


**Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**an Open and Affirming Congregation**  
**10th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 17, 2025**

**Reflection -** *“I come down to the water to cool my eyes.  
But everywhere I look I see fire; that which isn’t flint is tinder,  
and the whole world sparks and flames.”*  
~ Annie Dillard, from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

 **Piano Prelude**

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

 **Piano Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: The winds shift, the clouds gather –  
we know a storm is coming.

**Many: Give us eyes to see and hearts to discern the signs of your kingdom.**

One: Jesus speaks of a fire that disrupts,  
a truth that divides.

**Many: Give us courage to follow,  
even when the path is not always peaceful.**

One: Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,  
we take our place in the story.

**Many:** We run with perseverance,  
fixing our eyes on Jesus.

One: The time is now –  
God's future is breaking into our present.

**Many: We rejoice in the One who calls us  
to be faithful, steadfast, and expectant.**

 **Hymn SL #779**    *We Are Called to Be God's People*

We are called to be God's people, showing by our lives His grace,  
One in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.  
Let us show how He has changed us, and remade us as His own;  
Let us share our life together as we shall around His throne.

We are called to be God's servants, working in His world today;  
Taking His own task upon us, all His sacred words obey.  
Let us rise, then, to His summons, dedicate to Him our all,  
That we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now His call.

We are called to be God's prophets, speaking for the truth and right;  
Standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil into light.  
Let us seek the courage needed, our high calling to fulfill,  
That we all may know the blessing of the doing of God's will.

**↑ 🙏 Unison Prayer of Invocation**


**Beloved God, we, your people, come this morning with hearts and minds full to overflowing from our everyday living. The fires of division in our world burn so brightly that even our own lives can feel fragmented and unsettled. Help us pause take a deep breath of your Spirit. Help us listen for your voice – in the readings, in the music, in one another – reminding us that we are yours and that together we are your beloved community. 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** *Goodness of God*

 **Moment for All Ages**

	<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hebrews 11:20 – 12:2	p. 274
		Luke 12:49-56	p. 92

 **Message**

**↑🎵 Hymn Notebook #B-4** *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*

Tune: Beach Spring (#544 in the Sing to the Lord hymnal)

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions we would know that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

(v. 3 next page)

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.



### **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...**

**DANIELLE** Dennett, member  
**JASON** Pratt, brother of Danielle Dennett  
**PHYLLIS** Widelo, sister of Mark Thornhill  
**NIKO** Sinodinos, husband of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**ELAINE** Donaldson, friend of Marion, Bonnie and Patty  
**LAINE** Gootee, sister of Darren Sallee  
**PATTY** Cotton, friend of the community  
**JEAN** Miemerstorf, niece of Anita Hickey  
**LAURA** Vachula, friend of Lynn Cooper  
**BRENDA** Hodge, sister of Mark Thornhill  
**BRENDA** Pelc, neighbor of Jackie and Larry Didier  
**KIMBERLY** Start, daughter-in-law of Deb Barthelette  
**RUTH ANNE** Bennett, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins  
**JEAN** Stawarz, friend of the Scrabble Club  
**DENNY** Preston, cousin of Betty-Anne Gould  
**TERRI** Toner, friend of Mikki Nevins  
**DON** Fox, friend of the community  
**RUSSELL** Johnson, cousin of Steve and Julie Holt  
**CHARLIE** Karns, cousin of Julie and Steve Holt  
**JOE** Jankowski, friend of the Robbins/Carriveau family  
**SUE** Santerre, friend of the Robbins family  
**ERIC** Cooper, friend of Shirley Raymond  
**MARGE** Yamilkoski, friend of Lynn Willard

**LAURA** Schiavoni, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**IOANNA** Spiliotis, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou  
**ABIGAIL** Labonte, friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe  
**BILL** Willard, member of the congregation  
**COLLEEN** Mayer, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins  
**CARROLL** Baszkowski, cousin of Lynn Cooper  
**JARRETT** Colpack, cousin of Steve and Julie Holt  
**AL** Wilson, friend of Karina, Ishmael, Jonah and Gideon  
**JOHN** Gugenberger, friend of the community  
**LYNN Willard**, member of the congregation  
**SANDY** Cripps, cousin of Charlotte and Marion

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

**STEVEN** Greenbaum, 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.

### **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**

**Loving God, every good gift in our lives comes from you.  
Guard us from confusing what we possess with who we  
are. Let these offerings be signs of our love for you and  
our care for others. Keep shaping us and working through  
us, so that we – your church in this time and place – may  
reach out with compassion and stand firm for what is  
right, doing our part to bring your kingdom nearer.  
Amen.**

↑ 🎵 **Hymn NC #597** *Shall We Gather at the River?*

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
With it's crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

*Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God.*

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy, golden day. (R)

As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (R)

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (R)

↑ 🙏 **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.



**The rosebud on the altar** is in honor of the birth of *Amelia Brook Jackson*, born on July 20, 2025 to Stephanie and Karl Henry Jackson. Amelia's proud big sister is Gracie Lynn Jackson, and her overjoyed grandparents are Jim and Deb Dalton & Sharon and Kelly Jackson. *Welcome, little one!*

**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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net)

**Worship Participants**

Ministers -	People of the church
Minister -	Rev. Carol Smith
Greeters -	↑ Wendy Blow ↓ Charlotte Wood
Lay Reader -	Wendy Blow
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Special Music -	Mark Gould
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Erika Subocz
Flowers -	Charlene Cross

**This Week at the Church...**

Today at 1pm -	Twin Baby Shower for Danielle Dennett
Monday 7pm -	Property Committee
Wednesday 7pm -	WOW
Wed-Fri-Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Friday 7pm -	AA

**Birthdays...**

August 17 ★ -	Charlene Bordonaro
August 18 ★ -	Brenda Shafer, Bill Tracy
August 19 ★ -	Josh Hickey, Kathy Robbins
August 20 ★ -	Don Blakesley, Lani Montague
August 22 ★ -	David Ingraham
August 23 ★ -	Alex Antosz, Samantha Bordonaro, Deborah Fuller, Bob Miller
August 18 ♥ -	Chris and Robin Wayne