



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 25, 2026

22nd 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: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

arr. B.S. Mayo

Bells: Hanson Place, Shall We Gather at the River

arr. A.K. Organ

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Rev. Paul

CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Gatchell

One: Come to us, O God.

All: Breathe through our worship with your Holy Spirit.

One: Fill us with your faithful love.

All: Guide us with your ancient teachings.

One: Come to us, O God.

All: Be in our prayer and praise.

***GATHERING HYMN #117 (UMH)**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

God of ages past and days to come, help us embrace both your ancient wisdom and your ongoing guidance. Help us hear anew your words from years gone by. Open our hearts and minds to fully embrace what it means to love you, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbors as you have loved us. In love and gratitude, we pray in the words that Jesus taught us: 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. 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

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

One: Our God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

All: You turn us back to dust and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”

One: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night.

All: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

One: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

All: Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

One: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

All: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us and as many years as we have seen evil.

One: Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children.

All: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?”

“If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN - #2223 (TFWS) vs. 1-3**

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

SERMON

Rev. Paul

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Blessed Are They
Chancel Choir

K. Crane & J. Klein

***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 - #157 (UMH) vs. 1-3**

Jesus Shall Reign

***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: Fanfare on "Duke Street"

arr. J.S. Dixon

***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 Chris and Gail Lima in memory of Chris's sister, Judy.

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: Sherrie and Ralph Ridgeway

Liturgist: Karen Gatchell

Greeter: Gennie 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
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 25, 2026

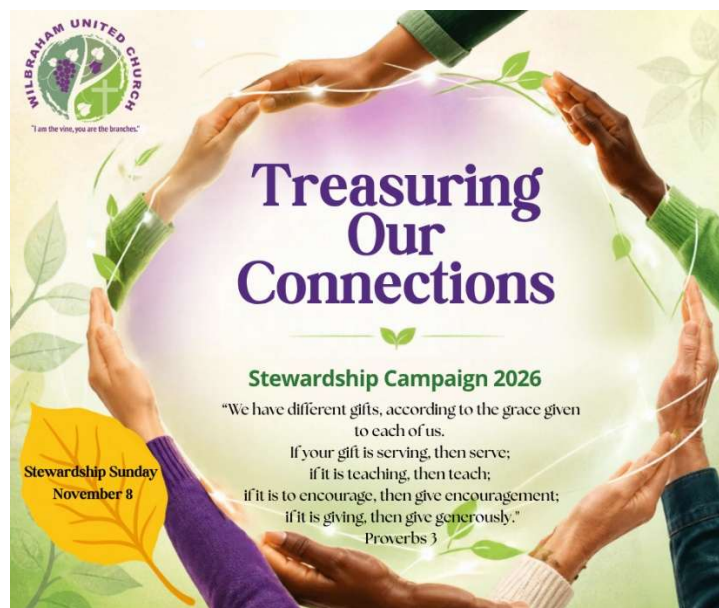
Wilbraham United Church now has **merchandise!** Did you ever wish you could wear a Wilbraham United Church T-shirt or hat, or carry a tote bag with a picture of the church on it? Well, now you can! T-shirts for adults and kids, sweatshirts, mugs, tote bags, something for everyone. This is a fundraiser 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/>)

There are still have some open **Pumpkin Patch** shifts through our last week up through October 31st. So far, we’ve sold over \$10,000 in pumpkins! Our Pumpkin Patch depends on volunteers to help sell every day and the more people who volunteer the better! 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!

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 today at 2PM! Join in the Halloween fun – bring your trunk and some decorations and help pass out candy!

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.



The following is an overview of what was discussed in our 3rd Stewardship Moment on October 18th, regarding our upcoming Stewardship Campaign. Victoria thanked our Director of Music, Bobbie Morkin, for providing the music for the talk shows and introduced our guest for this week, Shelly Capen.

Victoria: Shelly, as chair of the Discipleship Commission, either you or members of the commission stand up most Sundays, like you did today, and share with us something about upcoming events, or donation drives, or special mission offerings - you're busy. Can you share with us some of the things that the Discipleship Commission does? Not all of the things, because we'd be here until Tuesday, and we only have about 5 minutes, but if you could narrow it down, that'd be great.

Shelly: One of the biggest responsibilities we have is our church school program that runs from Homecoming Sunday in September through Celebration Sunday in June. We register the kids, choose the curriculum and the weekly lessons, keep families informed of the lessons each week, we present bibles to middle school kids, and make sure we have Cori'd teachers to cover each week.

Victoria: Church school is a huge responsibility and a very important one. Teaching kids about God is a treasure in itself. These are lessons that kids will have for a lifetime. You also oversee the Blessing Box, How did that come about?

Shelly: A few years ago, a boy scout approached our commission and asked if our church would be interested in having a Blessing Box on our property. We felt this was an important & needed addition to our community so we agreed. We maintain and keep it stocked. Right now it's a little empty, so anytime you are out shopping you can grab a few things and put them in the Blessing Box or the shopping carriage in the narthex. We check it weekly but there are days and things go quickly.

Victoria: The blessing box is important because it connects us with the local community, helping with food insecurity and it is utilized a lot.

Shelly: We also offer monthly events for our congregation and for our greater community, like Fenway Golf for friends and family, trunk and treat (Victoria pipes in and says...) VBC, Mother-Son dance, Trunk or Treat, Charlie Brown Thanksgiving event, Christmas Karaoke/crafts and spaghetti dinner event, Family bowling, Easter egg hunt, Fenway golf, Family Service night and pancake dinner with Church World Services, to name a few. VBC is a weeklong endeavor and one of our biggest events as is the mother/son dance, where last year we sold out of tickets.

Shelly: The last thing the Discipleship commission also does is our outreach program, where we are charged with distributing the church's endowment outreach fund that our bylaws say we need to spend every year to organizations we believe our congregation would like to support.

Victoria: And this is in addition to the donation drives that you hold pretty much every month, Neighbors in Need, Thanksgiving Baskets, Food pantry and our own blessing box (like the "Souper" bowl), One Great Hour of Sharing, clothing and food drives.

The connections that Discipleship makes go well beyond these walls into the community and to the world, if you think of some of the things we contribute to. Thank you for all you and the discipleship team does for all of us. You certainly give of your time & your talent - do you treasure as well? Do you pledge to the church?

Shelly: We do pledge to the church. Matt & I value everything the church offers our congregation as well as the community and we want to continue to see it grow.

Victoria: Thank you, Shelly. Making connections in our community and in the world is priceless. We are a church full of treasures. 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 25, 2026

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

2:00 p.m. – Trunk or Treat

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, October 26, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Pastor's Office Hours

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

4:00 p.m. – Hospitality (ZR)

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast Group

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, October 28, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting

5:00 p.m. – Pastor's Office Hours

5:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

6:00 p.m. – Scouts (TS)

Thursday, October 29, 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 30, 2026

Church Office closed

5:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Church Office closed

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

Sunday, November 1, 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)