

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026

 **Reflection** – “*The way you help heal the world is you start with your own family.*” ~ Mother Theresa Albanian-Indian Catholic nun, founder of the Missionaries of Charity.

"If we do not transform our pain, we will transmit it." ~ Richard Rohr, American Franciscan priest, author, and founder of Center for Action and Contemplation

 **Prelude**

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

 **Organ Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: We come as we are, carrying the joys, the wounds,
and all that has shaped us.

Many: And God meets us with grace.

One: We come with the boundaries we have drawn
and the places where our hearts have closed.

Many: And God calls us beyond them.

One: We come wondering who we are becoming.

Many: May God's grace shape us anew.

**All: Let us worship the God whose grace
makes room for us all.**

 **Hymn NC # 395** *In Christ There Is No East or West*

In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.



Unison Prayer of Invocation

Gracious God, we come with all that we carry – our joys,
our wounds, our questions, and our hopes. Let your Spirit
move among us as you meet us here with your grace. Open
what has been closed. Soften what has become hard.
Widen what has grown narrow. And shape us into people
who know your grace and share it with others. We pray
in Jesus' name. 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 45:1-15

p. 52

Matthew 15:21-28

p. 20



Message



Hymn

Young Joseph the Dreamer

Tune: Ash Grove ("Let All Things Now Living") SL #769 (3 verses)

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Young Joseph the dreamer was sent o'er the border –
No say in the matter – it wasn't his plan.
He entered the country and as he got older,
He worked with ambition to make it his land.
In trouble, in prison, he felt like a stranger;
With truth his companion, he wasn't alone.
He dreamed of success and he dreamed through the danger,
Until he was welcomed into his new home.

continued on next page...

Young Joseph adopted the land that he lived in;
He helped it to prosper, he helped it to thrive.
He managed the fields and the harvests and storerooms.
When drought came, his skills kept his neighbors alive.
What joy for those people who one day had welcomed
His gifts and his vision, his talent, his skill!
O God, as a dreamer, he blessed his new nation;
He saved them – and so you accomplished your will.

O God, in this land with its boundaries and borders,
We thank you for dreamers, our neighbors and friends.
They came here as children, as sons and as daughters;
Their presence can truly accomplish your ends.
We thank you for thousands of sisters and brothers
Who seek education, who love this good land.
For they are a blessing to us and to others;
May we reach to offer a welcoming hand.



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

**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, we offer these gifts with gratitude for the grace we have received. Use them to make room, to bring hope, to heal what is broken, and to share your love. Through all that we give and all that we do, shape us into people whose lives make your grace visible. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.



Hymn NC #575 *O For a World*

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.



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 Kerry and Eugene Labrie, and her overjoyed great-grandparents are Ted and Joanne Brooks. *Welcome, little one!*



"I am your brother, Joseph..."

GOD SENT ME

before you to preserve life."

Genesis 45:4-5

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 -	Charlotte Wood
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Special Music -	Peter Gilbert
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Dolores and Mark Thornhill
Flowers -	Charlene Cross

This Week at the Church...

Today -	Big Y gift card pickup
Today 6:30pm -	Westhampton Community Gathering for Peace
Monday 7pm -	Property
Tuesday 1pm -	WOW
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Fri 7pm -	AA

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

August 16 ★-	Deb Barthelette, Carol Inman, Boyd Leslie
August 17 ★-	Charlene Bordonaro
August 18 ★-	Audrey Bashista, Brenda Shafer, Bill Tracy
August 19 ★-	Josh Hickey, Kathy Robbins
August 20 ★-	Donny Blakesley, Lani Montague
August 22 ★-	David Ingraham
August 16 ♥-	Brett and JoAnne Miller
August 18 ♥-	Boyd and Mary Leslie
August 18 ♥-	Chris and Robin Wayne
August 19 ♥-	Ryan and Leah Murphy