



# 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)

**May 25, 2025**

**6th 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 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.*

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

## GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing with  
O Worship the King

arr. C. Berry

Bells: Laudation

B. Austin

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### WELCOME

**\*GATHERING HYMN #717 (UMH) vs. 1-4**

*The Battle Hymn of the Republic*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Joe Hegarty**

Liturgist: The Lord is the Keeper of heaven and earth, the great Guardian of all creation, and the marvelous Author of life. God knows our comings and goings, our times of joy and our moments of tribulation. The Lord is familiar with all our ways.

**People: We are ever grateful that the Lord receives us into ever flowing grace, not according to our failing goodness, but because of what the Lord knows that we can be.**

**Thanks be to God**

## **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Holy God,**

**We thank you for calling us your own and for your glorious message of hope rather than despair, forgiveness as opposed to retribution, love rather than hate. We thank you that you walk beside us as we journey through life, giving us the courage to meet the challenge of the day, and instilling the joy of faith, so that we may be fortified in all that we do. Move with us and breathe with us, and enable us to love all the more. 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**

### **MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** *p. 791 (UMH)*

**Psalm 67**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Acts 16: 9-15**

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon 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 14: 23-29**

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*A Memorial Day Message*

Rev. Janet

**\*HYMN #428 (UMH)**

*For the Healing of the Nations*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Down by the Riverside  
*Chancel Choir*

arr. M. McDonald

**\*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 *see insert*

*To Us All, to Every Nation*

\*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: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory      arr. M. McDonald

**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*

*The flowers this morning are given in remembrance of all those who have given their lives for our freedom.*

## MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

**Music Director:** Roberta Morkin

**Technical and Artistic Director:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** April Beston, Skip Dearborn

**Liturgist:** Joe Hegarty

**Greeter:** Joyce Emerle



## 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

**David Wapner:** Sexton (wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x107

## 634

## To Us All, to Every Nation

1. To us all, to ev - ery na - tion comes the mo - ment  
 2. By the light of burn - ing mar - tyrs, Je - sus' bleed - ing  
 3. Though the cause of e - vil pros - per, yet 'tis truth a -

to de - cide, in the strife of truth with false - hood,  
 feet I track, toil - ing up new Cal - varies ev - er  
 lone is strong, truth for - ev - er on the scaf - fold,

for the good or e - vil side;  
 with the cross that turns not back;  
 wrong for - ev - er on the throne.

some great cause, God's new en - dea-vor, of - fer-ing each the  
new oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties, time makes an - cient  
Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, and, be - hind the

bloom or blight, and the choice goes by for - ev - er  
good un - couth; they must up - ward still and on - ward,  
dim un - known, God is stand - ing in the shad - ow

'twixt that dark - ness and that light.  
who would keep a - breast of truth.  
keep - ing watch be - side God's own.



**Please Pray For:** Susan Pereira, Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Larry Harris, David Pierangelo, Marilyn, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.

*If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Janet or the Church Office.  
After office hours, Rev. Janet can be reached at (978)350-3463.*

## **“News for the Pews” for the Week of May 25, 2025**

We are pleased to announce a **CPR training session**, open to all interested participants ages 10 – adult on **June 1, 2025** at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. This hour-long session will teach the skills of hands-on CPR and will be led by members from the TimmyStrong Foundation. We encourage everyone to attend to learn or to refresh their skills in CPR. Please confirm your attendance by signing up on the bulletin board outside the office. We look forward to seeing you there!

The **Annual Program Year Meeting** of the Wilbraham United Church will be held June 8, 2025 immediately following worship in the Sanctuary to transact the following business:

- Vote on the 2024-2025 Annual Reports
- Vote on the 2025-2026 Leadership Nominations
- Act on any other business properly brought before the Meeting

The Meeting will be followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Nan Shepard, Clerk

We are in need to fill vacancies on three commissions before the Annual Meeting takes place. The following list of vacancies are in order of urgency to have each commission function at its best:

- Hospitality – This commission is in need of someone who can serve as the chairperson. The commission already has dedicated and experienced members, who graciously agreed to stay on, but can no longer fill the need of a chairperson.
- Physical Operations – This commission has a chairperson and one other member, but could use at least one or two others to share the responsibilities.
- Finance – This commission has two experienced members who have served many terms, but would love to have additional member(s) to assist with their duties.

If you have any interest or questions regarding these commission opportunities, please contact John Colkos prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> at [jcolkos64@charter.net](mailto:jcolkos64@charter.net), or contact Deb in the church office.



Our Discipleship Team is sponsoring a **clothing drive** to benefit residents of Christina's House. They are in immediate need for spring and summer clothing for a boy size 2T and a girl size 2T as well as a boy youth size 8 tops and 10 bottoms. They are also in need of women's summer clothes, sizes small, medium, large and extra-large in new or "like-new" condition. Discipleship will have a marked container near the shopping cart for donations until June 8th.

Celestial Light

Concert Tour  
Spring 2025

Merrimack  
Valley Ringers  
MVR



**Saturday, May 31**  
Workshop 12 noon-4:30 pm / Concert 7:00 pm  
**Wilbraham United Church**  
500 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA

Wilbraham United Church  
**Vacation Bible Camp**  
**2025**



Messengers  
of  
God

Volunteers also  
needed!

**July 28 - August 1, 2025**

enroll at  
[www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/  
vacation-bible-camp](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/vacation-bible-camp)



New  
Members

New Members will be received into the congregation on  
Sunday June 1st

Anyone interested in becoming a church member should  
speak with Rev. Janet prior to that date.

Wilbraham United Church  
**Arts and  
Crafts Fair**

**June 7, 2025**  
**9AM - 3PM**

**Volunteers Needed**

- Bake Sale
- Vendor assistance
- Raffle
- Refreshments

See Deb with  
questions



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

### ***Sunday, May 25, 2025***

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship  
11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)  
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)  
1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al Anon (YF)

### ***Monday, May 26, 2025***

*Church Office Closed*

- 7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

### ***Tuesday, May 27, 2025***

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

- 2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)  
5:30 p.m. – Discipleship Mtg. (ZR)  
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)



## **Repair the Roof**

### **Be a Shingle Sponsor!**

Sponsorship is \$50 and will include your name on our Repair the Roof Dedication List proudly displayed in our church!

Donations are tax-deductible!

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500 Main St  
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### ***Wednesday, May 28, 2025***

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*  
11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting  
6:00 p.m. – Scouts  
7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

### ***Thursday, May 29, 2025***

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*  
6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)  
7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)  
8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

### ***Friday, May 30, 2025***

*Church Office closed*

### ***Saturday, May 31, 2025***

*Church Office closed*

- 11:00 a.m. – Handbell Workshop Event  
7:00 p.m. – Merrimack Valley Ringers  
Concert (Sanc)

### ***Sunday, June 1, 2025***

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship  
11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)  
11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)  
1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)  
5:00 p.m. – Al Anon (YF)

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

### Lydia

from Acts 16:9-15.



Easter 6

### Lydia worked with Paul to spread the news about Jesus.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Lydia
- Purple cloth
- Paul
- Baptized

During Lydia's time, a household meant family, friends, employees, and slaves. When Lydia's household was baptized, that was probably a lot of people!

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

Spark Story Bible pages 532-535

Spark Bible page 1224

### Family Prayer

Say this prayer while everyone holds something purple.

Thank you, Jesus, for asking us to tell people about you and God. Help us to do it. **AMEN.**

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 What is your favorite color?
- 2 Who do you tell about Jesus?
- 3 When you were baptized, was anyone else baptized with you?
- 4 Together, help each other tell as many things about Jesus as number of years old you are.  
A four-year-old thinks of four things about Jesus, a nine-year-old, nine — parents may need some help to come up with their number of things! Use the Bible for help!



### Eye Spark

Next time you see something purple, think of this story of Lydia and think of something you can tell others about Jesus.



### Ear Spark

Every time you hear Jesus' name, remember how much he loves you.

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Use purple napkins this week during your mealtimes. Eat purple foods! Wear purple for dinner! Enjoy purple and remember Lydia, the amazing woman who sold purple cloth and told everyone she knew all about Jesus.

### For younger kids

Use some paints and see how many different shades of purple you can make. Mix them up!

### For older kids

See if you can trace the route of Paul and his companions in Acts 16 on a map. What do we call this part of the world now?



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