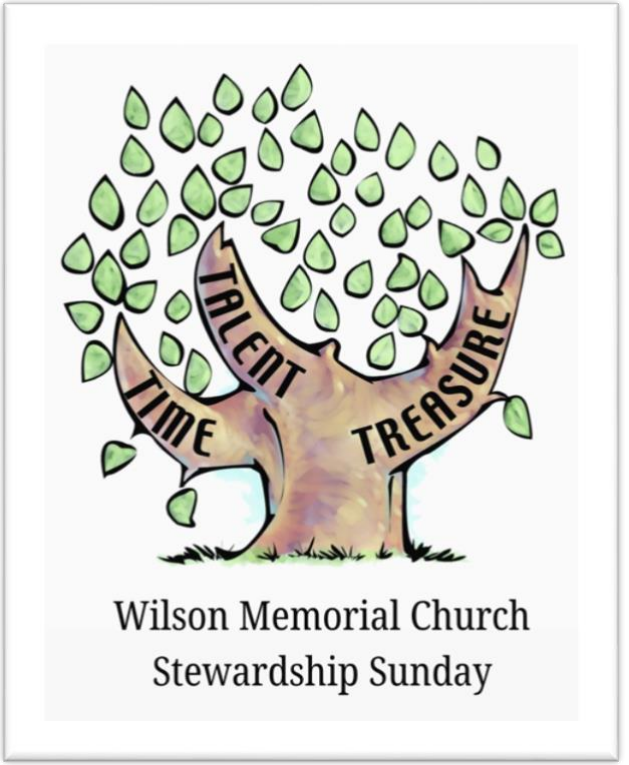
Welcome to
WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH

Wilson Memorial is a vibrant, interdenominational, community-focused church.
We aspire to be the Light on the Hill, reflecting God's love and sharing the message of Christ.



November 8, 2026
Stewardship Sunday

7 Valley Rd, Watchung NJ
(908) 755-5020
www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org
Admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org

**Wilson Memorial Church is a 21st century church. We engage both in-person and online worship environments. Photos and video snippets may be used in social media posts. If you are not comfortable with you or your child's likeness being shared, please notify an usher, our pastor or an Executive Board member.*

November 8, 2026 Please rise as you are able in body or in spirit **10:00am**

Bold print indicates unison read

PRELUDE *Various Melodies* Ricky Francese

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Cota Possien-Kania

We light this candle for Jesus Christ, who meets us where we are and cares for the people the world overlooks. May it remind us that we can trust him with everything we love.

HYMN #649 *Gather Us In*

V1: Here in this place, the new light is streaming,
shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreaming,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

V4: Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS Angela Della Ventura

CALL TO WORSHIP Cota Possien-Kania

When we love something, we take care of it.

We come this morning loving this church and the people in it.

And when we love something, we worry about it.

We bring our worries here too.

A Roman soldier once came to Jesus and said, “Only speak the word.”

We have come to trust the One who speaks.

God is faithful yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Thanks be to God! Let us worship together.

OPENING PRAYER Cota Possien-Kania

Good and gracious God, you know what we love and you know what we worry about. This morning we bring you both. Meet us here, the way Jesus met the centurion. Speak your word to us, and help us trust you with our lives, our families, and all that we have. Amen.

ANTHEM *I'll Be There*

V1: You and I must make a pact
We must bring salvation back
Where there is love, I'll be there (I'll be there)
I'll reach out my hand to you
I'll have faith in all you do
Just call my name and I'll be there (I'll be there)

Refrain: And oh, I'll be there to comfort you
Build my world of dreams around you, I'm so glad that I found you
I'll be there with a love that's strong
I'll be your strength, I'll keep holding on
(Holdin' on, holdin' on, holdin' on) Yes, I will, yes, I will

V2: Let me fill your heart with joy and laughter
Togetherness, girl, is all I'm after
Whenever you need me, I'll be there (I'll be there)
I'll be there to protect you (Yeah, baby)
With an unselfish love that respects you
Just call my name and I'll be there (I'll be there). **Refrain.**

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

(All who wish are invited to take part verbally in our prayer of reconciliation.)
Faithful God, we say we trust you, and then we worry as if everything depends on us. We hold tightly to what we have and fear there will not be enough. We forget how many times you have provided. Forgive us. Loosen our grip, quiet our worry, and teach us to trust you at a deeper level. Amen.
(A time of silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

HYMN #422 *Amazing Grace*

V1: Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

V2: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grab appear the hour I first believed.

V4: Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace that bought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

V5: When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

CHILDREN'S TIME Pastor Ryan

TIME OF TESTIMONY Bruce Heyman

SCRIPTURE READING Cota Possien-Kania

Matthew 8:5-13 (NRSVUE)

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress."
And he said to him, "I will come and cure him."
The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me, and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it."
When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

SERMON Living into God's Story: Faithful Today Pastor Ryan

BLESSING OF PLEDGES & OFFERINGS Pastor Ryan

(Everyone is invited to come forward and place a stone, along with a pledge card or offering if you have one. If you would rather stay seated, an usher will bring a basket down the aisle to you.)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavn'ly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN #72 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

V1: Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

V2: Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **Refrain.**

V3: Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain.**

BENEDICTION Pastor Ryan

POSTLUDE Ricky Francese

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers that grace the sanctuary today are in memory of
Dave and Ruth Chalker

TODAY St. Mary-Stony Hill, Temple Har Shalom and Wilson Memorial Church invite you to an interfaith service of prayer, scripture and sacred song as we celebrate our unity and give gratitude to God in this season of Thanksgiving. *Sunday, November 8th at 4pm* at Wilson Memorial Church.

Bell Choir Rehearsal begins TODAY at 11:40 in the multi-purpose room.

Veterans Day Recognition
We will take time during our worship service today to honor and give thanks for the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces.

UPCOMING:
Nov. 17: Courageous Conversations 6pm
Nov. 22: Thanksgiving breakfast during coffee hour
Dec. 5: Advent Supper and Tree Lighting

Trees of Light: We will celebrate the Christmas season illuminating our grounds by erecting beautiful Trees of Light. The trees will remain lit each evening from 6:00 PM until midnight during the entire Christmas season. Trees may be lighted in honor of a loved one, a family or maybe a special hope for the coming year. The cost to memorialize one of these beautiful trees is $100. Trees will be identified with a plaque containing the name(s) or family to be memorialized. In addition, we would like to offer the opportunity to add an additional donation to support the Starfish Food Pantry, Plainfield, NJ. Registrations are due by Sunday, November 29th.

PRAYER REQUEST:
Kerri Herlich • Lisa Wilson • Lonnie Miller • Lorraine Lotowycz • Harold Kreis Sr.

How to Support the Work of Wilson Memorial Church

IN SERVICE: Place your offerings in the plate at the back of the Sanctuary.

BY MAIL: 7 Valley Road Watchung, NJ 07069

ONLINE: Secure giving portal by clicking the "Giving" link on our website; www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org

TEXT-TO-GIVE: Text WILSONCHURCH to (908) 460-8818 and follow the setup prompts for your first time. Once set up, you can simply text the gift amount to the above number.

VENMO: We now offer a new Venmo option. Scan the QR code provided.



How to reach Pastor Rev. Ryan Irmer:
call the office for assistance at (908)755-5020.
In any kind of crisis, you can always email or call
Pastor Ryan at rirmer@wilsonmemorialchurch.org or (908)755-5589.

Rev. Ryan Irmer, Pastor
Angie Francese O'Neill, Director of Music
Ricky Francese, Accompanist
Jacob Feldman, A/V Specialist
Tina Kelly, Administrator
Bella Desiano, Children's Church
Tyler Lostan & Shirley Kreis, The Gathering Youth Group
Harold Kreis, Sexton
The Rev. Barbara Peters, Pastor Emerita
Lisa Renaud, Frippery (908)625-5042