



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 19, 2025

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.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: What A Wonderful World

G.D. Weiss & B. Thiele

Bells: Christians, We Have Met to Worship

arr. L. Larson

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #729 (UMH)**

O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Let us praise God for the turning of the seasons and let us rejoice in all that the Lord has blessed us with. Sometimes we fail in our understanding of God's ways and will, but we are called to grow in our faith and to strive to be closer to our God in heaven.

People: We do not fully comprehend the works of God. We cannot hope to achieve God's righteousness, but we know that it pleases God when we walk in the path of goodness and understanding. It pleases our Lord when we love all the more. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, We thank you for the world around us from which so many of your blessings flow. We praise you for all that we have received and for the gifts which are yet to come. Help us to realize that although we have let go of summer, the harvest awaits, and its goodness is filled to the brim. Grant us the realization that we are nourished by your hand, and made whole by your love. 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 6: 6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Timothy 3: 13-17

But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

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

*Breath of God, Breath of Peace, Breath of love, Breath of life,
Breath of justice, Breath of passion,
Breath creating, Breath of healing, Breath of singing, Breath of praying,
Come upon us, come restore us, come inspire us, Breath of God.*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18: 9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Just Another Minor

Rev. Janet

***HYMN 593(UMH)**

Here I Am, Lord

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship
Chancel Choir

B. Doerksen
& A.B. Sherman

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***PARTING HYMN #384(UMH)**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #2238 (TFWS) Refrain**

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Organ: Marche Nuptiale

W. Sassmannshausen

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*

The Altar Flowers this morning are given by Phyllis Walsh in memory of loved ones.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical: Deb Trimble

Ushers: Ralph & Sherrie Ridgeway

Liturgist: Marty Lyman

Greeters: Gail & Chris Lima

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: 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. 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
Claire McCullough
Theresa Munn
David Pierangelo
Jim Trimble
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 19, 2025

The **Sign-up** sheet for the daily **Pumpkin Patch** shifts for the month of October are online in a google file. If you did not receive the link by email you can still sign up! There are plenty of open shifts needing coverage. Just let Deb know that you’d like to either access the file, or she can sign you up for a shift or two! Please consider signing up for a 2-hour shift(s) so that we can make sure our Pumpkin Patch is thoroughly staffed. Any questions, see Deb.

Please note that the **Harvest Dinner**, scheduled for November 8th is being **postponed** until the spring (date still to be determined). Those who ordered tickets online should receive a refund shortly. For those who paid in cash, please see Deb in the office about getting a refund.

We are accepting candy donations and trunks to be decorated for our annual **Trunk or Treat** on October 26th – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Candy can be dropped off in the church office or Christian Ed office on Sundays. If you can decorate a trunk (or even a table) for us this year, please let us know at discipleship@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org or see a discipleship member.



On Saturday Oct. 25th from 9:00 - 12:00 we will be **collecting** gently used and new clothing drive for Big Blue Ministries. Most needed items are women's and men's hoodies, sweatpants, winter coats, socks, gloves, new underwear (boxers or ladies briefs). If you can donate items you can drop them off at church any time between now and October 25!

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH

Pumpkin Patch

OPENS OCTOBER 5TH
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY
10-6

Pick your
perfect
pumpkin!

SUNDAY 12-6
THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST



500 MAIN STREET WILBRAHAM MA

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, October 19, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
4:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class (ZR)
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Monday, October 20, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30
10:00 a.m. – Piece Makers
6:30 p.m. – Deacons (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – Church Council (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30
11:30 a.m. – Women's Fellowship
(ZR)
2:00 p.m. -Bible Study (ZR)
5:30 p.m. -Discipleship Comm (ZR)
6:30 p.m. – Search Comm. (ZR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Church Office 11:30 – 2:30
11:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
4:00 p.m. -Fellowship Comm
6:00 p.m. – Scouts
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)
7:15 p.m. -Praise Band (Sanc)

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30
6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir (Sanc)
8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Sanc)

Friday, October 24, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Church Office closed
9:00 a.m. – Clothing Drive
9:00 a.m. – WUP (FH)

Sunday, October 26, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship
11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time (FH)
2:00 p.m. -Trunk or Treat
5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)
7:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The Stewardship Committee recently asked a sampling of the congregation some heartfelt questions. They were of all ages, both genders, married, single, some with children and some without. Here are the responses for the last four questions we asked in their entirety.

WHAT HAS KEPT YOU COMING BACK TO THIS CHURCH?

The community that has turned in to family.

Kind and welcoming congregation and pastor, and my understanding of the benefit of regular attendance for myself and my kids. And the kids like the food.

It is part of my life – like family.

The loving family we have acquired here.

Commitment/Community /Fellowship. Meeting others with kids, and same sense of need for faith.

Becoming a member of the bell choir and the relationships built with our present and former music directors, Bobbie & Mark.

Church service, close to home.

There have been many changes over the years with some rough spots, but over time the atmosphere has typically been consistently positive, maintaining a Christian attitude and outlook.

I keep coming back because of the people and because I need a place to worship and keep close to the teachings of Christ. I've been part of church communities since I was a baby. Church involvement is very important to me.

Music program kept me coming back. Susan Gibson was a warm and engaging Pastor. We found the entire worship service inclusive. This is one of the most important things – without an engaging message, it is unlikely we would return.

WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU BELONGED AT OUR CHURCH?

Very shortly after coming.

When I was warmly welcomed by Marge, Sandy, Larry, John, Candy, Joyce, Chip and now Janet. And particularly now as I hear the message of the service which seems true and in accordance with The Word. I don't sense much pride or deviations from what I consider biblical truths.

When I was very young.

When my kids would get spoiled at coffee hour by their many grandparent figures that would give them an extra cookie or treat. My kids don't see their grandparents often, so this was special for me.

After about a year, I became a member. I felt welcome and part of the church.
I think I probably recognized “belonging” when I was in high school. We had a very active youth fellowship and a phenomenal associate minister who led our Youth Fellowship. Being part of this group and participating in the service activities as well as fellowship activities are what helped form my faith.

The people, and the service.

I felt I belonged when working on church programs and activities with so many people that really cared, were good to work with, and willing to contribute their time and effort.
Mrs. McCollough asked me to be “Wanda” and I got to speak about stewardship for 3 or 4 weeks as a junior in high school.

I joined our church in 1974 because I felt I belonged here.

Christian friends, with similar values and people we easily connect with. Church felt like home and an extended family quickly.

WHY DO YOU GIVE OF YOUR TIME TO VOLUNTEER/SERVE OUR CHURCH?

I want my kids to see I put God and family first. I want to show them what it looks like to be in a great community.

Because it is one small achievable way for me to do good and contribute to the church and God’s message. Also, as an example for my kids.

Because I love it and all our members and it nourishes me.

I do choir because I love to sing and make beautiful music. I volunteer on discipleship because I want to create fun and meaningful fellowship opportunities that keep our church active and connected to each other and the community. I love to teach kids about God and how to spread God’s love to others through kindness and service projects.

It’s important to keep children involved in church.

Volunteering was something instilled in me. I grew up watching my mother volunteer at church and she often had my sister and I helping out with project in which she was involved.

Because people need help and we feed the homeless.

I want to see the church able to meet the needs of current members and able to continue to do so for future members.

I enjoy helping to shape the spiritual practice and sharing knowledge with the youngest members of the church in hopes that they will become strong members of the faith community.

I’ve always been active in church activities because I want to support the work of the church.

It’s the right thing to do. I guess it was our upbringing...

HOW DO YOU SEE OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE GIVING TO THE CHURCH AND PRACTICING GENEROSITY?

Anytime we can get my kids involved I do. And I like to explain to them why it is what we do.

I think the call for volunteers (liturgists, ushers, committees) has been a good way to invite people to contribute where they have capacity. I have heard this call in emails and through announcements during service, which seems appropriate. Young people may have less money and time than more-seasoned folks, so that is a factor. I think asking this question in a good start. Speaking to the youth classes and the congregation about giving (biblical examples) may spark actions of kindness outside the church, which is great.

... I hope to see my grandchildren become involved.

Go to vacation bible camp in August and you will see so many of our youth in action. Once they have finished 6th grade, they generously give of their time to volunteer to help make the VBC week possible. Depending on age, they also participate in church school, volunteer at the Holly Fair, make hygiene kits during family service night, unload pumpkins, help during coffee hour, sing or play instruments at junior choir, and participating in special services as liturgists, greeters, ushers and various Christmas pageant roles.

Participating in events/community functions. Learning to give their time is as important. *As a member of discipleship, my views on our young people giving to the church may be slightly skewed but I believe that the youth give to the church through their participation in junior choir, bringing friends to church and family events, and showing up every Sunday despite conflicting priorities.*

I think it's important that we help build the foundation of generosity and provide more opportunities like the service projects the children do already (putting the hygiene kits together and creating cards for the veterans in our church). Having them feel like they are a part of the church, too, will in turn foster generosity. Bobbie provides opportunities for the children to share their talents during the service – be it singing or playing their instruments – and Janet has them interact with the congregation during the Children's moment. Perhaps other opportunities can be explored.

I would like to thank our survey participants. Asking a variety of people can give you a variety of views and opinions. Yet, we've heard some common themes over the past two weeks. The top mention was "Welcoming Community", mentioned 21 times! The next highest mention was the "Church Service, the Message, the Pastor, the Sermons, Biblical Teachings". Youth was also mentioned many times, whether it was events, activities,

Christian Education, confirmation, etc. Music was also mentioned many times, and referrals from church members. And we can't forget that kids like our fellowship hour food!

Stewardship Sunday is about pledging our commitment to this church. To continue to nourish our souls. To continue to have this church provide meaningful worship services. To continue to provide funds to ensure the church continues to feed our souls and the souls of those who continue to worship here in the years and generations to come.

Please consider making a pledge on Stewardship Sunday.

Victoria Owen
Fellowship & Stewardship Committee Chair

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure – pressed down, shaken together, and running over – will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38