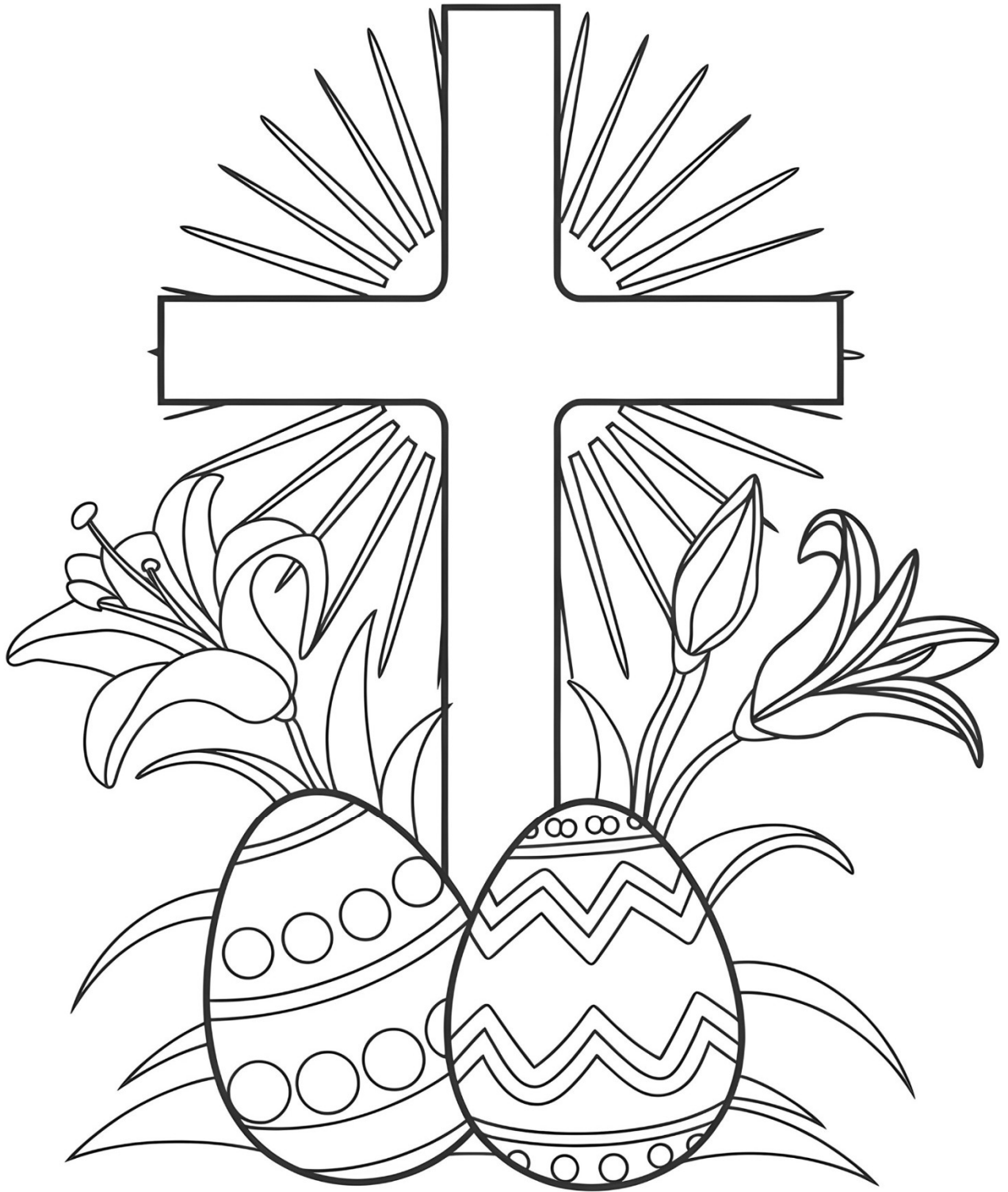
# EASTER

## WORD SEARCH

			L	A	J	R					
			M	P	E	E					
			M	U	S	D					
			R	A	U	E					
			T	A	S	E					
S	R	I	S	E	N	N	M	B	R	D	S
L	A	M	B	N	C	H	O	L	Y	A	N
R	A	Q	M	N	C	H	U	R	C	H	N
			E	C	L	S					
			A	R	C	P					
			S	O	H	R					
			T	S	R	I					
			E	S	I	N					
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- |        |       |        |        |        |
|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| JESUS  | RISEN | CHURCH | CHRIST | EASTER |
| SPRING | LAMB  | REDEEM | CROSS  | HOLY   |





## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**The Empty Tomb**  
from Luke 24:1-12.



Easter Day

### Jesus is alive! God does amazing things!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Women
- Tomb
- Angel
- Jesus

At the time that Jesus died, women cared for a loved one's body after he or she had died. They would wash the body and rub it with oils and spices to help prevent the smell of decay. Then the body was placed in tomb. This was usually a rock or cave shelter above the ground.

### Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 482-487

Spark Bible pages 1167-1168

### Family Prayer

Say this prayer together while everyone holds a rock.

**Thank you, God for bringing life out of death, joy out of sorrow. Thank you for Jesus and for the gift of hope and assurance that you are always working for good. AMEN.**

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 How does your family celebrate Easter?
- 2 The Easter story is an amazing one! What other amazing things do you see God doing?
- 3 What are some signs of new life that we see in the spring: time when we celebrate Easter?
- 4 Tell about funerals you have attended. What sort of service was it? Who was there? What was celebrated? What was said about Jesus? What did you sing or do in the service?



### Eye Spark

When you see an Easter egg, remember this story of the very first Easter.



### Ear Spark

When you hear someone talk about God or Jesus, remember that God is always doing something amazing in our world!

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Create a centerpiece for your meal table that celebrates Easter. Think of signs of new life like Easter eggs and butterflies. How could you feature the Easter story in your centerpiece? A picture or a quote? What about candles or flowers? Create something wonderful!

### For younger kids

Decorate some Easter eggs to celebrate this story. You can dye real eggs or make some from clay or with paper. Make them really beautiful — just like this story!

### For older kids

Research Easter customs from other cultures. The web is a great source, and your local or church library probably has some good resources, too. Are there new ways to celebrate Easter that your family could try?

