

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

November 3, 2024

24th 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

Organ: Pastorale

D.E. Wagner

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN # 711 (UMH)**

For All the Saints

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ed McCorkindale

Liturgist: The dwelling place of our God is wondrous and God is in all places. We rejoice in the knowledge that God dwells with us and strives with us, and is familiar with all our ways.

People: We are made glad because we dwell in the house of the Lord. Our Creator is the One who watches over us and keeps us from the clutches of evil. The Lord is our staff and our shield, who stands us upright and makes us to follow in the best ways. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Merciful God,

We gather today with hope and with adoration, for you are our God and we are your people. We cannot do without your favor, without the knowledge that you are with us and will stay with us. Come to us and be in our midst as we worship you with our full hearts because our strength comes from you, who made the heavens and the earth, and us.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

As it is written, “He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

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

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Communion Meditation

Rev. Janet

*HYMN *see insert*

My Shepherd You Supply My Need

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Table of Joy (excerpt)
Chancel Choir

J.M. Martin

***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

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 # 708 (UMH)**

Rejoice in God's Saints

***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: Song for All Saints

M. McDonald

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, Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Ed McCorkindale

Greeter: Gail & Chris Lima

Communion: Sandy Harris, Joyce Pierangelo



The altar flowers this morning are given in celebration of all of the volunteers who worked in the Pumpkin Patch!



Please Pray For: Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Jane Godfrey, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Larry Harris, George Keddy, 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

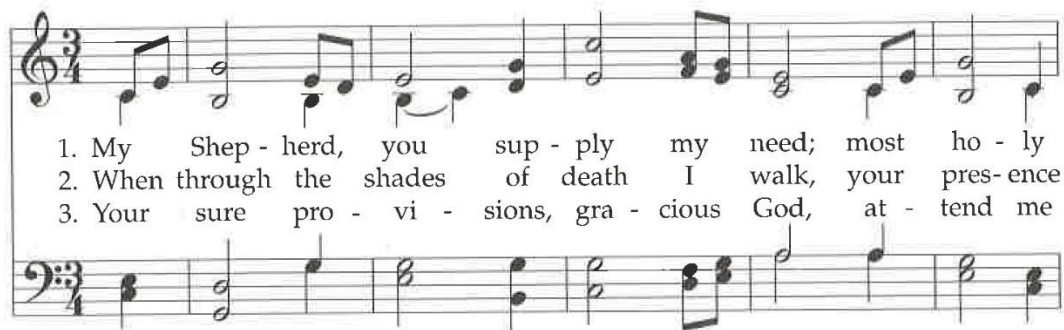
Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106

“News for the Pews” for the Week of November 3, 2024

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our Pumpkin Patch. We had a great year! This year we raised \$3753.29 by selling over \$11,634 in pumpkins! In addition we took in \$1052.50 in donations. All of the money from our Pumpkin Patch and donations were applied to the outstanding amount that was needed to fund the steeple repair. The amount left to raise for the steeple is only \$2885!

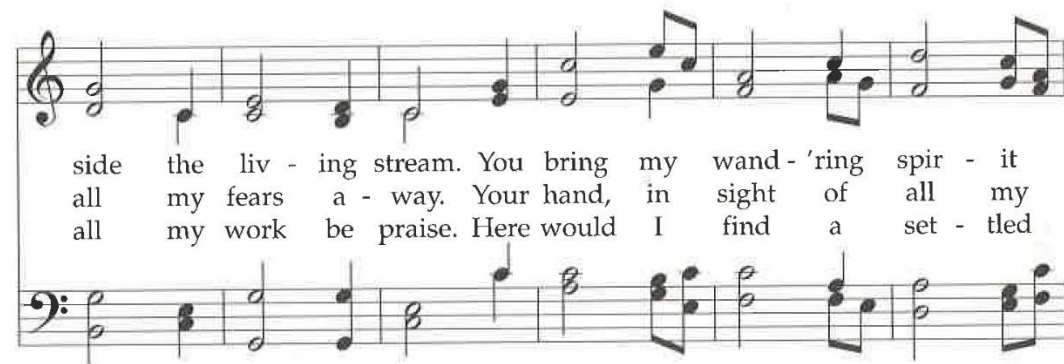
80 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need



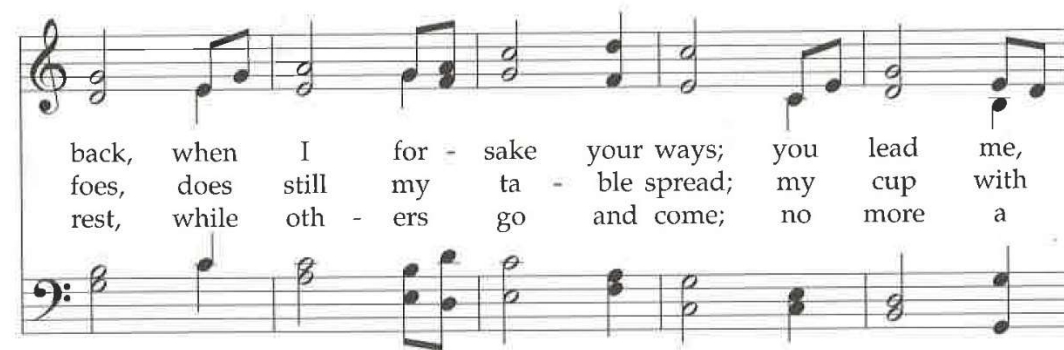
1. My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly
2. When through the shades of death I walk, your pres - ence
3. Your sure pro - vi - sions, gra - cious God, at - tend me



is your name; in pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be -
is my stay; one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives
all my days; O may your house be my a - bode, and



side the liv - ing stream. You bring my wand - 'ring spir - it
all my fears a - way. Your hand, in sight of all my
all my work be praise. Here would I find a set - tled



back, when I for - sake your ways; you lead me,
foes, does still my ta - ble spread; my cup with
rest, while oth - ers go and come; no more a

for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 stran - ger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

Winter Clothing Drive

**Saturday, November 9, 2024
9am-12pm**

Wilbraham United Church
 (Back Parking Lot)
 500 Main St, Wilbraham

Collecting Gently Used and New Items for Women, Men and Children:
 Coats (special need for Men's sizes L, XL & XXL)
 Winter Boots & Sneakers
 Hats, Gloves, Mittens & Scarves
 Sweatshirts & Sweatpants

*Monetary donations accepted and will be used to purchase items on above list.
 All donations to benefit Big Blue Ministry of Springfield*

Email: Discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org with any questions

A Wilbraham United Players Production

One Slight Hitch

by Lewis Black

**November 8, 9 & 15, 16 at 7:30
November 10 & 17 at 2:30**

****contains mature language**

Fellowship Hall Stage
 at
 Wilbraham United Church
 500 Main St
 Wilbraham MA

QR code

tickets may be purchased at www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets

Stewardship

By John Colkos

The following is an excerpt of the message John gave during worship last Sunday.



I have been a member of Wilbraham United Church for almost 30 years, and again, I am member of our Fellowship Committee.

During a recent Fellowship meeting, I was asked to speak today on Stewardship and why it's so important. We all get excited when preparing for Lent, and we all get excited for the Advent season. I don't know anyone that gets excited for Stewardship Sunday. I can't understand why!!!

In the past, I would have declined to speak about stewardship because I, like a lot of others, don't feel comfortable talking to people about how to spend their money. There are so many churches and other houses of worship that focus on money, money, money; whether it be the Mega Churches, televangelists or other entities that amass great quantities of property and material riches. Money is high on their priority list.

We all know that money is important in all aspects of life, but we, as a church, are not focused on how much each of us gives. I have learned that the value of "pledging" is of greater importance than the amount given. It is a way of committing ourselves to honor and give back for which has God given to us, so we can continue to do his work in the world. Like Reverend Janet emphasized, recently during her sermon, it is asked of us to GLADLY give gifts that are wonderful and meaningful. Don't give until it hurts, give until it feels good!

As for myself, I can recall many times that I intentionally or unintentionally relied on God to get me through tough circumstances. Whether it was emotional, physical, financial, etc., the answers were never immediate. And I know that some of those answers are yet to be revealed, but I know God has his hands on my life, and other than a few aches and pains, and occasional crisis like we all go through, I'm doing better than OK.

I don't have to worry too much about basic necessities of life, like food, shelter, healthcare, personal transportation, etc. I do feel blessed in so many ways, and it is a joy and privilege to pay back and pay forward in any way that I can.

My pledge is my VOW that I will continue to support Wilbraham United Church now, and in the future, to help it continue to be a spiritually rich home, where we come together as a family. To live by understanding what Christ is teaching us, by guiding us through every hour, day, week and so on, and to be so much more fulfilling than just being present here on a Sunday morning.

Reverend Janet and I have had frequent conversations about our church's history and history of other churches. We believe we are lucky that we have a beautiful and strong church with unlimited potential. Over the last 3 decades, we have gone through some very highs and very lows. We have been tested in many ways and we are a better church for it. We are a resilient congregation and we have never lost our soul to the bitterness and fractious states that some churches have gone through.

This church and others like ours, is in need of all families to acknowledge the importance of pledging. We need to pass on that spirit to our children, and in some cases, grandchildren. That will ensure that this church will be here in the future, when the world relies on their kindness and compassion. I am confident the future will undeniably need them more than can be imagined.

Stewardship Sunday is November 10th.

Please consider how you will give in 2025!

Pledge cards were mailed earlier this week. If you have not received a card in the mail, please let Deb in the office know by emailing admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, November 3, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

11:30 a.m. – Work of the Interim
(FH)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, November 4, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

5:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

5:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

5:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

6:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts (TS, SS
Rms)

7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

Thursday, November 7, 2024

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

5:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

Friday, November 8, 2024

Church Office closed

7:30 p.m. – WUP Performance (FH)

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Church Office closed

10:00 a.m. – Knit, Stitch, Pray
(KG's house)

7:30 p.m. – WUP Performance (FH)

Sunday, November 10, 2024

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (ZR)

11:15 a.m. – Junior Choir (CR)

2:30 p.m. – WUP Performance (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Wilbraham United Church

THANKS FOOD DRIVE GIVING

*We would love your help in providing
Thanksgiving baskets to families in need.
Additional Items will be donated to our Blessing
Box and the Community Survival Center*

We Are Collecting The Following Items:

Canned Gravy
Canned Vegetables
Stuffing Mix
Cranberry Sauce
Corn Bread Mix
Canned Yams
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Mac and Cheese

Can Openers
Tablecloths & Napkins
*Rolls/Biscuits
*Bags of Fresh Carrots
*Bags of Fresh Potatoes
*Fresh Fruit
Grocery Gift Cards
Monetary Donations

***Please Bring any Perishable Items on 11/ 24**

Items Will Be Collected Until

NOVEMBER 24

DROP OFF LOCATION:

Wilbraham United Church

During Office Hours: M-Th
8:30am-1:30pm

Or Sundays During Church

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

Discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
A Message from God
from Deuteronomy 6:1-9.



Pentecost 22

We love and belong to God.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Moses
- God's message
- Love
- Belonging

This passage is part of a Jewish prayer called the *Shema*. The Hebrew word, "shema" means "hear." The *Shema* is recited at least twice a day by Jews all over the world.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 100-101

Spark Bible pages 197-198

Family Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for your constant love. Help us to love you in all we say, think, and do. **AMEN.**

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What do we have in our house that shows we belong to God?
- 2 How can we help each other love God in all we say, think, and do?
- 3 What else can we do to make our faith a bigger part of our lives?
- 4 Talk about what special message God might give your family.



Eye Spark

Whenever you are in or see a large group of people, look around and think, "All of these people are part of God's family!"



Ear Spark

When you hear the word "love" remember God's message: "Love God with all you say, think, and do."

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Jewish families have a message from God rolled up and put in a special small container attached to their doorposts. The container is called a mezuzah. Where could you hang the message, "Love God with all you say, think, and do," in your house? Make a reminder poster or craft to display to help you make sure you don't forget God's message.

For younger kids

Send God's message to somebody far away in the form of a card, picture, or email.

For older kids

Find the *Shema* written in Hebrew and then find an English translation. Are any words or phrases the same as the translation of your Bible? See if you can find a recording of someone reciting the holy verses in Hebrew.

