



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

October 1, 2023

18th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00AM

World Communion Sunday

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

Organ: Let Us Break Bread

C. Callahan

Bells: Aria

C. Dobrinski

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN # 90 (UMH)**

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Lyman

Leader: We gather before the Lord to grow in our faith and to offer up our thanksgiving for all that the Lord has done for us. We praise the abundance of this day, ever mindful that all things flow because God has made it so.

People: We rejoice in the wonder that exists around and before us, and we pray that we never close ourselves off from the Divine who loves us without fail. We long for the Spirit of the Lord to move amongst us and guide in the way of salvation. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God

We give you thanks for our magnificent dwelling places, for worship and home, love and laughter, harvest and rich earth. We thank you for all the joys of life that lift us up and make our living purposeful. Come to us as we sing out our gratitude for all that you have done. Grant that we may continue to find the small wonders around us that infuse us with energy and which serve to remind us of your presence in all our lives. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE # 2026 (TFWS)**

Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halleluja! Halleluja!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 25 1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 2: 1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 # 2200 (TFWS)

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.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 5: 1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

SERMON

Communion Meditation

Rev. Janet

***HYMN # 629(UMH)**

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

One Bread, One Body
Chancel Choir

arr. J. Schrader

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: God be with you

People: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words of Remembrance

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*PARTING HYMN # 431 (UMH)

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*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: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

arr. D.E. Wagner

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

The altar flowers this morning are being given to the Glory of God.

Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to United Church? Please sign a Pew Card.*

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

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Directors: Deb Trimble and Don Schmidt

Ushers: Kim Ryan, Poppy Nelson

Liturgist: Marty Lyman

Greeters: Chuck Morkin

Communion: Kim Ryan, Poppy Nelson



Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Michelle McBride, Jim Trimble, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.





SHOPPING CARDS!

In an effort to increase our fund raising, we will be initiating a monthly "pre-order" opportunity.

We are hoping to expand to more stores by having the chance to pre-order (and pre-pay) for cards that offer a higher return.

Forms to order gift cards and a complete list of all available gift cards is attached to our weekly email or at the shopping card table.

Thank you,
Shopping Card Team

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH PUMPKIN PATCH

Open Daily
October 15-31

Monday through Saturday 10-6
Sunday 12-7

Buy Your perfect pumpkin!!

Fall Festival
October 21st! ~ 10-5

Food Trucks, Arts & Crafts Vendors,
Pumpkin Painting & More!

Wilbraham United Church
500 Main Street - Wilbraham, MA

“News for the Pews” for the Week of October 1, 2023

The **Praise Band** is in need of a guitarist. Rehearsals are flexible and we hope to play once a month for our church services. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please contact Patti Colkos at tricia30@charter.net

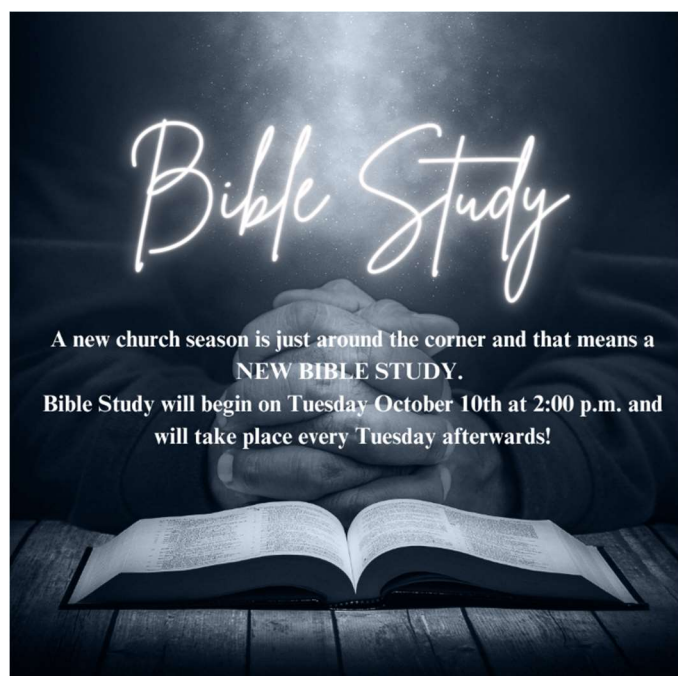
We still have plenty of opportunities to volunteer for the **Pumpkin Patch!** Sign-up sheets are in the hallway outside of the Christian Ed Office. We particularly need folks to take 2-hour shifts to sit with the pumpkins and sell them. Please sign up! Also needed are volunteers for the Fall Festival Day on October 21st! This is a big fundraiser for our church's Save Our Steeple fund so please consider donating some of your time to this important project! See Deb with any questions.

If you have not already done so, please stop by the office to pick up your interim **Giving Statement!**

Junior Choir rehearsals will begin on Saturday October 7th. Come sing and play with Bobbie and Patti! Rehearsals are every Saturday at 10 AM in the Choir Room.

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



Blessing Box Donations

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

We Need:

Peanut Butter
Personal Care Items
Quick Meal Ideas
Pasta and Sauce
Tuna and Protein

**No
beans
for now!**

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, October 1, 2023

10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. - Al- Anon (YR)

Monday, October 2, 2023

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
6:00 p.m. – Girl Scouts (TS)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting (Office)
6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS & SS RMS)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
7:00 p.m. - Phys Ops Commission (ZR)

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
6:00 p.m. – Finance Commission (ZR)
6:00 p.m. – Girl Scouts (TS)
6:30 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)
8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (CR)

Friday, October 6, 2023

Church Office closed

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Church Office Closed
9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)
10:00 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

Sunday, October 8, 2023

10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (FH)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. - Al- Anon (YR)

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Chief Priests

from Matthew 21:23-32.



Jesus told the people to pay attention to what someone does, rather than just to what someone says. Jesus told the people to act in love, like he did, rather than just talk big, like the chief priests.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Parable
- Action
- Obey
- Talk
- Change

The chief priests probably came from a group called the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin felt threatened by Jesus, and didn't believe in his authority because he was not ordained as a rabbi or accredited as a spiritual teacher.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 460-461

Spark Bible page 1085

Family Prayer

Loving Jesus, You know our hearts. You watch what we do, not just what we say. When we mess up, you help us want to do better. You give us another chance to do what's right. Thanks. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

1 When was a time you promised to do something, and then broke your promise? What did you do differently the next time?

2 Look at some advertisements in newspapers or magazines. Which companies/products say they are good, and which ones prove they are good? How do we find out?

3 Does Jesus give everyone another chance to do the right thing? Who did Jesus hang out with? Why?

4 What can we do for God? Play a game to think of things you can do by adding on to each other's ideas. Have someone start by saying, "If I were going to do something for God, I would..." then go around the circle allowing each person to add their ideas.



Eye Spark

Get out the art supplies and make a "Got action?" sign. Tape the sign to the inside of your door, so you will see it as you go out into God's world and prepare to show God's love through your actions.



Ear Spark

Flip around on the radio dial while you are in the car and locate a religious music station. Talk together about ways you can express your love for God through actions, like singing and playing instruments.

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Jesus taught his followers that "It's not what you say; it's what you do." Make a chart with 3 action ideas that help others. For example: give away extra clothes, send a card to a church member who is ill, or volunteer at a food bank. Set a deadline to act out these three ideas with your family.

For younger kids

Young kids prefer actions to words. They are action experts! Encourage little ones to sing and play, twirl around, walk around the block, and make sandwiches for everyone in your family.

For older kids

Send older kids on a hunt around your home with a camera or camera phone to photograph places in need of action. Kids take action by sharing the photos with the whole family, and pitching in to help clean the dirty fridge, take out the trash, or help a younger sibling tidy up their toys.

