



Get out of the boat!



August 9, 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 9, 2026

11th 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: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. J.B. Taylor

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Pastor Julie

***GATHERING HYMN #64 (UMH) verses 1 & 3** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Theresa Munn

Liturgist: Children of God, some of us come today with songs of joy, rejoicing at all God has done for us.

People: We come to remember God’s steadfast love and faithfulness.

Liturgist: Some of us come today with songs of sorrow in our hearts, feeling the weight of loss, isolation, and loneliness.

People: We come to remember God’s steadfast love and faithfulness.

Liturgist: Some of us come today with songs of worry and distress, overwhelmed by the troubles and the sufferings of the world.

People: We come to remember God’s steadfast love and faithfulness.

Liturgist: In our joy, our sorrow, our isolation and our worry, God is faithful!

All: We come to sing God’s praises, for in all things, God’s steadfast love and faithfulness never fail. Thanks be to God! Amen

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Liberating God, We seek you on our journey. With parted waters, move us forward. With cloud and fire, guide us. With gushing waters, quench our thirst. With food from heaven, feed us. Draw us out with joy and singing, that we might know and live your ways. 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 37: 1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his

dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

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 14: 22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But

when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Get Out of the Boat!

Pastor Julie

*** HYMN – #140 (UMH) verses 1 & 3**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Amazing Grace

Soloist: Deb Trimble

C. Courtney

***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 #2153 (TFWS) verses 1 & 3**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

***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 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 Tim and Kathy Timpson in memory of loved ones.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Julie Olmsted

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers/Communion: Poppy Nelson & Patti Colkos

Liturgist: Theresa Munn

Greeter: Gennie Keddy



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 9, 2026

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out with our annual **Vacation Bible Camp**! It was a success! We hosted 40 campers through the week and they all had a real good time.

Please note that Deb will be on **vacation** August 10 through 13. The office will be open for limited hours on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

There will be a **Church Council** Meeting on Monday, August 17th at 7pm in the Zeckhausen room. There will be a Trustees meeting (chairs of Administration, Finance and Physical Operations) at 6:30 pm. Agenda items should be forwarded to Victoria prior to the meeting.

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 9, 2026

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (ZR)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, August 10, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 12:00

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Church Office closed

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 12:00

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 12:00

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

Friday, August 14, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Church Office closed

Sunday, August 16, 2026

10:00 a.m. – Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (ZR)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)