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 15, 2026 25th 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: Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God — arr. M. Ijames
Bell Choir: Jesus Shall Reign — arr. J.W. Krug

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME — **Rev. Paul**

CALL TO WORSHIP — **Tim Timpson**

One: Great and Glorious God, we gather to worship you. We lift our eyes to you, in reverent awe before your majesty.
All: Great is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!
One: Generous and Merciful God, we come to worship you. We lift our eyes to you, giving thanks for your compassion.
All: Gracious is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!
One: Welcoming and Empowering God, we worship you. We lift our eyes to you, and we celebrate your faithfulness.
All: Holy is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised! We lift our eyes, seeking to worship and praise our God. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN** *#131 (UMH)* — *We Gather Together*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. Hear us 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. 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

MERCHANDISE MOMENT

OLD TESTAMENT **Psalm 123**

One: To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.
All: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God, until you show us your mercy.
One: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, for we have had more than enough contempt,
All: too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

NEW TESTAMENT **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Our God is still speaking **All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL **Matthew 25:14-30**

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

"'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

***HYMN -** *#2130 (TFWS)* *The Summons*

SERMON **Show and Tell** **Rev. Paul**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God arr. L. Larson
Chancel Choir
Guest Cellist: Denise Gendron

***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** - *#438 (UMH)* *Forth in Thy Name, O Lord*

***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: We Gather Together arr. 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 Judy Marek in memory of Eunice Lamb.

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: Tim Timpson
Greeter: Gail & Chris Lima

Wilbraham United Church
"I am the vine, you are the branches."

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.



“News for the Pews” for the Week of November 8, 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)

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.

Healthcare workers/ first aiders meeting this morning at 11:30 a.m. 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.

Can you display a **Holly Fair** *sign* on your lawn and/or know a person or place of business who would be willing to host one until December 12th? High traffic areas are great. Contact Bill Sanderson (linwood36@yahoo.com) to take a sign.

HELP needed to *supervise parking* for the **Holly Fair**. We need 5 volunteers for 8 a.m. to around 11:30 a.m. Once the early crowd starts to leave parking will take care of itself. To volunteer contact Bill Sanderson (linwood36@yahoo.com)
NOTES from SAFE CHURCH:

Please note there is an **AED** and **FIRST AID KIT** located in the main hallway by the mailboxes.

Last week many of the ushers met to review the Safe Church Policy and emergency procedures. *In case of an **emergency**, please follow the ushers’ directions to exit the sanctuary.*

Our **Food Drive** collection allows us to provide a Thanksgiving Meal to a family who may need assistance. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, November 15, 2026
10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)
11:30 a.m.- First Aid meeting (ZR)
1:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, November 16, 2026
Church Office 9:30 – 2:30
10:00 a.m. – Pastor's Office Hours
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
5:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
7:00 p.m.-Church Council (ZR)

Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Church Office 9:30 – 2:30
9:00 a.m.–Loaves and Fishes Prep(Kit)
11:30 a.m.–Woman's Fellowship (ZR)
2:00 p.m. -Bible Study (ZR)
7:00 p.m.– Evening Bible Study(ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Church Office 9:30 - 2:30
11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting (Office)
1:00 p.m. – Called to Care (Lib)
5:00 p.m. – Pastor's Office Hours
5:30 p.m. – WUP (FH)
6:00 p.m. - Scouts (TS)

Thursday, November 19, 2026
Church Office 9:30 – 2:30
9:20 a.m. - Loaves and Fishes(Kit)
5:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
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 20, 2026
Church Office closed
WUP SHOW(FH)

Saturday, November 21, 2026
Church Office closed
4:30 p.m. -Charlie Brown Thanksgiving (ZR)
WUP SHOW(FH)

Sunday, November 22, 2026
10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship (FH)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)
WUP SHOW(FH)



Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

All are welcome to join us for
a movie, themed dinner and craft!

Saturday, November 21st
4:30 - 6:30 PM
Zeckhausen Room