



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

October 11, 2026

20th 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: Amazing Grace

Bells: Joyful, Joyful

arr. J. Rouse

arr. V.W. Stephenson

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Rev. Paul

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Lyman

One: Let us thank the Lord, for the Lord is good.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare God's praise?

All: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Our God is worthy of our praise!

One: Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people that we may enjoy your blessings.

All: Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite love and abundant grace. Amen!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord of diversity and union, we call upon you this day to open our hearts to your love, our ears to your words, our eyes to see the needs of those both near and far, and our spirits to do your will. Be with us and give us courage and inspiration for the future of your world, O Lord. 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

UNISON OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4: 1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

One: Our God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:1-14

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

“Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.”

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN -#339 (UMH) vs. 1-3**

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

SERMON

Rev. Paul

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove
Chancel Choir

J. Purifoy

***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

***PARTING HYMN - #378 (UMH) vs. 1-4**

Amazing Grace

***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: Toccata on “Amazing Grace”

arr. J.C. Pardini

***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 in loving memory of their daughter, Ellen Gourlay on what would have been her 38th birthday by Karen and Carl Gatchell.

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 & Jeff Smith
Liturgist: Marty Lyman
Greeters: Gail & Chris Lima



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
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 October 11, 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/>)

Our pumpkins have been delivered and we are still looking for people to sign up for our **Pumpkin Patch!** Our "Patch" is open every day in October through the 31st. Sign-ups are still 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!

Wilbraham United Church will host a **clothing drive** on Saturday, October 24 from 9:30-12:00. Clothing will go to Big Blue Ministry. This is a religious organization and community support ministry located in Springfield, Massachusetts. Most needed items are hoodies, sweatpants, winter coats, underwear (boxers or ladies briefs), socks and gloves. If you are unable to drop off items on the 24th, bagged items can be dropped off the week of October 19th and placed in the coat rack area. Any questions, please see Patti Colkos.

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)

Trunk or Treat is coming on Sunday October 25th. Discipleship is gratefully accepting candy donations of pre-wrapped candies. They're also looking for folks to decorate trunks or tables and pass out candy. Please see Shelly, Patti or Aurora if you can help or email discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org. Candy may be dropped off at church during office hours or on Sunday's.

The following is an overview of what was discussed in our ***Wilbraham United Church Talk Show***, held on October 4th during our Stewardship Moment. Stewardship Sunday is November 8th and our campaign theme this year is ***Treasuring our Connections***.

Connections are important and meaningful in our everyday lives. Treasuring our connections strengthens our faith, commitment, community, and relationships with each other and with God. This church has so many connections inside **this** community and outside **in** the community.

Over the next few weeks we'll be getting to know some of the folks in this congregation who work tirelessly on its behalf in all different kinds of ways. We are a church full of treasures.

We welcomed our first guest, Matt Capen.

Victoria: Matt, you have been involved in a lot of things over the years. You were moderator, co-chair of the search committee, member of the finance committee, and currently you are chair of the physical operations commission, also known as PhysOps - can you tell us a little bit about what PhysOps does?

Matt: The short answer is we're responsible for the maintenance and repair of our building and grounds.

Victoria: It takes a lot of work and the right connections with the right folks to get all of this done.

Matt: Yes. Our PhysOps Commission is mostly comprised of families, fathers, dads and we all have day jobs. It's definitely a balancing act to try to get everything in the church done. Thankfully we have volunteers who help, like Bill Lynch who's painted several doors and they look great.

Victoria: You have a budget, but I imagine it's never enough with a building and grounds this size. I'm sure there's a never ending list of things to do, and you have to balance it with what needs to get done. Would a bigger budget help you?

Matt: Absolutely! Most of the budget goes toward maintenance. The heating fuel, snow removal, grounds, mowing the lawn, the cleaning crew to clean the building. There's very little of the budget that's discretionary. So when we do things like paint a door or put in air conditioning, those things don't come at an expense. But there is a list of things left over - we really could use new floors in the sanctuary and fellowship hall, hallway etc. This house of worship is a lot bigger and probably a lot older than most of our homes and with that comes a lot of upkeep and repairs.

Victoria: Clearly you've shown us that you have given of your time and talent. Do you "treasure" as well? Do you pledge to the church? (Matt answers "Yes".) Would you like to share why you pledge?

Matt: I pledge because I view this as another house - a house of worship. This is our family, and it takes all of us to keep this house running and to pay to heat the place and pay for worship. I do my part.

Victoria: Thank you, Matt. Thank you for all you do and we certainly appreciate all the work that the PhysOps commission does for Wilbraham United Church.

Connections are what makes us stronger. Making connections is a treasure all in itself. This concludes our first Stewardship Campaign Talk Show. Thanks for tuning in and we'll see you all next week!

Victoria Owen, Fellowship Commission Chair

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, October 11, 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, October 12, 2026

Church Office CLOSED

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

7:00 p.m. – WUP Board (FH)

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Grp

11:00 a.m. – Pastor/Moderator Mtg

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

7:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting

5:00 p.m. – Pastor's Office Hours

6:00 p.m. – Scouts (TS)

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

9:20 a.m. -Loaves and Fishes

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)

7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Friday, October 16, 2026

Church Office closed

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Church Office closed

10:00 a.m. -WUP (FH)

Sunday, October 18, 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)