



BELL TOWER

A Westhampton Church and Community Newsletter
published by Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ,
an Open and Affirming Church
JUNE 2026 Vol. 55 No. 6

Message from Pastor Carol...

"We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for togetherness." ~ Desmond Tutu

As the school year winds down, June bursts into bloom. Perhaps that's our invitation to notice how communities flourish when different people grow and bloom together. Diversity brings beauty, resilience, life. Communities grow stronger when people of different ages, backgrounds, and experiences are welcomed and encouraged to thrive side by side.

June begins on the heels of meaningful days of remembrance and celebration. Memorial Day invited us to honor those who gave their lives in service to others and reflect on the responsibilities we share toward one another. Pentecost, in the Christian tradition, tells the story of the Spirit moving among ordinary people in extraordinary ways, reminding us courage, compassion, and understanding cross every barrier of language and difference.

In Westhampton, we see that spirit alive every day: neighbors checking in on one another, volunteers giving their time, meals shared, gathering for peace, kindness offered when it is needed most. We also see it in the school age Good Works Group, whose fundraising through Heifer International provided a water buffalo and a host of other items to support sustainable agriculture for families across the world. That spirit continues through Teen Good Works as both our youth and teens carry forward this work of compassion and care.

June also brings opportunities to remember and celebrate the dignity and worth of every person. Pride Month reminds us of the importance of creating communities where all people are welcomed and encouraged to live openly and authentically. Juneteenth remembers the long struggle for freedom and justice for Black Americans while celebrating resilience, hope and the ongoing work of building a more just society. Father's Day invites us to honor all fathers and father-figures whose love and guidance shape our lives and communities.

At church, June also begins the long green season known as "Ordinary Time" that reminds us life's deepest meaning is often found in everyday acts of care, courage, friendship, and compassion. Throughout the summer, the stories of Jesus will lead us along ordinary paths among ordinary people discovering something sacred in ordinary life. Perhaps that is true for us too in the rhythms of our ordinary lives.

As June unfolds towards the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, may we notice the light lingering a little longer around us and within us. And may we continue tending the kind of community where all people can grow, belong, and bloom together.



June Pastoral Coverage

Dear Beloved People of God ~ Your grace, prayers, encouragement, and support are a true gift to me, and I carry them with deep gratitude during this time that I am home healing following knee replacement surgery. I am so thankful for the wonderful pastors, and for Paul, our own deacon, who will fill the pulpit and faithfully share God's Word with all of you during the Sundays that I am home recovering. I am also very grateful to Rev. Patrick McMahan, who will be available to provide pastoral care during my medical leave. It brings me comfort and peace to know that our congregation will continue to be nurtured with such faithful care, compassion, and wisdom while I heal. *I look forward to being with you all in person on June 28th!* ~ Pastor Carol

Joy always,

Pastor Carol

Summer Music Sign-ups

Please take a moment to thank the Choir for their dedication and talent in providing worship music throughout the year.



They will take a break for the summer and we look forward to enjoying a variety of volunteer musicians during worship - vocal or instrumental, solo or in groups. The Summer Music Sign-up sheet is now available in the dining room. Please consider sharing a song or two this summer!

Looking Ahead...

Summer Worship Schedule

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

Pulpit Schedule going forward:

- May 31 Julie Olmstead
- June 7 Julie Olmsted
- June 14 Marguerite Sheehan
- June 21 Paul Aloisi

Regular Church Meetings

Sun.	10:00am	Morning Worship in person or via Zoom 321 069 9076 – pw 248423
Mon.	7:00pm	WaS (1 st)
	7:00pm	Property (3 rd)
	7:00pm	Council (4 th)
Tues.	3:00pm	WOW (3 rd)
Wed.	3:15pm	Good Works (3 rd)
	5-6pm	Food Pantry
Thurs.	7:00pm	Choir
Fri.	11am-12pm	Food Pantry
	7:00pm	AA
Sat.	9-10am	Food Pantry

Women's Fellowship Director

June - Charlotte Wood

Greeters

June - ↑ Sarah Madden
↓ Kevin O'Keefe

Coffee Hour

June 7 - Sarah Madden
June 14 - Ruth Tracy
June 21 - Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe
June 28 - Mikki and Buddy Nevins

Flowers

June 7 - Audrey and Dave Antosz
June 14 - Pat and Bob Miller
June 21 - Jackie and Larry Didier
June 28 - Julie and Stephen Holt

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ Pastor - Reverend Carol Smith

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Fridays @ 9am – 12noon
Available anytime for pastoral emergencies

Pastor Carol's contact info:

carolbsmith12@gmail.com
860-798-7771

Church Office contact info:

westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net
413-527-4204

Website: www.westhamptonchurchucc.org

Facebook - [Westhampton Congregational
United Church of Christ](#)

Regular Town Meetings/Office Hours

Mon.	8am – 3pm	Town Coordinator – Town Hall
	7pm	SelectBoard (bi-weekly) - Town Hall
Tues.	8am – 3pm	Town Coordinator – Town Hall
	8am – 4pm	Town Clerk – Town Hall
	5pm – 7:30pm	Board of Assessors - Annex
	6pm	Fire Dept (1 st , 3 rd) – PSC
	6pm	Friends of the Library (1 st) – Library
	6pm	Library Trustees (2 nd) – Library
	7pm	Planning Board (2 nd) Town Hall
	7pm	Zoning Bd of Appeals (2 nd) Town Hall
Wed.	8am – 3pm	Town Coordinator – Town Hall
	8am – 4pm	Town Clerk – Town Hall
	6pm – 8pm	Transfer Station hours
	7pm	Conservation (1 st , 3 rd) – Town Hall
Thurs.	8am – 3pm	Town Coordinator – Town Hall
	8am – 3pm	Board of Health - Annex
	10:30am-1:15pm	Board of Assessors – Annex
	12noon	COA (1 st) via Zoom
Fri.	8am – 2pm	Town Coordinator – Town Hall
	7pm	AA (weekly – Westhampton Church
Sat.	9am - 3pm	Transfer Station hours
Sun.	10am – 12noon	Martial Arts – Town Hall

Doug Finn, Town Coordinator
Town of Westhampton
1 South Rd. Westhampton MA 01027
413-203-3086
administration@westhamptonma.gov
www.WesthamptonMA.gov



A Reminder to Westhampton Residents

- The Annual Town Election is June 6, 2026; polling hours are from 8:00am – 5:00pm at the Westhampton Town Hall.
- Town Meeting continues on June 22, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Make your voice - and your vote - count!

Westhampton Cares

What is a neighbor? Here is some context... On 9/11, 38 planes with 7000 passengers from all over the world had to land in Gander, Newfoundland because US air space was completely closed down. For five days, the people of Gander welcomed, supported, fed, helped contact families, and found sleeping space for all these people. If 7000 total strangers can be cared for by total strangers, then surely there can be nothing to stop the residents of Westhampton from caring for each other...neighbors helping neighbors.

That is why a number of residents have formed a group whose aim it is to support our neighbors at this time, as we think about increased town real estate taxes due to the town's perilous financial situation and the hardship that may create for some. We are encouraged by the number of supporters who have already volunteered. If you are interested in supporting this group you can contact Bill Tracy until we are more formally organized. We are viewing similar organizations, getting legal advice, and considering the best way to do this, to ensure that the donors, the recipients, and the town will all benefit. Stay tuned for more information!

In the meantime, we have updated information about abatements which are available for anyone who would like it. We haven't decided on the best name for this group yet, so at least for now, we'll just sign off as ~ *your Westhampton Cares group*



From Your Stewardship Committee...

Longer Tables



An unknown author once wrote, "If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a taller fence." What a beautiful and powerful statement! Write it down and seek to live it in your daily life. I'll repeat it: "If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a taller fence."

When God blesses us, it's easy to focus on protecting and defending our blessings with fences, but the Bible teaches us that, like Abram in Genesis 12:2, we are blessed so that in turn, we will be a blessing. We are blessed so that we can extend our tables — and then watch as God refills our pantry so that we can do it all again! Remember 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8: "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

Jesus loved long tables. He loved to share His food with as many people as possible, sometimes five thousand friends at a single meal! If you're seeking wisdom on extending your table this year and want to be incredibly blessed in the process, read His hospitality guidelines in Luke 14:12-24.

We don't have time to discuss all the proven benefits of hospitality, but in summary, longer tables bring longer health, friendships, and life. Enjoy!

	YTD Actuals 5/20/26	YTD Budget 5/20/26
Pledged Local	42,827	42,912
Non-Pledged Local	2,937	5,000
Other Local	11,377	11,543
TOTAL LOCAL	57,141	59,455
Mission Pledged	4,189	4,822
Special Offerings	1,998	2,450
TOTAL MISSIONS	6,187	7,272

Outreach Opportunities

Food Pantry - The Food Pantry is open to all to supplement your needs. All are invited to stop by to pick up what you need, and/or to donate items as you are able as well. The Food Pantry is located in the basement of the Westhampton Church, accessible from the door facing North Road. To volunteer or for more info, please visit www.westhamptonchurchcc.org.



Food Pantry hours: Wed 5-6pm, Fri 11-12pm, Sat 9-10am.

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 4th Saturdays - that means June 27 this month. Visit www.tinyurl.com/takeandeat for more info or to volunteer your help.

Blueberries – A Taste of Summer

If you like blueberries, mark your calendars! This year we are hosting our annual Blueberry Supper on Saturday, July 25. Both dine-in and take-out will be available. More details to come in the July issue of the Bell Tower. In the meantime, June means strawberry season, so enjoy other berries too as they come along... and keep the Blueberry Supper in your mind as you delight in them all!



Tips for Gardeners

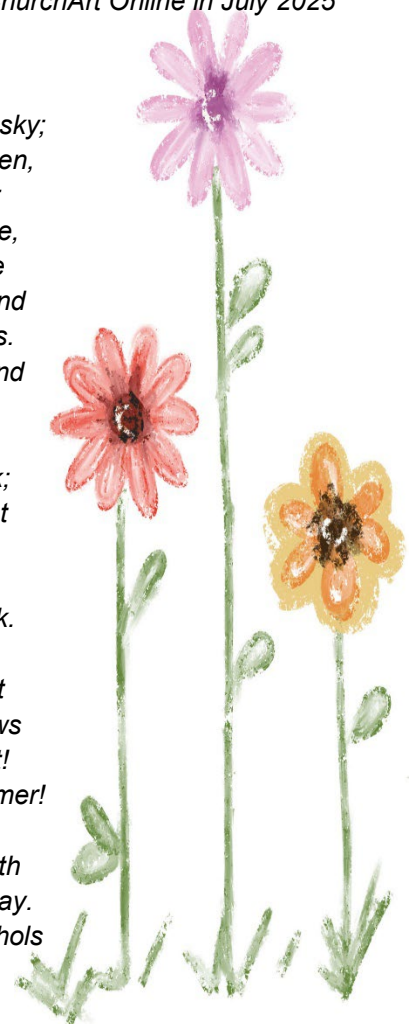
"Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year," said evangelist Billy Graham. "It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul." Without summer, our gardens would disappoint, and without love, our hearts wouldn't bloom.

The warmth of summer and love aren't the only ingredients required for abundant physical and spiritual crops, however. Discernment and persistence ensure fruitful yields in both areas. "Unless we know the difference between flowers and weeds, we are not fit to take care of a garden," advised Clyde Francis Lytle. "It is not enough to have truth planted in our minds. We must learn and labor to keep the ground clear of thorns and briars, follies and perversities, which have a wicked propensity to choke the word of life."

~ ChurchArt Online in July 2025

Summer

*'Tis summer,
I know by the blue of the sky;
By the trees' deeper green,
as beneath them I lie;
And more than all these,
by the lovely wild rose
That now in the woodland
its pink blossom shows.
I feel the warm west wind
fan gently my cheek
As I sit on the grass,
far too happy to speak;
And then in the twilight
I see the faint spark
Of the fire-fly,
flitting alone in the dark.
Oh! long happy days,
when 'tis full of delight
To roam in the meadows
from morning till night!
Oh! summer, sweet summer!
glide slowly away,
For I love in your warmth
and your fragrance to stay.
~ by H.P. Nichols*



Council on Aging...

June Lunch and Program Hampshire Regional High School Students Bring Music and Connection

The Council on Aging is delighted to welcome the talented students of the **Hampshire Regional High School Chorus and Rock Band** to our monthly luncheon at the church on **Thursday, June 11 at 12:00noon**. Pizza and salad will be provided for lunch. Guests are warmly encouraged to bring a favorite dessert to share if they are able. Guests will enjoy an afternoon of live music, community, and connection as students share their talents with local older adults.

Music has a unique ability to bridge generations, creating common ground and sparking conversation. Whether it's a familiar tune, a lively rock performance, or simply sharing a meal together, these moments help strengthen the bonds that make our community special. The COA is proud to partner with Hampshire Regional High School to celebrate the importance of community engagement across generations. We invite everyone to join us for this special luncheon and enjoy an afternoon filled with music, laughter, and connection.

Hilltown Mobile Market



Hilltown CDC is offering a new program called Hilltown Mobile Market designed to bring local farmers and local seniors together. Fresh, healthy food for everyone, delivered to your door. The program starts on June 1, so please sign up ASAP if you are interested. Please contact Jake at Hilltown CDC at jaker@hilltowncdc.org or 413-296-4536 x116 and he'll be happy to answer your questions.

Scan this code with your smartphone to go to our online marketplace to place an order for pickup or delivery starting June 1!



WES PTO

We can't believe another school year has blown by! With the end of the school year upon us, it is as usual our busiest time of the year. We are gearing up for the annual Wildcats Day where we help by supplying the blow-up obstacle course, providing lunch for the students, staff and volunteers and a popsicle cool-down station. We will fund an in-house traveling Zoo field trip for the Pre-K - 2nd grade students.

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to all who donated at our bake sale at the town meeting in May, your contributions are greatly appreciated. The PTO wouldn't be able to give as much support to the Westhampton Elementary School if it wasn't for all the help and support we get from the families and the Westhampton community. We are so grateful for all the help and support you give us to help out our amazing teachers and staff at WES! And **CONGRATULATIONS** to all the graduates of 2026! Have a great summer!!

HRHS XC - School's Done Raider Run 5K Cross Country Race and 1 Mile Fun Run Saturday, June 13, 2026 -



A fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams. Free T-shirt to the first 75 entrants. Awards, door prizes, post-race refreshments, special awards for the top HRHS alumni and faculty/staff! To register use QR code or use this link: <https://www.runreg.com/hrhsraiderun>



90th Birthday Card Blitz for Jean Alward

Please join us in celebrating Jean Alward's 90th birthday this July 1, 2026! We're organizing a lovely way to let her know we love her. Please send her a *snail mail birthday card* by or on July 1 so she will enjoy the **best 90th Birthday Card Blitz ever!** Let's try to keep it a surprise until the cards start rolling in. We also ask you to spread the word to folks that know her who live outside of Westhampton and may have missed this notice. My Mom knows a LOT of people! **Please mail cards to: Jean Alward, 92 Spring St. Florence MA 01062.** Many thanks!
~ Bev and Danny Montague

From Your Energy Advocate

Happy June, Westhampton! Over the past few months in our *Why Electrify?* series, we've explored how electrification can improve efficiency, reduce pollution, support healthier indoor air, and increase comfort at home. This month, we're focusing on how to start planning electrification upgrades.

For many homes, the best first step is a home energy assessment. During an assessment, a trained energy specialist evaluates how your home uses energy and identifies opportunities to improve efficiency. In many cases, weatherization upgrades like insulation and air sealing can make a big difference in comfort and energy use, and they also help electric systems like heat pumps work more effectively.

Electrification doesn't have to happen all at once. Many homeowners choose to make the switch gradually—for example, installing a heat pump when an older heating system reaches the end of its life, or choosing an electric appliance when it's time for a replacement. Planning ahead can help ensure you take advantage of available incentives and make upgrades in a logical sequence.

If you're interested in learning more or scheduling a home energy assessment, reach out to Sophie Protano, Sustainability Coordinator, Westhampton's CFP team at sprotano@easthamptonma.gov or visit massave.com/community-first/hamptons to explore options, incentives, and next steps.

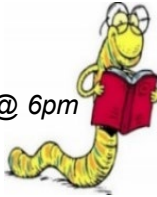
At the Westhampton Library

Hours: Mon/Thurs 2-8pm; Tues/Wed 9am-12pm & 1-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm
Library closed June 18 – in observance of Juneteenth

Please check the town website or Facebook or Instagram @WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates.
To place a request for curbside pick-up, email westhampton@cwmars.org or call 413-527-5386.

Recurring Programs . . .

- **Computer Help** w/ Bob Miller –
2nd/4th Mondays @ 10am-12noon
- **Knitting & Crocheting Group** Mondays @ 6pm
*** no knitting & crocheting on June 22
- **Yoga** Mondays @ 6pm
*** no yoga on June 22
- **Scrabble Group** Tuesdays @ 2pm
- **Book Group** – 4th Tuesdays @ 7pm.
- **Walk-in Wellness Clinics: W'ton's Public Health Nurse** 1st/3rd Weds @ 10-11:30am
- **Coffee & Chat** – Wed @ 10am-12pm
- **Tech Connect drop-in tech help** - 4th Thurs @ 2-4pm



For Children & Teens

- **CFCE Playgroup** - Tuesdays @ 10:30am
- **Music with Naomi** – Wednesday, June 3 at 3pm

Art Reception - Colleen Ahern Thursday, June 4 @ 5:30 - 7:30pm

In my work I strive to capture the transient light of nature that surrounds me. Each day the ever-changing natural landscape stirs my creativity and provides me with inspiration. My intent in much of my work is to portray a sense of peace, a feeling of serenity and to invite the viewer to connect and share the awe and reverence that I see in nature.

The majority of my work is in oils, though I occasionally dabble in watercolor as well as pen and ink. I love the fluidity of oils. They are wonderful for blending, layering and adding detail. I often start a piece of work by incorporating images sourced from plein air studies, photos, and my imagination. I love to surround myself with like-minded people and sometimes paint with fellow artists. For me, the experience creates a shared vibrant energy that produces an ability to go in directions that you tend not to when alone. It also provides encouragement to abandon perfectionism, embrace mistakes, take risks and share different viewpoints in a safe and encouraging environment. Viva l'arte!

Concert – Beatles Evolution with Peter Pruy Saturday, June 6 @ 11am

Before the British Invasion of the 1960s, early American Rock 'n Roll invaded the shores of Liverpool. Join Peter Pruy ("prine"), former keyboardist and vocalist with the Downtown Sounds Beatles Ensemble, to go on a musical journey down memory lane with the songs and stories that inspired the Beatles before they were the Beatles, including hits by: Ray Charles, Eddie Cochran, Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, and others, followed by a sampling of the subsequent songs of the Beatles.



Lyn Keating Memorial Sculpture Dedication

Saturday, June 13 @ 11am

Community members are invited to an unveiling of the sculpture "Stories Feed the Mind" created by local artist Wade Clement in memory of Carolyn Keating - "Library Lyn". The sculpture will be installed in the front library garden and will greet visitors as they enter the footpath to the library's front door. This work of art is a testament to the dedication and steadfast commitment to the library that Lyn showed during her 25 years of service to Westhampton as Library Director. Refreshments will be served in the community room after the dedication ceremony.



Summer Reading Program Save the Dates

- Summer Reading Kickoff - Saturday, June 20 @ 11 - 12:30pm
- Carrie Ferguson Concert - Saturday, June 27 @ 11am
- ** Butterfly Guy - Tuesday, July 7 @ 10:30am
- ** Playful Engineers - Thursday, July 9 @ 5:30pm
- ** Papermaking w/ Jan Ruby-Crystal – Thursday, July 16
two sessions @ 3 - 4pm and 4:30- 5:30pm
- ** Macrame Plant Hangers w/ Via Luino - Sat, July 25 @ 11am
- Tom Ricardi & Birds of Prey - Thursday, July 30 @ 5:30pm
- Summer Reading Closing - Sat, Aug 1 @ 11am - 12:30pm

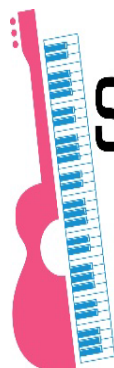
** indicates "Registration Required"

2026 Field of Dreams Concerts Fridays @ 6pm

The Library's Concert Planning Committee is excited to announce our lineup of local bands for the 2026 Field of Dreams concert series. Concerts take place in the backyard of the library. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket. In the case of inclement weather, concerts will be held at the Town Hall. For more information on each band, visit the library's page on the town's website: <https://westhamptonma.gov/field-of-dreams-concerts-2026-season/>

- June 26 – The Wildcat O'Halloran Band
- July 10 – Zydeco Connection
- July 24 – Little House Blues
- August 7 – The O-Tones
- August 21 – The Gaslight Tinkers

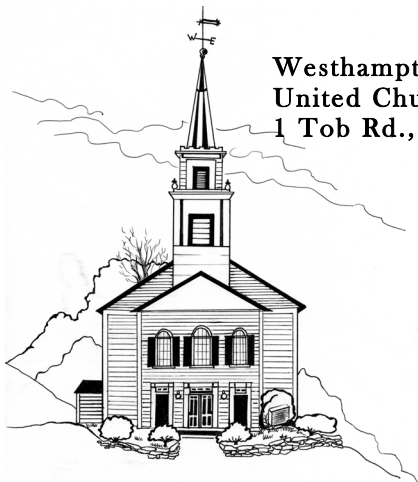
Sponsored by:
Friends of the
Westhampton Library
Westhampton Cultural Council
Easthampton Savings Bank
Greenfield Cooperative Bank
Florence Savings Bank
Marek Builders, Inc.



Summer Concert Series

BELL TOWER

A Westhampton Church and Community Newsletter
Published by the Westhampton Congregational UCC
JUNE 2026 Vol. 55 No. 6



Westhampton Congregational
United Church of Christ
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 no later than the 15th 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.

Father's Day Tools of Hope Dedications

TOOLS OF HOPE



Please make a contribution of \$5.00 to help put the right tools in the hands of those in need through Church World Service for Tools of Hope Sunday, which is on *Father's Day*. 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 Sunday bulletin on Father's Day, June 21, 2026. Contributions and dedications will be accepted until Sunday, June 14. Please turn in this form along with your donation by bringing or mailing to the church at 1 Tob Road, Westhampton MA 01027 along with your check payable to Westhampton Congregational UCC.

List my dedication as follows:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amt. enclosed: _____

