

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
18th Sunday after Pentecost - September 27, 2026

 **Reflection** *"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*
~ Helen Keller

*"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great things." ~ Mother Teresa*

 **Prelude**

 **Announcements / Lighting the Candle / Welcome / Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: We gather here as one,
the body of Christ brought to life in us.

Many: **Together, we honor our past,
the ancestors who set us on the path,
the legacy of faith that they created for us,
the grace of God that has brought us to this place.**

One: We gather here from places far and near,
in person and online

Many: **Together, we thank God
for breathing new life into our community,
for the provision that has been given us
in this time and in this place,
for the bond made stronger .**

One: We gather here to look towards the future.

Many: **Together, we hold fast
to the movement of the Holy Spirit
and trust in the promise that is ahead.**

ALL: **Let us rejoice in the gifts of what has been,
what is, and the promise that is to come.**

 **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*



Unison Prayer of Invocation

Gracious and faithful God, we thank you for bringing us together. We remember with gratitude those who came before us, whose faith, love, and courage helped make this community, our wider church association and our conference what it is today. We give thanks for the life we share, for the gifts that sustain us, for the bonds that hold us together, and for your Spirit breathing new life among us. And as we look toward what is ahead, give us courage to trust your leading, welcome what is growing us together, and hearts open to the possibilities you are placing before us. Gather us into one body, rooted in gratitude, alive in the present, and hopeful for the future. In the name of 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

Brother James' Air



Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

p. 757

Isaiah 40:28-31

p. 818

**At this point we will join SNEUCC worship live on the big screen*

Introducing the Guest Preacher is

Rev. Cathlin Baker (she/her), First Congregational Church West Tisbury

Sermon The Honorable Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock

**After the sermon, we will leave SNEUCC and continue on our own.*



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...

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

JOHN, son of a friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe

LYNNE Sallee, member of the congregation

STACEY Jenkins, member of the congregation

CLARE McConville, friend of Robbins/Carriveau family

JACKIE Wagner, mother of Michele Wagner

SUE, cousin of Mikki Nevins

Prayers of sympathy for the family and friends of ...

CLARENCE (Dick) Delisle, friend of the community

**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

God of everlasting love, you give strength to the weary and remind us that we do not journey alone. Bless these gifts and all who give them. May they become strength for those who are weary, hope for those who need it, and love made visible in the world. Like a cord of three strands, weave us together by your Spirit, that strengthened by you and by one another, we may walk faithfully into the future. Amen.



Hymn NC #393 *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows A sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.



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.*



*A cord
of three strands
is not quickly
broken.*
Ecclesiastes 4:12, NCV

LORD

is the everlasting God, the Creator of the
ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow
weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

ISAIAH 40:28

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 -	↑ Sue and Richie Small ↓ Paul Aloisi
Lay Reader -	Jackie Didier
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Pat and Bob Miller
Flowers -	Chuck Horn

This Week at the Church...

Today 11:15am – Holiday House Fair Planning mtg

Monday 7pm - Council

Wed/Fri/Sat - Food Pantry - see website for hours

Thursday 7pm - Choir

Fri 7pm - AA

Next Sunday - Fall Festival All-Community Worship

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

September 29 ★- Victoria Mello

October 1 ★- Anna Loven, Keith Robbins

October 2 ★- Daniel Engelke

October 3 ★- Hope Antosz

September 27 ♥-Bill and Janice Tracy

September 28 ♥-Ryan Thornhill and Victoria Mello

September 30 ♥- Jessica and Mike Carriveau