Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026

Reflection *"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle." ~ St. Francis of Assisi*

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Prelude

Announcements / Stewardship Moment / Welcome to Worship

Introit

Call to Worship

One: Come, beloved people of God.
Bring the light you carry.
Many: We come, ready to tend the light of faith and hope.
One: Some days our lamps burn brightly.
Some days the waiting feels long.
Many: Still, we trust that God's light is with us.
One: Come, let us nurture the gifts of love,
kindness, and compassion.
Many: May our hearts be open, and our lights shine for all.
All: Let us worship the God whose light never fades!

Hymn NC #164 *Arise, Your Light is Come*

Arise, your light is come! the Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

Unison Prayer of Invocation

Welcoming God, thank you for gathering us here and for the light of your love that shines in every life. Meet us in our joys and our worries, in our hopes and our questions. Quiet our minds, open our hearts, and help us recognize your presence among us. May this time of worship renew our faith, deepen our love, and strengthen our hope. Let your light shine in us and through us, today and every day. 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.

Anthem

Moment for All Ages

Baptism Hymn NC #325 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirits sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our Love's expression, love's creation, love indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

Baptism of Zoey Antosz

Baptism Hymn NC #351 *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off
and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of The Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God,
to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:1-13 p. 34

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…

CLARE McConville, friend of Robbins/Carriveau family
JACKIE Wagner, mother of Michele Wagner
SUE, cousin of Mikki Nevins
BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation
WENDY Blow, member of the congregation
JILL Lester, friend of Mikki Nevins
DAVID Horn, brother of Chuck Horn
BOB, great uncle of Brice Willard
CRYSTAL, friend of Jeanie McMahon
JOHN, son of a friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe
STACEY Jenkins, member of the congregation

**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.

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

Offertory

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

Holy God of light and love, bless what we give and all the ways we share ourselves – our time, our gifts, and our care for others. May everything we offer reflect your love and help to shine your light in the world. Amen.

Hymn NC #524 *This Little Light*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine . . .
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Every-where I go, I'm gonna let it shine . . .

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine . . .

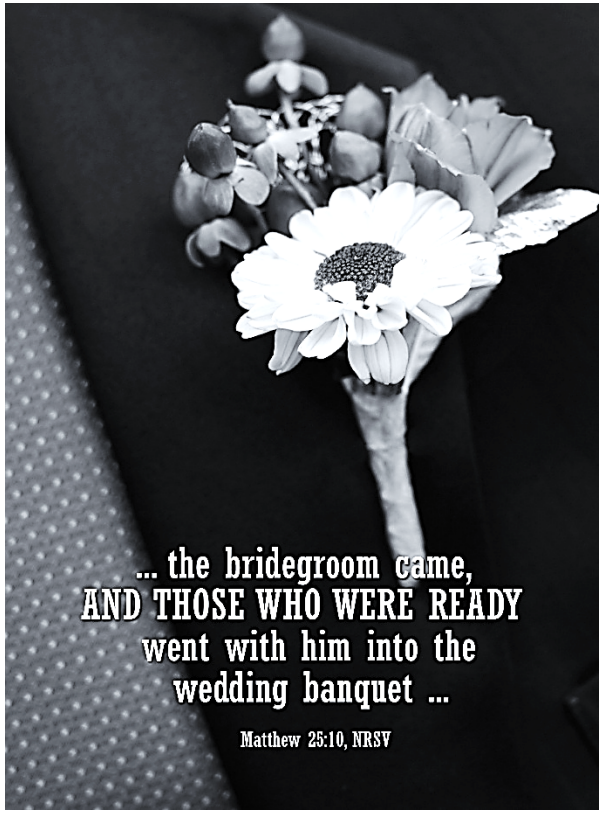
Benediction / Passing of the Peace

Cong Response SL #785 *God Be With You*

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.

Postlude

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



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 -	↑ Lynn, Billi, Brice and Grace Willard
	↓ Lynn, Billi, Brice and Grace Willard
Lay Reader -	Jean McMahon
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Grace and Lynn Willard
Flowers -	Lynn Cooper

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Baptism of Zoey Antosz
Today -	Big Y Gift Card orders
Monday 7pm -	WaS
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 12pm -	COA luncheon/program
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Fri 7pm -	AA

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

November 8 ✶- Mason Bauer
November 9 ✶- Bill Willard
November 11 ✶- David Wayne

November 8, 2026 **Matthew 25:1–13**

Tending God's Light

Today's story reminds us that we all carry the light of Christ within us. As followers of Christ, it is both our joy and our responsibility to tend that light, keeping it burning brightly in service to God and the world.

This year's stewardship theme, *There Our Hearts Will Be,* invites us to consider what we treasure and where we invest our hearts, our time, and our resources. Jesus reminds us that our hearts are drawn toward the things that matter most to us. When we give of ourselves to the life and ministry of our church, we are nurturing something precious: a community where faith grows, hope is shared, love is made visible, and lives are transformed.

Our church is a place where we gather to worship, care for one another, welcome our neighbors, and work toward a world more closely aligned with the values of God's realm. Through our shared generosity, we keep the light of Christ shining in our congregation and beyond our doors. Every gift, every act of kindness, and every expression of faithful service helps sustain this ministry and makes room for God's love to flourish.

Stewardship is about more than what we give. It is about what we love, what we value, and the future we hope to create together. As we consider our gifts for the year ahead, may we remember that our generosity reflects the place our church holds in our hearts. When we invest in this beloved community, we help keep its light burning for those who are here today and those who will find their way here tomorrow.

God has given us a light to tend. As we look toward the year ahead, may our hearts remain rooted in the love of Christ and our generosity reflect the ministry we cherish. **Where our hearts are, there our gifts will follow.** May we tend God's light together, allowing it to shine brightly in our church, our community, and our world. ~ cbs