

First United Methodist Church
of Shelton, Connecticut
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



July 12, 2026 | 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Genesis 25:19-34 | Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25

Romans 8:1-11 | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Prelude: "By Grace I'm Saved"

Scheidt/König/Loy

Please come to silence as we honor the work of our musician to prepare us for worship.

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: Come, people of God. The Sower has gone out to sow.

People: Lord, prepare our hearts to receive your Word.

L: Some seeds fall on hard paths, some among rocks, some among thorns.

P: Break up the hardness within us and remove all that keeps us from you.

L: God longs to plant life, hope, and love within us.

P: May we become good soil, bearing fruit for your kingdom.

L: Come, let us worship the One whose Word brings life.

P: We come with open hearts to worship the Lord.

***Opening Hymn:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

UMH 89

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we come into your presence with grateful hearts, longing to hear your voice. Yet we confess that our hearts are not always ready to receive your Word. At times they are hardened by pride, made shallow by fear, or crowded with worry and the distractions of daily life.

Forgive us, Lord. Break up the hard places within us, remove whatever keeps us from growing in faith, and prepare us to be good soil for your living Word.

As we worship you today, plant your truth deep within us. By your Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and help us bear fruit that reflects the love of Christ.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-11

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Special Music: "Holy Ground"

Geron Davis

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "The Sower Never Walks Away"

Hymn of Response: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

UMH 133

NY Annual Conference Report

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

Lord in your mercy/Hear our prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "Christ My King on High"

Jay C. Wingard

***Presenting Our Gifts:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow." UMH 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Generous God, everything we have comes from your gracious hand.
As we offer these gifts, we also offer our hearts, our time, our
abilities, and our lives. May these offerings become seeds of hope in
our community and throughout the world. Use them to proclaim
your love, to serve those in need, and to grow your kingdom.
Continue to cultivate our hearts so that, rooted in your Word, we
may bear fruit that blesses others and glorifies you. In the name of
Christ, we pray. Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

UMH 664

Benediction

Postlude: "Ancient of Days"

Harvill/Sandler

*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Giving

Please remember to stay current with your pledge or giving to First UMC of Shelton over the summer. The bills keep coming even when our people are away on vacation. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Summer Special Music

If you have an idea for special music over the coming summer, please see Lynn, our music director, to discuss it. From solos to small ensembles, from voice only to pieces with accompaniment, we will consider all ways in which we can praise God through the spiritual gifts of our congregation.

Suggestion Box in Narthex

Do you have a question or comment to share? One more way to do that is through the suggestion box in the narthex. Of course, you can always feel welcome to speak with Pastor Bill about questions or concerns. **We are *all* in ministry together.**

Counters Needed

We need to add a few more counters to ensure that we are using safe financial practices. If you are a member of this church and would like to be trained to work as part of a counting team, please see Chris Craft to serve. This is important, so your help will make a big difference.

Food Pantry Needs:

We are almost empty of all food other than the Outreach Program items that are our foundation. Anything you can add to our Blessing Box will be more than appreciated. It will be a blessing to others! We can always use the following:

pasta & rice	hot & cold cereal
packaged/canned milk	fruit/vegetable juice
canned/packaged protein (tuna, chicken)	
beans (black bean, chickpeas)	canned/packaged soup
canned packaged fruit	pasta sauce
peanut butter & jams/jellies/preserves	
canned chili	canned pasta

Thank you for all your donations!

TO REACH PASTOR JUHYE

Please call or text 860-899-6755. She may also be reached via email: pastor@umcshelton.org. Her typical hours at the church office are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (but may vary).

WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

An email newsletter is sent out each Wednesday. Please have any items for submission to the church office by Wednesday at 9 am.

SERVING TODAY:

Juhye Hahn, Pastor
Lynn Scully, Music Director
Joe McWilliams, Pianist Organist
Lynn Scully, Liturgist
Sal Iorfino, Video & Sound Tech

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Juhye Hahn, Pastor
Lynn Scully, Music Director
Leadership Board: Chris Craft, Kim Dumschott, Suzena James, Linda Loglisci,
Ken Miller, Jorge Varas, Raechel Vargas, Elaine Wood, Bob Yamnicky

WELCOME

We welcome you to our worship and our church community. We are so glad you are here. We invite you to participate in the service as much as you feel comfortable and to sit out parts of the service you might not yet feel comfortable with. Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here. As our "Welcoming Statement" says, "We welcome **all** to full inclusion in the life and ministry of our church."

(see below for complete "Welcome" and "Mission" statements)

SUNDAY WORSHIP // 10:00 also live-streamed & recorded
Fellowship 11:00 am

Welcoming Church Statement

A welcoming family of God committed to becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

We affirm and respect each individual as a child of God. We celebrate the uniqueness of each person and welcome people of every age, ethnicity, and race, sexual orientation and gender identity, marital status, socio-economic situation, and physical/mental ability.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to create a community of faith that reflects Christ's message of love and justice. We invite all to full inclusion in the life and ministry of our church in Christ.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SHELTON
188 ROCKY REST RD. // SHELTON, CT 06484
PHONE: (203)929-3537 **WEB:** UMCSHELTON.ORG

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee UMH 89

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms UMH 133

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]

Sent Forth by God's Blessing UMH 664

Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The service is ended,
O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching,
receptive souls reaching.
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us,
and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever living,

the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us,
With Your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanks giving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.