

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026

 **Reflection** – *“The greatest act of faith is when a man decides that he is not going to be controlled by his present circumstances.”*
– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the same person who walked in. That’s what this storm’s all about.” ~ Haruki Murakami, award winning Japanese author. Quote from “Kafka on the Shore”

 **Prelude**

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

 **Organ Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: Come, all who seek God's presence.

Many: We come with open hearts.

One: Come, all who long to grow in faith.

Many: God is shaping us day by day.

One: Come, all who are learning to trust.

Many: Christ leads us one step at a time.

One: Come, all who are becoming the people
God is calling us to be.

All: Together, let us worship the living God.

 **Hymn SL #95** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past (4 vs: 1-2-3-6)*

O God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guide while life shall last, And our eternal Home.



Unison Prayer of Invocation

Loving God, You are always shaping us into the people you created us to be. You meet us in our questions, our struggles, our hopes, and even our fears. As we gather for worship, open us to your transforming grace. Give us courage to trust you when the way ahead is uncertain, faith to follow where Christ leads and hearts willing to grow. Open our ears to hear your Word, our minds to receive your wisdom, and our lives to reflect your love. Let this time of worship draw us closer to you, and each other, as you continue forming us into the people you are calling us to become. Through Jesus Christ we pray. 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

Genesis 37: 2-4, 12-28

p. 42

Matthew 14:22-33

p. 19



Message



Hymn SL #541 *Jesus Calls Us (4 verses)*

Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult Of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice sound-eth, Saying “Christian, follow me.”

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us, Saying, “Christian love me more.”

In our joys and in our sorrows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”

Jesus calls us. By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience, Serve and love thee best of all.



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

COLEEN JABLONSKI and family, sister of Tom Jenkins

CHRISTY Mallory, friend of the Scott and Morton families

BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation

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

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

Gracious God, receive these gifts and receive our lives. As you transformed Joseph through difficult times and strengthened Peter to step out in faith, continue shaping us into the people you call us to become. Use what we offer today to build up your church in this place so that we may share your love, encourage others, and proclaim your hope in the world. Through Christ, our guide and our courage. Amen.



Hymn SL #554 *It Is Well With My Soul* (3vs: 1-2-3)

When peace like a river attend-eth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Refrain: It is well... with my soul. . .
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
But Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

My sin – O the bliss of this glorious thought –
My sin not in part, but the whole –
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *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.*



The rosebud on the altar is in honor of the birth of Addison Evelyn Labrie, daughter of Ashley and Matt Labrie, who born on July 13, 2026. Addison's proud grandparents are Steven Brooks, Deanna and Jerry Cullen, and Karry and Eugene Labrie, and her overjoyed great-grandparents are Ted and Joanne Brooks. *Welcome, little one!*



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 -	Erika Subocz
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Special Music -	John Barber
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Sue and Richie Small
Flowers -	Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Big Y gift card orders
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thurs 6:30pm -	Community Campfire
Fri 7pm -	AA
Next Sunday -	Big Y gift card pickup
Next Sunday -	Community Gathering for Peace

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

August 10 ★-	Lynette Blakesley
August 11 ★-	Christopher Alexander
August 12 ★-	Leah Murphy
August 14 ★-	Christopher Hickey
August 15 ★-	John Clark, Andrew Tracy