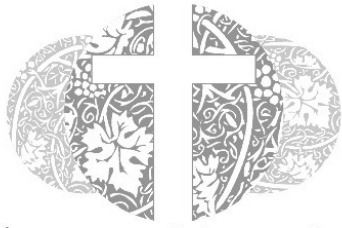


Every Day a Garden

Wilbraham United Church

July 12, 2026





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](https://www.facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

July 12, 2026

7th 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 in the Sanctuary after worship, everyone is invited to a time of Fellowship in the Zeckhausen Room which is immediately across from the Sanctuary.

**All who are able to stand, may do so.*

UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS – The “small black” book Faith We Sing Hymnal

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: There is a Balm in Gilead

arr. L. Larson

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Pastor Julie

***GATHERING HYMN #92 (UMH) verses 1-3**

For the Beauty of the Earth

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Praise is due to the Holy One, whose ways are the joy of our hearts.

People: Our Ever-Faithful God holds our lives and our hands. Happy are we who praise the triune God!

Liturgist: Worship is due to the Holy One, whose Word illuminates our paths.

People: Our God is righteous and just! Happy are we who follow the Holy One!

Liturgist: Love is due to the Holy One, whose compassion, peace, and strength satisfies prayers, spoken and unspoken.

All: Happy are we who love and serve the Holy One!

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God who gathers us in, we delight being in communion with you and with each other. Let your Word be proclaimed in truth. Let us burst into songs that reflect the depths of our souls. May our prayers be formed in your name and granted by your grace. May we enter into your presence as a loving community of faithful, questioning, and hopeful participants in your kin-dom., 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

Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife because she was barren, and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other; the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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 # 2193 (TFWS)

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Every Day a Garden

Pastor Julie

* **HYMN** – #707 (UMH)

Hymn of Promise

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Laudate Dominum
Deb Trimble, Soloist

W.A. Mozart

*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 #92 (UMH) verses 4 & 6

For the Beauty of the Earth

*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #664 (UMH), verse 2:

*With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: All Now Sing Forth in Praise

E. Broughton

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.*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Julie Olmsted

Guest Musician: Marcia Jackson

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Joyce & David Pierangelo

Liturgist: Marty Lyman

Greeters: Joyce Emerle



The Altar flowers this morning are given in honor of the birthday of Roslind Overend, by her mother, Karen Gatchell.

Rev. Julie Olmsted: 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. Julie or the Church Office.

After office hours, Rev. Julie can be reached at 937-409-1375 (until 8pm, unless it's urgent).



Please Pray For:

Catherine Gardner

Connie Law

Sharon McAbee

Shey McAbee

Michelle McBride

Bill McCullough

Claire McCullough

Ed McCorkindale

Jean Michon

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 July 12, 2026

There are still several Sundays available to sponsor the **Altar Flowers**. If you would like to dedicate the Altar Flowers to a loved one please sign up on one of the available dates on the Flower Chart in the Narthex. Flower sponsorship is \$35.



It's time to register for Vacation Bible Camp 2026! Registration for both campers and volunteers can be found on the church's website:

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/vacation-bible-camp/

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, July 12, 2026

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (ZR)

1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, July 13, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

6:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

9:00 a.m. – Loaves & Fishes Prep

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

6:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Church Office 10:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

9:20 a.m. – Loaves & Fishes

6:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

Friday, July 17, 2026

Church Office closed

7:30 p.m. – WUP Show (FH)

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Church Office closed

2:30 p.m. – WUP Show (FH)

Sunday, July 19, 2026

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (ZR)

2:30 p.m. – WUP Show (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)