



*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)

**April 21, 2024**

**4th 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 Zeckhausen Room, which is immediately across the hall from the Sanctuary.*

## GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. C. Berry

Bells: The God of Abraham Praise

arr. L. Larson

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### WELCOME

**\*GATHERING HYMN #150 (UMH)**

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**April Beston**

Liturgist: Let us sing to the Lord and let us praise the Lord. Let us rejoice in the One who saves us from the darkness and grants us new life.

**People: We give thanks to the Lord and we revel in the Lord's wondrous works. We rejoice that our Creator does great things for us; gives us life everlasting, creates gladness and beauty, feeds us full, and reminds us that we never walk alone. Thanks be to God**

### UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Holy God,**

**You give proof of yourself in the joys that abound; in the rain that falls, in the life that is bursting forth as we say goodbye to winter. You give proof of yourself in many forms and fashions. Grant that we may know your presence which exists all around us. Help us to open our minds and our eyes to your Divinity which is everywhere. Do not let us be led astray by the Tempter, who sows doubt and chaos and fear. Instead, let us be led by your Holy Spirit who will lead us in the path of righteousness, all our days. 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**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM - p. 137 (UMH)**

**Psalm 23**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**1 John 3: 16-24**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**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 10: 11-18**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

## SERMON

*The Power of Naming*

Rev. Janet

## \*HYMN # 400(UMH)

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Way Down Deep in My Soul  
*Chancel Choir*

E. Rentz

## \*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 # 674 (UMH)

*See the Morning Sun Ascending*

## \*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: Crown Him Lord of All

arr. M. McDonald

*\*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:** Tom Toman and Bill Lynch

**Liturgist:** April Beston

**Greeters:** Edna Colcord and Judy Marek



**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](mailto:pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x 103

**Deb Trimble:** Administrator ([admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x100

**Bobbie Morkin:** Music Director ([musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) (413)596-2511 x106

## “News for the Pews” for the Week of April 21, 2024

Work of the Interim meetings will begin again this morning after the worship service in the Zeckhausen Room. Everyone is encouraged to participate.



*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**



*Reminder*  
**APRIL 22**  
DEACONS - 6:30 PM  
CHURCH COUNCIL - 7:00 PM



**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.

# **Pancake Supper And Community Service Project**



**Join us for an evening of fun and community service  
assembling Hygiene Kits to support  
Church World Service**

**Wilbraham United Church  
April 27th 5:00 to 7:00**

**This Week at Wilbraham United Church**

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

- 10:00 a.m. –Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (ZR)  
2:30 p.m. – WUP Performance (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

**Monday, April 22, 2024**

*Church Office 8:30 – 3:30*

- 9:30 a.m. – WUP (FH)  
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers  
5:15 p.m. – Girl Scouts (TS)  
6:30 p.m. – Deacons (ZR)  
7:00 p.m. – Church Council (ZR)

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

*Church Office 8:30 – 3:30*

- 2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

*Church Office Closed*

- 11:00 a.m. – Staff meeting (office)  
6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (SS Rooms,  
TS, Youth Rm)  
6:30 p.m. – Discipleship (ZR)

**Thursday, April 25, 2024**

*Church Office 8:30 – 2:30*

- 10:00 a.m. – Preschool Event (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, April 26, 2024**

*Church Office closed*

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

- 9:00 a.m. – Regional Handbell Event  
(FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Hygiene Kit and  
Pancake Supper (FH)

**Sunday, April 28, 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

### The Good Shepherd

from John 10:11-18.



Easter 4

#### Jesus cares for us like a good shepherd.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Sheep
- Good Shepherd
- Jesus

Throughout the Bible, God promises to shepherd the people - to care for them, lead them, love them, and keep them safe. Jesus is this promised Good Shepherd.

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 436-439

Spark Bible pages 1185

## Family Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for always watching out for us like a good shepherd! Guide us in your good ways. AMEN.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 A shepherd takes care of sheep. What does our family help take care of?
- 2 How do we know Jesus cares for us?
- 3 How does God help us when we're having a hard time?
- 4 Open a small bag of multi-colored candies. Assign a candy-color to each person. Take turns picking out a candy. Whoever has their color drawn thanks God for taking care of someone in their life and then gets to eat the candy!



### Eye Spark

Next time you're searching for something you lost, think of how God searches us out in our times of need.



### Ear Spark

When you hear an animal call (bark/baa/meow/tweet) remember Jesus hears our prayers just like you hear the animal call.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Parenting is shepherd-like — loving, guiding, protecting. Spend some time reviewing your family's safety plans. How can your child call you for help? (Review home/cell/work numbers.) Who should they call if you can't be reached? Remind them of all the "shepherds" in their life who can help them find their way.

### For younger kids

Help someone look for something this week — be sleuth-like shepherds and look for something that is lost or misplaced.

### For older kids

Use the internet to search on the word "shepherd." How many websites talk about shepherding sheep and how many talk about church programs? Try "good shepherd" and see what comes up.



Lectionary: The Good Shepherd Family Page. Spark™ Sunday School © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.