



OCTOBER 4, 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

October 4, 2026

19th 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: For the Beauty of the Earth

Bells: Festive Day

arr. J. B. Taylor

C. Moglebust

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Rev. Paul

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ed McCorkindale

One: We gather as God's people to celebrate the beauty of our diversity.

All: Let us love each other as God loves us, beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image.

One: We give thanks for who we are, Beloved of God.

All: Let us open our hearts to God's spirit of love and unity.

One: We celebrate the gifts of all gathered here today.

All: Let us worship God with all we are and celebrate the beauty of all God's creation.

***GATHERING HYMN #92 (UMH) vs. 1-4**

For the Beauty of the Earth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we confess we have been dishonest in our walk with you. We have not treated others with respect and acceptance and have not cared for the least of these as you have called us to do. We acknowledge that too many times, we have taken the effortless way to our benevolence and have mistreated those in need and with judgment. We ask your forgiveness for all we have done that is not pleasing to you, 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.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.”

One: Our God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 19

One: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows the handiwork of the Lord.

All: One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

One: Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

All: their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.

One: In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

All: It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

One: The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

All: The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

One: The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

All: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

One: By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

All: Who can tell how often they offend? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

One: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight; O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:33-46

“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!

SERMON

Rev. Paul

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Go Gently, Go Lightly

N. Raabe

Chancel Choir with Stacy Gilmour, flute

***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 – # *see insert*

As We Gather at Your Table

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

O Lord, this special communion reminds us of being members of a global community. We have feasted at your table. As you have nourished us, may we go into your world to bring a feast of peace and hope to others, listening with loving ears and acting with loving hearts, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN** – *see insert vs. 1-3*

For the Healing of the Nations

***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: Variations on “Dix”

arr. D. Lasky

I. Introduction

II. Duo

***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 Deb Trimble in celebration of Jim Trimble's birthday on October 9th.

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: Bill Lynch and Tom Toman

Liturgist: Ed McCorkindale

Communion: Nan Shepard, Marty Lyman

Greeter: Judy Marek



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
The Hungry
The Homeless

The victims of violence and their families
Our troops, our country and our world

HOLY COMMUNION

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As We Gather at Your Table

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth-er guests to share that feast

send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phiant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965



1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

News for the Pews” for the Week of October 4, 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!

Today we are taking a special offering for **Neighbors in Need**. Envelopes are available in the pews. Gifts to Neighbors in Need support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. We also give a portion of this collection to the United Methodist Church's Neighbors In Need program for food insecurity.

Our Annual **Trunk or Treat** event is coming up on October 25th and the Discipleship Team is gratefully accepting candy donations for this event. Pre-wrapped candy can be left in the Discipleship office or dropped off in the church office during the week. They are also looking for folks to decorate a "trunk" or a table and pass out treats on that date from 2-4.

Joint event with the Wilbraham United and
Christ the King Epiphany Congregations

Blessing of the ANIMALS

Sunday

October 4 - 1 pm

Wilbraham United Church

500 Main St

Wilbraham, MA

We Invite you to

Bring your pet to be blessed.
Pets should be in carriers or on
non-retractable leashes please!



Stop by and
visit our pumpkin patch
with your pet!

Blessings will be given outside on the front
lawn of the church - weather permitting

Wilbraham United Church

Free!

TRUNK *on* TREAT

2-4 p.m.



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PARKING IN REAR - PUMPKIN PATCH

500 Main Street Wilbraham, MA

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

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)

Monday, October 5, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers

10:00 a.m. – Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

11:00 a.m. – Pastor/Moderator Mtg

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

7:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Church Office 10:30 – 1:30

11:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting

5:00 p.m. – Pastor's Office Hours

6:00 p.m. – Scouts (TS)

7:00 p.m. – Phys Ops Meeting (ZR)

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Church Office 10:30 – 2:30

6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)

Friday, October 9, 2026

Church Office closed

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

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Church Office closed

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

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)