

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



July 26, 2026 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Genesis 29:15-28 | Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39 | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Prelude: "God Himself is Present" Tersteegen/Foster/Miller/Neander
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, let us seek the kingdom that is worth more than all earthly treasures.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to receive God's gift.

L: God's kingdom begins like a tiny seed and grows beyond what we imagine.

P: We trust that God is at work, even in small and unseen ways.

L: Christ invites us to discover a joy that changes everything.

P: We come to worship the One whose kingdom gives life, hope, and peace.

All: Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn:** "This Is My Father's World"

UMH 144

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, You plant seeds of hope in ordinary places and reveal treasures hidden in everyday life. Quiet our anxious minds and open our eyes to your presence among us. As we hear your Word today, deepen our faith, enlarge our vision, and shape our lives according to the values of your kingdom. May our worship bring you glory and draw us closer to Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Special Music: "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

adapt. Smith

Soloist: Hector Aguilan

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Can you see it?"

***Hymn of Response:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

UMH 454

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: "Holy is the Lord"

Traditional/Schubert

***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 is a gift from your loving hand.
Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and our desire to
invest our lives in your kingdom. Use them to bring hope where
there is despair, welcome where there is loneliness, and good news
where hearts are searching. May our giving reflect the joy of those
who have discovered the treasure of life in Christ. Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:** "Seek Ye First"

UMH 405

Benediction

Postlude: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Rick Founds

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

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!

Hosting or Attending a Meeting with Pastor Juhye

We are excited to welcome Pastor Juhye to our church community. We would like to schedule small gatherings to give her the opportunity to get to know us.

Would you be willing to host?

The best times for Pastor Juhye would be a Monday or Wednesday and might include coffee and..., a light lunch or afternoon dessert.

If you would like to host or attend a gathering please speak with Elaine Wood (203 257-8715).

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.

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/package protein (tuna, chicken)	
beans (black bean, chickpeas)	canned/package soup
canned package fruit	pasta sauce
peanut butter & jams/jellies/preserves	
canned chili	canned pasta

Thank you for all your donations!

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.

Masonicare

Masonicare Hospice & Palliative Care invites you to an extraordinary and powerful multimedia exhibit depicting the use of the arts in hospice care. The strength and intensity of the arts and complementary services in end-of-life care becomes tangible through this dramatic collection of paintings, drawings, photography, poetry, shadow boxes, and more. The Masonicare **Hospice Art Exhibit** that will be on display until Aug. 14.

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
Rich Rollinson, 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

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