

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
9th Sunday after Pentecost - July 26, 2026



Reflection – “*The first duty of love is to listen.*” ~ Paul Tillich, German-American Protestant theologian

"What is essential is invisible to the eye." ~ Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, French writer, poet, journalist and aviator.



Organ Prelude *In the Garden*



Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome to Worship



Organ Introit



Call to Worship

One: Come. Lay aside the rush of the week.

Many: We come to rest in God's presence.

One: Come with open minds and open hearts.

Many: We come ready to listen for God's voice.

One: Come expecting grace, wisdom, and hope.

Many: We come trusting that God is already at work among us.

One: Come, let us worship the God who welcomes us,
teaches us, and calls us by name.

All: We come with joy and gratitude to worship our God.



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 ever after 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, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners bro't 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 period
The heirs of the Kingdom shall answer his call,
And all things cry “Glory!” to God All-in-all.



Unison Prayer of Invocation

Holy and loving God, you are always near, drawing us into your presence with love beyond our imagining. Quiet our busy minds and open our hearts to you. Grant us wisdom to recognize your presence, courage to follow where you lead, and joy in discovering the gifts of your reign already growing among us. As we worship, shape us into people who reflect your love, your justice, and your peace. In the name of Christ 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 *Let There Be Peace On Earth*



Moment for All Ages



 Scripture Reading	1 Kings 3:5-12	p. 379
	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	p. 17



Message



Hymn (SL #36) *To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared*

Tune: TO GOD BE THE GLORY with Refrain (SL #36)

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To what can the kingdom of God be compared?
A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared,
And there, where predictable plantings should be,
There grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!

God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound,
like that new life spring-ing forth from the ground.

A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:
A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,
A church reaches out to the youth in the town,
A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,
When even a few faithful lives change the rest.

While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl,
God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world.
A girl sells possessions to help those in need;
A boy chooses faithfulness rather than greed.
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue;
May we seek your kingdom in all that we do.



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...

KATHY Benoit, sister of Mike Raymond
JACKIE Demarey, sister of Mike Raymond
KRISTY Raymond, niece of Mike Raymond
LAURIE Diemer, sister-in-law of Louise and Mike Raymond
AMY Mason, friend of Louise Raymond
NORBERTO Vega Rios, son of friend of Louise Raymond
SUE Willard, sister-in-law of Lynn Willard
BETTY Jaffer, sister of Larry and Jackie Didier
STACEY Jenkins, member of the congregation
COLEEN JABLONSKI and family, sister of Tom Jenkins
CHRISTY Mallory, friend of the Scott and Morton families

**Names remain on prayer list for 8 weeks unless extension requested*

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer



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 *His Eye Is On the Sparrow*



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, you have shown us that the greatest treasures cannot be bought or stored away but are found in lives shaped by your love. Receive these gifts and receive our lives. Grant us wisdom to use all that you have entrusted to us for the flourishing of our neighbors and the building of your beloved realm. Through Christ we pray. Amen.



Hymn NC #312 *We Love Your Realm, O God*

We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.

We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.

We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.

Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.



Benediction / Passing of the Peace



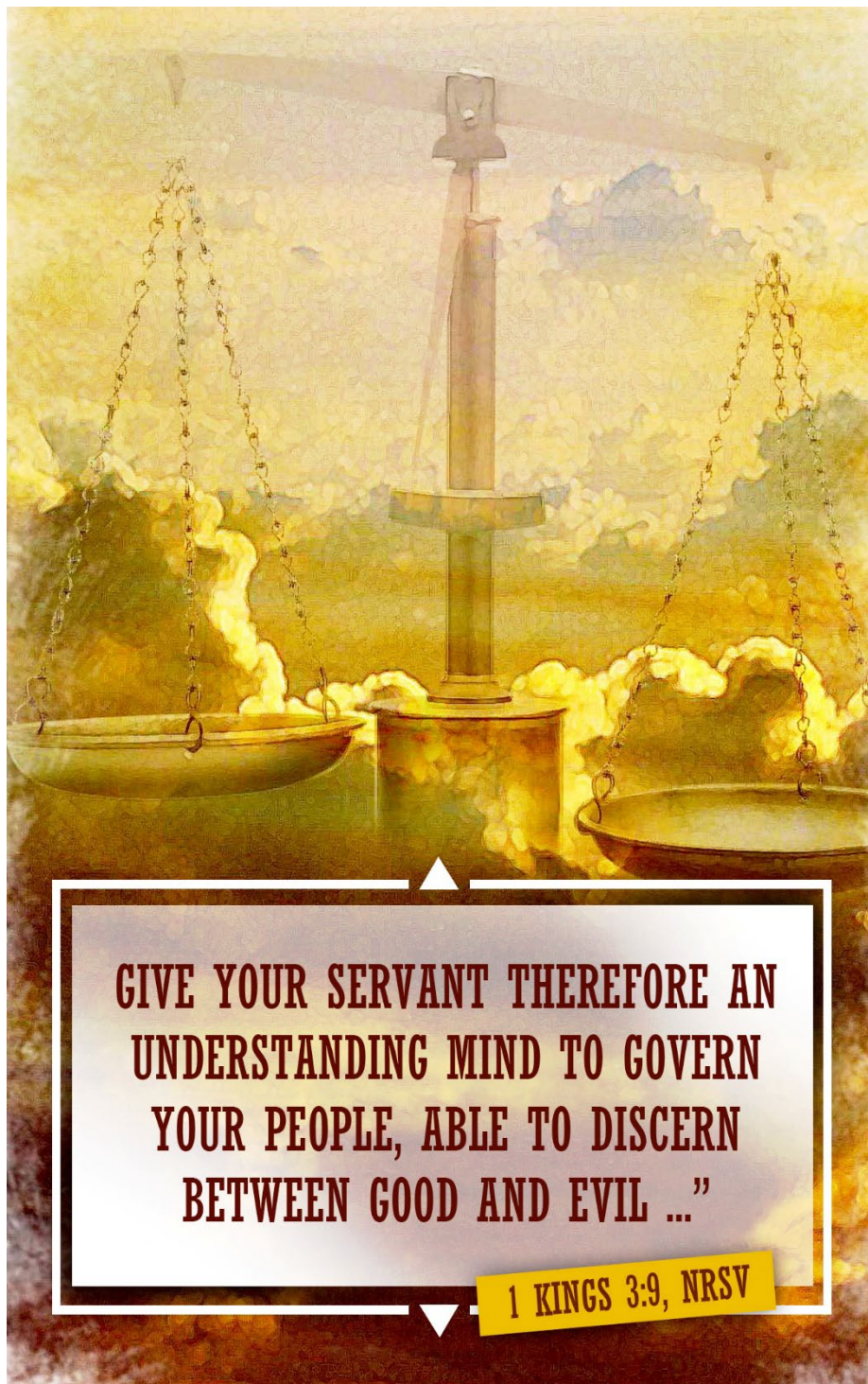
Cong Response SL #785 *God Be With You*

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.



Organ Postlude *With a Song Ringing*

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



GIVE YOUR SERVANT THEREFORE AN
UNDERSTANDING MIND TO GOVERN
YOUR PEOPLE, ABLE TO DISCERN
BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL ...”

1 KINGS 3:9, NRSV

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 -	↑ Ilene Lorow ↓ Shirley Raymond
Lay Reader -	Maureen Dempsey
Organist -	Marcia Sullivan
Special Music -	Fletcher Nehring
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Kathy Robbins
Flowers -	Karina Swenson

This Week at the Church...

Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Fri 7pm -	AA

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

July 28 ★-	Abbey (Babz) Morton, Bonnie Paton
July 29 ♥-	Cheryl and Steve Malinowski
July 31 ♥-	Courtney and Steven Campbell

