



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

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent

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: I Sing the Mighty Power of God

arr. C. Berry

Bells: Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You

J. Althouse, arr. M.L. Thompson

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #152 (UMH)**

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marge Trimble

Liturgist: Let us praise the Lord of all creation, who made all blessings flow, who created righteousness, who showed us the way of love. How grateful we are that God has given us so much, the richness of the earth, the joy of worship, the path to salvation.

People: How blessed we are that God should love us so much, that the Divine One would intercede on our behalf and grant us life eternal.

Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Merciful God,

**We come before you with hearts over flowing, seeking to know you better and love you more. We stand in awe of you, Oh God, because you crafted the whole of creation with all its majesty, and placed it before us. You also brought us into being, as bearers of your Divine image, and made worthy by your grace. Let us not fail you in the things that we do, in our mercy for others, in our care for all your created works. Come to us, listen to our prayers, strengthen us in our good endeavors, and fill us always with your Spirit.
Amen**

***SONG OF PRAISE #2013 (TFWS)**

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.

***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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 107: 17-22

Some were sick through their sinful ways and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 2: 1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

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:

*Breath of God, Breath of peace, Breath of love, Breath of life,
Breath of justice, Breath of passion, Breath creating, Breath of healing,
Breath of singing, Breath of praying, Come upon us, come restore us,
Come inspire us, Breath of God.*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 7: 36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

SERMON

The Sinner

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #2222 (TFWS)**

The Servant Song

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Hope (Text by Emily Dickinson)
Chancel Choir

C. Gray

***Doxology #87 vs. 4 (UMH)**

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
These words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
This song we now offer in honor and praise!*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***PARTING HYMN # 465 (UMH)**

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

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

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ## 666 (UMH)**

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Jubilation

J.D. Payne

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

The altar flowers this morning are given by Chrissy Plumb in honor of Judy Marek's birthday!

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: Steven Mattocks, April Beston

Liturgist: Marge Trimble

Greeters: Ruth Karlson, Gennie Keddy



Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, 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 March 10, 2024

DID YOU KNOW? Our church has had a **Pastor/Parish Relations Committee** for many years. In our Bylaws, Section 4a, (Administration Commission), states “The Administration Commission fosters an honest and open relationship among the minister(s), all members of the church staff and the members of the congregation, and is empowered to appoint a Pastor/Parish Relations Committee in pursuit of this goal.” The current members are Patti Colkos (Tricia30@charter.net), Judy Hoffman (imjrhoffman@hotmail.com), and Nan Shepard (sshep48622@aol.com). If any person has compliments or concerns about our minister(s) and/or members of our church staff, please contact us so that we can listen to you.

The **Physical Operations Commission** is looking for volunteers to open the church, stay to monitor activities and then close the building on Sunday evenings, some Monday evenings and Wednesday evenings. Please let Rick Averill know if you can help out with this stewardship of our building. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board outside the Christian Ed Office.

Order Forms for **Easter Flowers** are available in the Narthex.

News from

CHURCH COUNCIL

Many hands make light work

...and we need many more hands!!!

Our Church Council has many current open positions and will have even more come June.

Without help, WUC will struggle to continue several missions and programs

Time commitments range from weekly tasks, to a few hours a month and even as needed.

For more info, please reach out to:

Rev. Janet and/or Kim Ryan

W GREAT HOUR N OF SHARING

March 10th

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Envelopes are available or donate at WUC's Giving page

Creation Care Advocates

Getting in the Garden - Spring 2024

Featuring 2 guest speakers from
Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners
Friday March 15, 2024 7PM



Christ the King-Epiphany Church
758 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA (across from Rice's)



A WILBRAHAM UNITED PLAYERS PRODUCTION

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

A MUSICAL BY RUPERT HOLMES

ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION PRODUCED BY THE NEW YORK
SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, JOSEPH PAPP, PRODUCER

FELLOWSHIP HALL STAGE AT
WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
500 MAIN ST. WILBRAHAM MA

APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20 AT 7:30 PM
APRIL 14 & 21 AT 2:30 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDPLAYERS.ORG/BUY-TICKETS

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF TAMS-WITMARK LLC.
WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, March 10, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, March 11, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 12:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Church Office 10:00 – 3:00

11:00 a.m. – Staff meeting (office)

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

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. - Preschool program (FH)

6:00 p.m. – Girl Scouts (TS)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bells (Sanctuary)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (CR)

Friday, March 15, 2024

Church Office closed

10:00 a.m. - Preschool program (FH)

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)

10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

Sunday, March 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)



READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Light of the World

from John 3:14-21.



Lent 4

Jesus is the light of the whole world—that means everyone!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Nicodemus
- Questions
- Light
- Everyone

In Jesus's time, people anointed bodies with oils and herbs before they buried them. When Jesus was buried, Nicodemus used lots of oils and spices—over 75 pounds!

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 416-419

Spark Bible page 1174

Family Prayer

Dear God, as children of your light, you show us the way when we get lost. Help us be a light to other people: our family, our friends, our neighbors, and the whole world. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 How do you think Nicodemus felt when he talked to Jesus?
- 2 What's the hardest question someone has ever asked you? What's the hardest question you've ever wanted to ask?
- 3 If you could meet Jesus, what would you ask him? Write your question on a sticky note. Ask others in your family to write their questions on sticky notes. Make a question mark out of all the notes.
- 4 Are you good at asking questions? Did you know there are different kinds of questions to ask? For example, there are true/false questions, yes/no questions, multiple choice questions, and open-ended questions. What type of questions do you like to ask? What type of questions do you think Jesus liked to answer?



Eye Spark

Whenever you turn on a light switch, remember that Jesus is the light of the world!



Ear Spark

When you hear someone ask a hard question, think about how Jesus would answer.

Lectionary, The Light of the World Family Page.
Spark™ Sunday School

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make a list of all the people that you ask questions of. Then make a list of all the people who ask you questions. Talk about how asking questions is a great way to show you are curious and care about someone.

For younger kids

Walk around your home or church and point out all the things that give off light. What's the brightest thing in your home or church? Which would you take with you if you were going camping? Driving a car at night?

For older kids

Word about Jesus spread fast when he was alive. Nicodemus wasn't the only one who asked Jesus questions. Use an online Bible tool to look up Matthew 9:11, Matthew 19:3, Mark 2:24, and Mark 12:14.

