

Wilbraham United Church



December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols -

7:00 p.m.



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

December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Service

7:00 PM

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 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.*

**All who are able to stand, may do so.
UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal*

GATHERING MUSIC

Organ: A Christmas Lullaby
Bells: O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. M. McDonald
arr. K. McChesney

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Colkos Family

Reader #1: On this Christmas Eve we gather, as God’s people, to celebrate Christ’s coming into the world. We are awed and delighted by this amazing birth, where Angels rejoice and where love knows no end. We lift up our voices in thanksgiving that God should love us so much.

Reader #2: On this special Eve, we light the Christ candle now as we revel in the mystery and wonder of this Christmas Eve.

Unison Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you that Christ’s coming has reaffirmed that hope, peace, love and joy are the true gifts of the season and that we ourselves should give those gifts to all we meet. Help us to do what we can to bring those gifts to others. For in our giving, we receive the abundance of heaven. In our love of Christ, we can transform the world.

Amen

***GATHERING HYMN # 234 (UMH) verses 1,3,4,6**

O Come All Ye Faithful

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tim Timpson

Liturgist: People of God, rejoice in this night, Christ our Savior is born to us. Let us sing a new song to the God whose love knows no bounds.

People: We uplift our gladness, for God has been made known to us this night, coming to us in human form, and daring us to believe in a better life and in life everlasting. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, we come before you in awe, that you would gift us with your presence and make us newly aware of your glory and your love for all creation. We dare to believe that it is you coming to be amongst us in the earthly form of Jesus; willing to be with us, always wanting to love us. So, draw us forth into this new way of being and teach us to cherish the new life that we have been given. Help us to live according to your wishes and let us praise you with songs of joy, all the days of our lives. Thanks be to you, Oh God. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE #238 refrain (UMH)**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory Anthem

Advent Lullaby

Chancel Choir

M. Burrows

***Doxology #234**

O come, let us adore him; O come let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

***Prayer of Dedication**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE ANGEL

Luke 1: 26-38

Deb Trimble

CAROL # 238 verses 1 & 2

Angels We Have Heard on High

THE MANGER

Luke 2: 1-7

Marge Trimble

CAROL # 228 verses 1 & 2

He Is Born

THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2: 8-20

Patti Colkos

CAROL # 218 verses 1 & 2

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

THE WISE MEN

Matthew 2: 1-12

Alan Druckenmiller

CAROL # 245 verses 1-3

The First Noel

THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN

John 1: 1-14

Rev. Janet

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. Janet

CAROL *see insert*

How Great Our Joy!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND LORD'S 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.

SHARING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT

We ask that you greet each other as you share the light.
Please hold the lighted candle upright and dip the unlighted candle into it.

Silent Night

***Silent Night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven a far, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King,
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the savior is born!***

BENEDICTION

***PARTING HYMN #240 (UMH)**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Bells: Joy to the World

arr. R. Mallory

MINISTERING TO YOU THIS EVENING

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Matt and Zach Capen

Liturgist: Tim Timpson

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

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

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

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

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.

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Church Office closed

Friday, December 26, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, December 27, 2025

Church Office closed

Sunday, December 28, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday December 29, 2025

Church Office closed

Tuesday December 30, 2025

Church Office closed

Wednesday December 31, 2025

Church Office closed

Thursday January 1, 2026

Church Office closed

Friday January 2, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday January 3, 2026

Church Office closed

Sunday January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

“News for the Pews” for the Week of December 24, 2025

The Church will be closed **December 25th** through Thursday January 1st for the holiday. Deb will be back in the office on Monday January 5th. Rev. Janet will be on vacation from December 29 through January 5th. In the event of an emergency please contact Rev. Janet or notify the office.

On January 4th the Rev. William Ault will lead us in worship.

Year End Pledge Reminder: As we approach the end of the year, there are two worship service dates left in 2025. This prompts this reminder regarding the IRS rules that we must follow regarding reporting of gifts, from which there can be no exceptions.

To qualify as a gift for tax year 2025, the gift must be either:

- 1) if mailed, be postmarked on or before Wednesday, December 31, 2025, or
- 2) be placed in the offering at either of the worship services on Wednesday, December 24 or on December 28th.

Further, if the gift is a check, the check must be dated on or before December 31, 2025.

We must point out this example: a check dated on or before December 31 that does not meet the criteria listed above will be counted as a gift received in 2026. If made to fulfill a 2025 pledge, it will be noted and appear as “Pledge – Prior Year” in the 2026 accounting.

The Fellowship Commission would like to remind our church membership that **pledge cards** for 2026 can still be turned in. If you have forgotten to turn yours in, please do so as soon as possible. We’re already entering the budgetary process for the new year and knowing our expected pledge income is a key part of that planning. Just a friendly reminder – if you are a “one and done” pledger – your check is gratefully received, but we’d still like to receive a card from you for our bookkeeping purposes. If you need a card they are available in the Narthex or you can see Deb in the office.

How Great Our Joy!

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1. While by the sheep we watched at night, lo, there ap- peared an
 2. Born is the Child, in man- ger small, whom God has sent to
 3. Go you this night, and you shall find the Sav- ior born for
 4. Je - sus, the gift from heav'n a - bove fills all our hearts with

an - gel bright:
 save us all. *f* How great our joy! *echo p* Great our joy!
 hu - man - kind. joy and love.

f Joy, joy, joy! *echo p* Joy, joy, joy! *f* Glo - ry to God who

echo p reigns on high! Glo - ry to God who reigns on high!



2025 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS



Given by

The Colkos Family
Skip & Candy Dearborn
Ellen Gatchell
Karen Gatchell
Sandy & Larry Harris
Judy Marek
Poppy Nelson & Family
Alesia, Al, Wendy & Jim
Samantha, Kelsey & Aleena
The Plumb Family
David, Keith, Paul and John Scarlett
Carianne Stebenne

Tim & Kathy Timpson
The Toman Family
The Toman Family
The Toman Family
Phyllis Walsh

In Loving Memory or Celebration of

Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Douglas & Bill
Loved Ones
Our Parents & Siblings
Eunice & Don Lamb, Ken Lamb, Chris Burnor
Terry Nelson
Alan & Lois Peck
Poppy & Grammy
John Marek, Theresa O'Neill, Linda Plumb
Richard and Evelyn Scarlett
Kimberlee Kelley, John & Betty Clark, Tom & Marie Kelley
Loved Ones
Vivian Toman- Remembering Always
Nancy Swanson – In Loving Memory
Louise Capron - Thinking of you
Kandi Duffy, Barbara Schwartz, Linda McDonald

