

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
14th Sunday after Pentecost - August 30, 2026

 **Reflection** – *“Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush afire with God; But only he who sees, takes off his shoes, The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries, And daub their natural faces unaware.” ~ Elizabeth Barrett Browning*
“Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.”
~Confucius (551 – 479 BCE)

 **Organ Prelude**

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

 **Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: Beloved people of God, welcome!

Today we join together in the joy of worship.

Many: We come with grateful hearts and open spirits.

One: Look around. The Holy is everywhere
waiting for us to notice.

Many: We are looking! We are listening!

One: We don't know what God may say to us today,
or what new thing God may awaken among us.

Many: We are ready to be surprised.

One: Are you ready to encounter the Holy in this gathering,
in one another, and in the moments yet to come?

**All: We are ready! We are ready to worship, to listen,
and to discover who God is calling us to be.**

 **Hymn NC # 400** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of our God and precious, binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts today!
With your constant, loving kindness hear your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the Way.

Here renew your servants' vision, that by faith they may attain
peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting reign.



Unison Prayer of Invocation

Holy One, remind us that wherever you meet us can become
holy ground. This morning, we pray you would make this
gathering holy ground. Make the space between us holy
ground. Make our listening holy ground. Make our laughter
and our prayers holy ground. Slow us down enough to
notice you. Open us enough to hear you. Give us courage
enough to answer when you call. Let your Spirit move
among our three congregations gathered here, and remind
us that we belong to one another. Shape us by your love and
send us into the world to live that love. 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



Moment for All Ages



Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

p. 62

Romans 12:9-21

p. 197



Message



Hymn *Our God, You Called to Moses*

Tune: “Lead On, O King Eternal, SL #651

Our God, you called to Moses to set your people free.

What wrongly some suppose is: he answered easily.

"I'm not the one you're seeking!" he seemed instead to say.

"My strength is not in speaking; God, find another way!"

And yet, O Lord, you told him to trust in what you said.

Your strength would surely hold him through all those days ahead

Though many would oppose him, by your own name he'd know:

You were the one who chose him to help your people go.

You call each congregation to serve those lost and poor.

We doubt our own vocation; we ask, "Lord, are you sure?"

Yet you give gifts for sharing, you show us what to say.

Your Spirit gives us daring to serve Christ every day.

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Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).



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...

STACEY Jenkins, member of the congregation

CHRISTY Mallory, friend of the Scott and Morton families

BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation

WENDY Blow, member of the congregation

CRYSTAL, friend of Jeanie McMahon

MARY ANN Turner, cousin of Dolores Thornhill

JACKIE Didier, member of the congregation

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

Prayers for God's presence and care...

AL Wilson, friend of Swenson/Jeffords family

ALDEN Montague, son of Lani Montague

BOB Greene, member of the congregation

BOB Turner, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

BRENDA Hodge, sister of Mark Thornhill

BRENDA Pelc, neighbor of Jackie and Larry Didier

CAROLYN Almeida, friend of Wendy Blow

CARROLL Baszkowski, cousin of Lynn Cooper

CHARLIE Burgess, husband of Marylou Burgess

CHARLIE Karns, cousin of Julie and Stephen Holt

DOTTIE Burke, member of the congregation

ELAINE Donaldson, friend of Marion, Bonnie and Patty

ELIZABETH Petroff, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

ERIC Cooper, friend of Shirley Raymond

ESOTERIE, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

GRACE and GABRIELLA Gilbert, daughters of Danielle and Peter

IOANNA Spiliotis, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

JASON Pratt, brother of Danielle Dennett

JEAN Meimerstorf, niece of Anita Hickey

JEAN Stawarz, friend of the Scrabble Club

JEFF Mace, nephew of Kevin O'Keefe

JEFF Rida, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

JILL Lester, friend of Mikki and Buddy Nevins

JOANNE O'Keefe, sister of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe

JOE Jankowski, friend of the Robbins/Carriveau family

JOHN Darman, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

JOHN Gougeon, husband of Lorrie Gougeon

JONNY Arrowsmith & family, nephew of Mary Montague

LAINE Gootee, sister of Darren Sallee

LAURA Schiavoni, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

LYNNE Sallee, member of the congregation

MARGE Yamilkoski, friend of Lynn Willard

MARY Laprade, sister of Marion Miller and Charlotte Wood

MIKE Robbins, husband of Kathy Robbins

NIKO Sinodinos, husband of Maria Yorgakopoulou

PATTY Cotton, friend of the community

PHYLLIS Widelo, sister of Mark Thornhill

SHARON and DON Eddy, member of the church

SKYLAR Ghali and family, grandnephew of Kevin O'Keefe

SU-CHEN Chang, friend of Maria and Niko

TAMMY Bailey, cousin of Kelly Challet

TED Brooks, member of the congregation

TERRI Toner, friend of Mikki Nevins

WENDY Blow, member of the congregation

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, you call to us from unexpected places and invite us to join you in work we could never do alone. We are grateful for all that you have entrusted to us: our gifts, our abilities, our time, and our resources. Today we place them in your hands. Bless what we give, multiply what we offer, and use it to accomplish more than we can see. May our gifts help make your love tangible: in welcome, in compassion, in justice, in service, and in peace. May we never forget that wherever you call us to serve, we stand on holy ground. Amen.



Hymn SL #596 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms!
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms!

*Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms!
O how bright the path grows from day-to-day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms! *Refrain*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms! *Refrain*



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 -	↑ Bill and Janice Tracy ↓ Ilene Lorow
Lay Reader -	Rick Tracy
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Special Music -	Peter Gilbert, Bob Miller
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Potluck Coffee Hour
Flowers -	Judee Wayne

This Week at the Church...

Today 9am -	<i>We welcome Southampton and Easthampton Congregational Churches to worship with us!</i>
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 7pm -	Choir rehearsals begin
Fri 7pm -	AA
Next Sunday -	10am Worship schedule resumes

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

August 31	★-	Steven Campbell
September 1	★-	Lori Ingraham, Sue Morton
September 2	★-	Steve Malinowski
September 4	★-	Shade Nehring
September 5	★-	Daniel Young
September 2	♥-	Hannah Tracy and John Wermer
September 5	♥-	Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe