

Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ
an Open and Affirming Congregation
21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

 **Reflection** *"Never separate the life you live from the words you speak." ~ Paul Wellstone, (1944-2002)*

"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community."

~ Dorothy Day (1897-1980)

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." ~ Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

 **Prelude**

 **Announcements, Stewardship Moment, Light Candle, Welcome**

 **Introit**

 **Call to Worship**

One: Come, Belove People of God!
What a gift it is to gather and share this time together.

Many: **We come with our stories, our gifts, and our hopes,
and we make room for one another.**

One: Here, we find encouragement, discover new possibilities,
and grow in faith.

Many: **Here, we share God's love through kindness,
compassion, and care.**

One: And wherever we go, we carry that love with us.

All: **Together, may our lives be living messages of
God's goodness. Let us worship God together!**

  **Hymn NC #473** *Blessed Assurance*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

  **Unison Prayer of Invocation**

**Loving God, here we are, just as we are, with all that
brings us joy and all that weighs on our hearts. Draw us
closer to you and closer to one another. Remind us that
faith is lived, love is shared, and hope grows when we
nurture it together. Open us now to your presence and
renew us in your love, that we may become living
messages of your goodness as we carry your love into the
lives of others. 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** *O Lord, I Pray*

 **Moment for All Ages**

 **Scripture Reading** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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 **Message**

↑ **Hymn NC #295** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

I sing a song of the saints of God, . . .
faithful their whole lives through,
who bravely labored, lived and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God help me to be one, too.

They loved their God and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong.
They did what was right, for Jesus' sake,
lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
there is no earthly reason, none, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one, too.

They lived not only in ages past,
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is filled with living saints
who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, or the road, or at sea,
in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:
for the saints are folk like you and like me,
and I mean to be one, too.



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...

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
BUDDY Nevins, member of the congregation
WENDY Blow, member of the congregation
JILL Lester, friend of Mikki Nevins
DAVID Horn, brother of Chuck Horn
BOB, great uncle of Brice Willard
CHARLENE, associate member and daughter of Charlotte Wood

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

STEVE Swart, son of Sharon and Don Eddy

**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

Generous God, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. May they become expressions of our faith, signs of your love, and seeds of hope in the world. Bless what we give and what we do, that together we may share your goodness and become living messages of your love. Amen.

↑ **Hymn** *Go Forth For God*

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,
till in the kingdom we see face to face.
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.
2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;
help the afflicted; richly from above
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.
3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;
render to no one evil; Christ at length
shall overcome all darkness with his light.
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.
4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,
to serve God's people every day and hour,
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

↑ **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.*

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

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 -	↑ Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy ↓ Patrick McMahon
Lay Reader -	Erika Subocz
Pianist -	Michele Feldheim
Zoom Tech-	Bob Miller
Coffee Hour -	Maureen Dempsey and Rick Tracy
Flowers -	Anita and Josh Hickey

This Week at the Church...

Today	Big Y gift card pick-up
Today 9-1 -	Mari's Bake Sale -52 Stage Rd (for WES Arts)
Today 6pm -	Gathering for Peace
Monday 7pm -	Property
Tuesday 1pm -	WOW
Wed/Fri/Sat -	Food Pantry - see website for hours
Thursday 7pm -	Choir
Fri 7pm -	AA

Birthdays and Anniversaries...

October 18	★-	Curtis Curylo, Diane Gould
October 19	★-	Grace Dugas
October 21	★-	Jessie Krug
October 22	★-	Aaron Punska
October 23	★-	Emily Coggins
October 18	♥-	John and Luanne Clark
October 21	♥-	Chris and Wendy Wilcox
October 24	♥-	Larry and Jackie Didier

October 18, 2026 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Living Messages

In the 1920's when minister's wife Lesbia Scott's three children were young, she enjoyed writing simple hymns for them about everyday things. "Make us a hymn about a picnic," they would ask. Or "write a hymn about a foggy day." She collected the songs she wrote for her children in a long-out-of-print collection.

The only one that remains in regular circulation was not a favorite of hers, or her children's, but it continues to capture the imagination of singers generations later. *I Sing A Song of the Saints of God* (*#295 in *The New Century Hymnal*) canonizes the gospel writer Luke, queen Margaret of Scotland, Joan of Arc, John Donne and Ignatius of Antioch - not by name but by characteristics. Today will you sing this song in your church? Which image makes you smile? Which image makes you wonder? Which image makes you understand something about God's people you didn't before?

I sing a song of the saints of God, faithful their whole lives through
Who bravely labored, lived, and died for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one too.

They loved their God and they lived that love,
it was loving that made them strong;
They did what was right for Jesus' sake,
lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's no earthly reason, none in the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past:
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is filled with living saints,
who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea;
for the saints are folk like you and me,
And I mean to be one too.

**The New Century Hymnal*. Cleveland, Ohio. The Pilgrim Press; United Church of Christ. © 1995 The Pilgrim Press. Hymn #295. Words, Lesbia Scott. Music, John H. Hopkins.