



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 8, 2024

Homecoming Sunday

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: Across the Lands

arr. M. Ijames

Bells: Colors of Joy

B.E. Austin

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN # 66 (UMH)**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marge Trimble

Liturgist: The Lord calls us together; for worship, for fellowship, for prayer and praise, for love of God, for love of neighbor, for love of self. The Lord calls us together because we are God's own and our worshipping together is pleasing to the One who made us.

People: Our gathering together makes us stronger as a community of faith and it serves to remind us that there is indeed power and goodness in our service to the Lord. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, You hold us together as we go about our lives and you continually lend us your grace when we stray too far from you. Sometimes it is difficult for us to stay as faithful as we need to be, but we trust that in our seeking, and in our worship, you will find what we do pleasing in your sight. Please continue to call to us and enable us with your bright Spirit. And as we experience the joys and challenges of our lives together, keep us strong and faithful, and ever in your care. 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

SERVICE FOR NEW MEMBERS –refer to insert

Being received into membership this morning are:

Patricia and Leopold Olbrych

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Following the Moments for Children we invite them to proceed to Fellowship Hall for Church School

RESPONSIVE PSALM *p. 858-859 Red Hymnal*

Psalm 146

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 2: 14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

Mathew 4:18-22

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Catching Souls

Rev. Janet

*HYMN *see insert verses 1-4*

God of Creation, All-Powerful

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Alleluia! I Will Sing
Chancel Choir

D. Waggoner

*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 #662 (UMH)

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

*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: Ricercare on “St. Anne”

arr. G. Young

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: Ralph and Sherrie Ridgeway

Liturgist: Marge Trimble

Greeter: Edna Colcord



Please pray
for



Please Pray For: the Stebenne and Kelley families, the McCorkindale family, 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.

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 8, 2024

Wilbraham United Church is hosting a collection for **Catie’s Closet** for the month of August and September. 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.

Wilbraham United Church will again be participating in the **Action Centered Tutoring Service (ACTS) annual fall fundraising event with the sale of beautiful mums**. Orders will be taken at church today. **Order forms are available in the Narthex** or by phoning the church office. Completed forms along with your payment should be given to Andrea Stephenson. Please be sure to include your telephone number and email address in case we need to contact you regarding your order. Mums will be available for pick-up on Saturday, September 14 between 10 a.m. and Noon OR on Sunday, September 15 after services.

Phys Ops is looking for volunteers to come in on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. beginning September 18th to monitor the building during Boy Scout meetings. If you can help, even just periodically, please contact the church office.

Coffee Hours will return in September if we have volunteers. Everyone enjoys the camaraderie and it would be lovely to have five teams or MORE with more participation. Please contact Edna Colcord at ednajcolcord@gmail.com or 596-6666 if you can help out by being a member of a Fellowship Hour Team!

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 at 2:00 p.m. Sunday September 22nd.

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



God of Creation, All-Powerful, All-Wise 16

Unison

1. God of cre - a - tion, all - power - ful, all - wise,
 2. God of the a - ges, through time's trou - bled years
 3. God of re - demp - tion, who wrought our re - birth,
 4. God of your peo - ple, your Word still stands fast—
 5. God of our now, all our trust is in you,

Lord of the u - ni - verse rich with sur - prise,
 you are the One in whom his - tory co - heres;
 called out your Church from the ends of the earth,
 do for us now as you've done in the past!
 Cov - e - nant— God, ev - er faith - ful and true;

Ma - ker, Sus - tain - er, and Rul - er of all,
 na - tions and em - pires your pur - pose ful - fill,
 still you are Sav - ior: put dark - ness to flight;
 Yours is the King - dom: your tri - umph we claim,
 Sov - ereign Cre - a - tor, Re - deem - er and Lord,

we are your chil - dren— you hear when we call.
 mov - ing in free - dom, yet work - ing your will.
 o - ver - come sin by sal - va - tion's pure light!
 chal - leng - ing e - vil in Je - sus' strong name.
 now and for - ev - er your name be a - dored!

WORDS: Margaret Clarkson

MUSIC: Traditional Irish Melody, arr. by Donald P. Hustad

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SLANE
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RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: AFFIRMATIONS OF BAPTISM

Invitation

Questions of the Candidates for Confirmation and Membership

Pastor: *Patricia and Leopold*, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidate: I promise with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate: I promise with the help of God.

Affirmation of Faith (Congregation and Candidates)

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Congregation

People: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Address

Question about Participation

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves the community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Welcome

Pastor: Let us, the members of Wilbraham United Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. Amen.

Renewal of Covenant

People: We Covenant with the Lord and with one another to walk together in God's holy ways. We will strive to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. This being our church, we promise that, so far as we are able, we will attend its services of worship, observe its sacraments, share its work, give for the support of its local activities and world-wide service, and walk with one another in Christian faithfulness and love.

Greetings in Christian Love

Prayer

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, September 8, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, September 9, 2024

Church Office closed

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Church Office closed

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

1:00 p.m. – Called to Care (Lib)

**2:00 p.m. – Farmer's Market (Front
Lawn)**

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, September 12, 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 (CR)

Friday, September 13, 2024

Church Office closed

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Church Office closed

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Sunday, September 15, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)

12:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

