



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 26, 2025

20th 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: He Leadeth Me

arr. J. Purifoy

Bells: The Church's One Foundation

arr. L. Larson

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #402 (UMH)**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alan Druckenmiller

Liturgist: Let us rejoice in this new day, for the morning has dawned, and we are here and ready to embrace it. We come together to celebrate God's handiwork and to give thanks that the Lord is in our midst.

People: We come together to worship, to share our prayers and our gifts, and to give ourselves over to the Lord's good work in the world. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, Come to us we pray and help us to be faithful to your ways of love and peace. Let the knowledge of you see us through challenging times and keep us from despair. Be with us, care for us, comfort and confront us with an abundance of your mercy and grace. Grant that we may continue to serve you with fervor, so that your Spirit may be ignited within us, and we may carry your love to those before us. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2:1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faithfulness

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord

Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 19: 1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Faith that Grows Abundantly

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #2236(TFWS)**

Gather Us In

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light arr. H. H. Hopson
Chancel Choir

***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 #128 (UMH)**

He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

***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: Voluntary on "Peace Like a River"

arr. D. Lasky

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 Chris Lima in memory of his dear sister, Judy.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Joyce Pierangelo and Matt Capen

Liturgist: Alan Druckenmiller

Greeters: Gennie Keddy

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
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 26, 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.

The Discipleship Commission is still looking for people to provide trunks (or tables) for this afternoon’s **Trunk or Treat** event. If you can participate, please speak to a member of the Discipleship group.



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, October 26, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
2:00 p.m. -Trunk or Treat
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Monday, October 27, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
7:00 p.m. -Praise Band (Sanc)

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Church Office 8:30 –1:30
8:30 a.m. -Men's Breakfast Grp
2:00 p.m. -Bible Study (ZR)
6:30 p.m. -Search Comm. (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, October 29, 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 30, 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 31, 2025

Church Office closed

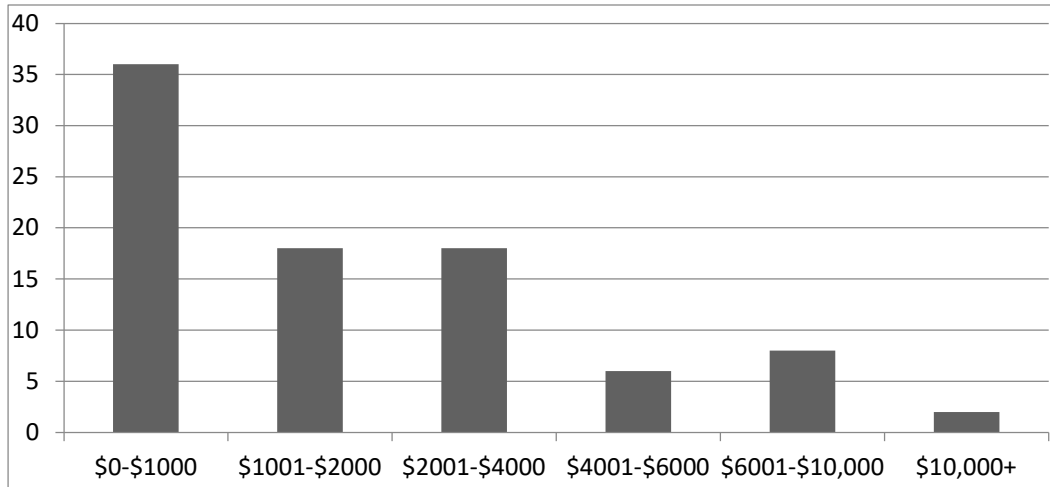
Saturday, November 1, 2025

Church Office closed
9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)
Sunday, November 2, 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)

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 9

As of October 1st, we have 130 members. 79 of those members made a pledge to the church for 2025. This means that 60% of our members made a pledge.

(I do not know who pledges or what people pledge. I requested this information from Deb on October 1st.)



TOTAL MEMBERS:	130
TOTAL PLEDGES:	79 Members
	<u>9 Non-Members</u>
	88
TOTAL RECEIVED:	\$132,000

ANNUAL PLEDGES GIVE LIFE AND STRUCTURE TO OUR CHURCH BY PROVIDING A BASIS FOR BUDGETS AND ACTIVITIES.

I would like to propose a challenge. I would like to see the 88 total pledges, 79 members and 8 non-members, increase to 100. That would increase our stewardship participation to the mid-70s, which sounds so much better than 60, don't you think?

Think of this – giving up a \$5 cup of coffee every week would allow you to pledge \$260 for the year. A \$30 ticket to the symphony or a play every month could mean \$360 for the year. If you put money in the offering plate every week, fill out a pledge card with that amount.

When the pledge cards are mailed next week, **TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK OF WHAT YOUR PLEDGE WOULD MEAN TO THE CHURCH AND WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO YOU.**

God has given us many blessings – here's a way to give something back.

Commit to make a difference 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