

T-Shirt Sunday



August 31, 2025



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

August 31, 2025

12th 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.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

arr. M. Hayes

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #66**(UMH verses 1 & 2) *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Lyman

Liturgist: We uplift our voices to God and we sing out our praises. We trust that the Lord knows our hearts and understands our desire to give ourselves over to the Spirit of the One who made us.

People: Every day we will strive to do better in our work and in our ways. We pray that our Lord energizes us for the journey and gives us the courage to practice what our faith calls us to do. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, You have made us towards yourself, provided us with knowledge and hope and blessing. You have continually lifted us from the depths of despair and have shown us better ways of being. Come to us we pray, and remind us that you are always with us. Teach us of the power that manifests when we worship together, when we uplift our prayers and praise to you for a collective purpose. Help us to come nearer to You, for it is where we want to be. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE # 334 (UMH)**

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 2: 4-13

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves?

They did not say, "Where is the Lord, who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?"

I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.

The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children.

Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look; send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked; be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sung Response # 2193 (TFWS)

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 14: 7-14

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Labor Day Meditation

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #128** (*UMH verses 1 & 2*)

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

The Bond of Love with Blest Be the Tie That Binds

arr. R. Sprunger

***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

***PARTING HYMN #431 (UMH)**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

***FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

***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: Lead On, O King Eternal

arr. R. Thygerson

Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to 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. We invite you to join us in our time of Fellowship after the service. Our ushers or a member of the ministry team will be happy to accompany you and help you find your way!*

UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS – The “small black” book Faith We Sing Hymnal

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Guest Musician: Marcia Jackson

Ushers: The Pierangelos

Liturgist: Marty Lyman

Greeter: Gail & Chris Lima

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

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*If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Janet or the Church Office.
After office hours, Rev. Janet can be reached at (978)350-3463.*



Please Pray For:

Catherine Gardner

Larry Harris

Connie Law

Sharon McAbee

Shey McAbee

Michelle McBride

Bill McCullough

Theresa Munn

the Nelson Family

David Pierangelo

Susan Pereira

Jim Trimble

Marilyn

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 August 31, 2025

In Lieu of Mums

An ACTS Fundraiser

This is the time of year when our church would usually be supporting the Action Centered Tutoring Services organization through their annual MUM sale.

Checks made payable to ACTS and cash donations will be collected by Andrea Stephenson on Sept 7 & 14



Online donations can be made on the ACTS website



The ACTS Mum Sale grower had a devastating fire in March and there will be no flower sale this year. (The sales represented 20% of ACTS operating budget.) Each fall the Mum Sale helped launch the tutoring service programs. Despite this setback, they are about to begin their 40th consecutive year with 6 sites providing free, after-school tutoring to the elementary school children of Springfield. In the past, WUC has contributed over \$800 in Mum purchases to this important fundraiser.

Please consider donating what you might have purchased in the past (or perhaps more) to help ACTS recover these lost revenues. Your gifts can be considered a charitable donation since ACTS is a 501 (c) 3 charity. Gifts can be made in cash or check made out to ACTS. Please complete a donor form (available in the Narthex or from Andrea) so that ACTS has a record of your gift and to enable them to send you a proper thank you. Donations can be given to Andrea Stephenson who will collect them on Sundays through September 14th. Credit cards are also accepted on the ACTS website www.acts86.org/donate.



This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, August 31, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, September 1, 2025

Church Office CLOSED

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Church Office 8:30 –1:30

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Church Office 8:30 –1:30

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

Friday, September 5, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, September 6, 2025

Church Office closed

Sunday, September 7, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)



Harvest Dinner

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2025
6PM

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH
500 MAIN ST
WILBRAHAM

Roast Chicken & Sides
Apple Crisp

\$25 PER PERSON
TABLES FOR 4 OR 8 PEOPLE ALSO AVAILABLE
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE
WWW.WILBRAHAMUNITEDCHURCH.ORG



WUC now has a Clothing and Textile Recycle Bin

What you can place in bin:

- Clothing
- Shoes
- Linens
- Bedding
- Comforters
- Duvets
- Athletic clothing and shoes

Please do NOT place in bin: Pillows, Firearms,
Lawn equipment, Appliances, Baby items,
Toys, Books, Electronics,
Mattresses, Box springs, Rugs

Bin is located in the back corner of our Parking Lot