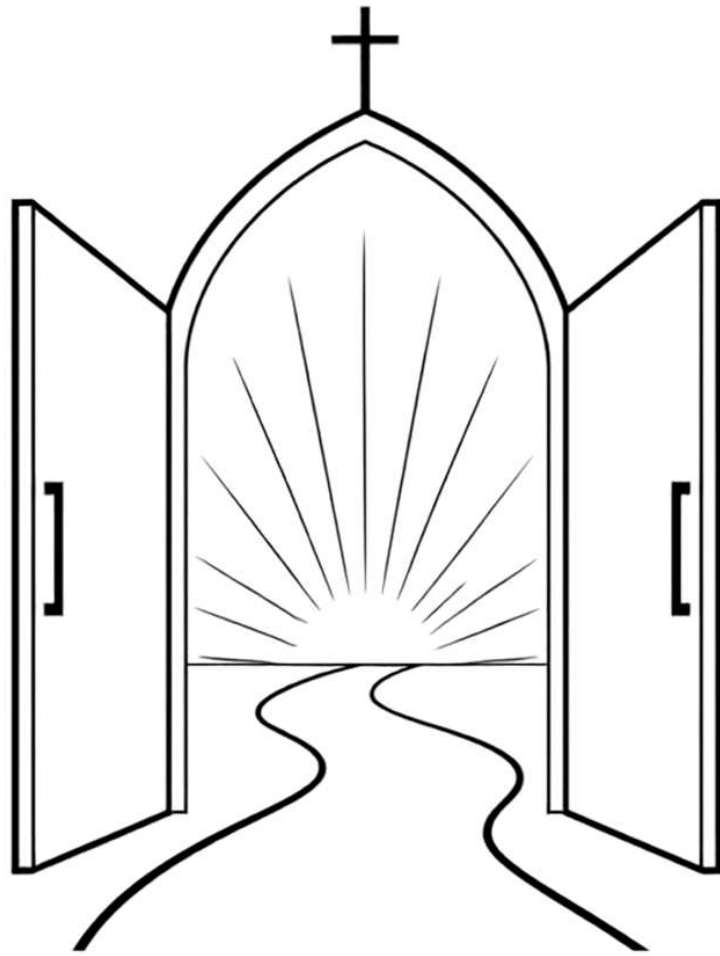




Homecoming

SEPTEMBER 13, 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

September 13, 2026

Homecoming Sunday

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 Sing the Mighty Power of God

arr. C. Berry

Bells: Pendaneni (Love One Another)

C. Moglebust

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Rev. Paul

***GATHERING HYMN #152 (UMH)**

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Theresa Munn

Liturgist: When the tides of fear seem to overwhelm us, we cry out....

All: Lord, come to us and lead us to paths of safety!

Liturgist: When we feel lost and alone and we wonder if anyone cares about us, we cry out....

All: Lord, come and heal our wounded spirits!

Liturgist: When turbulence within and without seem to threaten us, we cry out....

All: Lord, bring us peace.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

When we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life, enter our hearts with your redeeming love, O Christ. When our fears overtake us and we cannot find our way, give us direction that we might faithfully serve you all our days, singing your praises. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF PRAISE # 2029 (TFWS)

*Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
From the rising of the sun may the Lord be praised.
Praise to the Name of the Lord!*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 114

Liturgist: When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

All: Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

Liturgist: The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

All: The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

Liturgist: Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

All: O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

Liturgist: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

All: who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of 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

*Breath of God, Breath of Peace, Breath of love, Breath of life,
Breath of justice, Breath of passion,
Breath creating, Breath of healing, Breath of singing, Breath of praying,
Come upon us, come restore us, come inspire us, Breath of God.*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him

into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Paul

***HYMN – #432 (UMH) vs. 1,2,3,5**

Jesu, Jesu

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Alleluia! I Will Sing
Chancel Choir

D. Waggoner

***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 # 448 (UMH) vs. 1,6,7,11**

Go Down, Moses

***BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #665 (UMH):**

*Go now in peace, go now in peace,
May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Postlude for a Festival Day

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.*

The Altar flowers this morning are given by Nina Berman in loving memory of Mary and Al Zavala.

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. Paul Nesbit

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Matt Capen & Joyce Pierangelo

Liturgist: Theresa Munn

Greeter: Edna Colcord



Rev. Paul Nesbit:	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. Paul or the Church Office.

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 September 13, 2026

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 or welcome back gifts for teachers!

Wilbraham United Church now has **merchandise!** Did you ever wish you could wear a Wilbraham United Church T-shirt or hat, or carry a tote bag with a picture of the church on it? Well, now you can! T-shirts for adults and kids, sweatshirts, mugs, tote bags, something for everyone. This is a fundraiser for our church sponsored by the Fellowship Commission and they will have a table set up in the Fellowship Hall this morning to show you what's available. Everything is online (<https://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/wuc-merchandise/>) and there are samples this morning as well. They'll even show you how you can order them online directly from the comfort of your own home, so don't forget to stop by the table at Fellowship Hall during coffee hour to check out the new Wilbraham United Church merchandise!

Today, after church, Andrea Stephenson will be taking orders for **mums**. Mums are being sold to help support the Action Center Tutoring Services (ACTS). This year mums can be ordered for \$10 and will be available to be picked up at church on Sunday September 20th. Mums are in 9 inch pots. Payments can be made in cash or checks made payable to ACTS.

At 2PM on Sunday September 20th is our annual **WUC Mini Golf “Open”** at Fenway Golf - 112 Allen St in East Longmeadow. All are welcome. Golf and ice cream will be provided! Please join us for this fun family event!

It's time to sign up for our **Pumpkin Patch!** Pumpkins get delivered on Saturday October 3. We will need many hands to help unload pumpkins - assume around 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. We will then have our "Patch" open every day in October through the 31st. Sign ups are now open to take a shift (or two or three!) See the link to sign up in our All Church Email. If you aren't able to sign up online but wish to take a shift please let Deb know during office hours and she'll sign you up!

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, September 13, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, September 14, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

9:00 a.m. -Loaves and Fishes (KIT)

11:00 a.m. – Pastor/Moderator Mtg

**11:30 a.m. – Women’s Fellowship
(ZR)**

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Scouts (TS)

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

9:20 a.m. – Loaves and Fishes

6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

7:00 p.m. -WUP (FH)

Friday, September 18, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Church Office closed

4:00 p.m. - WUP (FH)

Sunday, September 20, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

**2:00 p.m. – WUC Mini Golf “Open”
at Fenway Golf**

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)