



Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
4th Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026

 **Reflection** – “*Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Gave thee life, & bid thee feed by the stream & o'er the mead . . .*” ~William Blake, (1757 – 1827) English poet, painter, and printmaker

 **Prelude**

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

 **Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: We gather in the presence of our Shepherd God.

Many: Who calls us each by name . . .

One: who restores our souls . . .

Many: who sustains us, redeems us,

One: who walks beside us in good times and bad . . .

Many who calls us to follow . . .

One: who leads us in the way of righteousness . . .

Many: whose goodness and love never stops pursuing us.

ALL: This is the God we have come to worship!

 **Hymn SL #578** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need Thy tender care.
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us; Thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us; Thine we are.

We are Thine; do Thou befriend us; be the Guardian of our way.
Keep Thy flock; from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful tho' we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! early let us turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seed Thy favor; early let us do Thy will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our beings fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.



Unison Prayer of Invocation

Wonderful Shepherd, we come seeking stillness in the midst of our busy lives, seeking your presence that restores and renews. Quiet our hearts. Center our spirits. Draw us into your care, where we are known, held, and led. Thank you for welcoming us without condition. We open ourselves to you now, to your Spirit moving within and among us, leading us into life abundant. In Christ's name 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 *Enter His Gates*



Moment for All Ages



Scripture Readings Psalm 23 p. 617
John 10:1-10 p. 126



Message



Hymn NC# 247 *My Shepherd Is the Living God*

My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest while others come and go –
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.



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 & SKYLAR Ghali, niece & grandnephew of Kevin O’Keefe

LAURA Vachula, friend of Lynn Cooper

FRANCES, cousin of Jeanie McMahan

JANNINE Haggerty, friend of Erika Subocz

JEAN Webster, member of the congregation

JOSEPH Strzegowski, brother of Dolores Thornhill

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

CHARLIE Florek, member of the congregation

ETHEL Hurd, friend of the community

**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



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

Holy Loving Shepherd, you open wide the gates of your love and call us into your fold. In your presence we find peace, belonging, and new life. Receive these gifts we offer of our time, our talents, and our resources. Use them through the life of your church to bring healing, to welcome the stranger, and to share your good news with the world. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.



Hymn SL #99 *He Leadeth Me*

He leadeth me! O blessed thought!

O words with heavenly comfort fraught!

Whate’er I do, where’er I be,

still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

*Refrain: He leadeth me, He leadeth me, by His own hand He leadeth me.
His faithful follower I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me.*

Sometimes ‘mid scenes of deepest gloom,

sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,

By waters still, o’er troubled sea,

still ‘tis his hand that leadeth me. *Refrain*

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mind,

nor ever murmur nor repine,

Content, whatever lot I see,

since ‘tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

And when my task o earth is done,

why by Thy grace the victory’s won,

E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,

since God thru Jordan leadeth me. *Refrain*



Benediction / Passing of the Peace



Cong Response SL #785 *God Be With You (w/ 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.*

“I am the gate;

whoever
enters
through me
will be
saved.”

John 10:9

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 -	Pat Miller
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Bill and Janice Tracy
Flowers -	Mary and John Barber

This Week at the Church...

Today 3pm -	Installation Service for Pastor Carol; Reception to follow. Note: all who signed up to bring food should bring it to church in the morning, or no later than 1:00pm
Mon 7pm -	Council
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thurs 7pm -	Choir
Fri 7pm -	AA
Next Sunday -	Blanket dedication for Mother's Day are due by next Sunday, May 3. Dedication forms available in the sanctuary, dining room, Bell Tower, and in your weekly church email.

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

April 29 * -	Harper Johnson, Karl Norris
April 30 * -	Marcia Sullivan