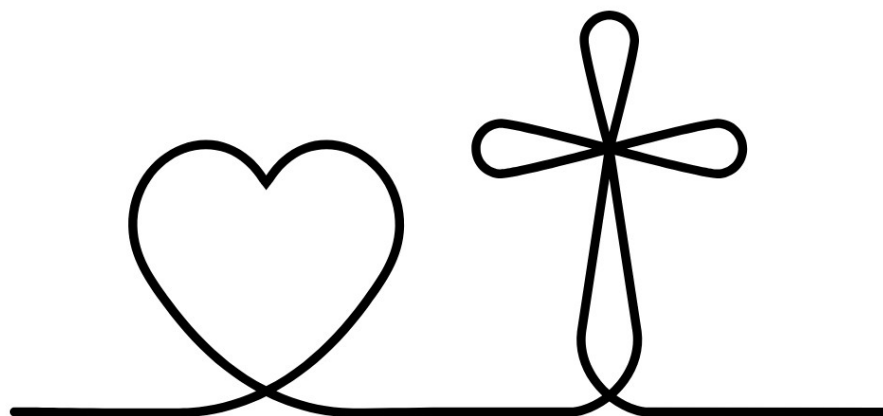




Seeing the Kingdom of God

July 26, 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 26, 2026

9th 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: Meditation on “How Great Thou Art”

arr. J. Carter

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Pastor Julie

***GATHERING HYMN #77 (UMH) Verses 1 & 2**

How Great Thou Art

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joe Hegarty

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 all of God’s wonderful works!

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

Liturgist: Give thanks to the Lord. Glory in God’s holy name!

All: We seek the Holy One, and our hearts rejoice! Praise the Lord our God forever!

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. While we gather together, let us be mindful that your wisdom speaks, your power fuels, and your heart fills our hearts. Grant us wisdom. May we be ever faithful. May yours be the glory. 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 29:15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Same Ol' Thing, Brand New

Pastor Julie

*** HYMN – #454 (UMH) verses 1 & 2**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Here I Am, Lord

Soloist: Karen Gatchell

arr. J. Schrader

***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 #404 (UMH) verses 1 & 2**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

***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: Hornpipe in D

J.S. Dixon

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.*

The Altar flowers this morning are given in loving memory of John Pereira Jr. by his wife Susan at the 18th anniversary of his passing.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Julie Olmsted

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Tom Toman & Bill Lynch

Liturgist: Joe Hegarty

Greeters: Gail & Chris Lima



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 26, 2026

We will need help setting up the **big tent** for Vacation Bible Camp next Sunday, August 2 after worship. If you are able to assist please meet us out on the front lawn! Many hands make light work! Also VBC **decorating** will be taking place on August 2nd and if you'd like to help out please see either Pam Byers or Aurora Frias.

Our Discipleship group is gratefully accepting donations from their **VBC Wish List** on Amazon. Donations assist with the Arts and Crafts and Decorating that help make VBC at WUC an exciting week for the campers. The link to the wishlist was in Thursday's All Church Email. You can also get the link by emailing admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org or by going to the Vacation Bible Camp page on the church's website.



Last chance 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 26, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (ZR)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, July 27, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

5:30 p.m. – Discipleship Mtg. (ZR)

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Church Office 11:30 – 2:30

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

Friday, July 31, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, August 1, 2026

Church Office closed

Sunday, August 2, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (ZR)

11:00 a.m. – Set up tent for VBC

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

6:00 p.m. – VBC Meeting (ZR)