



BELL TOWER

A Westhampton Church and Community Newsletter
published by Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ,
an Open and Affirming Church
NOVEMBER 2026 Vol. 55 No. 10

Message from Pastor Carol...



"And even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn." ~ Elizabeth Lawrence, American garden writer

This morning, messaging with friends, I sent a photo of our local trees displaying beautiful autumn colors. Our conversation turned to the changing season.

The days are growing shorter, leaves are falling. Summer's familiar green gives way to brilliant yellow, orange, and red. Autumn has always been a favorite season of mine. Now, I wondered if the trees might be trying to say something to us with their annual show of colors.

After a little googling, it seems, as autumn approaches, trees draw nutrients from their leaves back into their branches and trunks, conserving energy for winter. As the green fades, the brilliant colors – *that were there all along* – begin to shine through. Eventually, the leaves let go and fall.

What appears to be an ending is also a preparation. The trees are gathering what they need to endure the colder days and be ready for spring. I find this moving and I wonder if autumn invites us into a season of drawing inward. So much of life encourages us to keep doing and to keep moving forward.

But there is another kind of growth that happens quietly, when we pause, take stock of our lives, nurture relationships, and pay attention to what gives us strength. Sometimes, letting go can make room for something new. What looks like fading may invite us to nurture the bright colors deep within ourselves. Here at church, November offers us many opportunities to do just that.

- **Join us November 15, for Stewardship Sunday** as we reflect on the gifts that nurture our church and community! – *"There our hearts will be"*
- **Join us November 15 at 6pm for the monthly Peace gathering** as we pray, share hope and sing for peace in a world too often marked by conflict and suffering.
- **Join us November 21, for the Holiday House Fair** as we share our talents and enjoy good fellowship!
- **Join us November 24, for the Community Thanksgiving Service**, as we give thanks for the blessings that sustain us!
- **Join us November 29, for the First Sunday of Advent**, as we make room for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on our journey toward Christmas!

The trees remind us that life has its seasons: times for reaching outward and times for gathering strength within. Though their green fades, life remains quietly preparing for new growth. May this November bring you moments of renewal, reasons for gratitude, and the assurance that even in seasons of change, hope is taking root.

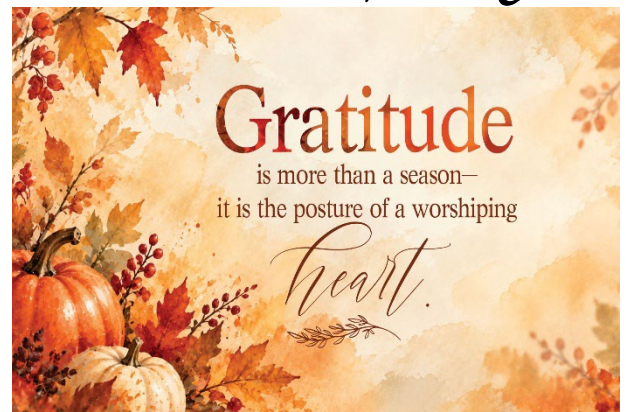
Joy always,

Community Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday November 24 @ 7pm

The WaS committee is hoping that since we are celebrating things that we are thankful for, we would put out a call for members of the community or congregation to join us and to be part of the Thanksgiving Service at the church on Tuesday, November 24. Your part in the service could be a song you want to sing, perform a song on an instrument you play, a poem, a Bible verse, a reading or short excerpt from a book, etc. Or your part in the service may be simply to sit and listen and be thankful for things that others share. Please reach out to Pastor Carol by November 10 if you are interested in joining us at this service as we all have things to be thankful for. And if you don't reach out ahead of time and feel moved to share something when the time comes, that will be welcome too. Come and let us give thanks together!

Pastor Carol



Regular Church Meetings

Sun.	10:00am	Morning Worship in person or via Zoom 321 069 9076 – pw 248423
	6:30pm	Peace Gathering (3 rd)
Mon.	7:00pm	WaS (1 st)
	7:00pm	Property (3 rd)
	7:00pm	Council (4th)
Tues.	1:00pm	WOW (3 rd)
Wed.	5-6pm	Food Pantry
Fri.	11am-12pm	Food Pantry
	7:00pm	AA
Sat.	9-10am	Food Pantry

Women's Fellowship Director

November - Maureen Dempsey

Greeters

November - ↑ Lynn, Billi, Brice, & Grace Willard
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Coffee Hour

November 1 - Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy
November 8 - Grace and Lynn Willard
November 15 - Mary Montague
November 22 - Marcia Sullivan
November 24 - Bill Tracy and Patrick McMahon
November 29 - Lorraine and Kevin O'Keefe

Flowers

November 1 - John Gugenberger
November 8 - Lynn Cooper
November 15 - Kathy and Mike Robbins
November 22 - Janice and Bill Tracy
November 29 - Dolores and Mark Thornhill

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ Pastor - Reverend Carol Smith

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Fridays @ 9am – 12noon
Available anytime for pastoral emergencies

Pastor Carol's contact info:

carolsmith12@gmail.com
860-798-7771

Church Office contact info:

westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net
413-527-4204

Website: www.westhamptonchurchucc.org
Facebook - Westhampton Congregational
United Church of Christ



Regular Town Meetings/Office Hours

Mon.		Town Offices Closed
	5:45pm	Board of Health (2 nd) – Town Hall and Zoom
Tues.	9am-5pm	Town Administrator – Town Hall
	9am-9pm	(weekly alternating work hours)
	12pm – 6pm	Town Clerk – Town Hall
	5pm – 8pm	Assistant Assessor - Annex
	6pm	Fire Dept (1 st , 3 rd) – PSC
	6pm	Friends of the Library (1 st) – Library
	6pm	Library Trustees (2 nd) – Library
	6pm	Planning Board (2 nd) Town Hall
	7pm	Board of Assessors (bi-weekly) - Annex
	7pm	SelectBoard (bi-weekly) - Town Hall
Wed.	9am – 5pm	Town Administrator – Town Hall
	12pm – 6pm	Town Clerk – Town Hall
	6pm – 8pm	Transfer Station hours
	7pm	Conservation (1 st , 3 rd) – Town Hall
Thurs.	9am – 5pm	Town Administrator – Town Hall
	10:30am-1:15pm	Assistant Assessor – Annex
	10:30am -	COA (3 rd) – Westhampton Woods
Fri.	9am-5pm	Town Administrator – Town Hall
	9am-9pm	(weekly alternating work hours)
	7pm	AA (weekly) – Westhampton Church
Sat.	9am - 3pm	Transfer Station hours

New Town Administrator – Patrick Grigsby

administration@westhamptonma.gov

www.WesthamptonMA.gov



Election Day – November 3

Polling hours: 7:00am – 8:00 pm

Westhampton Town Hall

1 South Road



**DON'T
FORGET
TO VOTE**

Holiday House Fair

Saturday, November 21 @ 9am – 2pm

Many hands are busy creating beautiful crafts, delicious food and other items for the upcoming HH Fair. Please consider donating a larger item for ticket bids at the ****SILENT AUCTION**, such as gift cards/certificates, wood crafts, paintings, gift baskets, and other items. This year the Silent Auction exhibit will be in the front hall, and the dining room on the main floor will exhibit our usual greenery/flower arrangements, homemade food, a beautiful array of handmade Christmas/Crafts, herbs & spices, and lunch. New this year is a table of previously-owned new or gently-used Christmas décor (donors are responsible for picking up all of their unsold items). The *Kids Gift Shop* will be on the basement level where children can shop for family and friends. *Donations of new or gently used items that you would enjoy receiving as a gift from a child will be welcome in this area (no clothing/textiles).* **Please bring all donations to the church on Friday, November 21 between 10-12.** We also welcome donations the day of the Fair on Saturday morning.

****Note:** We'd like to receive Silent Auction donations by Wednesday, November **18**. Please call or text Karina Swenson at 413-539-1175 or email swensonjeffords@gmail.com to arrange delivery.

Come join the fun, enjoy a donut or have lunch and shop at the fair! For questions or



assistance, contact Erika Subocz at 413-297-3780 (cell) or erika.subocz@gmail.com. Please post the enclosed Fair flyer on your fridge or bulletin board as a reminder.

Stewardship Campaign – There Our Hearts Will Be



There Our Hearts Will Be is our UCC Stewardship theme for this year. Through it, we are invited into a season of deep spiritual alignment — an honest, hopeful exploration of how our practices, priorities, and resources reveal what truly claims our hearts. Rooted in Jesus' teaching from

Matthew 6, this theme reframes giving not as performance or obligation, but as the quiet, courageous work of placing our hearts in God's care. Turning to our sacred scripture and the witness of each other, we'll focus on gratitude — examining what we love, whom we trust, and how we live out our faith.

Together, as a community shaped by grace, we will ask: Where is our treasure? How can our hearts more fully align with God's? Ultimately, *There Our Hearts Will Be* is an invitation to:

- **Re-center our lives** on God's quiet, faithful presence.
- **Let our giving reflect** our deepest values and commitments.
- **Align our actions** with our confession of Christ.
- **Allow God to transform, heal, and renew** our hearts.
- **Practice a generosity** that is not performative, but rooted, joyful, and Spirit-led.

Through this journey, we will discover again that faithful stewardship is not primarily about money — it is about placing our hearts in God's hands, trusting that where our hearts go, our lives, choices, and resources will follow.

This season of reflection will culminate during worship on **Sunday, November 15**, when we make and celebrate our faithful commitments of time, talents, and financial support for the ministries of this congregation in the coming year. Our celebration will include lively worship, fun fellowship, *and sweet treats!* We hope you will join us!



~ Your Stewardship Committee: Lynn, Patrick, Sue

	YTD Actuals 10/20/26	YTD Budget 10/20/26
Pledged Local	92,010	85,823
Non-Pledged Local	6,883	10,000
Other Local	19,567	23,085
TOTAL LOCAL	118,460	118,908
Mission Pledged	9,399	9,643
Special Offerings	3,172	4,900
TOTAL MISSIONS	12,571	14,543



Good Works

We continue to enjoy our time together at Good Works! For our October meeting we made placemats for Veterans for the Veterans Day Breakfast at Outlook Farm on November 11. We also decorated bags for the Holiday Fair, which takes place at the church on November 21. In addition, we

started planning for a special puppet show party that will take place during Good Works on December 16. We will invite younger students and families. It should be fun!

Dates for the Year: 11/18 (at the library), 12/16 (puppet show at 4:00!), 1/20, 2/14, 3/17, 4/28, 5/19.

If you have ideas or questions about Good Works, contact Sarah Madden. sjbmadden23@gmail.com
413-884-5819.

A Place for Peace

We hope people have noticed the new "Place for Peace" on the front lawn of the church. All are welcome to stop by, sit, relax, and reflect. It's a lovely spot. There are signs explaining the flags, pinwheels, and the recognition of the International Day of Peace.



The Good Works Group also made paper cranes that are hanging inside and are quite beautiful. Please come and check things out. And, remember, we have monthly Gatherings for Peace at the church at 6:00 on the 3rd Sundays of the month. Everyone is welcome to join us. We are outside, if possible, but inside if the weather is not conducive to a peaceful time together.

Outreach Opportunities

Food Pantry - The Food Pantry is open to all to supplement your needs. You may stop by to pick up what you need, and we invite you to donate items as well. The Food Pantry is located in the basement of the Westhampton Church, accessible from the door facing North Road. *The Food Pantry is open on: Wednesdays 5-6pm, Fridays 11am-12noon, and Saturdays 9-10am.* To volunteer or more information, please visit www.westhamptonchurchcc.org.

Take & Eat - The Take and Eat program is a non-denominational effort that serves elder and home-bound in need, by preparing and delivering weekend meals for up to 100 clients. Westhampton's turn is on the 4th Saturday, November 28 (Thanksgiving weekend). To help, please visit www.tinyurl.com/takeandeat.

Advent Festival

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. It is a season of waiting, a season of unbridled anticipation as we count the days to Christmas. Folks are encourage to join us



for worship on that Sunday where we will begin decorating the church, beginning in the sanctuary during worship, then afterwards stick around and grab some refreshments at coffee hour and continue helping with decorating tasks on the first floor — window candles, creche placement, decorating the Dining Room tree, adding greens to the outside star — and we need lots of hands to fold 1000 illuminary bags...every bag helps! We will also need help outside as we transform our *Place for Peace* back into a creche — the ultimate place for peace — as this humble stable will stand ready to welcome Mary and Joseph and the coming Christ Child... the Prince of Peace!

Council on Aging...

Veterans' Day Breakfast

The Friends of the Westhampton Council on Aging along with Outlook Farm will once again be sponsoring a free breakfast for our local veterans.



This event will take place on Veterans' Day, *Wednesday, November 11* between the hours of 7:00-10:00am at Outlook Farm. All who have served or are currently serving in our Armed Forces are welcome.

November COA Luncheon

Dreaming of the perfect Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings? Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes and pie? Join your friends and neighbors for a delicious potluck lunch on *Thursday, November 12 @ 12noon* in the Church Dining Hall.

COA Newsletters

Mailed to Your House

Starting with the November COA newsletter, the COA will reduce the number of households receiving it via the Postal Service. Please look at the back cover and decide if you want to continue receiving it by mail. COA Newsletters can be accessed online at the COA webpage: https://westhamptonma.gov/wton-coa_newsletter_latest/

Save the Date –

Field Trip to Historic Northampton

We are working on a Field Trip to Historic Northampton for a special guided tour of the current exhibition *Slavery and Freedom in Northampton, 1654 to 1783*. It is tentatively scheduled for *Thursday, December 3...time TBD*. Please check your COA newsletter. Carpooling available.

Save the Date –

December Holiday Concert with Sarah the Fiddler

Sarah the Fiddler is coming to Westhampton! Join us for a holiday concert at the church on *Thursday, December 10, 2026 @ 1:00pm*. Cookies and snacks will be served immediately after the performance.



Halloween Trick or Treating

Trick or Treating will be on Halloween night, *Saturday October 31st*. Meet at Hampshire Regional High School. We will follow the Westhampton Fire Department up Stage Road *promptly at 5:45pm* and *Trick or Treating will end at 7:30pm* when the church bells ring. Parts of North Rd, South Rd, Stage Rd and all of Tob Rd and Burt Rd will be closed from 5:30-7:30pm. Thank you for all your candy donations and as always thank you to the residents for participating!!



James M. Diggins Scholarship

The James M. Diggins Scholarship, provided through the Northampton St. Patrick's Day Association, will be open for applications starting this Fall, *with an early deadline for applications in December*. The early deadline allows the recipient selected to be recognized before the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in March. This scholarship recognizes students who give back to their communities through volunteer service and meaningful community involvement. Students are encouraged to submit their application and take this opportunity to have their dedication to their communities recognized. Watch for application details in the December Bell Tower. Any questions or for more information, please contact Charleen Diggins at mcdiggins@comcast.net.



The Derouin Family Scholarship

We are happy to announce The Derouin Family Scholarship in memory of Theodore (Bev) and Maria (Teri) Derouin. Administered by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, this scholarship will be awarded annually beginning in 2027. Eligible applicants of any age who are residents of Westhampton, Massachusetts and are pursuing an undergraduate degree, with preferences for applicants studying art, music, dance, theatre, aviation, law enforcement, agriculture or the environment, are eligible to be considered for the award. Bev and Teri understood the importance of education – and those areas of study held great meaning to them.

Only applicants who complete the Foundation's online application process during the application window (*January 1 to March 1*) will be considered. For more information about Derouin Family Scholarship and other scholarship programs, go to the Community Foundation's webpage at communityfoundation.org/students/scholarships-loans.

And if you're new to town and didn't know Bev and Teri? Well, they lived in Westhampton for most of their lives. Bev moved to the farm on Easthampton Road as a teenager. He met Maria Teresita Reyes, a young woman from the Philippines, on a blind date. They fell in love, and after a whirlwind romance, Bev flew to the Philippines where they were married. They moved to Westhampton, raising their family and moving to their long-time home on Southampton Road. Their involvement with and love for the Westhampton Community lasted a lifetime. If you're interested in learning more about them, you'll find a copy of their story — *The Stories of Their Lives* by Angela Derouin — in the local memoirs section of the Westhampton Library.

**HOLIDAY
HOUSE FAIR**
**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2026**
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**HOMEMADE DONUTS
LUNCH
BAKED GOODS, GOLUMKI & MORE
CHRISTMAS / CRAFTS
FLOWERS & HOLIDAY GREENERY
SILENT AUCTION
HERBS & SPICES
KIDS GIFT SHOP**

**WESTHAMPTON CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

WESTHAMPTON TOWN CENTER



At the Westhampton Library

Hours: Mon/Thurs 2-8pm; Tues/Wed 9am-12pm & 1-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm

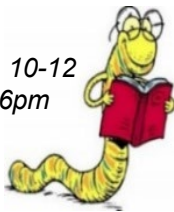
Library closed November 11- Veterans Day; closing at 12pm November 25, and all day November 26 - Thanksgiving

Please check the town website or Facebook or Instagram @WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates.

To place a request for curbside pick-up, email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring Programs . . .

- **Computer Help** w/ Bob Miller – Mondays @ 10-12
- **Knitting & Crocheting Group** Mondays @ 6pm
- **Slow Yoga** Mondays @ 6pm
- **Scrabble Group** Tuesdays @ 2pm
- **Book Group** – 4th Tuesdays @ 7pm.
- **Walk-in Wellness Clinics w/ Westhampton's Public Health Nurse** 1st/3rd Weds @ 10-11:30am
- **Coffee & Chat** – Wed @ 10am-12pm
- **Tech Connect drop-in tech help** - 4th Thurs @ 2-4pm
**Please call ahead to ensure that Tech Connect is meeting.*



For Kids & Teens

- **CFCE Playgroup** Tues @ 10:30am
- **Storytime w/ Emily** Wed @ 10:30am
- **Kids Thursday After School Programs:**
 - 1st Thursday: LEGO Club (November 5)
 - 2nd Thursday: Open Crafting (November 12)
 - 3rd Thursday: Switch Happy Hour (November 19)
 - 4th Thursday: Comics Club (no meeting in Nov)
- **Teen Craft Night** 3rd Thurs @ 6-8pm (November 19)
Teen Craft Night is back! Our craft will be origami lucky stars. Supplies are limited and registration is required. Email Emily at ewayne@cwmar.org to sign up.

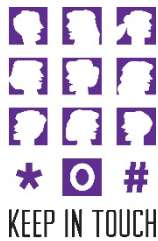
Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library for sponsoring all children's and teen activities.

October/November Artist - Steve Allen

Steve Allen is a local visual artist who draws inspiration from nature. The majority of his work is small and depicts local landscapes. His work has helped him develop a deeper appreciation for natural beauty and the artwork of others. He is interested in how technical information related to human visual perception and color theory can be used to better understand/evoke a sense of time and place.

*Please be aware that library programs meet in the community room where our gallery is located. It is often best to call ahead to plan a time to view the exhibit. Please call 413-527-5386.

Town Phone Book



The time has come for us to update our Town Phone book — so many changes and some errors! This process does take a few months, so please check your current entry and update it. Feel free to include cell phones and/or landlines numbers and emails. There will be hard copy forms at the Library if you prefer or you could simply send an email to

Susan Bronstein at susanbronstein47@gmail.com or Sue O'Rourke at suejorourke50@yahoo.com with your preferred changes. Once we have updated the list, we will ask you to check your entry a final time as we will check entries too. Then it will go to the printers and with luck sometime in early 2027 we will have a new and up-to-date phone book.

~ Thank you - The Friends of Westhampton Library

Death Cafes with Chris Lafond

Session 1: Thursday, November 5 @ 6 – 7:30pm

Session 2: Thursday, November 12 @ 6 - 7:30pm

A Death Café is an opportunity to talk about death. With cake! There is no agenda, and no presentation when using this model. It's simply a time to come together, share refreshments, and talk about death, with the topics arising from the group gathered. While it is not a question-and-answer session, there will be some takeaway information and follow up available. Recommended for adults of all ages. 15+ welcome with accompanying adult. Registration is requested. Please email westhampton@cwmar.org or call 413-527-5386 to register.

Facilitator: Chris LaFond is a certified Death Midwife who loves talking about death and getting others to talk about it, too. He is available for consultations about advance planning, spiritual counseling, home services, clergy services, and more.

Celebrate & Learn about the New Westhampton Hills Conservation Forest

Thursday, November 19 @ 6:30 – 8 pm

Come celebrate the acquisition of 806 acres of forest within walking distance of Westhampton's town center. These permanently conserved lands, now collectively named **Westhampton Hills Conservation Forest**, are accessible to the public from the west end of Burt Rd, the north end of Tob Hill Rd, or a short, but steep walk up Tob Hill from the Westhampton Town Hall. This block of forest offers a range of recreational opportunities, and also preserves important wildlife habitat and water resources.

Please join the Westhampton Conservation Commission to learn more about the project and meet representatives from the partners who made it possible: Kestrel Land Trust, The Trustees, Hilltown Land Trust, and Mass Audubon. The event will include a short presentation about the land's history, its habitats, trails, and special features, and how it will be managed by the Town and its partners. Refreshments and dessert will be provided. This program is free and open to the public.

Etienne Perley - Andean Concert

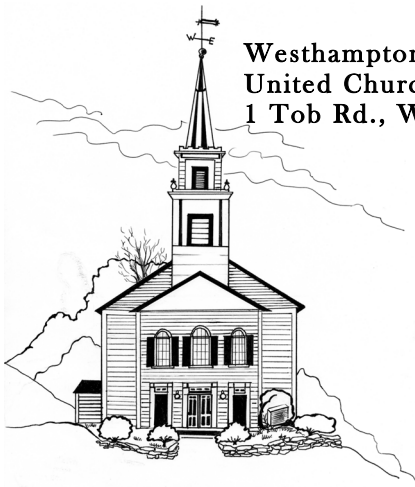
Saturday, November 21 @ 11am

Sikus (pan-pipes) player and vocalist Etienne Perley of Amherst Massachusetts focuses on bringing traditional music from the Andes and his original compositions to life with a passionate, energetic, and virtuosic performance. Etienne has performed across the Pioneer Valley and at venues and events across the East Coast. He is a graduate of BHMA in South Hadley and has performed with the school's professional touring ensemble for many years. Etienne's current program incorporates traditional Andean material as well as well-known standards which he performs in the style and sound of the Andean musical heritage. Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library for sponsoring this event.



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Westhampton Congregational
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1 Tob Rd., Westhampton MA 01027

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
EASTHAMPTON, MA
PERMIT No. 6

The Bell Tower is a church and community newsletter whose intent is to inform and inspire. The Bell Tower shall promote the identity, programs and events of the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ. As an added service, the Bell Tower shall also provide information on community news and events to the residents of Westhampton. We invite you to join us for Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00am. Submissions to the Bell Tower for church and community articles and announcement may be sent to Julie Holt at the church email address westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net no later than the 15th of each month prior to the upcoming Bell Tower issue.

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ Mission Statement

With God as our witness, we of the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ, commit to our Savior Jesus Christ as our model and guide. While cherishing our heritage, we look to the future, accepting ourselves and each other as individuals uniquely created in God's image. We covenant together to grow in our understanding of God's will. We nurture each other in faith so we may be empowered to serve in our community and the world.

We are called to love our brothers and sisters as God loves us, freely and without reservation. Our unconditional love is inclusive of all God's people. We denounce acts of discrimination and violence against any person. As an open and affirming church, we joyfully welcome all people into our community of faith, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnic background, socioeconomic status or physical/mental abilities. Each person is invited and encouraged to participate in all aspects of our church life and ministry.



From Your Westhampton Energy Advocate

Hello Westhampton! My name is Lilian Autler, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Energy Advocate for Westhampton, Easthampton, and Northampton through the Mass Save® Community First Partnership. My role is to help you explore ways to save energy and keep your home comfortable year-round. With colder weather approaching, I'm here to help you understand the programs and incentives available to you and how to get started. Have questions? You can reach me at lautler@northamptonma.gov. As a first step, join your neighbors and get started with a no-cost Mass Save Home Energy Assessment. You may be eligible for:

- 75-100% off approved insulation upgrades
- 100% off for rental units and moderate income households.
- No-cost air sealing
- Discounts on high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment and appliances
- No-cost energy-saving products - programmable thermostats, high-efficiency faucet aerators and showerheads

Get your energy assessment today by visiting the website: MassSave.com/NewHamptons, or call 413-390-0935. Easthampton, Northampton and Westhampton are participating in the Mass Save Community First Partnership, sponsored locally by Eversource and National Grid to increase participation in energy efficiency programs.

Community Campfire

November 7 @ 6pm

All are invited to gather in the library field on Saturday, November 7 @ 6 - 8:30pm for a Community Campfire. No program or timeline, just time to be with one another around the fire in community! We hope to do these monthly, hope to see you there!

