



# 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](http://www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

[Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch](https://Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch)

**October 18, 2026**

**21st 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: Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

arr. C. Berry

Bells: When Morning Gilds the Skies

arr. M. & S. Eithun

## WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### WELCOME

**Rev. Paul**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Alan Druckenmiller**

One: We come in reverent awe before the Lord our God, for great is the Lord!

**All: We come, to join with all creation in singing new songs to the Lord our God.**

One: We come in worship and praise, for the Lord God is worthy of our praise!

**All: We come, to share together the news of our Glorious Lord’s saving deeds.**

One: We come with songs and prayers to give well-deserved glory to the Lord!

**All: We come, to bring our offerings of worship and praise to the Lord our God—whose holy splendor, honor and majesty shines forth from God’s presence.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 126 (UMH) vs. 1, 3, 4**      *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**God, you are our refuge. When the world gets to be too much with us, we turn to you for consolation and healing. Help us today to hear your words of compassion. Enable us to be those who would willingly serve all people in need. We ask this in the name of the one 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**

## **STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

## **RESPONSIVE PSALM**

**Psalm 96**

**One:** Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**All:** Sing to the Lord and bless the divine name; proclaim the good news of our salvation from day to day.

**One:** Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations and the wonders of God among all peoples.

**All:** For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

**One:** As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is you, O Lord, who made the heavens.

**All: Oh, the majesty and magnificence of your presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of your sanctuary!**

One: Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honor and power. Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the divine name; bring offerings and come into the courts of the Lord.

**All: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth bow before God.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

## **I Thessalonians 1:1-10**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Church in Thessalonica. To the church of the Thessalonians in God and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that God has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so, you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore, we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for the Son from heaven, who was raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

One: Our God is still speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **GOSPEL READING**

## **Matthew 22:15-22**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

One: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**\*HYMN - #261 (UMH) vs. 1-3**

*Lord of the Dance*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Paul**

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Down to the River to Pray with  
Lord, Listen to Your Children  
Chancel Choir

arr. M. McDonald

**\*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 - #729 (UMH)**

*O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines*

**\*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: Voluntary in A Minor

D. Lasky

**\*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 celebration of Alma's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday by her daughter, Amie Singh.*

*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:** Kim Ryan & Skip Dearborn

**Liturgist:** Alan Druckenmiller

**Greeter:** Sandy Harris



|                          |                                                                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rev. Paul Nesbit:</b> | Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103               |
| <b>Bobbie Morkin:</b>    | Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106 |
| <b>Deb Trimble:</b>      | Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100          |
| <b>David Wapner:</b>     | 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 18, 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 24<sup>th</sup>, bagged items can be dropped off the week of October 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)) or Patti Colkos ([tricia30@charter.net](mailto:tricia30@charter.net))

**Trunk or Treat** is coming on Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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 2nd Wilbraham United Church Talk Show, held on October 11th during our Stewardship Moment. Stewardship Sunday is November 8th and our campaign theme this year is Treasuring our Connections. Our guest this week was Sandy Harris, talking about Loaves & Fishes.***

Victoria: Sandy, every so often you stand up in church and say “We’re doing Loaves and Fishes on Tuesday if anyone would like to join us”. Today, we’re going to learn about Loaves and Fishes, because I would like to know more about it. What is “Loaves and Fishes”?

Sandy: Loaves and Fishes is a way to feed folks that need food for whatever reason. They provide 150 meals twice a day, lunch & dinner, seven days a week. We make a large casserole dish, a hot meal with beans, chicken, sometimes hamburger, rice; it’s healthy and hearty. Loaves & Fishes provide bread and we provide cookies. We provide lunch on the third Thursday of the month at South Congregational Church in downtown Springfield. Other churches in the area provide the other lunches and dinners.

Victoria: How often do you make the food? And where do you get the food to use for these meals?

Sandy: We make the food six times a year, so every other month. We make enough for two months, and freeze one month. People donate cans of beans and other items, and we purchase chicken and other things from Restaurant Depot in Chicopee, which has much lower prices than regular stores.

Victoria: How long does it take to make the food? And how much food do we make?

Sandy: Edna starts to cook early, and we come in around 9 and generally we are done by 11 am. We make 6 large casseroles each month.

Victoria: How many are involved in making the food?

Sandy: Quite a few! Sandy, Edna, Jean, Alesia, Jo, Kathy, Tim, Larry, Christine and Alan have donated food, Larry brings the food to South Congregational Church, etc. It takes a village.

Victoria: How long have we/you been doing this?

Sandy: I’m not sure how long the church has been doing this, but I have been doing it over forty years ago. When I started working with Loaves & Fishes service we served about 20 people. Now 150 people who are food challenged are served lunch and dinner.

Victoria: So every other month, we buy the food, we make and package the food, and put the food in the freezer. Then someone takes the food from the freezer to the car, and Larry drives the food to South Congregational Church. That takes time and commitment. Connecting to the community in this way is amazing. Think of all the people we feed, that’s a fundamental thing.

Sandy: It’s a very fundamental thing. People just can’t make it to the end of month with their paycheck. Or they may be homeless. It’s a drastic need for so many people. They want a nutritious meal.

Victoria: Thank you for sharing about Loaves and Fishes and what you and this church do on their behalf. 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?

Sandy: We’ve pledged all our church life. My father taught us a child you always give, work in the church, participate in the church. (Sandy holds up a sign that says “ch UR ch”). U R the center of your church. You are the ones who matter, you are the ones who show the community what our church is and how you care for other people.

Victoria: Connections are what makes us stronger. And this is a connection we certainly will treasure, hopefully for a very long time to come. That concludes our second week of Wilbraham United Church 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, October 18, 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, October 19, 2026***

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**10:00 a.m. – Pastor's Office Hours**

**10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers**

**6:30 p.m. – Trustees (ZR)**

**7:00 p.m. – Church Council (ZR)**

### ***Tuesday, October 20, 2026***

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

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

**5:00 p.m. – Discipleship (ZR)**

**7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)**

### ***Wednesday, October 21, 2026***

*Church Office 8:30 – 1:30*

**11:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting**

**1:00 p.m. – Called to Care (LIB)**

**5:00 p.m. – Pastor's Office Hours**

**6:00 p.m. – Scouts (TS)**

**6:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)**

### ***Thursday, October 22, 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)**

### ***Friday, October 23, 2026***

*Church Office closed*

**7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)**

### ***Saturday, October 24, 2026***

*Church Office closed*

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

### ***Sunday, October 25, 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)**