

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
15th Sunday after Pentecost - September 6, 2026

 **Reflection** – *“The time is ripe for looking back over the day, the week, the year, and trying to figure out where we have come from and where we are going to, for sifting through the things we have done and the things we have left undone for a clue to who we are and who, for better or worse, we are becoming.” ~ Frederick Buechner, minister/theologian*

“It is terrible how much has been forgotten, which is why, I suppose, remembering seems a holy thing.” ~ Anita Diamant, author of The Red Tent

 **Prelude**

 **Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome to Worship**

 **Introit**

 **Call to Worship** with SL #747 *“I Come With Joy”* sung as the table is prepared for Communion

One: What do you bring to worship this day?

Many: **We bring joy and thanksgiving
for God’s forgiving love.**

ALL Sing: *I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me.*

One: What is this community in which we are gathered?

Many: **It is a community of love and forgiveness,
of hope and peace.**

ALL Sing: *I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
in Christ’s communion bread.*

One: Christ breaks the bread of life for us.

Many: **We are bound together in the love of Jesus Christ.**

ALL Sing: *As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.*

One: Praise be to God!

All: **Amen!**

 **Hymn NC #379** *Come, We Who Love God’s Name* (vs 1, 2, 3, 5)
Come, we who love God’s name, and let our joys be known;
Together God’s great love proclaim, and thus surround the throne.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
But we our thanks and praise will bring for love so deep and broad.

God’s grace on earth is found, the seeds of glory sown;
Celestial fruits on earthly ground from faith and hope have grown.

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
We’re traveling through Emmanuel’s ground, to greater worlds on high.

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Holy One, we come to worship this morning with a thousand things on our minds. In this time together, quiet the noise and draw us close. Remind us of the stories of your people; stories of journeys begun, paths opened, and grace discovered along the way. Remind us that we, too, are part of this story, held by a love that has been faithful through every generation. Give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts open to your presence. Meet us here and begin again the work of shaping us with your grace. Amen.

 **Gloria SL #9**

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.

 **Flute Anthem** *Blessed Assurance*

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **A Prayer Litany for Labor Day**

One: Holy Creator, You formed us lovingly –

Many: **out of the dust of the earth,**

One: breathed the breath of life into us,

Many: **gave us work and purpose for living,**

One: and the Spirit,

Many: **who gives us our varieties of calling . . .**

One: Guide our work –

Many: **and the work of all people,**

One: that it may enhance human dignity,
Many: **and bind us to one another . . .**
 One: Give us and all people pride in our work –
Many: **a fair return for our labor,**
 One: joy in work undertaken,
Many: **patience when work is unrewarding**
or below our abilities,
 One: hope for when work is absent,
Many: **perseverance and strength**
in the search for work,
 One: and delight when we discover our life work
 is an expression of loving You,
Many: **our neighbor, and your kingdom reign.**
 One: We pray in the name of Jesus,
Many: **whose work was serving You,**
All: **and who was faithful in his calling. Amen.**



Scripture Reading Exodus 12, selected verses p. 72
 Romans 13:8-14 p. 197



Message



Prayers of the People – Help/Thanks/Wow

One: Now we come to the time where we lift up
 our prayers of Help, Thanks, and Wow.
 Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift them up to God.
 One: Does anyone have any prayers they would like to lift up?
After each individual prayer request...
 One: Loving and beloved God; **Many: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer List

One: Let us read the first names of those on our prayer list.

Prayers of healing and hope for...

STACEY Jenkins, member of the congregation
 CHRISTY Mallory, friend of the Scott and Morton families
 BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation
 WENDY Blow, member of the congregation
 CRYSTAL, friend of Jeanie McMahon
 MARY ANN Turner, cousin of Dolores Thornhill
 JACKIE Didier, member of the congregation
 JOHN, son of a friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe

**Names remain on prayer list for 8 weeks unless extension requested*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer using any version you wish



Response: Hear our prayer O Lord, hear our prayer O Lord,
 Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.



Sacrament of Holy Communion



Communion Flute Anthem *Just As I Am*

Invitation

One: Come and taste the grace eternal,
 come and see that God is good.
Many: We come to this table with faith that we will be fed
by the spirit of Christ as we share the bread and cup.
 One: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life.
 All who come to me will not be hungry;
 all who believe in me will never be thirsty."
Many: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!
 One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion,
 Jesus took bread, and after he gave thanks to God,
 he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying:
Many: "This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
 One: In the same way, Jesus also took the cup.
 After he gave thanks, he gave it to them, saying,
 "Drink of it all of you."
Many: "This is the cup of the new covenant poured out for
you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this,
as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
 One: Holy Resurrected One, you have met us in our lives,
 let us now meet you at this table. Pour out your Spirit
 upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup, that
 they may be Christ broken and poured out for us. As we
 eat and drink, may we be filled by you. Unite us with
 Christ and with your church in all the world, as we
 proclaim with hope, the mystery of our faith:
Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
 One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
 Come, for all things are now ready!

The Breaking of the Bread

One: Through the broken bread,

Many: **we participate in the body of Christ.**

The Pouring of the Cup

One: Through the cup of blessing,

Many: **we participate in the new life Christ gives.**

Sharing of the Elements



Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of the abundant feast, thank you for refreshing us at your table, and gracing us with the presence of Christ. As you unite us with the whole body of Christ, remind us of the story we share and of who we are because of your grace. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world with courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offerings of the People – Time, Talents, Treasures, and Testimonies



Flute Offertory *Amazing Grace*



Response SL #40 *We Praise Thee, O God*

We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee.

We bless Thy holy name; glad praises we sing.



Unison Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, you have given us a story of saving grace, and you invite us to carry that story forward. Receive these gifts as we offer them in gratitude for all you have done. Use them to bring freedom, hope, and love to others. And as we remember your grace, may our giving and our living reflect the love of Christ. Amen.



Hymn SL #696 *I Love to Tell the Story*

I love to tell this story Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell this story Because I know 'tis true.

It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.

*Refrain: I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story; More wonderful it seems
Then all the golden fancies Of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story; It did so much for me,
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long. *Refrain*



Benediction / Passing of the Peace



Cong Response SL #785 *God Be With You (with refrain)*

God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you;

With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.

Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.



Postlude

↑ Indicates you are invited to stand if you are comfortable doing so.

*This day shall be
a day of
remembrance
for you.*

Exodus 12:14, NRSV



Welcome to the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ, an open and affirming church. **To join online via Zoom:** Press Ctrl and **CLICK HERE** or visit zoom.us and click Join a Meeting, then enter Meeting ID 321 069 9076; Passcode 248423. To join by phone dial 646-558-8656, then meeting ID and Passcode.

Pastor and Church Contact Info

Rev. Carol Smith's cell phone and email:

860-798-7771; carolbsmith12@gmail.com

Office Hours – Tuesdays/Fridays 9 – 12; pastoral needs any time.

Julie Holt church secretary – church phone and email:

413-527-4204; westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net

Worship Participants

Ministers -	People of the church
Minister -	Rev. Carol Smith
Greeters -	↑ Sue and Richie Small ↓ Paul Aloisi

Lay Reader -	Bud Geary
--------------	-----------

Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
-----------	------------------

Special Music -	Judee Wayne and Alice Flyte, w/ Julie Holt
-----------------	--

Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
------------	------------

Coffee Hour -	Danielle Dennett and Peter Gilbert
---------------	------------------------------------

Flowers -	Danielle Dennett and Peter Gilbert
-----------	------------------------------------

This Week at the Church...

Monday 7pm - WaS

Wed/Fri/Sat - Food Pantry - see website for hours

Thursday 12pm- COA lunch/program

Thursday 7pm - Choir

Fri 7pm - AA

Next Sunday - 3rd Grade Bible/Blessing of the Backpacks

Anyone who has ever received a Bible from the Church is invited to bring it on Rally Day, September 13 to show and to share their Bible verse.

Next Sunday - Big Y gift card orders

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

September 6 ★- Evelyn Wermer

September 9 ★- Andrea Pichette

September 10 ★- Jill Flanders, Margie Parsons

September 12 ★- Jennifer Geary, Gabriella and Grace Gilbert,
Alice Jenkins, Bodie Linscott Willard

September 10 ♥- Emily Coggins and Daniel Engelke