

Wilbraham United Church

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Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2017

10:00A.M

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Register (found at the center aisle end of each pew)
and pass it to your neighbor.

PASSING OF PEACE: Please greet each other with the Peace of God.

****GATHERING HYMN:** "Jesus Shall Reign" stanzas 1,3,5

#157

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Gloria Russell

Leader: God's mercies shall never come to an end

All: They are new every morning

Leader: Great is God's faithfulness

All: The Lord is our God

Leader: All our hope is in God

All: For all those whose souls seek God

Leader: God's steadfast love endures forever. Come, let us worship our steadfast and faithful God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Loving God, we come to You confessing the wounds that we carry. We try to hide them from others, denying our own vulnerability and brokenness. We believe we are stronger, more courageous when we do not let others see our wounds. Call us into gentle honesty, careful confession, and the practice of loving-kindness with one another. May we lift up one another in our brokenness, and find healing, restoration and wholeness, in the name of the One who became broken, wounded for us, suffering and dying. May we remember that our Lord is Risen, with scars still in his hands and his side. In the name of Christ, our vulnerable, wounded, and Risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases)

Leader: This day God has made for life and all joy! Alleluia!

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

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 trespases, 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.

PSALTER: Psalm 16:5-11

pg. 748

****SONG OF PRAISE:** *Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in one;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Candace Dearborn
Sherrie Ridgeway*

*Harold "Skip" Dearborn
Ralph Ridgeway*

Leader: Let us, the members of the Wilbraham United Church, express our welcome, proclaim our support, and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Thanksgivings and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

**Invitation to Give
Offertory Music
*Doxology**

*Praise God, Creator of the earth;
Praise God made flesh with Jesus' birth;
Praise God within each living soul;
Praise God in whom we are made whole.*

Blessing the Gifts

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Hebrews 11: 1-16

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as

the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them”

Leader: Our God is still speaking.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“*Keeping the Faith*”

Rev. Susan

****HYMN OF PARTING:**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

#664

****WORDS OF DISMISSAL**

POSTLUDE

****All, who wish to do so, may stand.**

Welcome New Members!

Candy and Skip Dearborn Candy and Skip Dearborn have been married 40 years. They retired when they moved to Ludlow last August. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren, with another on the way this September. They spent most of our married life in Townsend, MA before moving to Burlington VT, Richmond, VA and most recently Great Barrington. They are both loyal Patriots and Red Sox fans. They enjoy spending time with their 3 year old grandson who lives nearby. They also enjoy gardening, reading and cooking.

Ralph and Sherrie Ridgeway. Ralph and Sherrie Ridgeway grew up in Springfield. Sherrie moved to Wilbraham in 1963. Sherrie and Ralph were married at Trinity Methodist Church in 1971, and purchased their home in Wilbraham that same year. Ralph is a Licensed Professional Engineer and a former NHRA drag racing champion. He was inducted into the New England Dragway Hall of Fame in 2009, and still builds engines for race cars and automobile restoration projects. Sherrie worked as a hairdresser for Hair Styles by Harvey from 1962 to 1982. She then went door to door doing hair until 2005. Sherrie also worked several full or part time jobs in industry and food service until 2009. Sherrie and Ralph attend approximately 30 plays and concerts a year. They have been regular attendees at WUC since april 2015 and enjoy the fellowship of the WUC members.



The ***altar flowers*** this morning are given in memory of Richard Berry on the one year anniversary of his passing. We miss you, Dad, but you still make us smile...especially on Father’s Day. With love, Kyle and David Hauser, Lee, Emily, Nora, Kelsey, Michael, and baby-to-be.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Interim Pastor: Rev. Susan L. Gibson

Director of Music: Mark Jacobson

Director of Christian Education: Paul Nesbit

Head Usher: Tom Toman

Ushers: Shey and Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Ed Bernard

Greeters: Sandy and Larry Harris

Nursery Care: Sharon McAbee and Amy Crocker



Attention Visitors! Is this your first visit to United Church? We bid you a very warm welcome and invite you to sign our Guest Pad located in the Narthex. ♦ **Immediately after the service, please continue down the central hallway and join us for Fellowship and Refreshment in our Fellowship Hall.**

TO REACH OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Interim Pastor Susan L. Gibson,
Director of Music, Mark Jacobson
Dir. of Christian Ed., Paul Nesbit
Parish Administrator, Laurie Milne
Bookkeeper, Betsy Johnsen
Maintenance, Eric True

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Leave messages at:

church ext. 103
church ext. 106
church ext. 105
church ext. 100
via church X 100
church ext. 107

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF BEFORE THE SERVICE.

☺ ☺ ☺

FIRST 6 PEWS, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT, ARE A "SCENT FREE ZONE"

☺ ☺ ☺

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE FOLLOW USHER'S/HEAD USHER'S DIRECTIONS TO EXIT THE SANCTUARY

☺ ☺ ☺

Wilbraham United Church, UCC & UMC

"News for the Pews" for the week of June 18, 2017

Please Pray for:

Joe Gubala, Sue Periera, Loren and Norma Smith, Laurie Milne
Our troops, our country and our world. Our Congregation, along with Christ the
King-Epiphanly, as we discern our future.



Please pray for the members of our Senior Minister Search Committee and their diligent work.

Members are: Tom Toman, Deb Trimble, Kim Neelans, Phyllis Walsh, Steve Niederfringer and Tina Bazarian.

Last Week's Statistics

Last week's Attendance:	126	Total Offerings to date:	\$ 94,912
Last week's Offerings:	\$ 5,643	Where we would like to be budget-wise:	\$ 99,298

Thank you for your continued generosity.

In addition, for your convenience, our *Universal Missions envelopes* are in each pew every Sunday for your opportunity to donate to your favorite cause. Pick your envelope, write your name and donation, then check off which mission you would like to support. It's that simple! Thank you!

Solar Power for Houses of Worship and Non-Profits

Workshop. Congregations and non-profits are invited to gather at *Sinai Temple*, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, on *Sunday, June 25th, 2-5pm* for a workshop presented by Resonant Energy. Speak to Ed McCorkindale if you are interested in attending!

A prayer for a summer day....

Dandelion Fluff

Rachel Hackenberg

Summer Worship Services will be at 9:30a.m. beginning July 2nd through August 27th!

Creator God, Playful Spirit:

This Week at Wilbraham United

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

*let my faith have the simple
confidence of a dandelion —*

TODAY, June 18 10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship – FH
6:00 p.m. Al Anon – Howard Room

*content to smile like the sun
when blooming,*

Mon. June 19 7:00 p.m. Finance – Lib.

*satisfied to be relocated &
replanted by the wind in fading,*

Tues. June 20 6:30 p.m. VBC Registration -
Fellowship Hall

*unapologetic in taking root
where it is not wanted or
expected,*

Tu. June 22 4:00 p.m. Prayer Study Group –
Home of Pam Burch, 65A Castlegate Drive, Springfield
6:00 p.m. AlAnon/AlaTeen –HR

*brazen and stubborn in giving its
own ordinary glory to God. -*

Fri. June 23 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thrift Shop
6:30 p.m. Worship - Lib

Sat. June 24 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thrift Shop
6:30 p.m. All Church Golf Open, Fenway Golf

Sun. June 25 10:00 a.m. Worship and Cook-out at
Church of the Epiphany
6:00 pm Al Anon –HR