

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
4th Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026

 **Reflection** - *"For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere. 'Blessed are the merciful' in a courtroom? 'Blessed are the peacemakers' in the Pentagon? Give me a break!" ~ Kurt Vonnegut, author (1922 -2007)*

"Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing" ~ Camille Pissarro, artist (1830-1903)

 **Piano Prelude**
 **Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome to Worship**
 **Piano Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: Beloved of God, we gather to proclaim a vision,
Many: of a world transformed by Jesus' love.
One: Beloved of God, we gather in grace,
Many: to share the Good News of the gospel.
One: Beloved of God, we gather to be renewed,
Many: in the Spirit's presence, in our daily lives, and in the life of the world.
All: **Let us worship the One who gives us the vision beautiful.**

 **Hymn SL #675 The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy**

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place.
The outcasts are welcomed God's banquet to share,
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice;
Believe the good news, repents and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to His cross,
Our crisis of judgment for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal –
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer His call,
And all things cry, "Glory!" to God All-in-all.

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

God of each day's new beginning, we remember being gathered is a gift, and being community is a blessing. May we be fully present to you and to each other today, awake to the stirring of your Spirit, alert to the word you give us for our own paths and for our common life. Open our hearts to your mercy, our eyes to your vision beautiful, and our lives to your justice, kindness, and humble love. Renew our minds, heal our hearts, strengthen our wills, so that we might live faithfully and joyfully as your people in this world. Amen.

 **Gloria SL #9**

 **Anthem** *Christ is With Us*

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Scripture Readings** *Micah 6:1-8* *Matthew 5:1-12* p. 1060
p. 4

 **Message**



Baptism of Wendy Blow



 **Hymn SL #739 Baptized in Water**

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.

(Pause)

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
One with His rising, freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children,
Joyfully now God's praises we sing,

Prayers of the People – Help/Thanks/Wow

One: 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 Ghali and family, niece of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe

LEO, friend of Swenson/Jeffords family

RON Hiltbold, father of Wendy Wilcox

BOB Gould, cousin of Steve and Julie Holt

ANITA Hickey, member of the congregation

MARGERY Shaw, friend of the congregation

BRIAN Cooper, son of Lynn Cooper

WADE Clement, friend of the community

Prayers of sympathy for the family and friends of...

DON Fox, friend of the community

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.

Communion Hymn SL #748 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Let us break bread together on our knees (3 times)

*Refrain - When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together... (3 times)

Let us praise God together...



Service of Communion



Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we thank you for this holy meal, where you have met us with mercy and fed us with grace. You remind us that all is a gift, that we belong to you and to one another, and that your table is wide. Send us out to live your vision beautiful: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Nourished by your love, may we become the body of Christ, shared for the life of the world. Amen.

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

Piano 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

Gracious God, we offer these gifts with thanksgiving, knowing all we have comes from you. Shape our hearts in generosity and humility, and use what we bring to serve your vision of justice and mercy, to strengthen this community, and to care for those most vulnerable. May our lives, like these gifts, reflect your love at work in the world. Amen.

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

↑ 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.



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 -	↑ Lorraine and Kevin O'Keefe ↓ Pat Miller
Lay Reader -	Rick Tracy
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech -	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Rhonda and Jeff Brooks
Flowers -	Julie and Stephen Holt

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Discretionary offerings welcome
Mon 7pm -	WaS
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thurs 7pm -	Choir
Friday 7pm -	AA
Saturday 9am -	Women's Fellowship Planning Breakfast

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

February 1 ★ -	Gillian Daley
February 2 ★ -	Wendy Blow, Carla Lussier, Niko Sinodinos
February 4 ★ -	Elam Miller
February 5 ★ -	Sue Tracy Small
February 6 ★ -	Billi Jean Willard
February 7 ★ -	Mike Robbins