



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

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

September 22, 2024

18th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00AM

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: Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

arr. C. Berry

Bells: Bound for Glory

arr. T. Waldrop

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN # 100 (UMH)**

God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Mantler

Liturgist: God speaks to us and we listen. God encourages us in our living and we are made glad. God comforts us when life is hurtful and we are in need of God's intervention. God loves us despite ourselves.

People: The Lord inspires us to gather and worship. The Lord makes us to do good things and the Lord forgives us when we stray. We are thankful for all the ways and wonders of the One who calls each of us by name, and we rejoice in the Lord's salvation. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, We know that you are here with us and that you do not leave us alone. But we are imperfect creatures who need reassurance and continual care. As we lift up our prayers and pour out our hearts to you, please pour yourself into us and remind us that a part of you rests within us, and that you take pleasure from your creation. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE # 334 (UMH)**

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face, And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Following the Moments for Children, children should proceed with their teachers upstairs to their Church School Classrooms.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 45: 1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 3: 12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

*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.*

GOSPEL READING

John 8: 1-11

Then each of them went home, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

On Forgiveness

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #402 (UMH)**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You
Chancel Choir

J. Althouse

***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 #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: Festival Toccata

P.E. Fletcher

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 altar flowers this morning are given by Poppy and Terry Nelson, in loving memory of their daughter-in-law Denise, who passed away three years ago.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Bill Lynch and Skip Dearborn

Liturgist: Bob Mantler

Greeter: Joyce Emerle



Our thanks to our Coffee Hour Hosts for the morning: Team 3: Ralph & Sherrie Ridgeway and Jean Michon.



Please Pray For: the Stebenne and Kelley families, Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Jane Godfrey, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Larry Harris, David Pierangelo, 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.*

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

“News for the Pews” for the Week of September 22, 2024

Wilbraham United Church is hosting a collection for **Catie’s Closet** until October 6th. Donations of new or very gently used clothing is needed. The program is accessible to children of school age in the Pioneer Valley. A collection box is in the narthex.

Many thanks for everyone involved in the **Mums Sale** which provides funds for tutoring students in the Springfield area. All of the funds go directly to the cause as the plants themselves are donated by the grower. Special thanks go to Pamela Byers, her son Ayden and his friend Josh who helped sort and move the plants into the Narthex. Many hands make light work. We had our best year so far, collecting \$780 from the sale!

Phys Ops is looking for volunteers to come in on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. to monitor the building during Boy Scout meetings. If you can help, even just periodically, please contact the church office.

Volunteers are needed to set up and clear **Coffee Hour Simple Sundays** on Sept 29 and October 6. Two people have volunteered to bake and cookie supplies are ready. Help making coffee and directions are easy. Please call Edna 596-6666 or email ednajcolcord@yahoo if you could do a Sunday. No cooking involved but mobility is nice.

Everyone is invited to our first Family Fun Activity – the **WUC Mini-Golf Open!** Join us at Fenway Golf (112 Allen St in East Longmeadow) for Mini-Golf and Ice Cream this afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Sign ups for volunteering at our **Pumpkin Patch** are on the Bulletin Board in the Main Hallway. If you can volunteer to cover a 2-hour shift between October 7th and October 31st please put your name on the schedule! We particularly need help later in the month. Pumpkins will be coming the afternoon of October 6th and we will also need help unloading the truck. Many hands... light work!



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, September 22, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)
11:30 a.m. – Stewardship Comm.
(ZR)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
2:00 p.m. – WUC Open at Fenway
Golf
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, September 23, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

- 10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

- 7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Church Office 10:00 – 3:00

- 11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Farmer's Market (Front
Lawn)
5:15 p.m. – Discipleship Comm.
(ZR)
6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS Rms)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, September 26, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

- 6:00 p.m. – Finance Comm. (ZR)
6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)
8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

Friday, September 27, 2024

Church Office closed

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Church Office closed

- 9:00 a.m. – Bell Maintenance (FH)

Sunday, September 29, 2024

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

Mental Health is a Universal Human Right



*"God will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth."
(Isaiah 42:4)*

Mental health is a Universal Human Right:

This year's Neighbors in Need theme "**Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right**" highlights our God-given right to mental health.

Everyone is created in God's image, and everybody should receive quality mental health care.

In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become **WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged)** for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

Here are 12 key messages that are important to know:

1. **Good mental health is a key part of overall health and wellbeing.**
2. **Good mental health helps us cope with challenges, connect with others, with God, and thrive throughout our lives.**
3. **Mental health is vital and deserves to be recognized and respected.**
4. **Everyone has the right to access quality treatment that meets our unique needs and respects our human rights throughout our lifetime.**
5. **Mental health challenges are a significant threat to the wellbeing of young people.**
6. **Depression is the leading cause of disability in the world.**

7. **We must break the silence about mental health challenges.**
8. **We must dismantle the stigma, shame, and discrimination surrounding mental health challenges.**
9. **We all have the right to live our lives free from the stigma and discrimination in church, school, and in the workplace.**
10. **Good, quality, affordable, and accessible community mental health services and supports are crucial for a just world for all.**
11. **Mental health is fundamental to enjoying a good and meaningful life.**
12. **Everyone's mind is beautiful, complex, unique, and made in God's image.**



In a Just World, Mental Health is a Universal Human Right!

Please join us in supporting the

2024 Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering.



Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

www.ucc.org/nin



READ IT

This week's Bible story is
Who Is the Greatest?
from Mark 9:30-37.



Pentecost 16

A great person is one who serves.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Best
- Greatest
- Disciple
- Argument
- Serve

In Bible times, children were seen as property, not people. Jesus turns everything upside down when he uses a *child* as an example of greatness.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 324-325

Spark Bible page 1112

Family Prayer

Thanks, God, for the gift of love and being able to serve each other. Help us to become truly great as we serve those around us. In Jesus' name we pray. **AMEN.**

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What are some ways our family serves others?
- 2 What's the greatest thing you've ever done?
- 3 Who do you know who is great because they serve others?
- 4 Think of some great things you can do to serve each other in your family. Maybe you can do them in secret. Have fun surprising each other!



Eye Spark

Whenever you see other kids, give them a high five and say, "You do great things!"



Ear Spark

Whenever you hear the word "great," crouch down low and remember that small people can do great things!

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Brainstorm ways you can serve people in your neighborhood. Think of service projects, meals, or cleaning that you can do for them. After you've come up with a list of things, pick one, and go out and do it!

For younger kids

Find an older church family member who needs help. Spend a half hour at their house helping out.

For older kids

Send thank-you notes to all the helpers you know. Who serves at your school? Your church? In your neighborhood? Ask them how you can help.

