

*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)

**May 17, 2026**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**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 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: How Firm a Foundation

arr. J. Purifoy

Bells: Amazing Grace

S. Eithun

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### WELCOME

**Rev. Janet**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #90(UMH)**

*Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Marty Lyman**

Liturgist: The Love of the Lord reaches the heavens; God’s faithfulness is righteous and bountiful. We are so blessed that we may take our refuge in the shadow of God’s wing and feast upon the knowledge of the Most High.

**People: We enter this place of worship in search of God’s light to guide our way and we rejoice in this day that the Lord has made. Thanks be to God.**

## **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Holy God, We thank you for this day of worship, for uniting us as one body of believers drawn together by our love for Christ. We thank you that in your presence we are reminded that holiness abounds and that there is indeed a power greater than ourselves. When life offers up challenges, grant us peace in our hearts, and fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit so that we may move forward with all your fullness and with an abundance of grace. 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**

### **SERVICE OF BAPTISM**

### **MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** *p. 792-793 (UMH)*

**Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35**

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Acts 1: 6-14**

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## **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 17: 1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*The Ascension*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #519 (UMH)**

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Peace in the Valley  
Chancel Choir

arr. L. Shackley

**\*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 #529 (UMH) vs. 1-4**

*How Firm a Foundation*

**\*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 "Foundation"

arr. 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 Judy Marek in memory of Don Lamb.*

*This morning we are celebrating the Baptism of Elias Alan Ouellette, the son of Samantha Peck Dionne and Craig Ouellette. Godparents are Denielle Dionne and Kyle Ouellette.*

## MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

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

**Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Sandy Harris & Marty Lyman

**Liturgist:** Marty Lyman

**Greeter:** Edna Colcord



**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 McAbee

Shey 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 May 17, 2026

The **Annual Program Year Meeting** of the Wilbraham United Church will be held June 7, 2026 immediately following worship in the Sanctuary to transact the following business:

- Vote on the 2025-2026 Annual Reports
- Vote on the 2026-2027 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 6, 2026**  
**9AM - 3PM**

**Volunteers Needed**

- Bake Sale
- Vendor assistance
- Raffle
- Refreshments

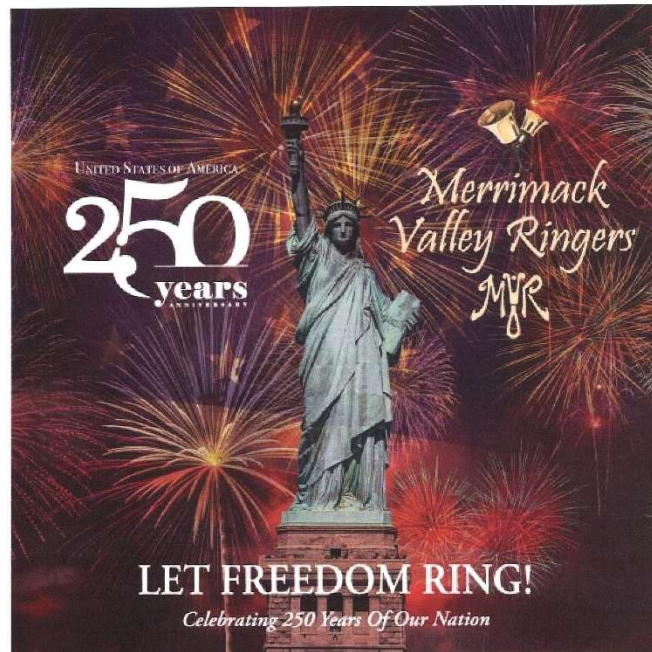
See Deb with questions

Our Annual Arts and Crafts Fair is coming soon! We're looking for Volunteers to help out with Baked Goods for our Bake Sale or to help with setting up the day before and other opportunities the day of the Fair! Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.



It's time to register for Vacation Bible Camp 2026! Registration for both campers and volunteers can be found on the church's website:

[www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/vacation-bible-camp/](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/vacation-bible-camp/)



**SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026**  
**Wilbraham United Church**

Workshop – 12 noon-4:15 pm / Concert – 7:00 pm  
500 Main Street • Wilbraham, MA

## *This Week at Wilbraham United Church*

### *Sunday, May 17, 2026*

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)  
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

### *Monday, May 18, 2026*

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*  
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers  
6:30 p.m. – Deacons (ZR)  
7:00 p.m. – Church Council (ZR)

### *Tuesday, May 19, 2026*

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*  
9:00 a.m. – Loaves and Fishes Prep  
11:30 a.m. – Women's Fellowship (ZR)  
2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)  
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Wednesday, May 20, 2026*

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*  
11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting  
1:00 p.m. – Called to Care (Lib)  
6:30 p.m. – Scouts  
6:30 p.m. – Search Committee (ZR)  
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### *Thursday, May 21, 2026*

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*  
9:20 a.m. – Loaves & Fishes  
6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)  
7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)  
8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

### *Friday, May 22, 2026*

*Church Office closed*

### *Saturday, May 23, 2026*

- Church Office closed*  
9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)  
*Sunday, May 24, 2026*  
10:00 a.m. – Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)  
1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

*Please note the church office will be closed on Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> for the holiday.*