



# BELL TOWER

A Westhampton Church and Community Newsletter  
published by Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ,  
an Open and Affirming Church  
JUNE 2025 Vol. 54 No. 6

## From your Worship and Spirituality Committee

June can be a busy month for lots of folks with school graduations, school vacations and family trips. Pastor Elisa will continue to be with us leading worship until the Search Committee has finished its work. And it's going to be a busy time in the life of the church with lots of observances.

**June 1 will be Youth Sunday.** The Christian Education Committee is planning to honor graduating High School Seniors and giving Bibles to 3rd Graders.

And perhaps something extra...

**June 8 is Pentecost Sunday** when Christian churches celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, and the last Sunday of Eastertide.

**June 15 is Trinity Sunday,** the Christian celebration of the triune God.

**June is Pride Month and June 29 will be our Pride Celebration Sunday.**

Westhampton Congregational UCC membership voted 16 years ago to become Open and Affirming. This is the designation within the UCC whereby a congregation commits to fully welcome and affirm persons of all sexual orientation and gender identities within their membership and leadership. We hope that all will join us in this celebration service, including community members.

...**AND see below** for an update from the Search Committee. We're hopeful that our pastoral search will have further news in June. Stay tuned!

~ Kevin O'Keefe, Worship and Spirituality Committee

## Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has narrowed the pool down to a few candidates, and will be watching them preach at neutral pulpits in the next few weeks. Once we have seen the candidates preach, it will be time for us to make the hard decision of who to bring to Council. After that there will be a candidating weekend and a congregational vote — so pay attention to announcements from the church for those dates!

~ Ruth Tracy, he/him, secretary

## Strengthen the Church Offering

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults. We will receive this year's Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025.

## Looking Ahead... Summer Worship Schedule

Looking ahead to the summer... please remember that during the months of July and August, our Morning Worship Services will begin 1 hour earlier at 9:00am.



### Regular Church Meetings

Sun.	10:00am	Morning Worship in person and online: Zoom: 321 069 9076 – pw 248423
Mon.	7:00pm	WaS (1 <sup>st</sup> )
	7:00pm	Property (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
	7:00pm	Council (4th)
Wed.	5-6pm	Food Pantry
	7:00pm	WOW (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Thurs.	7:00pm	Choir
	7:00pm	Search Committee (bi-weekly)
Fri.	11am-12pm	Food Pantry
	7:00pm	AA
Sat.	9-10am	Food Pantry

### Women's Fellowship Director

June - Charlotte Wood

#### Greeters

June - ↑ Sarah Madden  
↓ Ilene Lorow

#### Coffee Hour

June 1 - Sarah Madden  
June 8 - Sue Tracy Small and Richie Small  
June 15 - Erika Subocz  
June 22 - Jackie and Larry Didier  
June 29 - Anita Hickey

#### Flowers

June 1 - Audrey and David Antosz  
June 8 - Jackie and Larry Didier  
June 15 - Pat and Bob Mille  
June 22 - Julie and Stephen Holt  
June 29 - Brenda and George Shafer

### Regular Town Meetings/Office Hours

Mon.	8am - 4:00pm	Board of Health walk in/call; Haydenville office 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.
	9am - 3:00pm	Administrative Asst - Town Hall
	7:00pm	SelectBoard (bi-weekly) - Town Hall
Tues.	8am - 4:00pm	Board of Health walk in/call; Haydenville office 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.
	9am - 3:00pm	Administrative Asst - Town Hall
	by appt only	Building Inspector – Annex
	4:30 - 8:30pm	Board of Assessors - Annex
	6:00pm	Fire Dept. (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – PSC
	6:00pm	Friends of the Library (1 <sup>st</sup> ) - Library
	6:00pm	Library Trustees (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) - Library
	6:30pm	Planning Board (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – Annex
	7:00pm	Zoning Bd of Appeals (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – Annex
	7:00pm	Historical Commission (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – Judd Rm
Wed.	8am - 4:00pm	Board of Health walk in/call; Haydenville office 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.
	8am - 4:00pm	Town Clerk - Town Hall
	8am - 3:00pm	Board of Health – Annex
	9am - 3:00pm	Administrative Asst - Town Hall
	6pm - 8:00pm	Transfer Station hours
	7:00pm	Conservation (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – Town Hall
Thurs.	8am - 4:00pm	Board of Health (BOH) walk in/call; Haydenville office 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.
	9am - 3:00pm	Administrative Asst - Town Hall
	10am - 12pm	Board of Assessors – Annex
	8am - 3:00pm	Board of Health – Annex
Fri.	8am - 4:00pm	Board of Health (BOH) call only; Haydenville office 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.
	7:00 – 8:00pm	AA – church dining room
Sat.	9am - 3:00pm	Transfer Station hours
	By appt only	Tax Collector

[www.WesthamptonMA.gov](http://www.WesthamptonMA.gov)

### Church Office Contact Info

Office Email - [westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net](mailto:westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net)

Church office phone - 413-527-4204

Church website - [www.westhamptonchurchucc.org](http://www.westhamptonchurchucc.org)

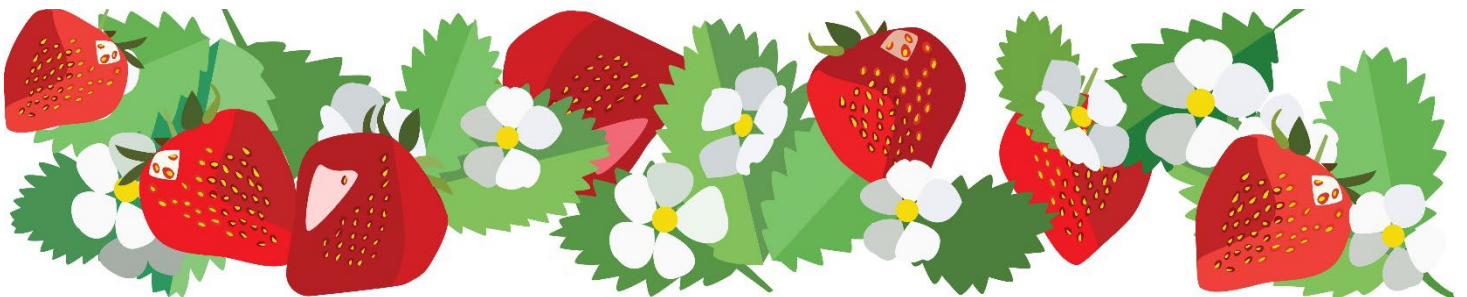
Facebook - Westhampton Congregational  
United Church of Christ

For pastoral care and emergencies  
please contact the church office.



### Westhampton Town Election

The Westhampton Town Election will be held on *Saturday, June 7 from 8:00am - 4:00noon at the Westhampton Town Hall.* Be sure to come and cast your ballots.



## Save-the-Date!

### Annual Blueberry Supper Coming in July!



The Westhampton Congregational UCC Women's Fellowship is looking forward to hosting our traditional *Blueberry Supper* on **Saturday, July 26, 2025** with both dine-in at 5:00pm and take-out at 5:30pm options available. The cost \$15 for adults and \$6 for children 12↓. Save the date and plan on enjoying a delicious homemade meal! More information available in the next edition of the Bell Tower. For reservations contact Lynne Sallee by calling 413-584-9360, or shoot her an email at [lynnesallee@comcast.net](mailto:lynnesallee@comcast.net).



### Summer Music Sign-ups

Please take a moment to thank the Choir for their dedication and talent in providing worship music throughout the year. The choir will take their break for the summer and resume singing in September.

## SUMMER



From June 15 – September 1 we will enjoy a variety of volunteer musicians during worship — vocal or instrumental, solo or in groups. The Summer Music Sign-up Sheet is available now in the church dining room. Please consider sharing a song or two this summer!

### From Your Outreach

#### Committee

**Food Pantry** - The Food Pantry is open to all to supplement your needs. You may stop by to pick up what you need, and we invite you to donate items as well. The Food Pantry is located in the basement of the Westhampton Church, accessible from the door facing North Road. *Hours of operation are every Wednesday from 5 - 6pm, Friday from 11am - 12noon, and Saturday from 9 - 10am.* Volunteers are always welcome to help with various tasks of opening/closing and staffing the space. To volunteer for more info on the Food Pantry visit [www.westhamptonchurchccc.org](http://www.westhamptonchurchccc.org).

**Take & Eat** - The Take and Eat program is a non-denominational effort that serves elder and home-bound in need, by preparing and delivering weekend meals for up to 100 clients. Westhampton's turn is on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays; to volunteer, please visit [www.tinyurl.com/takeandeat](http://www.tinyurl.com/takeandeat); your next opportunity is the June 28 meal prep and delivery.

### Big Y Gift Card Orders - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays

Remember to order more Big Y Gift Cards at the church **every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**. You receive the full value that you pay for and the church makes 5% as a fundraiser — win-win! Give your order and payment to Mikki Nevins at church and pick up your card(s) the following Sunday. If you can't get to church, contact Mikki ([mikjnev@yahoo.com](mailto:mikjnev@yahoo.com); 413-977-9222) to make other arrangements. Please shop with a gift card regularly and support the church at the same time!



## From Your Stewardship Committee: What Difference Does a Dime Make?

*"The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ~ Mark 4:31-32*

My two children have received an allowance for doing chores from the time they understood the concept of money. We paid them allowances, not because they needed the money, but because we wanted them to begin to understand that money is something to earn, not to just ask their parents for. We also wanted to begin to teach them how to manage money.

The lesson was very simple. When they were little, every Friday, I'd grab 10 dimes and sit down with them. We'd first take a dime, grab an offering envelope, put their name on it, and slide the dime in. The second dime would be dropped in their piggy bank, which we'd take to the local bank every few months. The other eight would go into their pocket or purse for them to bring with to the store when we went.



I was once asked what difference those dimes given to the church really made. To which I responded, "To the church finances, I can't imagine anything. To my kids — more than I can explain. Every Sunday they put their envelopes in the offering plate with huge smiles on their faces. As they got older, when they made more money, they'd continue the same practice — along with reflecting on how they wanted to make a difference with their generosity. Would they give it all to the church? Would they give some to a mission or another non-profit that was making a difference?" Watching them grow in generosity constantly reminds me that we all have a place in bringing about God's kingdom, whether what we have to offer is large or small. It's about the need of the giver to give, rather than the church to receive. Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something beyond what we could ever ask or imagine. ~ written by Rev. Jason Mahnke.

~ Your Stewardship Committee: Lynn, Larry, and Sue

	YTD Actual 5/20/25	YTD Budget 5/20/25
Pledged Local	32,340	41,176
Non-Pledged Local	5,017	3,750
Other Local	914	11,751
<b>TOTAL LOCAL</b>	<b>38,271</b>	<b>56,677</b>
Mission Pledged	3,124	4,468
Special Offerings	1,307	2,807
<b>TOTAL MISSIONS</b>	<b>4,431</b>	<b>7,275</b>





## Field of Dreams Summer Concert Series 2025



It is with great pleasure that the Music Committee can announce the line-up of our upcoming summer concerts on Friday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

- **Friday June 20** – Our own “home town” *Blue Rendezvous Swing Band* returns to Westhampton to swing Rhythm & Blues and jazz better than ever, sweetened with waltzes and Latin grooves.
- **Friday July 11** – Back by popular demand – *Le Mixx* playing “Ol’Skool” music from classic Motown to Funk and Reggae.
- **Friday July 25** – Not been here since 2022 – *The Pangeans*, a 7-piece world music band with a horn section that plays Latin Jazz, Samba, Calypso, Reggae, Afrobeat and Funk.
- **Friday August 8** – a new name/band for us – *Laura Manzi*, Playing rock and folk favorites from across the decades.
- **Friday August 22** – another new name for us, *Knock on Wood with Howie Newman*, an acoustic folk-rock duo featuring funny original music and classic rock covers



## Summer Concert Series

We hope it will another fun summer concert series offering a great diversity of music. It would be wonderful if the concerts were the only events in town on those evenings, so we can be assured of a good crowd. As usual, there will be plenty of home-made food for you to enjoy.

And if the weather decides not to cooperate, we can always move to the Town Hall. ~ Michele Wagner, Susan Bronstein, Sue O'Rourke

### HRHS XC - School's Done Raider Run

5K Cross Country Race and 1 Mile Fun Run

Saturday, June 14, 2015

On-line registration:

<https://www.runreg.com/hrhsraiderrun>

\*paper copies available at the library or HRHS office



## Fall Festival Change of Date

The 18th Fall Festival is happening

a week earlier than usual.

Mark your calendars for

**Sunday, October 12, 2025**

for an afternoon full of fun events, good food, community building, and pumpkin rolling.



## Council on Aging

### Estate Planning & Critical Information Binders

#### In-Person Talk with an Elder Care Attorney

June 12 | 12:00–1:30 PM

**Westhampton Congregational Church**

Join us for a valuable opportunity to hear from **Elder Care Attorney Carol Klyman, Esq.** as she returns to share expert insights on key estate planning topics, including Wills, Powers of Attorney, Beneficiaries, and Trusts. This free event is open to the public and includes a potluck lunch. If you attended our well-received session on November 9, 2023, you'll know how informative and popular this gathering can be. Bring your questions—this is your chance to speak directly with a knowledgeable attorney.

**Free Critical Information Binders** - Available at no cost for Westhampton residents aged 60+, these binders help you organize all your important personal, legal, and medical information in one secure place. For non-residents, binders are available with a suggested \$12 donation to the Friends of the Council on Aging. Each binder includes:

- Emergency contacts
- Financial and medical information
- MOLST and health care proxy forms
- Special wishes for end-of-life care
- Guidance on estate planning topics, developed in consultation with Attorney Klyman

Can't make it to the luncheon? Binders are always available by request. Contact Lorraine Galica at (413) 387-3960 or [lagfjord@comcast.net](mailto:lagfjord@comcast.net) to receive yours.

### Ice Cream Social!

*You scream, I scream, we all scream for ice cream!*

**Mark your calendars!**

You're invited to join the Council on Aging for a fun-filled Ice Cream Social on **Thursday, July 10th at noon**, held on the lawn behind the library. This event is open to **all ages**, so bring a chair, bring a friend, and enjoy a delightful lunch of ice cream and surprise treats! In case of rain, we'll move the fun indoors to Town Hall. Don't forget: Thursday, July 10th at noon...Ice Cream for Lunch! We hope to see you there!



## At the Westhampton Library

Hours: Mon/Thurs 2-8pm; Tues/Wed 9am-12pm & 1-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm.

Library closed on Juneteenth, June 19

Please check the town website or Facebook or Instagram @WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates.

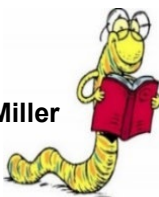
The library is open for in-person browsing and materials pickup as well as curbside pickup.

To place a request for curbside pick-up, please email [westhampton@cwmares.org](mailto:westhampton@cwmares.org) or call 413-527-5386.

### Recurring Programs . . .

(Holidays may impact schedule)

- **COA Computer Class is back with Bob Miller**  
2<sup>nd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays @ 10am-12pm
- **Knitting Group Mondays @ 6pm**
- **\*Yoga Mondays @ 6pm.** \*Yoga is drop-in, first-come/ first-served, and registration is not required. Please check Facebook and the town calendar for updates on yoga at the library.
- **Scrabble Group Tuesdays @ 2pm**
- **Book Group** – PLEASE NOTE: We will not meet on June 24, but instead will meet July 1 @ 7pm, joined by local debut author Emily Everett to discuss her book “*All That Life Can Afford*”. All are welcome to attend.
- **Walk-in Wellness Clinics: W’ton’s Public Health Nurse 1st/3rd Weds @ 10-11:30am**
- **Coffee & Chat – Wednesdays @ 10am-12pm**
- **Tech Connect – Thursday, June 26 @ 2-4pm** for drop-in tech help



### For Kids and Teens...

- **CFCE Playgroup – Tuesdays @ 10am**
- **Playgroup Picnic with Music by Caylin – Saturday, June 7 @ 10:30am – 12:00pm**

### Pride!

#### Cupcakes, Crafts and Community

**Thursday, June 5 @ 3:30pm - 4:30pm**

June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month! Join us for a fun, family-friendly event celebrating queer community. We'll be decorating cupcakes (think rainbow sprinkles), making buttons, and participating in a large-scale community coloring project. Allies are welcome. We hope to see you there!

### June/July Artists –

#### Hampshire County Food Council

##### Opening Reception

**Monday, June 9 @ 5 - 7pm**

Explore the community food story archive, a collection of food stories. Share conversations with neighbors and envision a better future. Refreshments will be served and the exhibit will be on view in June and July during library hours.

### Hilltown Permaculture Club

**Thursday, June 26 @ 7 – 8pm**

Please check the library calendar on the town website for an announcement about our June topic of discussion.

### Field of Dreams Summer Concert Series

*Details on previous page!*

### Lounging for Literacy II:

**The world's largest gathering of people reading in lawn chairs returns to Westhampton Public Library!**  
**Saturday, June 28 @ 11am - 1pm**

Join your friends on the library lawn. Bring a lawn chair, a book, and a picnic. Pick up pledge forms in person at the library or download on the library page of the town website. Lounging for Literacy was a fundraising event held in 2007 to raise funds for our “new” library. Lounging for Literacy II will also be a fundraiser for the Friends of Westhampton Library, to continue to support our wonderful community library. The event will include book signings, fun children's activities, a library-themed singalong and more!



### Summer Reading 2025

#### Level Up at Your Library!

*Special thanks to The Westhampton Cultural Council for sponsoring Escape Room with Wicked Fun Games and Stitched Journal Workshop. The Westhampton Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Library and the Lyn Keating Program Fund for sponsoring all other summer reading programs and incentives.*

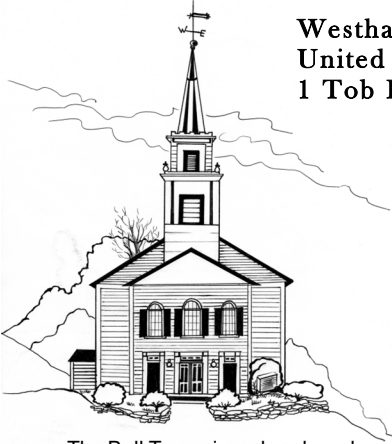
- **Saturday June 21 @ 11am** - Summer Reading Kickoff
- **Saturday June 28 @ 11am** - Lounging for Literacy II
- **Wednesday July 2 @ 10am** - Little Roots Music Class - Preschool-aged program limited to 15 families. Call or email [ewayne@cwmares.org](mailto:ewayne@cwmares.org) to register.
- **Wednesday July 9 @ 2pm** - Escape Room with Wicked Fun Games - Ages 8+, limited to 10 participants. Call or email [ewayne@cwmares.org](mailto:ewayne@cwmares.org) to register.
- **Wednesday July 16 @ 2pm** - Cosplay Workshop with Eliza Eldredge of EldritchArts - Ages 12+, limited to 20 participants. Call or email [ewayne@cwmares.org](mailto:ewayne@cwmares.org) to register.
- **Wednesday July 23 @ 2pm** - Stitched Journal Workshop with Lisa Hersey of Antler Editions - Ages 12-18, limited to 8 participants. Call or email [ewayne@cwmares.org](mailto:ewayne@cwmares.org) to register.
- **Monday July 28 @ 5:30pm** - Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey - Learn about different birds of prey with a licensed rehabilitator. All ages welcome!
- **Wednesday July 30 @ 2pm** - Brightspot Reading Buddies/Read-In for Double Points - Come to the library to read to one of the Brightspot Reading Buddies, or spend some time reading at home for double the points! *Reading Buddy slots at the library are first-come, first-served*
- **Saturday August 2 @ 11 am** - Summer Reading Closing - Collect prizes! Winners will be announced online Saturday morning.

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Westhampton Congregational  
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1 Tob Rd., Westhampton MA 01027

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
EASTHAMPTON, MA  
PERMIT No. 6



The Bell Tower is a church and community newsletter whose intent is to inform and inspire. The Bell Tower shall promote the identity, programs and events of the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ. As an added service, the Bell Tower shall also provide information on community news and events to the residents of Westhampton. We invite you to join us for Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00am. Submissions to the Bell Tower for church and community articles and announcement may be sent to Julie Holt at the church email address [westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net](mailto:westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to the upcoming Bell Tower issue.

## Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ Mission Statement

With God as our witness, we of the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ, commit to our Savior Jesus Christ as our model and guide. While cherishing our heritage, we look to the future, accepting ourselves and each other as individuals uniquely created in God's image. We covenant together to grow in our understanding of God's will. We nurture each other in faith so we may be empowered to serve in our community and the world.

We are called to love our brothers and sisters as God loves us, freely and without reservation. Our unconditional love is inclusive of all God's people. We denounce acts of discrimination and violence against any person. As an open and affirming church, we joyfully welcome all people into our community of faith, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnic background, socioeconomic status or physical/mental abilities. Each person is invited and encouraged to participate in all aspects of our church life and ministry.



## WES PTO

It's hard to believe the school year is already almost over! The end of the school year is the busiest time for the PTO. For the month of June, we will be helping with funding for 6th grade graduation. A cartoonist Dwayne Able will be coming to do a presentation for the students, and we will also welcome a traveling zoo from Forest Park! We are helping out with a bounce house and popsicle cool down station for Wildcats Day.

The PTO couldn't do all this without the help and support of families and the Westhampton Community, so thank you for all you do to help us out. We specifically want to call out Dan Moylan, who has been a great member of the PTO... *sending a BIG THANK YOU to Dan* for all he's done to help us out. He will be heading out of the WES school as his youngest graduates this June!



Congratulations  
to all the  
graduates  
of 2025!!

**Have a great  
summer!!**

## TOOLS OF HOPE



### Father's Day Tools of Hope Dedications

Please make a contribution of \$5.00 to place the right tool in the hands of people in need throughout the world through Church World Service for Tools of Hope Sunday on *Father's Day, June 15, 2025*. You may dedicate your gift in honor of or in memory of a special father figure in

your life. Dedications will be listed in the church bulletin. Please mail this form to the church by Wednesday, June 11 at 1 Tob Road, Westhampton MA 01027 along with your check payable to Westhampton Congregational UCC.

List my dedication in the Father's Day Bulletin as follows:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_