



August 23, 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

August 23, 2026

13th 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.*

UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Wade in the Water

arr. J. Purifoy

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Charles Morkin

***GATHERING HYMN #660 (UMH) verses 1 & 2**

God Is Here

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alan Druckenmiller

Liturgist: Brothers and sisters, as we begin our worship today, we remember the waters of baptism—a visible sign of an invisible grace—dying to the old self and rising to new life in Christ. Hear the words of Saint Paul: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world..."

People: We choose not to follow the ways of darkness or fear. We set our hearts on things above.

Liturgist: "...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

People: Lord, renew our minds through Your Word and Spirit.

Liturgist: "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—"

People: Give us wisdom to discern Your voice above the noise of the world.

Liturgist: "Fill our hearts with your good, pleasing, and perfect will."

People: As one body in Christ, we shall walk together in faith confident of God's transforming love.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, breath of life and source of living water, open our hearts today. remind us that we are unconditionally loved, called to work for transformation, and bound to one another in community. Be present with us as we sing, pray, and welcome new life into your fold. 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

Exodus 2: 5 - 10

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

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 16: 13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Consider the Yam

The Rev. Dr. Charles Morkin

*** BAPTISM HYMN – #2051 (TFWS) verses 1, 2 & 7**

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

CHRISTENING AND THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Cataleya Narayiah Bayron McAbee

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
Alan Druckenmiller, Tuba

Following one verse with solo Tuba and Organ, the congregation is invited to sing 2 verses.

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.

Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.

Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.

Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!

To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!

We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit born.

By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

***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 #2107(TFWS) verses 1 & 2**

Wade in the Water

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

arr. D. Lasky

Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to Wilbraham 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.*

This morning we are celebrating the Christening of Cataleya Narayiah Bayron McAbee, the daughter of Shey Teres McAbee and Luis Bayron. The Godparents are Jasmin and Jamison Torres, Shirley M. Alvarado and Angel S. Nazario. Grandparents are Sharon McAbee and Michelle McBride.

The Altar flowers this morning are given by Susan Pereira in memory of her mother Norma Nobbs on the 12th anniversary of her passing.

Please be aware that our services are livestreamed and recorded for our online community. While we focus the cameras primarily on the pulpit, chancel and lectern, wide shots of the sanctuary may include congregants. If you or your family prefer not to appear on camera, please ask an usher to direct you to our designated non-camera seating area. Thank you for helping us worship together both in person and online!

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Visiting Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Charles Morkin

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Ralph & Sherrie Ridgeway

Liturgist: Alan Druckenmiller

Greeter: Judy Marek



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 August 23, 2026

Our **Loaves and Fishes** ministry is still in need of packaged cookies. If you are able to provide them they can be left in the kitchen in the storage bin marked Loaves and Fishes or left in the church office.

Getting ready for Back to school? Don't forget our **Shopping Card** program to help with your shopping! We've got more than just Big Y cards! Current inventory includes Amazon, Apple, Kohl's, LL Bean and Target! We've also got cards for popular fast food locations including Dominos, Subway, Jersey Mikes, Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts. Shopping cards make great additions to college care packages!

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, August 23, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, August 24, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

Friday, August 28, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, August 29, 2026

Church Office closed

Sunday, August 30, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)