

September 27, 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 27, 2026

18th 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: Shine, Jesus, Shine

arr. J. Carter

Bells: Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. J.W. Krug

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Rev. Paul

***GATHERING HYMN #127 (UMH) vs. 1,2**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tim Timpson

One: Come, all who thirst—come to the water!

All: You who long for the water of life—come and drink!

One: Dip your soul in the river of God’s goodness;

All: quench your thirst at God’s well of grace.

One: For God is here among us, offering living water to all who would drink!

All: Let us worship God together!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Guiding God, you led our ancestors in faith through the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day and a fiery pillar by night. You quenched their thirst and shared manna to satisfy their hunger. We often wish we could see you now in such celestial wonders. Yet we know you are near. We feel your Spirit presence, sustaining us along life's journey. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become one as we 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 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

One: Our God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

One: Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

All: I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

One: That which we have heard and known, and what our ancestors have told us, we will not hide from their children.

All: We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, who has done wonderful works.

One: God worked marvels in the sight of their ancestors, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan, splitting open the sea and letting them pass through, making the waters stand up like walls;

All: leading them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with the glow of fire;

One: splitting hard rocks in the wilderness, and giving them drink as from the great deep;

All: bringing streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushing out like rivers.

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 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I

tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Paul

***HYMN – #521 (UMH)**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Chancel Choir

arr. M. Patterson

***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 - #2128 (TFWS)**

Come and Find the Quiet Center

***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: Shall We Gather at the River

arr. J. Mansfield

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 Janet Vitkus and Ed McCorkindale in memory of departed loved ones.

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: Poppy Nelson & Skip Dearborn

Liturgist: Tim Timpson

Greeter: Joyce Emerle



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
Sheryl McAbee
Michelle McBride
Bill McCullough
Claire McCullough
Ed McCorkindale
Jean Michon
Jim Trimble
Marge 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 27, 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/>)

The Hospitality Commission is asking for volunteers for Monday September 28. Our church is hosting the meeting for the **Hampden Association of the UCC**. The meal would begin at 5PM. We need help setting up, providing food and cleaning up. If you can help in any way, please contact Karen Gatchell at 413-237-1598 or karengatchell60@gmail.com.

It's time to sign up for our **Pumpkin Patch!** Pumpkins get delivered NEXT 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!



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, September 27, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, September 28, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Pastor's Office Hours

**5:00 p.m. – Hampden Assoc. Mtg.
(FH)**

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Pastor/Moderator Mtg

Wednesday, September 30, 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, October 1, 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)

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

Friday, October 2, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Church Office closed

PUMPKINS DELIVERED!!!

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

**1:00 p.m. – Blessing of the Animals
(Front Lawn)**

1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)