



# BELL TOWER

A Westhampton Church and Community Newsletter  
published by Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ,  
an Open and Affirming Church  
JULY-AUGUST 2026 Vol. 55 No. 7

## Message from Pastor Carol...

*“After nourishment, shelter, and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world.”*

*~ Philip Pullman, author*

I feel blessed to come from a family of great storytellers. My grandmother told stories of when she was young. My father told stories about cranking up the family car to drive his father to work. My mother read to us from beloved children's books, and then there were the stories shared at sleepovers or while toasting marshmallows around a campfire beneath the summer stars.

Perhaps the unhurried days of summer are made for stories – stories passed down through generations, stories created around picnic tables, front porches, ball fields, campfires, and family gatherings. They help us remember who we are, what matters most, and how our lives are woven together.

At church this summer, we'll spend time with some very old stories that still have new light to offer for today's living. These ancient stories of faith are precious, not because they answer every question, but because they continue inviting us to reflect on courage, compassion, justice, forgiveness, hope, and the ways we live together in community.

This summer also offers opportunities to celebrate our shared story as a nation. As we mark the 250th anniversary of the United States, we give thanks for our freedoms while renewing our commitment to ensuring those freedoms are experienced by all people. The story of our nation is still being written, each generation helps shape the chapters yet to come. May we lean into that opportunity to continue seeking peace and imagining new ways to live it out in our families, communities, and world.



Summer in Westhampton comes with some wonderful traditions. July brings the much-anticipated Church Blueberry Supper, where good food, laughter, and conversation are always on the menu. July and August, Field of Dreams Summer Concert Series at the Library, invites us to gather under open skies, singing, clapping, dancing, and celebrating the simple joy of being together. The Community Campfire in the field behind the library is a time to connect with friends old and new, toast s'mores, perhaps join in a song or two under the evening sky. Instruments, laughter, and fun are always encouraged.

Communities are built one story at a time. Every conversation, shared meal, act of kindness, and memory created together becomes part of the story. This summer, I hope you'll tell some stories. Listen to some stories. Share a few memories. Create a few new ones. And perhaps take a moment to consider what story you hope this season will tell.

May your summer be filled with laughter, friendship, beauty, and stories to share.

*Joy always.*

*Pastor Carol*



## Westhampton Church Bell Will Ring for America's 250<sup>th</sup>

The National Bell Festival has invited bells and *bell towers* across America to ring out together on Independence Day, creating a canopy of sound over our nation. Cathedrals and churches, community organizations and historical structures, national parks and memorials, and people from coast to coast are encouraged to gather and contribute to the sound. This symbolic gesture of ringing bells together celebrates our commitment to community, honors our nation's incredible past, and inspires the next generation of American patriots. Westhampton Church will join other bells across the nation on July 4, 2026. So that we can all ring together, the starting time for bells to ring will be at 2:50pm. Bells in other parts of the USA will ring at adjusted times based on their time zones so that all will be ringing simultaneously nationwide. If you're close enough to the center of town, listen for the church bell ringing as we raise a patriotic clangor from sea to shining sea!

<https://www.bells.org/blog/bell-ringing-guidelines-americas-250th>

### Regular Church Meetings

Sun. 9:00am Summer Morning Worship  
in person or via Zoom  
321 069 9076 – pw 248423

Mon. 7:00pm WaS (1<sup>st</sup>)  
7:00pm Property (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
7:00pm Council (4th)

Tues. 3:00pm WOW (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Wed. 5-6pm Food Pantry

Fri. 11am-12pm Food Pantry  
7:00pm AA

Sat. 9-10am Food Pantry

### Women's Fellowship Director

July - Marion Miller  
August - Julie Holt

### Greeters

July - ↑ Ilene Lorow ↓ Shirley Raymond  
August - ↑ Bill and Janice Tracy ↓ Ilene Lorow

### Coffee Hour

July 5 - Julie and Stephen Holt  
July 12 - Sarah Madden  
July 19 - Jean Webster  
July 26 - Kathy Robbins  
August 2 - Audrey Antosz  
August 9 - Sue and Richie Small  
August 16 - Dolores and Mark Thornhill  
August 23 - Joanne Brooks  
August 30 - Potluck Coffee Hour



### Flowers

July 5 - Sarah Madden  
July 12 - Lorraine and Kevin O'Keefe  
July 19 - Charlotte Wood  
July 26 - Karina Swenson  
August 2 - Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy  
August 9 - Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy  
August 16 - Charlene Cross  
August 23 - Ilene Lorow  
August 30 - Judee Wayne

### **Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ Pastor - Reverend Carol Smith**

#### **Office Hours:**

Tuesdays and Fridays @ 9am – 12noon  
Available anytime for pastoral emergencies

#### **Pastor Carol's contact info:**

[carolbsmith12@gmail.com](mailto:carolbsmith12@gmail.com)  
860-798-7771

#### **Church Office contact info:**

[westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net](mailto:westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net)  
413-527-4204

Website: [www.westhamptonchurchucc.org](http://www.westhamptonchurchucc.org)  
Facebook - Westhampton Congregational  
United Church of Christ

### Regular Town Meetings/Office Hours

Mon. 8am – 3pm Town Coordinator – Town Hall  
7pm SelectBoard (bi-weekly) - Town Hall

Tues. 8am – 3pm Town Coordinator – Town Hall  
8am – 4pm Town Clerk – Town Hall  
5pm – 7:30pm Board of Assessors - Annex  
6pm Fire Dept (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) – PSC  
6pm Friends of the Library (1<sup>st</sup>) – Library  
6pm Library Trustees (2<sup>nd</sup>) – Library  
7pm Planning Board (2<sup>nd</sup>) Town Hall  
7pm Zoning Bd of Appeals (2<sup>nd</sup>) Town Hall

Wed. 8am – 3pm Town Coordinator – Town Hall  
8am – 4pm Town Clerk – Town Hall  
6pm – 8pm Transfer Station hours  
7pm Conservation (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) – Town Hall

Thurs. 8am – 3pm Town Coordinator – Town Hall  
8am – 3pm Board of Health - Annex  
10:30am-1:15pm Board of Assessors – Annex  
12noon COA (1<sup>st</sup>) via Zoom

Fri. 8am – 2pm Town Coordinator – Town Hall  
7pm AA (weekly – Westhampton Church)

Sat. 9am - 3pm Transfer Station hours

Sun. 10am – 12noon Martial Arts – Town Hall

Doug Finn, Town Coordinator  
Town of Westhampton  
1 South Rd. Westhampton MA 01027  
413-203-3086  
[administration@westhamptonma.gov](mailto:administration@westhamptonma.gov)  
[www.WesthamptonMA.gov](http://www.WesthamptonMA.gov)

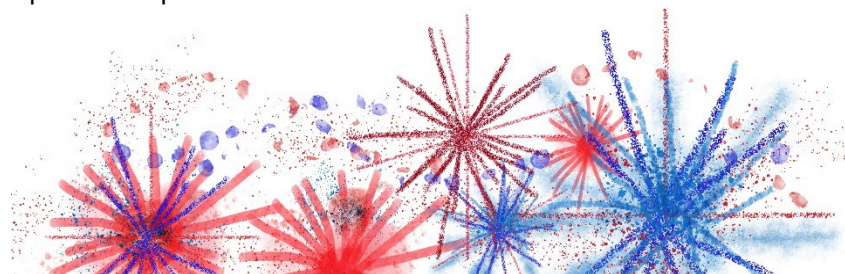


### Hoping for Another Summertime Community Campfire

For the past several years Westhampton friends and neighbors have gathered in the field behind the Library for a Community Campfire. Plans have not yet been made for this summer, but those who have enjoyed this event in the past are hopeful that the community of Westhampton can come together again some evening in August around 6:30pm to dusk or beyond. Anyone interested taking point or to help in any way is asked to please call the Westhampton church



office at 413-527-4204 to be connected with others. Ideas from the past could include arrangements for a campfire, S'mores fixin's, lawn games suitable for all ages, tables for town groups/orgs to provide info, singing around the campfire, or just time to visit with one another and enjoy "community". Watch for details via church email and What's Up Westhampton!





## **Blueberry Supper – July 25, 2026**

Looking forward to a slice of delicious home-made blueberry pie? Then make your reservations

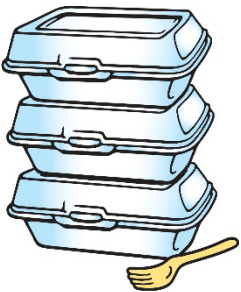
NOW for your seat at our annual Blueberry Supper to be held **Saturday, July 25 for dine-in at 5:30pm or take-out beginning at 6:00pm**. Please consider donating food by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the church dining room. Food donations include home-made potato salad, homemade blueberry muffins and of course, always popular and in great demand, homemade blueberry pie! Need blueberries for baking? Sue O'Rourke has generously offered to donate her last-year's frozen blueberries. You may contact Sue at 413-203-3165, or email [sueorourke@comcast.net](mailto:sueorourke@comcast.net). If you would like to donate food and will not be able to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church, please contact Erika Subocz at 413-297-3780 (call or text) or email [erika.subocz@gmail.com](mailto:erika.subocz@gmail.com). Food donors receive a reduced meal price. Meal prices are \$16 for adults, \$6.00 for children 12 and under. To make your reservations (due by July 20), please contact Dolores Thornhill at 413-527-6394 or [thornhill107@yahoo.com](mailto:thornhill107@yahoo.com).

### **Outreach Opportunities**

**Food Pantry** - The Food Pantry is open to all to supplement your needs. All are invited to stop by to pick up what you need, and/or to donate items as you are able as well. The Food Pantry is located in the basement of the Westhampton Church, accessible from the door facing North Road. To volunteer, please visit [www.westhamptonchurchcc.org](http://www.westhamptonchurchcc.org).

**Food Pantry hours: Wed 5-6, Fri 11-12, Sat 9-10.**

**Take & Eat** - The Take and Eat program is a non-denominational effort that serves elder and home-bound in need, by preparing and delivering weekend meals for up to 100 clients. Westhampton's turn is on 4th Saturdays, so that means July 25 and August 22. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/takeandeat](http://www.tinyurl.com/takeandeat) for more info or to volunteer your help.



	<b>YTD Actuals 6/20/26</b>	<b>YTD Budget 6/20/26</b>
Pledged Local	49,623	51,494
Non-Pledged Local	3,357	6,000
Other Local	13,278	13,851
<b>TOTAL LOCAL</b>	<b>66,258</b>	<b>71,345</b>
Mission Pledged	5,194	5,786
Special Offerings	2,408	2,940
<b>TOTAL MISSIONS</b>	<b>7,602</b>	<b>8,726</b>

## **Summer Worship Schedule – 9:00am**

Please note that during the months of July and August, Sunday Morning Worship services will begin 1 hour earlier, at 9:00am.

### **Good Works Teens**

Good Works Teens will be meeting over the summer! Keep an eye out for an announcement on Facebook's What's Up Westhampton, or reach out to Karina Swenson at [swensonjeffords@gmail.com](mailto:swensonjeffords@gmail.com) or Sue Tracy at [suetouchet@email.com](mailto:suetouchet@email.com) to be notified of the schedule once it is determined, and/or for more details.



### **Community Gathering for Peace**

Earlier this spring, Westhampton held its first Community Gathering for Peace. At that time, those who attended found it so inspiring and powerful that they want to

continue to come together monthly on *3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays @ 6:30pm at the Westhampton Town Common*. Please join us July 19 and August 16. Feel free to bring a thought, song, or poem to share – or just come to listen and find peace through community. All are welcome! ~ organized by the WOW Committee of the Westhampton Church

### **Fresh Veggies from School/Community**

#### **Gardens for the Food Pantry**

Now that the school term is ending, there will likely be fresh veggies available from the school/community organic gardens. These will be available from the Food Pantry. Enjoy!



Whilst I have your attention, I just want to acknowledge the Town Fire Department who is always available to fill the water tanks – much needed during our hot summers. Thank you! Also Chris Wayne, Bee Forage Farm, has donated two grafted apple trees for the School/Community Garden at WES. They will be planted shortly and will provide years of excitement for the students who will watch them grow, learn how to take care of them, and ultimately taste the fruit. If anyone is interested in helping out during the summer, please let me know. ~ Sue O'Rourke, 413-203-3165; [sueorourke@comcast.net](mailto:sueorourke@comcast.net)

### **Quilt to Celebrate Westhampton's 250th**

Although it is many moons away, I would like to put together a special quilt to celebrate Westhampton Town turning 250 years on September 29, 2028. I would love to incorporate ideas, colors, photos...in fact anything of significance from any resident. The idea is still in the "thinking about planning" stage, so the more ideas I receive now, the easier it will be put it all together. I'm hoping the finished quilt can hang in the Church, the Town Hall, the Library for a while and then possibly be raffled off with the funds going to a worthy cause in Town. Apparently, quilters in Southampton did something similar for their celebrations. If you want to send me anything, please do and make sure you sign it. Every piece and resident will be acknowledged. If you want to chat about your ideas, please email or call me (no texts). ~ Sue O'Rourke, 413-203-3165; [sueorourke@comcast.net](mailto:sueorourke@comcast.net)



## From Your Stewardship Committee...



### “What Science Says About the Power of Gratitude and Faith”

There's a reason so many sermons end with some version of “give thanks.” Gratitude has been a staple of religious practice for millennia, woven into prayers, rituals and Scripture. But in recent years, science has confirmed what faith communities have long intuited: gratitude changes us — physically, mentally, spiritually.

The connection between gratitude and faith isn't just poetic — it's biological. Researchers have found that regularly practicing gratitude rewires the brain, reduces stress and improves mental health. For believers, these findings serve as a fascinating overlap of faith and neuroscience, reinforcing the idea that spiritual disciplines have real-world effects. But in a culture that thrives on cynicism and discontent, the challenge is clear: Is gratitude just another self-help trend, or does it have the power to shape a deeper, more meaningful life?

#### The Neuroscience of Giving Thanks

Dr. Robert Emmons, a psychologist at UC Davis and one of the leading researchers on gratitude, has spent decades studying how gratitude impacts the human brain. His research found that “gratitude blocks toxic emotions, such as envy, resentment, regret and depression, which can destroy our happiness.” Emmons' studies show that people who consistently practice gratitude experience better sleep, lower levels of stress hormones, and even improved immune function. It turns out that thankfulness is more than just a moral virtue — it's a survival strategy.

Neuroscientists have pinpointed how gratitude changes brain function, particularly in the prefrontal cortex, the area responsible for decision-making, emotional regulation, and perspective. A study published in *Frontiers in Psychology* found that gratitude “activates brain regions associated with dopamine production,” reinforcing behaviors that make people more likely to continue practicing gratitude. In other words, the more you give thanks, the easier it becomes.

This is where faith intersects with science in a way that feels both ancient and relevant. Christian teachings — like Paul's encouragement in 1 Thessalonians to “give thanks in all circumstances” — weren't just moral imperatives. They were, in effect, prescriptions for mental and emotional resilience long before we had fMRI scans to prove it.

#### Faith and the Habit of Gratitude

For people of faith, gratitude is more than a tool for personal happiness — it's a practice that reinforces trust in God. Dr. Philip Watkins, a psychologist specializing in gratitude and religion, says that gratitude “is uniquely able to change people's focus from what they lack to what they have.”

This shift in perspective is crucial in a culture driven by comparison and consumption. Social media fuels an endless cycle of discontent, constantly reminding us of what we don't have. Faith, on the other hand, calls for a different response — one that isn't dictated by algorithms or advertising but by an intentional posture of thankfulness.

Theologian and author Henri Nouwen once wrote, “Gratitude goes beyond the ‘mine’ and ‘thine’ and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift.” That kind of gratitude isn't just about keeping a bullet journal of blessings; it's a worldview shift. Faith challenges believers to cultivate gratitude not just when things are going well, but in suffering, uncertainty, and loss. And science backs this up: studies show that people who practice gratitude during difficult seasons have higher resilience and lower rates of depression than those who don't.

#### The Cynicism Problem

Of course, all of this raises an uncomfortable question: If gratitude and faith are so transformative, why aren't more people practicing them? The answer might be cultural.

Modern skepticism and social cynicism make gratitude feel like a naive or performative exercise. Public gratitude often gets reduced to an aesthetic: filtered Instagram posts with captions about “blessings” that are more about optics than actual transformation. Even in faith spaces, gratitude can feel transactional: say the right words, and maybe God will bless you. That kind of performative gratitude isn't what neuroscience — or Scripture — is talking about.

Real gratitude, the kind that rewires your brain and deepens faith, is countercultural. It requires pushing back against a world that thrives on outrage and scarcity. It demands slowing down, reflecting, and choosing a different narrative than the one culture hands us. As theologian Dallas Willard put it, “Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day.” And hurry is the enemy of gratitude, too.

#### The Faith-Science Paradox

The intersection of faith and science is often framed as a battleground, but gratitude might be one of those rare areas where they meet in harmony. The research doesn't just validate religious teachings — it enhances them. The fact that gratitude literally changes brain chemistry shouldn't just be interesting; it should be motivating. If science confirms that giving thanks makes us healthier, more resilient, and even more connected to others, what's stopping us from practicing it?

In an age of anxiety and uncertainty, gratitude might not be the trendy life hack people are looking for, but it may be the one they actually need. And faith communities, the ones that have been teaching it for centuries, might just be ahead of the curve.

So, what if gratitude isn't just a nice idea? What if it's a form of resistance? A pushback against cynicism, discontent, and the need to control? What if, instead of waiting to feel grateful, we started practicing it anyway? Science says the results could be life-changing. Faith says they already are.



~ by Ellen Hayes, *RelevantMagazine.com*

# BLUEBERRY SUPPER

Westhampton Congregational UCC, 1 Tob Road, Westhampton (Town Center)



**SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026**

*DINE-IN 5:30 p.m. TAKE-OUT 6:00 p.m.*

## MENU

**VIRGINIA BAKED HAM  
HOMEMADE POTATO SALAD  
GREEN BEANS  
HOMEMADE BLUEBERRY MUFFINS  
HOMEMADE BLUEBERRY PIE  
ASSORTED BEVERAGES**



## PRICES

**ADULTS \$16.00**

**CHILDREN \$ 6.00**

*(12 YEARS OLD AND UNDER)*

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED AND DUE BY JULY 20**

For reservations, contact Dolores Thornhill  
at 413-527-6394 or [thornhill107@yahoo.com](mailto:thornhill107@yahoo.com)

## Council on Aging

### July Ice Cream Social and Wound Care Program July 9 @ 12noon at the Church

(Note – no luncheon/program in August)

Join us for luncheon and ice cream social and meet with members from New England Wound Care. As you age, you become more susceptible to wounds. Learn about how to prevent and manage different common wounds like diabetic wounds, pressure wounds, and more. You'll also learn about ostomy care. Bring your questions!



*A little more about New England Wound Care:* New England Wound Care is a specialized wound and ostomy care clinic with offices in Easthampton, Florence, Amherst, Westfield and

Greenfield. We treat a variety of wounds including diabetic wounds, pressure wounds, venous wounds, surgical wounds, and more. We are also one of the only places in Western Mass which specializes in ostomy care. This year marks our ten-year business anniversary. For more information, visit: <https://newenglandwoundcare.com/>.

### COA Newsletter News

Newsletter mailings will be reduced starting with the November Issue. Due to the significant reduction in the COA budget, print newsletters the COA will no longer be automatically mailed to every household with a resident aged 60+. This change will take place starting with the November 2026 issue. We are moving to an "opt-in" model. Please note that all issues are available on the town website. We can also email you a link each month to the latest copy. Starting with the November newsletter:

- Residents born in or before 1943 will continue to receive print newsletters through the mail.
- Residents born after 1943 who *need to continue* receiving the print issue through the mail should let us know and we will continue mailing your newsletter.

Changes can be made at any time. Please note we will be assembling mailings mid-month prior to the issue date. Contact Christine Blakelsey, COA Coordinator at [coa@westhamptonma.gov](mailto:coa@westhamptonma.gov) or 413-203-9808 to discuss your options.

### Westhampton Fire Department - Senior Safety

Thanks to our recently awarded Senior SAFE Grant, we have a limited supply of battery-operated smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors available for eligible residents. If you are 65 years of age or older and could benefit from these life-saving devices, please contact us at [firedept@westhamptonma.gov](mailto:firedept@westhamptonma.gov) to schedule a home visit and installation. Working smoke and CO alarms are among the most important tools for protecting your home and family from fire and carbon monoxide hazards. We are pleased to be able to offer these devices and improve safety for our senior residents.

### Farmers Market Coupons 2026

We expect Farmers' Market Coupons to be available again this summer (best guess is July). This program is sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept of Agriculture and intended to support the nutrition of seniors. Last year each coupon booklet was for 5 coupons valued at five dollars each, for a total of \$25 per coupon booklet. We expect the booklets to be the same this year.

The qualifications last year were to be 60 years or older and have a household income at or below 185% of Federal poverty level (Household of one \$28,953/yr; Household of two \$39,128/yr). We expect the qualification levels to be similar to last year. If you are interested in receiving these coupons, please contact Lorraine Galica at 413-387-3960 or [lagfjord@comcast.net](mailto:lagfjord@comcast.net). If we don't have booklets for all, then names will be drawn at random. Anyone not drawn will be put onto a waitlist. Last year we were able to request more booklets, and everyone that wanted coupons did receive them. The coupon books will be delivered to you once they are available.

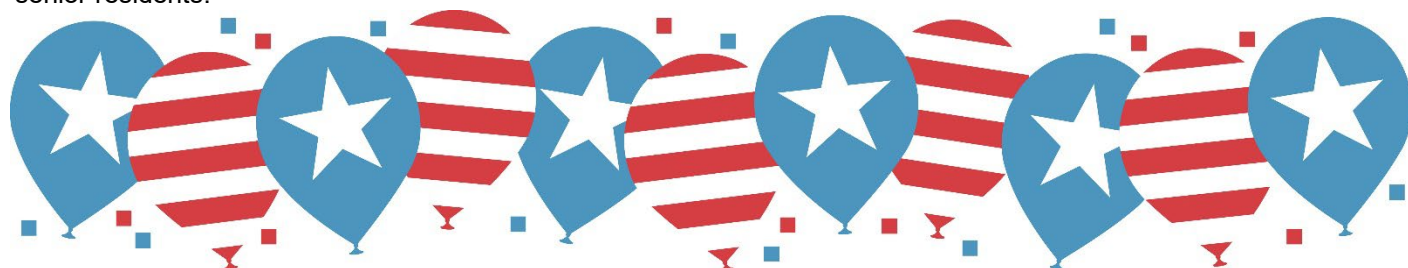
The Farmers' Market Coupon booklets are part of the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program which follows the Non-Discrimination Statement at the following link:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cr/Nondiscrimination-Statement.pdf>

### Farm Shares Available in 2026

The Farm Share program will be available again this summer. A Farm Share consists of a small box of fresh organically grown vegetables, grown and picked by Intervale Farm in Westhampton. The shares will be available once a week, from July to September, to be picked up at Intervale Farm. There will be 12 Farm Shares available this summer. The recipients of the shares will be chosen based on the order of the request. If you are interested in receiving a farm share, please contact Lorraine Galica by phone at 413-387-3960 or by email at [lagfjord@comcast.net](mailto:lagfjord@comcast.net). For anyone that does not have a means of collecting their own, the share will be delivered to you by volunteers. Each recipient will be phoned with the final details on dates and pick up time.

\*\*\* This program is supported through ARPA funding for Food Security and Nutrition Assistance



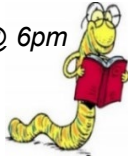
## At the Westhampton Library

Hours: Mon/Thurs 2-8pm; Tues/Wed 9am-12pm & 1-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm  
Library closed July 4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day

Please check the town website or Facebook or Instagram @WesthamptonPublicLibrary for library updates.  
To place a request for curbside pick-up, email [westhampton@cwmares.org](mailto:westhampton@cwmares.org) or call 413-527-5386.

### Recurring Programs . . .

- **Knitting & Crocheting Group** Mondays @ 6pm
- **Yoga** Mondays @ 6pm
- **Scrabble Group** Tuesdays @ 2pm
- **Book Group** – 4th Tuesdays @ 7pm.
- **Walk-in Wellness Clinics: W'ton's Public Health Nurse** 1st/3rd Weds @ 10-11:30am
- **Coffee & Chat** – Wed @ 10am-12pm
- **Tech Connect drop-in tech help** - 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs @ 2-4pm  
\*\*\* July 23 and August 27



### For Children & Teens

- **CFCE Playgroup** - Tuesdays @ 10:30 (July 14 →)  
\*\*\* After a brief 3-week break our preschool playgroup will resume on Tuesday mornings with CFCE Playgroup Leader Kelly. Join Kelly for movement, play, and fun in the library community room or in the library yard when weather permits. Playgroup is recommended for preschool aged children and their family members. Older siblings are always welcome!



### 2026 Summer Reading "Plant a Seed, Read!" **Plants vs. Zom-bees**

There is still time to sign up for summer reading and all ages are welcome to participate. Choose a side and earn points for your team! This year's teams are Plants vs. Zom-bees. As in previous years, you can track your reading on a traditional reading log or use a BINGO log which includes reading and activities. All children and teens will win a gift card for a free ice cream cone at Mount Tom's. The top kid and teen readers will win a free ice cream sundae at Mount Tom's, books, and a gift certificate to Highfive Books. The top adult reader will win a free ice cream sundae, books, and a gift card donated by Intervale Farm.

\*\*\* Special thanks to the Friends of Westhampton Public Library and the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring Summer Reading 2026.

\*Please email [westhampton@cwmares.org](mailto:westhampton@cwmares.org) or call 413-527-5386 to register for all programs that require registration as listed below...

- **Butterfly Guy** – Tues, July 7 @ 10:30am  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- **Playful Engineers** - Thursday, July 9 @ 5:30pm  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- **Papermaking w/ Jan Ruby-Crystal** - Thurs, July 16  
**two sessions @ 3-4pm and 4:30pm-5:30pm**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- **Macrame Plant Hangers w/ Via Luino** –  
**Saturday, July 25th @ 11am**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- **Summer Reading Closing** - Saturday, August 1 @  
**11am - 12:30pm**

### Field of Dreams Concerts - Fridays @ 6pm

Concerts take place in the backyard of the library. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket. In the case of inclement weather, concerts will be held at the Town Hall. For more info on each band, visit [westhamptonma.gov/field-of-dreams-concerts-2026-season](http://westhamptonma.gov/field-of-dreams-concerts-2026-season)

- July 10 – Zydeco Connection
- July 24 – Little House Blues
- August 7 – The O-Tones
- August 21 – The Gaslight Tinkers

\*\*\* Sponsored by Friends of the Westhampton Library, Westhampton Cultural Council, Easthampton Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Florence Savings Bank, and Marek Builders, Inc.



### Virtual: Celebrating America's 250th: The Black Experience of the Revolution w/ Herstorian Gracia Rich **Monday, July 20th at 7pm**

Gracia Collins Rich – Independent Scholar, Author and Avid Reader — will be discussing the extraordinary efforts of Black Americans whose invaluable contributions during the Revolutionary War helped bring about American Independence. Gracia discusses ALL things history and all things on the origins of the United States, even if it is uncomfortable, because she believes that that is what leads to a better understanding of our shared history. We hope you can join us for this fascinating and important conversation! This program is sponsored by the Friends of Ashland Public Library and co-hosted by a multitude of other MA libraries. PLEASE NOTE: *This is a virtual program on Zoom.* For a registration link please email [westhampton@cwmares.org](mailto:westhampton@cwmares.org).

### August/September Artist - Joan Ryan Art Reception TBA

Our August/September artist, Joan Ryan, will be sharing her sumi ink landscapes in the community room. Please check social media and the town website for an announcement about her artist's reception.

### From Your Energy Advocate – Why Electrify? It's Cool!

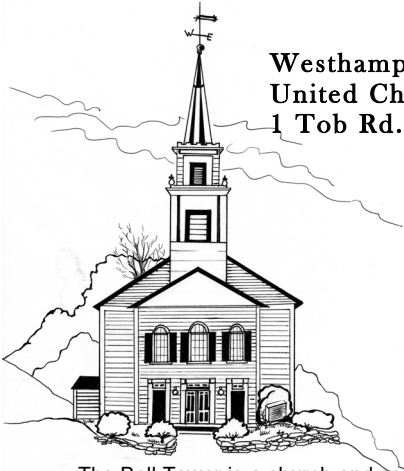
Happy Summer, Westhampton! As the outdoor temperatures increase, so does the need for an efficient, comfortable cooling system. Despite the name, heat pumps are incredibly effective at cooling your desired indoor space. Heat pumps cool by absorbing indoor heat and releasing it outside, similar to a traditional air conditioning system. Despite this similarity, heat pumps require less energy to operate, resulting in lower energy bills. They also provide the added benefit of dehumidification. If you are interested in exploring a heat pump system for your home, the first step is scheduling a no-cost home energy assessment. Visit [masssave.com/community-first/hamptons](http://masssave.com/community-first/hamptons) or call (413) 390-0935 to get started.

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Westhampton Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
1 Tob Rd., Westhampton MA 01027

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The Bell Tower is a church and community newsletter whose intent is to inform and inspire. The Bell Tower shall promote the identity, programs and events of the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ. As an added service, the Bell Tower shall also provide information on community news and events to the residents of Westhampton. We invite you to join us for Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00am. Submissions to the Bell Tower for church and community articles and announcement may be sent to Julie Holt at the church email address [westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net](mailto:westhamptonchurchucc@comcast.net) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to the upcoming Bell Tower issue.

## Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ Mission Statement

With God as our witness, we of the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ, commit to our Savior Jesus Christ as our model and guide. While cherishing our heritage, we look to the future, accepting ourselves and each other as individuals uniquely created in God's image. We covenant together to grow in our understanding of God's will. We nurture each other in faith so we may be empowered to serve in our community and the world.

We are called to love our brothers and sisters as God loves us, freely and without reservation. Our unconditional love is inclusive of all God's people. We denounce acts of discrimination and violence against any person. As an open and affirming church,



we joyfully welcome all people into our community of faith, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnic background, socioeconomic status or physical/mental abilities. Each person is invited and encouraged to participate in all aspects of our church life and ministry.

## Kestrel Land Trust Wants Your Input!

Kestrel Land Trust would like to assess community interest in using trails that are designed to accommodate those who benefit from smooth, wide surfaces, resting spots and a flat route. This includes people with mobility limitations and families with small children, among others.

Please take this 5-minute survey about accessible trails. To answer 4 short questions, point your cell phone camera at the box below, then click the link that appears on your screen. OR, fill out the survey below and mail to Kestrel Land Trust at the address shown.

This survey relates to the **Greenberg Family Conservation Area** on Southampton Rd., which

could potentially have a short accessible trail to a seating area. Thank you for participating!



Questions? Call 413-549-1097

## Accessible Trails Survey

Please detach and mail to:

**Kestrel Land Trust, PO Box 1016, Amherst, MA 01004**

### 1. Do you ever visit the Greenberg Family Conservation Area?

Often \_\_\_\_\_ Occasionally \_\_\_\_\_ Never \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. How likely would you (or others you know) be to use a short accessible trail at Greenberg Family Conservation Area?

Very Likely \_\_\_\_\_ Somewhat Likely \_\_\_\_\_ Not At All Likely \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Are there any particular accessibility features that are important to you?

\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Any additional comments?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_