



# 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

*Wilbraham United Church*  
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

[www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)  
[facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch](https://facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

**January 23, 2022**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**10:00 A.M.**

## **GATHERING MUSIC AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!

**People: God has anointed us to bring good news to the poor, in Christ's name.**

Leader: We proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed.

**People: We proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, in the name of Christ!**

Leader: We are the Body of Christ: hands and feet, eyes and ears, mouth and heart.

**People: The Living God lives in us, let us give thanks to God for the gifts of the Spirit!**

\***GATHERING HYMN #545 (UMH)**      *The Church's One Foundation, v 1, 2 & 5*

### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**Spirit of the living God, we praise you for inviting us to membership in the body of Christ, a gift of your grace. Empower us with tongues of fire and hearts of love to proclaim your reconciling word among all your people. Remind us that we are all members of the one body, and if one member suffers, we all suffer. May we, as the body of Christ in this place, be the embodiment of your love: declaring and witnessing to this as the year of the Lord's favor for all people. We give thanks that we are Christ's body, and we rejoice in each one being a part of it. In gratitude for the gifts we have received from the Holy Spirit, we pray in Jesus' name.**

**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.**

## RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 19

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork

**People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

**People: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

Leader: In them God has set a tent for the sun, which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and runs its course with joy like a strong man.

**People: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and there is nothing hid from its heat.**

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

**People: The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.**

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

**People: The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.**

Leader: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever.

**People: The ordinances of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.**

Leader: More to be desired are they and gold, even much fine gold.

**People: Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Leader: Moreover by them is your servant waned, in keeping them there is great reward.

**People: But who can understand one's own errors? Clear me from my hidden faults.**

Leader: Also keep your servant from the insolent; let them not have dominion over me!

**People: Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE #92 (UMH)**

*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of joyful praise!*

**\*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**

Pastor Chip

### **CHRISTIAN LETTER**

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

### **GOSPEL**

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where

it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

One: Our God is still speaking.      **All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

Pastor Chip

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Paul

Pastoral Prayer

**Sung Response #2200 (FWS)**

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come, and listen to me.*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

**\*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 FAREWELL**

Chip: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with a friend who is leaving.

Remembrance and Recognition and the Giving and Sharing of Symbols

**Recognition of an Ending**

Chip: In 2015, this church joined in covenant with Paul Nesbit as Director of Christian Education. On February 2nd, 2020 WUC called him as Associate Pastor.

Paul: I thank Wilbraham United Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown to me these last 2 years as Associate Pastor, and for the years of encouragement and love before receiving your call. I ask forgiveness for my shortcomings. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to serve elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our shortcomings. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Paul: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

#### **Vows of Release**

Chip: Do you, the members and friends of Wilbraham United Church, release Paul from the duties of Associate Pastor?

**People: We do, with the help of God.**

Chip: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

**People: We do, with the help of God.**

Chip: Do you, Paul, release this church from turning to you and depending on you?

Paul: I do, with the help of God.

Chip: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come and serve?

Paul: I do, with the help of God.

#### **Prayer**

**People: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN #2241 (FWS)**

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Paul

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #2238 (FWS)**

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

**FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH**

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

**MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY**

**Senior Pastor:** The Rev. Wallace A Hurd IV

**Esteemed Guest and Treasured Friend:** The Rev. Paul B. Nesbit

**Interim Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical and Artistic Director:** Deb Trimble



**Please Pray For:** Alice Belsky, Ross Karlson, Helene Pickett, Tim and family, Theresa Munn, Herb Vieira, Kathy and family, Daniel, Catherine, Lynne, Terry, Ray, Theresa, Ann, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Patti Keiser, Sue Pereira, Bev Sawyer, Kathie Birkhaeuser. The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



**“News for the Pews” for the Week of January 23, 2022**

**The Wilbraham United Church Winter Financial Meeting** to approve a budget for 2022 will be a hybrid event taking place **immediately following worship on February 6, 2022**. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in whatever format is best for them and their families.

545 The Church's One Foundation

1. The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;  
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der we see her sore op - pressed,  
 4. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,  
 5. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 till, with the vi - sion glo - rious, her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

# The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve 2241



1. The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we  
2. We go to com - fort those who mourn and  
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to  
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the



go in Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
set the bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
scat - ter joy like seed and, all our days, to  
gos - pel to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.



## **This Week at Wilbraham United Church**

**Monday, January 24**

**6:30 p.m.** Al Anon – Youth Room

**Tuesday, January 25**

**7:15 p.m.** Bible Study Happy Hour – Zoom

**Wednesday, January 26**

**10 a.m-2 p.m.** Office Hours with Pastor Chip

**6:30 p.m.** Al Anon – Youth Room

**6:30 p.m.** Cub Scouts – Church School Rooms

**Thursday, January 27**

**10 a.m-2 p.m.** Office Hours with Pastor Chip

**Sunday, January 30**

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)

**Please bring a mask**

### **Wilbraham United Church Staff**

**Aimee Walat**, Administrative Assistant ([admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) x100

**Pastor Chip**, Pastor ([pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) x103

**Bobbie Morkin**, Int. Music Director ([musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) x106

**Eric True**, Custodian ([wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) x107

**Betsy Johnsen**, Bookkeeper ([bookkeeper@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:bookkeeper@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) x100



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**Jesus Goes to Nazareth** Epiphany 3  
from Luke 4:14-30



### God's love and grace is for everyone!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Nazareth
- Jesus
- Synagogue
- Grumbling
- God

Although there was only one temple in Jesus' time, there were many synagogues. The synagogue was the local gathering place for study, prayer and sometimes even meals.

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

Spark Story Bible pages 252-253

Spark Bible pages 1133-1134

### Family Prayer

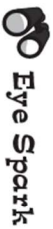
Thank you, God, for always loving us, no matter what. Thanks for sending Jesus to tell us this over and over. In his name we pray... AMEN

## TALK ABOUT IT



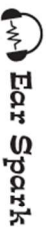
### Family Conversations

- 1 Whom does God love?
- 2 When does God love us?
- 3 People in Jesus' time studied and prayed and ate at the synagogue. What kinds of things do you do at your church?
- 4 Play a game where you throw a ball to each other (like hot potato) and when you catch it, list a person or group of people whom God loves. See how fast you can go!



### Eye Spark

When you see a picture of Jesus, remember his message: God loves everyone!



### Ear Spark

Next time you hear someone say "I love you," remember that God loves you, too.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Send "God Valentines"<sup>1</sup>! Make simple valentines with messages like "Jesus Loves You!" and "God Loves You Always & No Matter What!" and "God Loves Everybody!" Have fun mailing or delivering them anonymously so that the recipients feel the real surprise of the message.

### For younger kids

Page through your Spark Story Bible and find pictures of people loving each other in God's name.

### For older kids

Jesus read the words from Isaiah from a scroll. See if you can find them in your Bible or by using a computer search engine. When you find the reference, make a scroll of your own!



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