


Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
5th Sunday after Pentecost / Pride Sunday
June 28, 2026






 **Reflection** – “God blessed me by making me transsexual for the same reason God made wheat but not bread and fruit but not wine, so that humanity might share in the act of creation.”
~ Julian K. Jarboe (writer and artist from Massachusetts)

“We are ever evolving, ever becoming, and ever unfolding. We can hold what we think we know about ourselves with open hands.”
~ Cassidy Hall, (she/her/hers), award-winning filmmaker, author, podcaster, ordained UCC minister whose work bridges contemplative spirituality, social justice, and queer identity; Digital Minister Indiana-Kentucky and Heartland Conference

“Transition is not as simple as walking into a building and asking nicely for drugs, but we accept this arduous process nonetheless and dedicate ourselves to it because we know we deserve to be happy.”
~ Logan-Ashley Kisner (writer and film historian)


“We deserve to experience love fully, equally, without shame and without compromise.” ~ Elliot Page, actor producer, activist and first openly trans man on the cover of Time magazine

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

 **Call to Worship**

One: In the image of God,
you created everything and called it good!
Many: In abundant diversity, your likeness is found in us.
We reject all messages that belittle or degrade any among us.
One: And so, in faithfulness to God and one another
we proclaim:
Many: Sacred are our bodies of every size and ability.
Blessed are our sexualities,
drawing us towards love of many kinds.
One: Beloved is every gender, revealing you in different ways.
To our skin, beautiful in every shade, we say hallelujah!

Many: Praise God, our Creator,
who blesses us with this world, these bodies,
and our fellow creatures, all created good, very good!
Let us worship God together!

 **Hymn** *All Are Welcome* (music available in rear of sanctuary)


Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Holy and Loving God, You created each of us in Your image. Today we gather in the light of Your boundless love. We come diverse people, different in identities, experiences, and stories, united in the truth that we are all Your beloved children. On this Pride Sunday, we give thanks for the beauty of every life and the courage of all who live authentically. (continues on next page...)

We remember Your Spirit moves in colors brighter than we can imagine, and Your grace embraces us all. So, come, Holy Spirit, fill this place with joy, justice, and peace. Open our ears to hear Your call to love without limits, our eyes to see beyond definitions and recognize You in each other. 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**

 **Honoring 50-Year Members** - Debbie Costello and Stephen Holt

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Readings** Matthew 10:40-42, p. 13
Excerpt from *The Price of the Ticket*, by James Baldwin

 **Message**

 **Hymn NC #539** *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

 **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

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

Prayer by Jordan Sullivan

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

Holy One, we bring these gifts with hearts full of gratitude and hope. Bless this offering, that it may be a beacon of love, a shelter of welcome, and a voice for justice. May these gifts help build a world where all are celebrated, where truth is spoken with courage, and where love has no boundaries. Use our hands, our voices, and our resources to proclaim Your inclusive grace. In the spirit of Christ, who welcomes all, we pray. Amen.



Hymn NC #433 *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; In the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death a resurrection; At the last of victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.



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.



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 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 - ↑ Sarah Madden
 ↓ Kevin O'Keefe
Lay Reader - Erika Subocz
Pianist - Michele Feldheim
Special Music - Bud Geary
Zoom Tech- Bob Miller
Coffee Hour - Mikki and Buddy Nevins
Flowers - Julie and Steve Holt

This Week at the Church...

Today - Welcome back Pastor Carol!
Today 11:15am - Blueberry Supper meeting in the parlor
Monday 7pm - Council
Wed/Fri/Sat - Food Pantry - see website for hours
Fri 7pm - AA
Next Sunday - Worship begins at 9:00am (Summer Schedule)

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

June 28 ★ - Fletcher Nehring, Lyssa Tirrell
June 29 ★ - Denise Clark
July 3 ★ - Alice Pringle
July 4 ★ - Jean Webster
June 29 ♥ - Kathy and Andy Church
June 30 ♥ - Sue and Tom Morton
July 3 ♥ - Lynne and Darren Sallee
July 4 ♥ - Brenda and George Shafer