

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 29, 2024

19th 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: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

arr. J.B. Taylor

Bell Solo with Piano: Trust

arr. B. Bocker & G. Shepherd

Soloist: Deb Trimble

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN # 113 (UMH)**

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud

CALL TO WORSHIP

April Beston

Liturgist: We give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts, for God's deeds are wonderful and good. We rejoice in God's presence and trust that we are heard by the One who seeks us out.

People: We are thankful that the Lord has chosen to call us forth and give witness to mighty deeds and holy ways. We are grateful for the gift of days and for all the blessings which dwell within. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, We know that you are without end, and that your wisdom and power is without measure. You fill our days with many blessings and with many questions, as we strive to comprehend the magnitude of your omnipotence. Come to us and help us to grow towards you in all our ways. Keep us close by your side, because that is where we want to be. 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.

RESPONSIVE PSALM p. 846 (UMH)

Psalm 124

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

Luke 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

The Gifts

Rev. Janet

*HYMN #2223 (TFWS)

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God
Chancel Choir

arr. L. Larson

***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 #558 (UMH)**

We Are the Church

***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: Hymn to Joy

arr. A.L. Travis

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*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Poppy Nelson and John Colkos

Liturgist: April Beston

Greeter: Gennie Keddy



Our thanks to our Coffee Hour Host for the morning: Pat Olbrych



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 29, 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.

Please join us in supporting the **2024 Neighbors in Need** special mission offering until Oct. 6th. Envelopes are available in the church pews.

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 29, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)
11:30 a.m. – Confirmation Mtg (ZR)
1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, September 30, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

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

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

- 8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Group
2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

- 11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS Rms)
6:30 p.m. – Phys Ops Comm. Mtg.
(ZR)

Thursday, October 3, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

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

Friday, October 4, 2024

Church Office closed

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Church Office closed

- 9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)

Sunday, October 6, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)
1:00 p.m. – Hampden Assoc. UCC
Mtg. (FH & Sanc)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

4:00 p.m. - PUMPKINS ARRIVE!!

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.

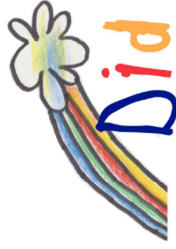
A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

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.**



Did you Know?

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

Please join us in supporting the

2024 Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering.



Thank You!

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

Share God's Love

from Mark 9:38-50.



Pentecost 17

Spread the news about God's love and Jesus!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Disciples
- Jesus
- In Jesus' name

Jesus teaches this lesson to his disciples in three of the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 326-327

Spark Bible page 1112

Family Prayer

Pray this prayer together over a newspaper or news magazine.

Help us, God, to see your love and the good things that you do in this news that we are about to read. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 When have you felt jealous?
- 2 How does our family show love?
- 3 How can we help others believe in God and Jesus?
- 4 Tell about a time when you were either an "insider" or an "outsider" and somebody was jealous.

Eye Spark

Whenever you see a newspaper, make a heart with your hands. Remember the good news: Jesus loves you!

Ear Spark

When you hear the word "love," sing one verse of "Jesus Loves Me."

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Produce a family Good News-paper. Include articles, a few ads, and be sure to put in an editorial about all that God is doing in your family's life. What headlines will you use? What photography and art? Keep it simple and have fun, then mail it out to family and friends!

For younger kids

Make "Jesus Loves You!" hearts to share with all your family and friends.

For older kids

Find out about salt. What's the chemical formula? Where does it come from? Why do people throw it over their shoulders sometimes? Make a salt facts sheet to share.

