



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

October 12, 2025

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: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

arr. J.B. Taylor

Bells: Colors of Joy

B.E. Austin

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #89 (UMH)**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Mantler

Liturgist: The Lord is mighty and good, full of nurturing wells of life. The Divine One listens to our prayers and reminds us that we do not journey alone. God is always with us.

People: We are grateful that God sees fit to love us. Even when we are seemingly undeserving, the Lord holds us close and shows us the way of faithfulness. Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, Our hearts are lifted up when we worship together and know that you are in our midst. We desire to grow in our faith and leave our disbelief behind. Help us to have a better understanding of your Divine self and stay close to us as we grow into a stronger relationship with you. Do not let us fail in our pursuit of you but instead gather us close and never let us go. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE # 2029 (TFWS)**

*Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
From the rising of the sun may the Lord be praised.
Praise to the Name of the Lord!*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

COMMISSIONING OF SEARCH COMMITTEE

Invitation

The Word

1 Corinthians 12:4-12

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Response

Leader: There are different gifts.

People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Leader: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.

People: To be used for the common good.

Address to the Committee Members

Covenant

Committee Members: We, who are serving on the Search Committee for the Wilbraham United Church, promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new pastor. We pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say and decide. We will endeavor:

- To establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee;
- To maintain consistent attendance at our Search Committee meetings;
- To be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation;
- To listen carefully to your hopes and dreams as we consult with you, the members, in the development of a description of our church community and the style of pastoral leadership we seek;
- To maintain strict confidentiality in all we read, say, and hear—protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates;
- To review all profiles with open minds and hearts, treating all candidates fairly and justly;
- To seek decisions not made by majority rule, but by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

People: We pledge, a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your need to be confidential in your task. We recognize that the work of our search committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time. These things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you seek a new pastor to minister with us.

Closing Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jonah 3: 6-10

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Humans and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 3: 1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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 17: 11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

It Really Isn't a Fish Story

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #712 (UMH)**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Blessed Are They
Chancel Choir

K. Crane & J. Klein

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

*Prayer of Dedication

***PARTING HYMN #519(UMH)**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

***FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #2238 (TFWS) Refrain**

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Go Out With Joy!

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*

The Altar Flowers this morning are given by Deb Trimble in honor of Jim Trimble's birthday!

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Skip Dearborn and Poppy Nelson

Liturgist: Bob Mantler

Greeter: Judy Marek

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

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

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

David Wapner: Sexton (wucbuilding@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x107

*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.*



Please Pray For:

Catherine Gardner

Larry Harris

Connie Law

Sharon McAbee

Shey McAbee

Michelle McBride

Bill McCullough

Claire McCullough

Theresa Munn

David Pierangelo

Jim Trimble

The Hungry

The Homeless

The victims of violence and their families

Our troops, our country and our world

“News for the Pews” for the Week of October 12, 2025

The **Sign-up** sheet for the daily **Pumpkin Patch** shifts for the month of October are online in a google file. If you did not receive the link by email you can still sign up! There are plenty of open shifts needing coverage. Just let Deb know that you’d like to either access the file, or she can sign you up for a shift or two! Please consider signing up for a 2-hour shift(s) so that we can make sure our Pumpkin Patch is thoroughly staffed. Any questions, see Deb.

We are accepting candy donations and trunks to be decorated for our annual **Trunk or Treat** on October 26th – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Candy can be dropped off in the church office or Christian Ed office on Sundays. If you can decorate a trunk (or even a table) for us this year, please let us know at discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org or see a discipleship member.

Wilbraham United Church

Free! **TRUNK** *or* **TREAT**

2-4 p.m.

26
OCT

PARKING IN REAR - PUMPKIN PATCH
500 Main Street Wilbraham, MA

The poster features a dark background with a spiderweb pattern. It includes six illustrations of pumpkins with various faces and accessories, arranged in two rows of three. The central text is in large, bold, yellow and orange fonts. A yellow cloud contains the word 'Free!' and another yellow cloud contains the time '2-4 p.m.'. The date '26 OCT' is displayed in white on an orange square. The location information is at the bottom in yellow and white text.

clothing drive for
Big Blue Ministries

Saturday October 25 - 9:00 - 12:00



On Saturday Oct. 25th from 9:00 - 12:00 we will be **collecting** gently used and new clothing drive for Big Blue Ministries. Most needed items are women's and men's hoodies, sweatpants, winter coats, socks, gloves, new underwear (boxers or ladies briefs). If you can donate items you can drop them off at church any time between now and October 25!

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH

Pumpkin

Patch

OPENS OCTOBER 5TH

MONDAY THRU SATURDAY

10-6

SUNDAY 12-6

THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST

Pick your
perfect
pumpkin!



500 MAIN STREET WILBRAHAM MA

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, October 12, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Monday, October 13, 2025

Church Office CLOSED

- 6:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Church Office 8:30 –1:30

- 8:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast Group
6:00 p.m. – Search Comm (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

- 11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. – Scouts
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, October 16, 2025

- 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 17, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Church Office closed

- 9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)

Sunday, October 19, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
4:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class (ZR)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The Stewardship Committee recently asked a sampling of the congregation some heartfelt questions. They were of all ages, both genders, married, single, some with children and some without. Here are the responses for the first three questions we asked – the remaining questions will be mentioned next week. See if you can spot some common themes in their answers.

WHO OR WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THIS CHURCH?

Cub Scouts introduced us to the church. The Capens invited us.

God & Google. I read a description of Wilbraham United Church and the simple explanation of the service was good to me.

My parents. I was baptized here.

Pam Burch and Patti Colkos, our kids' preschool and kindergarten teachers.

A children's event and Shelly Capen.

My mother joined this church about 62 years ago.

We moved to Wilbraham and were looking for a church for our family.

Came here with my parents around 2004. Parents wanted us to come to a church in the town where we lived and with the kids we went to school with. The church had a vibrant & bustling youth fellowship program.

Brought to this church by a church member whose husband worked with my husband, back in the early 70s. First intro to church was through Women's Evening Fellowship.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF OUR CHURCH?

The community.

Quiet, simple & traditional service. Kind & welcoming people, good caring pastors, strong biblical teaching.

Music, fellowship, and Janet's Sermons.

The people in the church! I also love the connection to community theater through the Wilbraham United Players.

Community & fellowship.

Readings, Hymns, and the minister.

Many favorites. Music program, youth Christian Ed program, friendly & welcoming people, meaningful church services.

The community aspect of the church and intergenerational relationships.

Sunday services and the people.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE OF OUR CHURCH?

I walked in and was warmly welcomed by several people. It was a good experience and I connected with the message.

We took all of our very young kids and the service was exceptionally long due to a baptism/baptism renewal. Many people came up to us afterwards to welcome us and let us know the services are not usually that long.

Welcoming, children friendly.

Earliest memory was Sunday School.

When we moved to the area 8 years ago, we looked online for churches then visited those we selected. Handbells was a plus. We went to Fellowship Hour when we first visited. This couldn't have been better. The members who greeted us were super welcoming. When I mentioned handbells, Mark came right over as well as someone who played handbells.

The welcoming people.

Participating in confirmation class.

Attending the monthly meetings of Women's Evening Fellowship. We were new to the community, so this was a good way to meet people.

We are the heart of this welcoming community. Some people grew up in this church and some have recently walked through the doors. We came to Wilbraham United Church as part of our faith journey. Faith brought us here – faith and this church bring us back.

Please consider making a pledge on Stewardship Sunday.

Victoria Owen

Fellowship & Stewardship Committee Chair

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure – pressed down, shaken together, and running over – will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38