

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
20th Sunday after Pentecost / Worldwide Communion
October 11, 2026

 **Reflection** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ~ Philippians 4:6*

 **Prelude**

 **Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome /**

 **Introit**

 **Call to Worship** *with SL #747 “I Come With Joy” sung as the altar table is set and prepared for Communion*

One: What do you bring to worship this day?

Many: **We bring joy and thanksgiving
for God’s forgiving love.**

ALL Sing: *I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me.*

One: What is this community in which we are gathered?

Many: **It is a community of love and forgiveness,
of hope and peace.**

ALL Sing: *I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
in Christ’s communion bread.*

One: Christ breaks the bread of life for us.

Many: **We are bound together in the love of Jesus Christ.**

ALL Sing: *As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.*

One: Praise be to God!

All: **Amen!**

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

Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your 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**

Holy One, we come just as we are. Meet us here. Open our hearts to your presence. Open our eyes to one another. Open our lives to the possibilities before us. Plant in us seeds of joy, kindness, courage, and peace. Help us grow as individuals and grow as a community. As we gather around your table today, remind us again that we are not alone, that we belong, and that there is room for all. 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** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand (SL #102)*

Reception of New Member

Welcome and Reception

Members of the local church who are able may stand and say the following or other words of welcome.

Pastor:

Let us, the members of Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ, stand and express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People:

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

Pastor and Representatives:

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.



Moment for All Ages



Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

p. 242



Message



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...

MARY ANN Turner, cousin of Dolores Thornhill

JACKIE Didier, member of the congregation

JOHN, son of a friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe

LYNNE Sallee, member of the congregation

STACEY Jenkins, member of the congregation

CLARE McConville, friend of Robbins/Carriveau family

JACKIE Wagner, mother of Michele Wagner

SUE, cousin of Mikki Nevins

BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation

WENDY Blow, 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.



Sacrament of Holy Communion



Communion Hymn NB F-1 *We Come As Guests Invited*

We come as guests invited When Jesus bids us dine,
His friends on earth united To share the bread and wine;
The bread of life is broken, The wine is freely poured
For us, in solemn token Of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink receiving From Christ the grace we need,
And in our hearts believing On Him by faith we feed;
With wonder and Thanksgiving For love that knows no end,
We find in Jesus living Our ever present Friend.

Invitation

One: Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

Many: We come to this table with faith that we will be fed by the spirit of Christ as we share the bread and cup.

One: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me will not be hungry; all who believe in me will never be thirsty."

Many: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, and after he gave thanks to God, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying:

Many: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: In the same way, Jesus also took the cup. After he gave thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it all of you."

Many: "This is the cup of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

One: Holy Resurrected One, you have met us in our lives, let us now meet you at this table.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup, that they may be Christ broken and poured out for us. As we eat and drink, may we be filled by you. Unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world, *as we proclaim with hope, the mystery of our faith:*

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are now ready!

The Breaking of the Bread

One: Through the broken bread,

Many: we participate in the body of Christ.

The Pouring of the Cup

One: Through the cup of blessing,

Many: we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Sharing of the Elements



Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of joy and peace, we thank you for meeting us at this table and nourishing us with the presence of Christ. Joined together in your love, help us stand firm in faith, rejoice in you always and show gentleness to all. When worry weighs upon us, turn us toward prayer and Thanksgiving, and guard our hearts and minds with your peace. Fix our thoughts on what is true, honorable, just, and worthy of praise, and send us forth to practice these things in the world. Amen

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



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

God of joy and peace, thank you for the grace we have received and for the gifts we share today. Having been welcomed at Christ's table, help us welcome others with joy and gentleness. Use these gifts we offer to feed those who are hungry, to strengthen our communities, and to bring more peace into our world. Keep reminding us that we belong to one another, and that your peace goes with us wherever we go. Amen.



Hymn SL #625 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious savior, still our refuge! Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.



Benediction / Passing of the Peace



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

PRAY MORE
worry less



Do not be anxious
about anything, but in every
situation, by prayer
and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.



PHILIPPIANS 4:6, NIV

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 -	↕ Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy ↕ Patrick McMahon
Lay Reader -	Kevin O'Keefe
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Lorraine and Kevin O'Keefe
Flowers -	Jeanie and Patrick McMahon

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Neighbors in Need Offering accepted
Today -	Big Y Gift Card orders
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Fri 7pm -	AA

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

October 11	★-	Richie Small
October 13	★-	Anita Goddard, Mikki Nevins
October 14	★-	Brianne Perez
October 15	★-	Kate Parsons
October 17	★-	Julia Shulman
October 12	♥-	Charlene and Joe Bordanaro
October 14	♥-	Ed and Linda Quinn
October 15	♥-	David and Anna Loven

October 11, 2026 Philippians 4:1-9 Praiseworthy Living

Today is Laity Sunday, the day we celebrate the many astounding gifts of people who are not authorized or ordained ministers and yet serve the church in manifold ways. On this day, we remember that the priesthood of all believers means that every person has a vital part to play in the life of local congregations.

Laity Sunday is a day of joy, a day to remember that when we focus on standing with one another, even as we maintain a variety of perspectives or behaviors, we are living God's dream for us. Laity Sunday is a day to remember the gladness of giving into the spaciousness of God's call and purpose for all people. Laity Sunday is a day to focus on, as the letter writer exhorts in the epistle to the Philippians, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise."

Laity Sunday is a day to remember that this journey can be full of wonder and bursting with possibility. In short, Laity Sunday is a perfect day to play together. If you haven't already, it's a good day to check out "*Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations*".

This game is designed to get people talking about church vitality through the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches. It will help deepen relationships with each other and with the congregation's covenantal partners while laughing, thinking creatively and having critical conversations.

This game is for the decision makers and strategic thinkers. It's for the board room and the dining room table. It's for the flower arranging committee and the deacons. This game is for people who love their church and want to experience it grow in vitality and faithfulness. Roll the dice and move about a garden path with your church friends!

You can learn more about the "Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations", and order one for your own congregation at uccresources.org.