


**Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation**

**3rd Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day / Blanket Sunday
May 11, 2025**

 **Reflection** - *“There are people in the world so hungry,
that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”*
— Mahatma Gandhi

“I am a woman giving birth to myself” — The Birth Chant
from Ellen's story, from It's All Right to be Woman Theatre


“Being a mother is an attitude, not a biological relation.”
— Robert A. Heinlein

“Nothing that we do that is worthwhile is done alone.”
— [Mariame Kaba](#)

“Love yourself. Then forget it. Then, love the world.”
— Mary Oliver

*“Stars do not hide from darkness. Roses do not hide from
thorns. Diamonds do not hide from pressure.”*
— Matshona Dhliwayo

*“I know this rose will open. I know my fear will burn away.
I know my soul will unfurl its wings. I know this rose will
open.”* — Mary Grigolia

 **Piano Prelude**
 **Announcements/ Welcome to Worship / Lighting the Candle**
 **Piano Introit**

 **Call to Worship** by Ann Siddall

One: Only the hungry search for bread.
Only the thirsty look for water.

Many: **This is a place for those
who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.**

One: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

Many: **This is a place for those
who ache and yearn for something more.**

One: So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

Many: **and let the God of life satisfy our souls.**

 **Hymn NC #293** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain: *Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us filling us with your love;
And for the blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.*

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
“I am going to stay with Jesus all the way.” *Refrain*

 **Unison Prayer of Invocation** by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**When injustice strides so easily,
when evil reigns
and you feel there's little you can do,
remember we are all one.**

**You are part of the Great Oneness
—some call it the Body of Christ—
and what you do affects the whole.
You can choose goodness.
When you change your life you change the world.**

**An immense grace hums beneath
the noise of this world.
When you live in harmony with it,
you intensify the great music of life
that renews the earth.**

**You are a voice in the chorus,
a string on the Beloved's guitar;
when you change your note
you change the whole chord.**

 **Gloria SL # 9**

Glory be to the Creator 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** *Faith of our Mothers*

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Scripture Reading** Acts 9:36-43

 **Message** **The Mother of All Movements**

 **Hymn** *God of the Women*, words Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Tune: Be Thou My Vision SL #460

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.



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...

DANIELLE Dennett, member

JASON Pratt, brother of Danielle Dennett

PHYLLIS Widelo, sister of Mark Thornhill

NIKO Sinodinos, husband of Maria Yorgakopoulou

ELAINE Donaldson, friend of Marion, Bonnie and Patty

LAINE Gootee, sister of Darren Sallee

PATTY Cotton, friend of the community

JEAN Miemerstorf, niece of Anita Hickey

LAURA Vachula, friend of Lynn Cooper

BRENDA Hodge, sister of Mark Thornhill

BRENDA Pelc, neighbor of Jackie and Larry Didier

KIMBERLY Start, daughter-in-law of Deb Barthelette

DON Eddy, member of the congregation

RUTH ANNE Bennett, friend of Kathy and Mike Robbins

JEAN Stawarz, friend of the Scrabble Club

DENNY Preston, cousin of Betty-Anne Gould

TERRI Toner, friend of Mikki Nevins

DON Fox, friend of the community

RUSSELL Johnson, cousin of Steve and Julie Holt

CHARLIE Karns, cousin of Julie and Steve Holt

JOE Jankowski, friend of the Robbins/Carriveau family

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

SUE Santerre, friend of the Robbins family

ERIC Cooper, friend of Shirley Raymond

JANE Labak, mother-in-law of Mark Gould

MARGE Yamilkoski, friend of Lynn Willard

LAURA Schiavoni, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

IOANNA Spiliotis, friend of Maria Yorgakopoulou

MELISSA Skiba, sister of Leslie and Derek Mitchell

ABIGAEL Labonte, friend of Kevin and Lorraine O'Keefe
WALTER Kleeberg, friend of Billi Jean Willard
BILL Willard, member of the congregation
LORI and DONNA, friend of Elisa and Natalie

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

TIM Fondakowski, friend of the community

After Prayer List is read...

One: Loving and beloved God; **Many: Hear our prayer.**

Pastoral Prayer - Broken, A Prayer by Pastor Katy Stenta

The Lord's Prayer *any version you wish; here is a new one to try:*

Our Creator, who is in heaven and within us, we call upon your names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, in all the spaces in which you dwell. Give us each day sustenance and perseverance. Remind us of our limits as we give grace to the limits of others. Separate us from the temptation of empire, and deliver us into community. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us, now and forever. Amen.

🎵 **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

🎵 **Piano 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.

🙏 **Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, blessed by your presence and fed by your love, we give you thanks. You have drawn up from the depths of mystery gifts we did not know we have. Send us now in the power of those gifts to feed your sheep, to tend your Beloved, to live for the well-being of all who long for life, in the name and the Spirit and the presence of the risen Christ. Amen.

🙏 🎵 **Hymn/Prayer Chant** *We Resist*

We resist, we refuse to let hatred in!
We rise up, we won't back down!
We're in this til the end. (sing 4 times)

Pray for your enemies! Welcome the stranger!
Show love to your neighbor!
We're in the til the end. (sing 5 times)

We're in this til.... the.... end.

🙏 🙏 **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.

🎵 **Piano 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, click Join a Meeting and enter Meeting ID 321 069 9076; Passcode 248423. To join by phone dial 646-558-8656, then meeting ID and Passcode.

Church Office Contact Info

Office phone - 413-527-4204
Email - westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net
Website - westhamptonchurchucc.org

Worship Participants

Ministers - People of the church
Guest Minister - Rev. Elisa Lucozzi
Greeters - ↑ Brice Linscott-Willard
 ↓ Grace Linscott-Willard
Lay Reader - Maureen Dempsey
Worship Pianist - Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech- Bob Miller
Coffee Hour - Wendy Blow and Lori Ingraham
Flowers - In memory and in honor of all Moms
 by Mary and Peter Montague

This Week at the Church...

Today - Big Y Gift Card orders due
Tuesday 6:30pm - WF Field Trip to It Takes a Village
Wed-Fri-Sat - Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 7pm - Choir
Friday 7pm - AA
Next Sunday - Big Y Gift Card deliveries

Birthdays...

May 12 ★ - Jon Couture, Nicholas Wermer
May 13 ★ - Peter Gilbert
May 15 ★ - Edward Quinn
May 16 ★ - Noah Couture
May 15 ♥ - Don and Evelyn Blakesley
May 16 ♥ - Dave and Audrey Antosz
May 16 ♥ - John and Mary Barber

Mother's Day Blanket Dedications

Given in memory of...

Bert Lyman by Shirley Raymond
Gertrude Fitzgerald by Mary Montague
Evelyn Payson by Marion Miller
Kristin Buckwalter by Sarah Madden
Evelyn Payson by Charlotte Wood
Linda Payson by Charlotte Wood
Margaret Wood by Charlotte Wood
Freda Karshner by Ilene Lorow
Ruth Blow by Wendy Blow
My mother by Erika Subocz
Oma by Stephanie and Adam Subocz
My mom Anna Hunt by Betty-Anne Gould
Ella Clapp by Ted and Joanne Brooks
Blanche Brooks by Ted and Joanne Brooks
My mother, Audrey Lindblom Kleissler by Lynn Cooper
Alice Duncanson and Thelma Webster by Jean and family
Irene Archambault by Jean Stawarz and Pierre Archambault
Mary Stawarz Paul by Jean Stawarz and Pierre Archambault
Our mothers Ev Tracy and Eleanor Miller by Bob and Pat Miller
Our mothers May Bigelow and Ella Clapp by Kevin and Lorraine Clapp
Our mothers Dorothy Veivia and Martha Nevins by Mikki and Buddy Nevins
Our grandmothers Evelyn Tracy and Lucy Inman by Sue, Richie and Abby
Our grandmothers Helen Carrington and Laura Small by Sue, Richie and Abby



Given in honor of...

My mom Wendy Blow by Lori Ingraham
Bonnie Paton and Patty Greene by Marion Miller
Pat Miller by Stacey, Madeline and Alice Jenkins
Janice Inman Tracy by Sue, Richie and Abby
Roberta Carrington Small by Sue, Richie and Abby
Friends and family by Charlotte Wood
Grammie/Charlotte by Joe, Charlene, Alyssa, Alex and Sam
Julie Nevins, Kris Nevins and Amanda Partridge by Mikki and Buddy Nevins