



# Wilbraham United Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
and the United Methodist Church*

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*Wilbraham United Church*  
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

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**September 12, 2021    HOMECOMING SUNDAY    10:00A.M**

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## **GATHERING MUSIC**

## **WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Patti Colkos**

Leader: We follow Christ.

**People: Who says take up your cross.**

Leader: We follow Christ.

**People: Who invites us to come and offer our lives.**

Leader: We follow Christ.

**People: Who summons us to new life.**

## **GATHERING HYMN #159**

*Lift High the Cross v 1&4*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**We want to be followers of Jesus, but we do not always want to follow Jesus. We don't even want to listen when the conversation turns toward darkness and death. We prefer to indulge ourselves. We are eager to put down our crosses. We cling tightly to our lives. We grasp at worldly rewards. Holy and loving God, forgive all of our thoughts and actions that would protect us from the path of Christ, in whose name we pray as he taught us:**

*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.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### PSALTER

Psalm 116:1-9

Leader: I love you, O God, for you have heard my voice and my supplications.

**People: You have inclined your ear to me; I will call on you as long as I live.**

Leader: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of the grave laid hold of me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**People: Then I called on your name, O God: "O God, I pray you, save my life!**

Leader: Gracious are you, and just; merciful and full of compassion.

**People: You preserve those with simple hearts; when I was brought low you saved me.**

Leader: Return my soul to your rest; for God has dealt kindly with you.

**People: For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I will walk before you, O God, in the land of the living.**

### SONG OF PRAISE

2026

Halle, Halle, Halleluja



### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.**

People: And also with you.

### MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Paul

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTIAN LETTER

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the

whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

## **GOSPEL**

**Mark 8:27-38**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

**All:** Thanks be to God!

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Chip**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

**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.*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

**\*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!*

## PARTING HYMN #261

*Lord of the Dance v 1&5*

## BENEDICTION

## MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

*Go now in peace, Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere,  
everywhere you may go.*

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

*The altar flowers this morning are given in memory of Margaret Bearse, by her family, to the glory of God.*

***Welcome Visitors!** Is this your first visit to United Church? Please sign our Guest Pad located in the Narthex. Immediately after the service, we invite you to continue down the central hallway and join us for Fellowship and Refreshment in our Fellowship Hall.*

## MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

**Senior Pastor:** The Rev. Wallace A Hurd IV

**Associate Pastor:** The Rev. Paul Nesbit

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mark Jacobson

**Technical and Artistic Director:** Deb Trimble

**Ushers:** Kim Ryan, Jim Trimble

**Greeter:** Edna Colcord



***Please Pray For:*** Alice Belsky, Audrey Hunt, Helene Pickett, Bill and Ellen and the Gatchell family, Tim and family, Theresa Munn, Herb Vieira, Kathy and family, Denise Nelson, Betty Sallade, Daniel, Catherine, Lynne, Terry, Ray, Theresa, Ann, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Patti Keiser, Sue Pereira, Bev Sawyer, Kathie Birkhaeuser. The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.



**To contact the church, please email:**

Aimee Walat, Administrative Assistant ([admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

Pastor Chip ([pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

Rev. Paul ([christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org))

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

**Tuesday, September 14**

**3:30-5:00 p.m.** Tea & Conversation with Rev. Paul at Rice Fruit Farm

**Wednesday, September 15**

**10 a.m-2 p.m.** Office Hours with Pastor Chip

**Thursday, September 16**

**10 a.m-2 p.m.** Main St. Farmers Market & Office Hours with Pastor Chip

**5:30-7:00 p.m.** Office Hours with Rev. Paul

**7 p.m.** Bell Choir

**Saturday, September 18**

**10 a.m.** ACTS Mums Sale (Parking Lot)

**Sunday, September 19**

**10:00 a.m.** Sunday Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live) **Please bring a mask**

**Noon** Church without Walls (Court Square)

**2 p.m.** Wilbraham United Open (Fenway Golf)

# Lift High the Cross

159

*Refrain (Unison)*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim

*Fine*

till all the world a-dore his sa-cred name.

*Harmony*

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low this tri-um-phant sign. The  
2. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied bears  
3. O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree, as  
4. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be: Praise

*D.C.*

hosts of God in u-ni-ty com-bine.  
on the brow the seal of him who died.  
thou hast prom-ised, draw the world to thee.  
to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!



## Lord of the Dance

*Unison*      G      Em      Bm      Em

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I  
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar-i-see, but they  
 3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the  
 4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's  
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,

Am      D7

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
 would not dance and they would not fol-low me; I  
 ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame; they  
 hard to dance with the dev-il on your back; they  
 I am the life that -'ll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll

G      Em      Bm      Em

came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth. At  
 danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John; they  
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they  
 bur-ied my bod-y and they thought I'd gone, but  
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Am      D7      C      G Refrain G      Bm

Beth-le-hem I had my birth.  
 came to me and the dance went on.  
 left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher-  
 I am the dance and I still go on.  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may

be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.



# *Extravagant Welcome*

To ensure that we are able to continue to offer extravagant welcome to all, we need to give some attention to these areas:

- **Commissions Needing Assistance**
  - Operations – Stewardship of our Physical and Financial Resources
  - Administration – Coaching and Caring for our Staff
- **Ushers, Greeters and Liturgists**
  - Please see Kim Ryan for details.
- **Church School Teachers**
  - We use a team concept so that each person only teaches every three weeks.
  - Curriculum, instructions, and materials are all provided.
  - We have three rooms: Pre-K/K/1, 2/3/4/5, and Middle School.
  - Please see Rev. Paul for details.
- **Nursery Caregivers for our Infants and Toddlers**
  - This will allow the parents of our youngest members to worship with the knowledge that their babies are in good hands!
  - This is also done on a team basis with two adults in the nursery at all times.
  - Please Rev. Paul for details.
- **Fellowship Hour Team Members**
  - Sign up as a Family or a Team; if older members or small families can make their own family or team.
  - Ideally, with 8-10 Families or Teams, each group will host Fellowship Hour 4 times a year.
  - This is as simple as making coffee (the church provides this) and some sort of snack (it can be store bought or homemade.) Larger events will be handled by Commissions.
  - Please see Rev. Paul (he would love to delegate this) for details.

# **Wilbraham United Open**



**Sunday, September 19**

**Fenway Golf**

**2:00pm**

**People of all ages are invited for Miniature  
Golf and Ice Cream.**

**Please contact Rev. Paul Nesbit at WUC: 413-596-2511, ext. 105 or  
[christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)**

**Psssst...the Patriots play the Jets—easy win. Join us! 😊**

# Annual Mum Sale

to benefit ACTS  
(Action Centered Tutoring Services)  
*Providing free tutoring and mentoring  
to the children of Springfield!*



Please make checks payable to "ACTS"

8" Pot	10" Pot	12" Pot	14" Pot
\$4 each or 3 for \$10	\$10 each or 2 for \$18	\$15 each or 2 for \$25	\$20 each

Colors: tricolor (only 10" pot), purple, yellow, bronze and red. Please note first and second choices.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Pot Size	How Many	First Color Choice	Second Color Choice
8"			
10"			
12"			
14"			

## 2021 ACTS GIANT MUM SALE

Wilbraham United will again be participating in the Action Centered Tutoring Service (ACTS) annual fall fundraising event with the sale of beautiful mums.

ACTS is beginning their 36th year of providing free after school tutoring services to Springfield's elementary school children. As we attempt to recover from the pandemic and deal with the variant, ACTS is planning to re-open our free after-school tutoring sites beginning in late September. We will be following all the safety protocols as required by the Springfield Public Schools and health officials.

Orders will be taken at church on Sunday September 5th and 12th.

Orders also can be mailed to the church should you be unable to attend services. Order forms can be obtained by emailing the church office. Completed forms along with your payment should be sent to the attention of Andrea Stephenson. Please be sure to include your telephone number and email address in case Andrea needs to contact you regarding your order. She must receive your completed form by Monday, September 13th. Mums will be available for pick-up in the church parking lot after 10am and on Sunday, September 19th after the service.

Thank you for your order!