

The Kingdom of God



July 19, 2026



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

July 19, 2026

8th 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: Blessed Assurance

arr. L. Larson

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Pastor Julie

***GATHERING HYMN #89 (UMH) verses 1 & 2**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alan Druckenmiller

Liturgist: Give thanks to the Holy One. Make God's deeds known among the peoples.

People: We call upon the name of the Holy One!

Liturgist: Give thanks to the Holy One. Tell the story of God's wonderful works!

People: We sing praises and remember the wonderful works, miracles and judgments of our God!

Liturgist: Give thanks to the Holy One. Glory in God's holy name!

All: We seek God's glory and presence, and our hearts rejoice! Praise the Holy One in Spirit and Truth!

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, You have made yourself known among us. When we seek you, we find you. You surround us with love and righteousness. Your presence strengthens and upholds us. In this sacred hour let us be mindful that your wisdom speaks, your power fuels, and your compassion fills us. Grant us discernment. May we be faithful. May you be glorified. 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 28: 10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Like it Already Happened

Pastor Julie

* **HYMN** – #382 (UMH) verses 1 & 4

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Children of the Heavenly Father
Marcia Jackson, Organ

arr. D. Wagner

***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 #89 (UMH) verse 3 & 4**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

***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: 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.*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Julie Olmsted

Guest Musician: Marcia Jackson

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Skip Dearborn & Jeff Smith

Liturgist: Alan Druckenmiller

Greeters: Judy Marek



The Altar flowers this morning are given by Judy Marek in memory of Chris Burnor.

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:

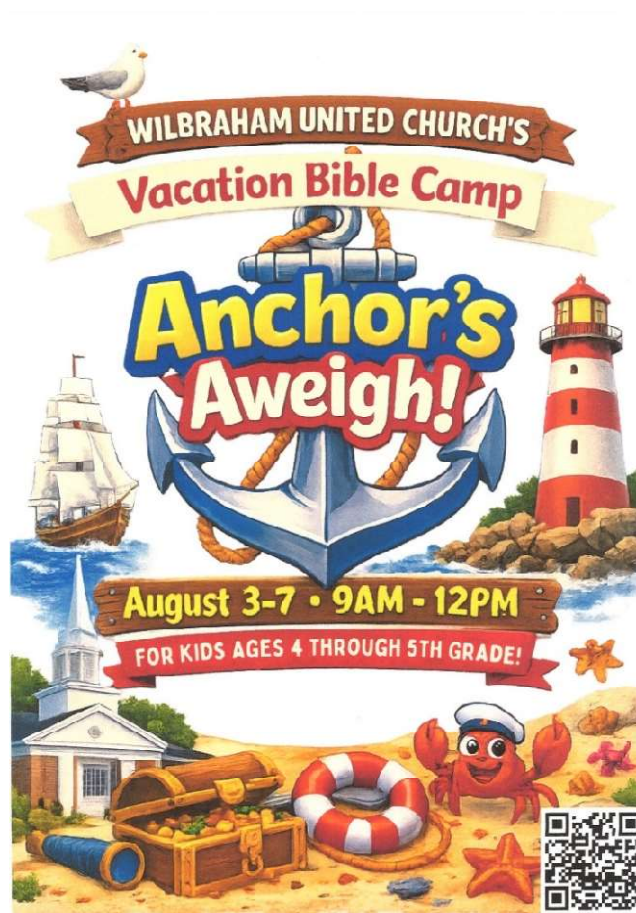
Catherine Gardner
Connie Law
Sharon McAbee
Shey McAbee
Michelle McBride
Bill McCullough
Claire McCullough
Ed McCorkindale
Jean Michon
Jim Trimble
The Hungry
The Homeless

The victims of violence and their families
Our troops, our country and our world

“News for the Pews” for the Week of July 19, 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.

Cookies are needed for the **Loaves and Fishes** ministry. Pre-packaged store-bought cookies are preferable. Cookies may be left in the storage bin next to the microwave in the kitchen marked “Loaves and Fishes”.



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 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)

Monday, July 20, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

5:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:30 a.m. – Fellowship Comm (ZR)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

Friday, July 24, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, July 25, 2026

Church Office closed

Sunday, July 26, 2026

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (ZR)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)