

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 28, 2024

5th 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.

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: As the Deer

arr. J. Carter

Bells: Holy Manna

arr. S. Eithun

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #62 vs. 1-5 (UMH)**

All Creatures of Our God and King

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Mantler

Liturgist: We give thanks to God for mercy and compassion, nurture and care. We give thanks for all that our Lord has done. We delight in the knowledge that our Creator is amazing and magnificent, wondrous and good. Because of our Maker, we are made whole.

People: We gather to worship the God who brought us into being and who made all manner of blessings flow. It is our pleasure to uplift our gratitude to the One who gives us life and who gives us life anew. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, We come before you inspired to follow in your works and ways. We are fortified by the knowledge of your great love for us, and we want to know you more. Grant that we may find a certain joy in our worship, as we walk in faith, as we strive to be ever closer to you, Oh God. Our worship together reminds us that we are not alone on our journey, but we are a people in communion with you, seeking the nourishment of your Divine Spirit and a faith that knows no bounds. 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

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away, for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4: 7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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 15: 1-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

SERMON

It's all about the Faith

Rev. Janet

***HYMN # 122(UMH)**

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Be Still

Chancel Choir

K. Marroli

***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 # 431 (UMH)**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

***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: Toccata in E Minor

J. Pachelbel

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

The altar flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God.

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 and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Kim Ryan and Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Bob Mantler

Greeters: Larry and Sandy Harris



Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Jean Michon, Phyllis Walsh, Larry Harris, David and Linda Bennett, David Pierangelo, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103
Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100
Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106

“News for the Pews” for the Week of April 28, 2024

A **Work of the Interim** meeting will take place this morning after the worship service in the Zeckhausen Room. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Please be aware that the worship service on May 5th will not be **livestreamed**. Deb will be on vacation.

There are many Sunday's available for sign-up for the dedication of **Altar Flowers**. Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex. Altar Flowers are \$30 and can either be taken home after the worship service, or directed to be delivered to our Shut-Ins.

We have **scholarships** that were set up by the families in memory of church members. The only application requirement is to be a member of WUC and to have participated in church activities. Please contact Deb at admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org and she will email an application form to you. Please return the completed form to her by May 26. If you have questions, please email Judy Hoffman at imjrhoffman@hotmail.com or call her at 413-544-5908.

Parents: Please remind children to refrain from running in hallways while at church. We love that they have energy and play, but we need to make sure that others using the space are safe and free to move about as well.



New Members

Individuals who are interested in joining the church are welcome to attend an information session on Sunday May 5th, after worship, in the Zeckhausen Room

New Members will be received into the congregation on Sunday May 19th



Needed: Gently used (or new) baby clothes for a newborn girl arriving in May.

Items may be dropped off in the Church Office by May 7th.

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, April 28, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, April 29, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Group

11:00 a.m. – Staff meeting (office)

6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (SS Rooms, TS, Youth Rm)

6:30 p.m. – Phys Ops Comm. (ZR)

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bells (Sanctuary)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (CR)

Friday, May 3, 2024

Church Office closed

Saturday, May 4, 2024

10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

Sunday, May 5, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Philip and the Ethiopian

from Acts 8:26-40.



Easter 5

Let's spread the good news!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Ethiopian (Man from Ethiopia)
- Prophet Isaiah
- Chariot
- Baptism
- Philip

The prophecies of Isaiah are found in the Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. Isaiah lived hundreds of years before Jesus, but Jesus knew Isaiah's prophecies very well.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 510-513

Spark Bible pages 1213-1214

Family Prayer

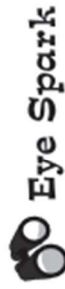
Dear God, help us to know when and how to tell other people the good news about Jesus.
AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



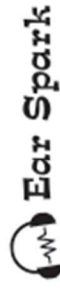
Family Conversations

- 1 If you were going to tell someone the good news about Jesus, what would you tell them?
- 2 The Ethiopian was baptized when he was an adult. When were you baptized?
- 3 What makes news "good?" Is some good news better than others?
- 4 Make a list of stories about Jesus from your favorite children's Bible. Put each one on a slip of paper and take turns drawing the stories out of a hat. Tell or read whichever story you draw.



Eye Spark

Whenever you see a Bible, read some! (Place your Bible where you will be SURE to see it!)



Ear Spark

Whenever you hear water running or splashing, imagine what it would be like to be baptized in that water.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Tell each other the good news stories of baptisms in your family. Place a beautiful bowl of water somewhere in your home where everyone can dip their fingers in and touch it to their heart or head to remind themselves of their baptism and their role in sharing the good news.

For younger kids

Volunteer to pass out invitations to worship or an event at your church where people can hear the good news.

For older kids

Find pictures and video footage of a variety of baptisms on the internet. What do they have in common? What varies?



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