



Working together

September 20, 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 20, 2026

17th 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: The Star of the County Down, a traditional Irish Melody

arr. T. Quigley; C.J. Torian, Jr.

Bells: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

arr. J.W. Krug

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Rev. Paul

***GATHERING HYMN #2236 (TFWS) vs. 1, 2, 4**

Gather Us In

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alan Druckenmiller

One: Open your hearts to God's loving mercy.

All: Lord, come into our hearts this day.

One: Having received God's mercy, bring that love to others.

All: Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in compassion.

One: Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.

All: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings you pour into our lives.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Glory to your name, holy God. We rejoice in your wonderful works, in miracles you have caused among us, and in the wealth you have entrusted to our stewardship. You have called us to important work in your vineyard. Wherever we go, we represent your church and interpret your ways to those who observe our words and deeds. Enfold us in your presence and give us strength and courage to pass on the light you have sent to illuminate our journey through life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray: 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.

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 16: 2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the

Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’ ”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

One: Our God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 105: 1-6, 37-42

One: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the divine name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples. Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and speak of all the marvelous works of the Lord.

All: Glory in the holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Search for the strength of the Lord; continually seek the face of God.

One: Remember the marvels the Lord has done, the wonders and the judgements of the mouth of the Lord, O offspring of Abraham the servant of God, O children of Jacob the chosen of the Lord

All: You led out your people with silver and gold; in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled. Egypt was glad of their going, because they were afraid of them.

One: You spread out a cloud for a covering and a fire to give light in the night season. They asked, and quails appeared, and you satisfied them with bread from heaven.

All: You opened the rock, and water flowed, so the river ran in the dry places. For you, O God, remembered your holy word and Abraham your servant.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 1: 21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

One: Our God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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 20: 1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they

would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Paul

***HYMN – #344 (UMH) vs. 1, 3, 4**

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Canticle of the Turning

arr. R. Cooney

Chancel Choir with Nick Capen, guitar

***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** *see insert -vs. 1, 2, 4*

Community of Christ

***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.*

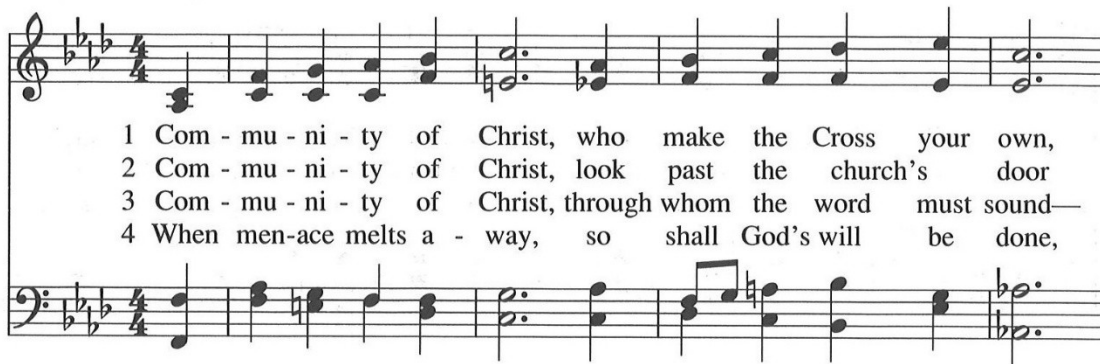
MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Tongues of Fire (Pentecost Dance)

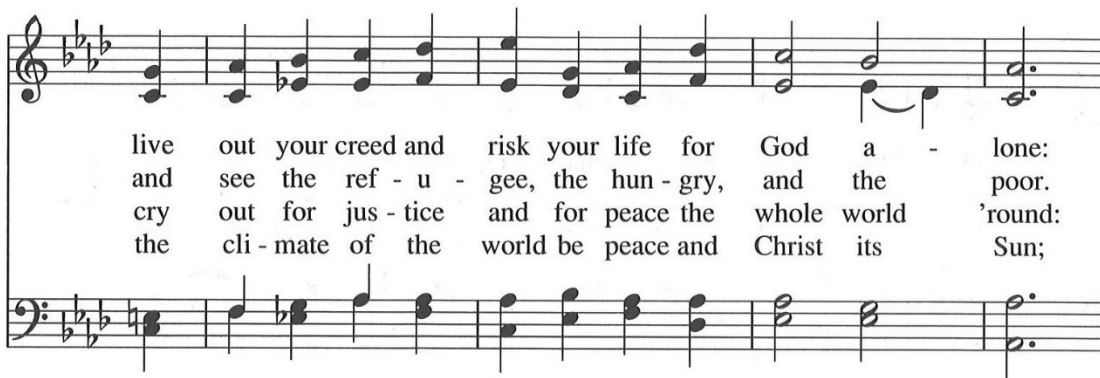
A.V. Fedak

Community of Christ

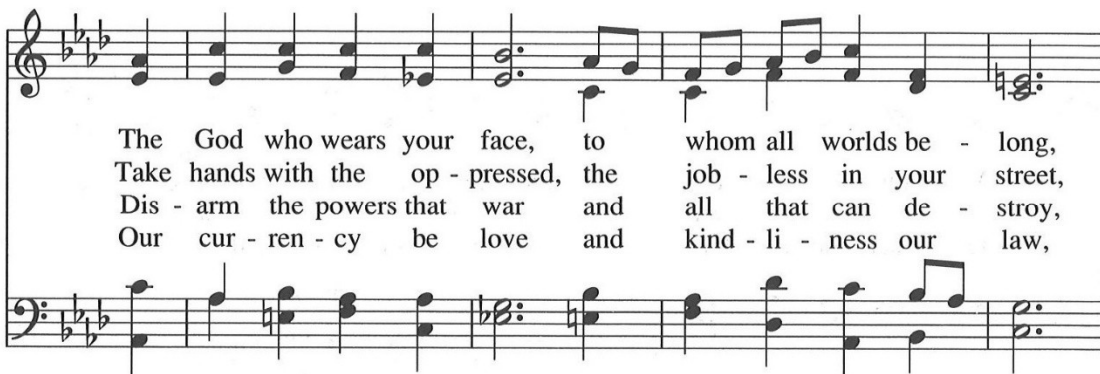
314

Shirley Erena Murray, 1985


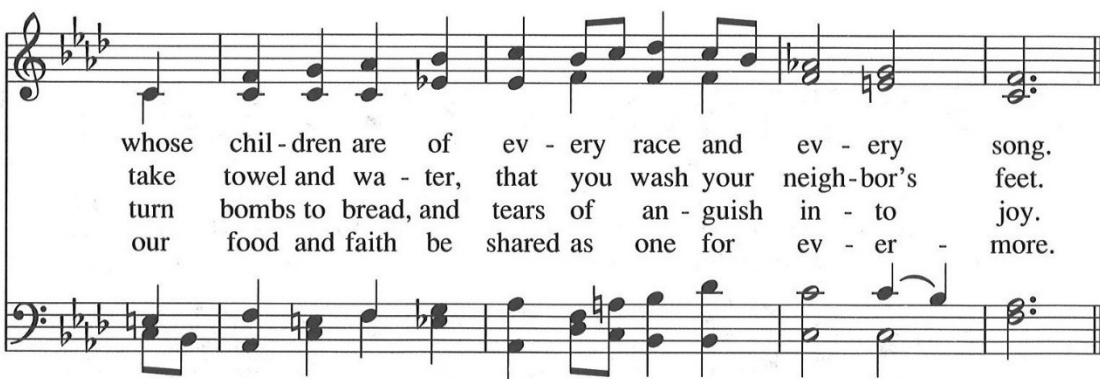
1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
 4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,



live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;



The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
 Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
 Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,



whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

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 April Beston in memory of John J. Beston III

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: Ralph & Sherrie Ridgeway

Liturgist: Alan Druckenmiller

Greeter: Genny Keddy



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 20, 2026

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. Everything is online (<https://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/wuc-merchandise/>)

Today, at 2PM, 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 or on our website. 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!

We have 115 shifts to fill for the month of October! So far only 10 of them have been claimed. Please remember to sign up so that we know we can cover the whole month!



Save the Date!!

16TH ANNUAL

Holly Fair

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

9AM-3PM

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
500 MAIN STREET, WILBRAHAM

**60+ Vendors from all over
New England**

CRAFTS, HOME DECOR, ART,
JEWELRY, BEAUTY CARE,
WOODWORKING, PET GOODS, KIDS
ITEMS, PROVISIONS AND SO MUCH
MORE!



Cookie Walk
Raffles

Holly Cafe
Music Performances

Santa



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

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)

Monday, September 21, 2026

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*
- 10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
- 10:00 a.m. – Pastor’s Office Hours
- 3:00 p.m. – Hospitality Comm. (ZR)
- 6:00 p.m. – Finance Comm (Lib)
- 6:30 p.m. – Deacons (ZR)
- 7:00 p.m. – Church Council (ZR)

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*
- 11:00 a.m. – Pastor/Moderator Mtg

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*
- 11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. – Pastor’s Office Hours
- 6:00 p.m. – Scouts (TS)

Thursday, September 24, 2026

- Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*
- 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship Comm (ZR)
- 6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)
- 6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

Friday, September 25, 2026

- Church Office closed*
- 7:00 p.m. -WUP (FH)
- Saturday, September 26, 2026***

Sunday, September 27, 2026

- Church Office closed*
- 10:00 a.m. - WUP (FH)
- 10:00 a.m. –Worship
- 11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)
- 1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)
- 5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)