



Unlimited Blessing

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AUGUST 30, 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 30, 2026

14th 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: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

arr. L. Larson

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Pastor Julie

***GATHERING HYMN #577 (UMH) verses 1 & 3**

God of Grace and God of Glory

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marge Trimble

Liturgist: O give thanks to the great I Am, Who calls us together to remember who we are and who God is.

People: We glory in God’s holy name! Let hearts that seek God rejoice and testify!

Liturgist: O give thanks to the Holy One, God of our ancestors and of all generations!

All: We seek the presence of the Holy One. Praise God, the Source of all our good!

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Sovereign God, We delight in your presence. Your words bring joy, peace and strength. You fill us with your spirit and shape us in your truth. Take us beyond the wilderness of our condition. Remind us of who you are and who we are in you. Receive our praise, our doubts and our fears. With humility, we come to you just as we are. We bring to you our dreams for a better world and better lives, steeped in faith and wonder. Equip us as your people and ambassadors of your love and possibilities. Set a fire for your will and your way within us as we walk through this life and minister to your people everywhere. Amen. 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 3: 1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and

this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ”

God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

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: 21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Unfettered Access/Unlimited Blessing

Pastor Julie

***ANOINTING/HYMN – #2222 (TFWS)**

The Servant Song

During the hymn Pastor Julie will be offering an anointing blessing. When invited please process down the center aisle to the front of the church if you wish to receive the blessing. Please return to your seat by the side aisles of the sanctuary. If you are not able to process, please raise your hand and Pastor Julie will come to you.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

For the Beauty of the Earth
Pastor Julie

Jeff Olmsted/Folliot Pierpont

***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 #2129 (TFWS) vs. 1 & 3**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

***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: Praises Unending

J.W. Krug

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.*

The Altar flowers this morning are given by Karen Gatchell in celebration of Pastor Julie's ministry with us.

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

Pastor: Rev. Julie Olmsted

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Kim Ryan and Greg Lyman

Liturgist: Marge Trimble

Greeter: 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



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 30, 2026

Our **Loaves and Fishes** ministry is still in need of packaged cookies. If you are able to provide cookies 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 morning we are taking a special **collection** to support dignity kits for women and girls through Project Hope. This collection is in recognition of the ministry of Pastor Julie who is celebrating her last worship service with us. If you wish to give directly to Project Hope you can support the project through this link: projecthope.org/dignitykits-2026-01. To dedicate your donation please click the "dedicate this donation" box and put in "Julie Olmstead".

Copies of Pastor Julie's **memoir** "Cornbread in Heaven" are available in the Narthex. The books cost \$15.00 (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, local bookstores) but feel free to just leave any amount you want, including zero dollars!! Pastor Julie will be happy to sign them after the service if you like. This memoir is about her life leading up to her calling as a minister and her engagement to her awesome husband (who can be heard in the Offertory music this morning).

Beginning tomorrow, August 31st, **Rev. Paul Nesbit** will join us in ministry. Watch for further news about his office hours. To contact Rev. Paul you can email pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org.

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, August 30, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, August 31, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

12:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

Friday, September 4, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Church Office closed

Sunday, September 6, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

*Please note the Church will be closed
on Monday, September 7 for the Labor
Day Holiday*