



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

November 1, 2026

23rd 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: Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. C. Berry

Bells: Morning Has Broken

arr. B. Ingram

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Rev. Paul

CALL TO WORSHIP

Patti Colkos

One: We gather with joys and sorrows and memories of joy and sorrow.

All: We gather from hope or habit, with happiness or heartbreak.

One: We gather knowing every scuffed pew is a place a child sat
and that every hymnal was held by someone singing.

**All: We gather, not only to remember, but to be present in this place to our own faith,
and to be truly supportive of one another.**

***GATHERING HYMN #711 (UMH) vs. 1,4-6**

For All the Saints

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Give us strength to answer our call. Give us wisdom to live your teachings. Give us courage to withstand the trials and tribulations of life. Give us humility to embrace sainthood, even when our sins and shortcomings haunt our days and cause us to judge ourselves and others. Love us into sainthood, that others may find us to be generous and compassionate friends. Hear us as we pray: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 34:1-10

One: I will bless the Lord at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

All: I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and rejoice.

One: Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; let us exalt the name of God together.

All: I sought the Lord, who answered me and delivered me out of all my terror.

One: Look upon God and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

All: I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles.

One: The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear God and will deliver them.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in God!

One: Fear the Lord, you holy ones of God, for those who fear God lack nothing.

All: The young lions lack and suffer hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 3:1-3

See what great love our God has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

One: Our God is still speaking

All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Paul

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

In Remembrance of Me
Chancel Choir

B. Red

***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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

COMMUNION HYMN – #2155 (TFWS) vs. 1-4

Blest Are They

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: May God be with you

People: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words of Remembrance

Distribution of Elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jesus Christ, lamb and shepherd, we remember you here, as we remember all your saints. Help us to remember you not just in this sanctuary but in our homes and schools, our cars and offices, to remember that every part of our life is shot through with your grace and that we are never alone but surrounded by a cloud of witnesses united by your love. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN - #712 (UMH)**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

***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: Song for All Saints

M. McDonald

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

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 Phyllis Walsh in memory of 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 and Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Patti Colkos

Greeter: Joyce Emerle

Servers: Misty Malvosio and Joyce Pierangelo



Rev. Paul Nesbit:	Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103
Bobbie Morkin:	Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106
Hillary Funk:	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
- Dave Wapner
- Jairo
- 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 November 1, 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. We’ve recently added a full zip sweatshirt jacket to inventory. Be sure to check it out! Everything is online (<https://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/wuc-merchandise/>)

Looking for a drummer for our **Praise Band**. Rehearsals are flexible and fun. Hope to play once a month or every other month for our 10:00 church service. If you are interested, you can contact Bobbie Morkin (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) or Patti Colkos (tricia30@charter.net)

Thank you to everyone who helped out in the **Pumpkin Patch** this year! It was a resounding success! We are so blessed to have volunteers who helped unload the truck, set up the patch and the 43 people who covered 4 shifts a day for the whole month of October. We exceeded our prior year’s sales by over \$3000! Earnings for the church were over \$4500 and we collected over \$275 to help stock the Blessing Box. Any pumpkins left over today are available to take (the small white ones are good “pie” pumpkins!) We will also let our farming community know that they can come take the remaining pumpkins.

The sign-up sheet for **Altar Flowers** for Sundays in 2027 is now on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Sponsoring the Altar Flowers is a lovely way to honor a loved one. The donation to cover the cost of the flowers is \$35.

Ushers Meeting November 8th at 11:30. If you are an usher or would like to find out about ushering here at church, please join us in the Zeckhausen Room. We look forward to seeing you there.

Healthcare workers/ First Aid meeting November 15, 11:30. If you are a healthcare provider, current or retired, first aider or anyone who would like to learn about responding to an emergency, or give your input, please join us in the Zeckhausen room after church. We are hoping to better serve our community and congregation when we have an incident here at church. We value your input and feedback.

Starting November 2nd, the **office hours** are changing to 9:30-2:30.

We are pleased to introduce Hillary Funk as our new **Administrative Assistant** and Bookkeeper. Please join us in welcoming Hillary to our staff.

The following is an overview of what was discussed in our 4th Stewardship Moment on October 25th, regarding our upcoming Stewardship Campaign. Victoria mentioned that pledge cards are being mailed tomorrow and introduced our guest for this week, April Beston.

Victoria: You are the chair of the Finance Commission. And as chair, you stand up at the Annual Financial Meeting in February and present the budget for the next year. A lot of work goes in to that. Can you tell us what the Finance Commission does and how you actually get to the point of presenting the budget?

April: We do spend a lot of time and effort putting the budget together each year. We maintain and watch the budget throughout the year, to make sure things are on track, and will entertain or prepare requests that go over the budget, like painting the ceiling, install something outside, etc.

Victoria: There are 6 Commissions and other folks who are part of the budget line items and they come to you to present what they would like for their budget for the upcoming year.

April: We depend on the information that the commissions give us every year at this time of year. They give us their budget requests, and what their needs will be throughout the year.

Victoria: What's the difference between pledging and giving?

April: Let me use an analogy. The church is like your family, right? Can you imagine if you went to work every day and your boss just paid you whatever. How would you plan your budget for your household? Budgeting is really giving the church that annual salary. It's really important that everyone return their pledge card so we can create a budget with accurate numbers to work with over the next calendar year.

Victoria: So the pledges that we will do in the new few weeks, is what you base the budget off of.

April: Yep that's exactly it so we take all those pledges and base our budget on the pledge numbers.

Victoria: What happens when the budget is more than the pledges?

April: Just like in your household, if you went over your budget, you'd dip into your savings. We have our endowment, which is healthy by the way, thankfully, but if we go over budget, we have to dip in to that. We don't like to do that and Deb (the treasurer) in particular really hates when we do that and she does a good job of keeping the cash flow on track so we don't have to do that unless we absolutely need to.

Victoria: Clearly you've shown us that you give of your time and talent. Do you "treasure" as well? Why?

April: I would love to share why. Most of you know I've been coming to this church since I was going to Moments for Children. I also believe that the church is so important to our community. Not only the outreach we do, but also everything that we mean to this community. Actually we were an essential part of the founding of Wilbraham. Also my children are important to me and it's important that they have a safe background and they're at a healthy and loving church that will help them grow and learn. I want to see our church safe and going strong and forward for many years to come.

Victoria: April, Thank you for all you do for our church and thanks goes to the Finance Commission as well. Your pledge and your gifts help this church fund our so many wonderful things we do for our community, the greater community and the world. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

This concludes our fourth Stewardship Campaign Talk Show. Thanks for tuning in and we'll see you next week.

Victoria Owen, Fellowship Commission Chair

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, November 1, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, November 2, 2026

Church Office 9:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Pastor's Office Hours

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

5:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Church Office 9:30 – 2:30

11:00 a.m. – Pastor/Moderator Mtg

2:00 p.m. -Bible Study (ZR)

**7:00 p.m. – Evening Bible Study
(ZR)**

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Church Office 9:30 – 2:30

11:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting

5:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

6:00 p.m. – Scouts (TS)

7:00 p.m.- Phys Ops (ZR)

Thursday, November 5, 2026

Church Office 9:30 – 2:30

6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

6:00 p.m.- Broom Sisters (11B)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

Friday, November 6, 2026

Church Office closed

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Church Office closed

9:00 a.m. -WUP (FH)

Sunday, November 8, 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)

