

# *“Wilbraham United Church*

*500 Main Street*

*Wilbraham MA 01095*

Phone: 596-2511 x 100 Fax: 596-2512

Email: [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

Website: [www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

## *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**September 17, 2017**

**10:00 A.M**

**GATHERING MUSIC:** *the Sound of Service Praise Band* “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Baloche

### **GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please sign the Friendship Register (found at the center aisle end of each pew)  
and pass it to your neighbor.

**PASSING OF PEACE:** Please greet each other with the Peace of God.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Michelle McBride**

**SUNG** Leader: This Is the day  
**People: This is the day that the Lord has made**

**SPOKEN** Leader: Come! Come, all you who are seeking God. Come! Enter in to this place of  
protection and comfort and discover that God is seeking us!  
**People: *We rejoice to have God find us here, as we come seeking God!***

**SUNG:** Leader: This Is the day  
**People: This is the day that the Lord has made**

**SPOKEN:** Leader: Come! Come in and experience God’s joy when we come together.  
**People: *Here in this sanctuary we worship, and meet God!***

**SUNG:** Leader: This is the day  
**People: This is the day**  
Leader: That the Lord has made  
**People: That the Lord has made**  
Leader: Let us rejoice  
**People: Let us rejoice**  
Leader: and be glad in it  
**People: and be glad in it**  
**This is the day that the Lord has made**  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**  
Leader: This is the day  
**People: This is the day that the Lord has made**

**\*\*GATHERING HYMN:** “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” stanzas 1,2, 4 # 2120 FWS (*small black book*)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Leader: The Pharaoh decrees death to the foreigner.  
The power of fear and hate rage surround us.*

*All: In the face of evil  
Forgive us our complacency.*

*Leader: The burning bush flickers beside us.  
The presence of God invites us.*

*All: In the presence of the holy  
Forgive us our lack of notice.*

*Leader: The Red Sea waters stand at attention.  
The threshold of grace is breath-taking.*

*All: In the company of grace  
Forgive us our reticence to embrace.  
And lead us into your grace and forgiveness. Amen*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE & OUR LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

*Great is God's faithfulness. God makes a path when none was there before. God leads us back when we are hopelessly lost. God makes room for us when we have walked away, time and again. There is always room for us at the table of Christ, and Christ is calling your name. You are forgiven, you are loved, you are restored to Christ. Amen.*

*We pray all of this in the name of our Savior, who taught us all how to pray saying:*

*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.*

## A MOMENT FOR GOD'S CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

### THE CANTICLE OF MOSES MIRIAM

#135 (red hymnal)

### SUNG RESPONSE:

Glorify Thy Name # 2016 (FWS small black book)

*Father, we love you, we worship and adore you  
Glorify thy name in all the earth, Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.  
Jesus, we love you... Spirit, we love you...*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer

*SUNG RESPONSE: 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 SELVES

### Invitation to Give

**Offertory Anthem:** "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Temple/Holstein

**\*\*Doxology**

*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!*

**Blessing the Gifts**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

**Exodus 14:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." <sup>26</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup>Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

**Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

**Leader:** Our God is still speaking.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**HYMN:**

"Wade in the Water"

#2107 FWS (small black book)

SERMON

“Wade in the Water”

Pastor Susan

**\*\*HYMN OF PARTING:** “In the Midst of New Dimensions” stanzas 1,2,3,5 **2238 FWS** (*small black book*)

**\*\*WORDS OF DISMISSAL**  
Choral Response

**POSTLUDE:** \_\_\_\_\_ “Toccata in F” \_\_\_\_\_ Buxtehude  
\*\*All, who wish to do so, may stand.

The *altar flowers* this morning are given by Poppy and Terry Nelson and Lorene Perkins, remembering their loved ones.

**MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY**

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Susan L. Gibson

**Music Director:** Mark Jacobson

**Dir. Of Christian Education:** Paul Nesbit

**Head Usher:** Bob Law

**Ushers:** Kim Ryan, Skip Dearborn, Herb Vieira, Ralph Ridgeway

**Greeters:** Ed and Nan Bernard

**Nursery Care:** Heather Weinberg and Amy Crocker

**Welcome Visitors!** Is this your first visit to United Church? We bid you a very warm welcome and invite you to sign our Guest Pad located in the Narthex. ♦ **Please continue down the central hallway and join us for fellowship and coffee in our Fellowship Hall immediately after the service. Today is a special reception honoring Homecoming and will be hosted and Spotlited by our Parish Life Commission.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF BEFORE THE SERVICE.**

☺ ☺ ☺

**FIRST 6 PEWS, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT, ARE A “SCENT FREE ZONE”**

☺ ☺ ☺

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE FOLLOW USHER’S/HEAD USHER’S DIRECTIONS TO EXIT THE SANCTUARY**

☺ ☺ ☺

**Missed church?** Watch the service on Wilbraham Public Access, Channel 191, 8 PM on Mondays and 8 AM on Tuesdays. Services are also available on-line. Go to [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov) On the left click Public Access Schedules - Channel 191. Find the service you’d like to watch by selecting a date on the calendar and a time, ie 8pm Mondays or 8am on Tuesdays. Click Watch Now.

**TO REACH OUR CHURCH STAFF:**

Interim Pastor Susan L. Gibson,	<a href="mailto:slgib1960@icloud.com">slgib1960@icloud.com</a>	ext. 103
Director of Music, Mark Jacobson	<a href="mailto:markjacobson104@gmail.com">markjacobson104@gmail.com</a>	ext. 106
Dir. of Christian Ed., Paul Nesbit	<a href="mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org">christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org</a>	ext. 105
Bookkeeper, Betsy Johnsen	<a href="mailto:betsy.ludlow.johnsen@gmail.com">betsy.ludlow.johnsen@gmail.com</a>	ext 100
Maintenance, Eric True	<a href="mailto:wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org">wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org</a>	ext. 107
Office	<a href="mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org">admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org</a>	ext 100

---

---

# Wilbraham United Church, UCC & UMC

*“News for the Pews” for the week of September 17, 2017*

---

---



## ***Please Pray for:***

Nancy Peck, Jim and Gloria Russell, Ellen Farquahrson,  
Sue Periera, the people affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma  
Our troops, our country and our world. Our congregation and Christ the King-Epiphany  
as we discern our future together.

---

---



Please pray for the members of our Senior Minister Search Committee  
and their diligent work.

Members are: Tom Toman, Deb Trimble, Kim Neelans, Phyllis Walsh,  
Steve Niederfringer and Tina Bazarian.

To reach Pastor Susan L. Gibson,  
email to [slgib1960@icloud.com](mailto:slgib1960@icloud.com)

---

## **ACTS Mum Sale**

This year's **Giant Mum Sale** to benefit *Action Centered Tutoring Services (ACTS)* is happening right now. Pick-up your mums right here at Wilbraham United after worship! Thank you Andrea Stephenson for your leadership in this important fundraiser!



## **Survival Center Benefit**

Support the Survival Center and enjoy great food and fellowship at the **Annual Pasta Dinner hosted by Saint Cecilia's!** **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm.** Call or see Phyllis Walsh for the \$15 tickets. (596-6674)

## **All Church Meeting, Sunday, September 24th, after worship.**

At the annual meeting in January we had promised to have a meeting once we made headway on aligning the budget of the church with our missions and priorities. Please join us for this brief all church meeting on Sunday September 24th right after service ends in the sanctuary. All are welcome. Members of the governing board will provide an update and then we welcome questions, comments or reflections from those present. We hope to keep this to 30 minutes. Sincerely, Bill Trudeau, Moderator.

## **HURRICANE RELIEF!**

Church World Service is providing assistance to those affected by Hurricane Harvey and Irma. We can be a part of their work by donating money and by donating hygiene kits. We assembled the hygiene kits Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and they will soon be on their way to the affected areas. We will be collecting monetary donations until **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. You may **write a check to the church with a note directing the funds to "hurricane relief,"** or click on the donate button on the church website. **Thank you for your support in this disaster response!**



**to make our shopping card program a habitual part of your week!! Buy on line, on Sundays or in the office during the week. ☞**

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

[www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

## **TODAY, Sept. 17**

10:00am Sunday Morning  
Worship - Sanctuary  
11:15am Fellowship & Refreshment  
– Fellowship Hall  
1:00pm WUP – Choir Room  
6:00pm Al Anon – FH  
6:30pm Search Committee- Library

**Mon. 9/18:** 9:15am Yoga

10:00am Piece Makers- BR

7:00pm WUP- FH

**Tues. 9/19:** 6:30pm Daisys - HR

7:00pm WUP – FH

**Wed. 9/20:** 3:30pm Brownies – HR

6:00pm Al-Anon - YR

6:00pm Cub Scouts – HR

7:00pm Governing Board- ZR

7:00pm WUP- FH

**Thu. 9/21:** 11:00am Loaves & Fishes

4:00pm Prayer Study Group – ZR

6:00pm Al Anon – YR

7:00pm Bells rehearsal &

7:45pm Sr. Choir rehearsal –CR

**Fri. 9/22:** 9:30-12:30 Thrift Shop – 8 & 10B

**Sat. 9/23:** 9:00-3:00pm WUP Set Building- FH

9:30-12:30 Thrift Shop – 8 & 10B

10am Jr. Choir – Choir Room

**Sun. 9/24:** 10am Sunday Morning Worship

11:15am All- Church meeting

11:45am Fellowship & Refreshment

1:00pm WUP – F. Hall

6:00 pm Al Anon – YR

