

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
Fall Festival All-Community All-Faith Service
October 4, 2026



Reflection *"Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower." ~ Albert Camus*
*"How beautifully leaves grow old.
How full of light and color are their last days."
~ John Burroughs*
*"I am glad I live in a world
where there are Octobers." ~ Walt Whitman*



Prelude



Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome / Introit



Call to Worship

Leader: For the colors of October...

Many: **We give thanks.**

Leader: For apples and pumpkins,
crisp mornings and golden afternoons...

Many: **We give thanks.**

Leader: For music and poetry, laughter and friendship...

Many: **We give thanks.**

Leader: For neighbors who are different from one another,
yet share this place we call home...

Many: **We give thanks.**

Leader: For the simple joy of being together...

All: **We give thanks.**



Hymn NC #73 (vs 1-2-3-5) *Enter, Rejoice and Come In*

Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.

Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.

Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

Open your hearts everyone. Open your hearts everyone.

Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.

Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.



Gathering Words

We gather this morning with gratitude for this beautiful season. For the crispness in the air, the colors on the trees, the harvest from the earth, and the simple joys of autumn, and we give thanks. We gather with all that we are, with our different stories, our different traditions, our different ways of seeing the world. And yet here we are, neighbors and friends, sharing this place, this season, and this moment together. May there be room here for laughter and reflection, for music and poetry, for memory and wonder, and for everyone who has come through these doors. May this morning remind us that we do not have to be the same to belong to one another. So, let's celebrate the gifts of this day and the joy of being together! May it be so. Amen.

Offerings of Song and Word



Poem – *I Go to Sing*, by Lindy Thompson ~ Julie Holt



Musical Selection ~ Chris and Katie LaFond



Poem – *Harvest Garden*, by Catherine Pulsifer ~ volunteer



Musical Selection ~ Chuck Horn



Musical Selection ~ Julie Holt



Poem – *October*, by Robert Frost ~ volunteer



Musical Selection ~ Jim Armenti



Message **"What makes you glad to be here?"**

The Roll Away Pumpkin

by Junia Wonders and Daniela Volpari



Thirty-Second Memories

↑ **Hymn** *Give Thanks*

Tune: How Firm a Foundation, SL #689, 4 verses)

Give thanks for the corn and the wheat that are reaped,
For labor well done and for barns that are heaped,
For the sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,
For the rose and the song and the harvest brought home.

Give thanks for the mills and the farms of our land,
For craft and the strength in the work of our hands,
For the beauty our artists and poets have wrought,
For the hope and affection our friendships have brought.

Give thanks for the homes that with kindness are blessed,
For seasons of plenty and well deserved rest,
For our country extending from sea unto sea,
For ways that have made it a land for the free.



Unison Prayers for Peace

A Bahai Prayer for Peace

**Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.
Be fair in your judgment, and guarded in your speech.
Be a lamp to those who walk in darkness, and a home to
the stranger. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light to
the feet of the erring. Be a breath of life to the body of
humankind, a dew to the soil of the human heart, and a
fruit on the tree of humility.**

A Zoroastrian Prayer for Peace

**We pray to God to eradicate all the misery in the world:
that understanding triumph over ignorance, that
generosity triumph over indifference, that trust triumph
over contempt, and that truth triumph over falsehood.**

A Jewish Prayer for Peace

**Let all who dwell on earth simply acknowledge the truth
of truths: that we have not come into this world for the
sake of quarreling and war, nor for the sake of hatred,
jealousy, anger, or bloodshed; rather, we have come into
this world only to know You — may You be blessed
eternally! Amen.**

A Buddhist Prayer for Peace

**May our brothers and sisters, human and non-human
beings, born in every form sharing in the web of life be safe,
be happy and be free. May true peace of the heart bring
peace among all peoples of the world. May all beings
everywhere find joy and blessings. May I and all beings
awaken together.**

Amen and Amen.

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



Offertory *Life's Railway to Heaven*

~ Men's Choir



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.



Responsive Dedication of the Offering

One: For the gifts of the earth that sustain us –
Many: **We give thanks.**
One: For the gifts of people who care for one another –
Many: **We give thanks.**
One: For all that we have received,
and all that we are able to share –
Many: **We give thanks.**
One: May what we offer today bring hope
where there is need,
welcome where there is loneliness,
and joy where it is needed most.
Many: **May our gifts become a blessing.**
One: With gratitude for the abundance of this season –
All: **We dedicate these gifts.**

↑ 🎵 **Hymn NC #376** *God, We Thank You for our People*

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
Hearty spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,
Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.
By your spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

↑ 🙌 **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 -	↑ Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy ↓ Patrick McMahon
Lay Reader -	Julie Holt
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Lori Ingraham
Flowers -	Marcia Sullivan

This Week at the Church...

Today 12pm	Fall Festival!
Monday 7pm -	WaS
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 12pm -	COA Luncheon/Program
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Fri 7pm -	AA
Next Sunday -	Neighbors in Need Offering accepted

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

October 8	★-	Linda Quinn
October 9	★-	Jeffrey Brooks
October 10	★-	Al Hinckley
October 5	♥-	Art and Andrea Pichette
October 7	♥-	Bret and Jacqui LaFrance
October 7	♥-	Chris and Ashleigh Norris
October 9	♥-	Don and Sharon Eddy
October 9	♥-	Jason and Kate Johnson
October 9	♥-	Fletcher and Kate Nehring

