




Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
2nd Sunday of Easter - April 12, 2026

 **Reflection** – “The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the full hearts of his transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled-away stone, but a carried-away church.” ~ Clarence Jordan (1912 –1969), American farmer and New Testament Greek scholar, founder of Koinonia Farm, author of the Cotton Patch paraphrase of the New Testament, instrumental in founding Habitat for Humanity.

 **Piano Prelude**

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

 **Piano Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: Though darkness seems to surround us,

**All: Jesus breaks through inviting us –
to see, to touch, to feel the breath of peace.**

One: Fears are banished!

All: Hope is restored!

One: Rejoice! The Lord is with us!

All: We rejoice in the promise and hope He brings!

 **Hymn NC #303** *Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing*

Rejoice, give thanks and sing; you Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,
And take the faithful up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet's sound,
“Rejoice!”

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

God of Easter joy, we come together to proclaim the good news: Christ is risen, and love has the final word. Yet we confess, we do not always live as Easter people, fear still lingers, and doubt still whispers. So come among us, Risen Christ, and speak your peace. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed and our joy made complete. Let this time of worship awaken us to the gift of new life you offer each day. With grateful hearts, we pray. 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** *Because He Lives*

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Scripture Readings** 1 Peter 1:3-9 p. 281
John 20:19-31 p. 141

 **Message**

 **Hymn SL #258** *Christ Arose*

Low in the grave He lay – Jesus, my Savior!
Waiting the coming day – Jesus, my Lord!

*Refrain: Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed – Jesus, my Savior!
Vainly they seal the dead – Jesus, my Lord! *Refrain*

Death cannot keep his prey – Jesus, my Savior!
He tore the bars away – Jesus, my Lord! *Refrain*



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...

AMANDA and SKYLAR Ghali, niece & grandnephew of Kevin O'Keefe

JAN Hammel, friend of Lynn Cooper

HOLLIS, friend of Pastor Carol and Mary Caron

AUDREY Bashista, friend of the congregation

RUTH ANNE Bennett, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

LAURA Vachula, friend of Lynn Cooper

FRANCES, cousin of Jeanie McMahan

BOB Greene, member of the congregation

JANNINE Haggerty, friend of Erika Subocz

JEAN Webster, 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 Solo *Living Hope*

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

Loving God, thank you for your presence with us in every moment, in our questions, our hopes, and our joy. Receive these gifts we bring. Use them to share your love, strengthen your church, and bring new life into the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.



Hymn NC #245 *The Day of Resurrection*

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
For we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
The whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.



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.

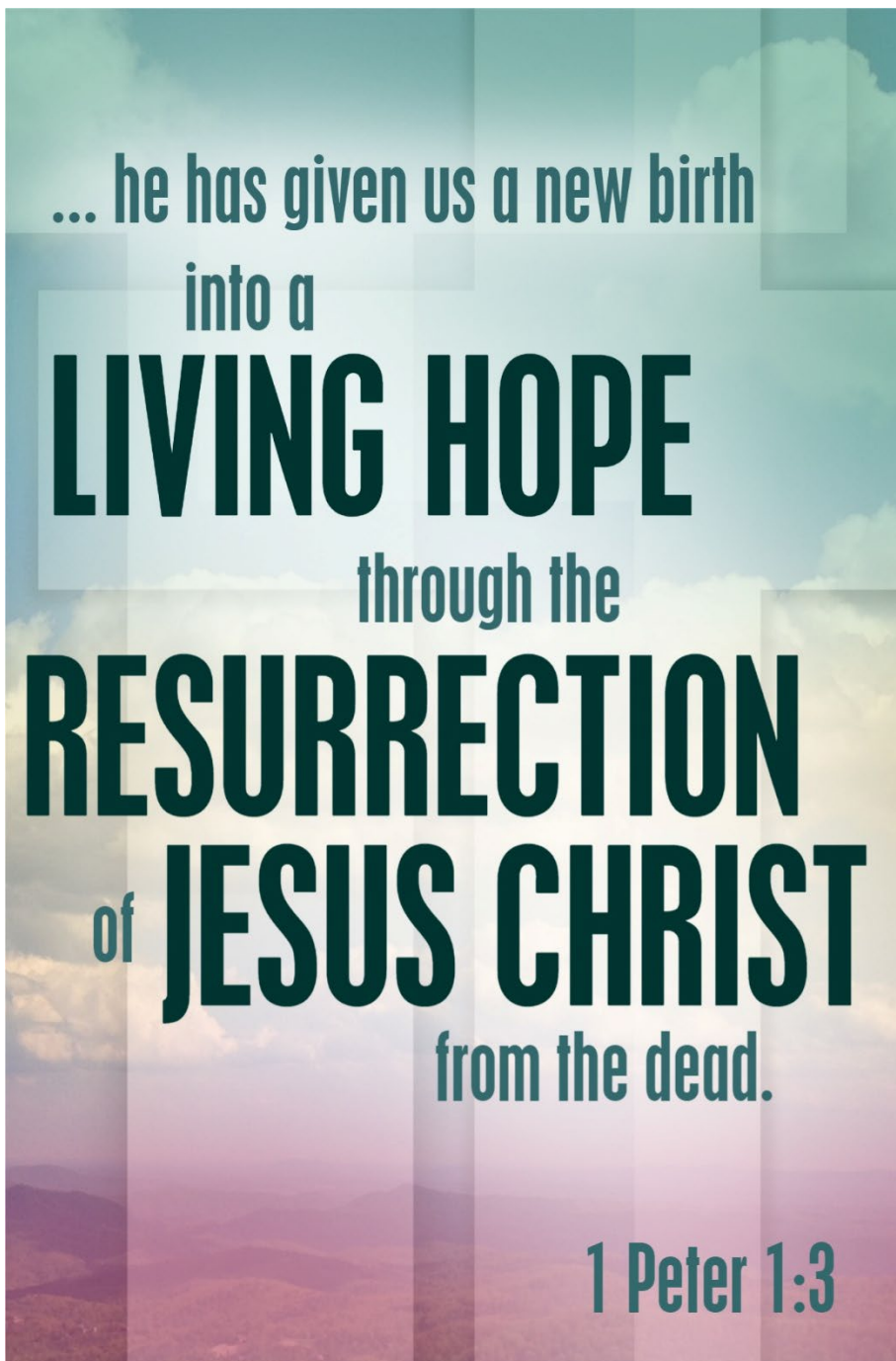


Piano Postlude

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

The rosebud on the altar is in honor of the birth of Paige Louise Morrissey, born on April 3, 2026 to Erin and Kyle Morrissey. Paige's big brother is Mason Charles Morrissey, her grandparents are Karl and Lisa Norris, and Donna and Michael Morrissey, and her great-grandparents are Charlie and Linda Norris, and Bob and Denise Watson. Welcome, little one!





... he has given us a new birth
into a
LIVING HOPE
through the
RESURRECTION
of **JESUS CHRIST**
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

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 anytime.
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 -	↑ Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe ↓ Marion Miller
Lay Reader -	Charlotte Wood
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Jonah Swenson Jeffords
Flowers -	In memory of Dan Webster by Jean Webster

This Week at the Church...

Today -	2 nd Sundays: Big Y gift card orders due
Wed 3:15pm -	Good Works
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thurs 7pm -	Choir
Fri 7pm -	AA
Sat 8-10am -	HRHS Improv Breakfast
April 26, 3pm -	Pastor Carol's Installation Service

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

April 12 ★ -	Jackie Didier
April 14 ★ -	Cooper Alexander, Art Pichette
April 15 ★ -	Sarah Pringle
April 17 ♥ -	Marylou and Charlie Burgess
April 18 ♥ -	Seth and Denise Clark