

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



August 30, 2026 | 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Exodus 3:1-15 | Psalm 105:106, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21 | Matthew 16:21-28

Prelude: "Shout to the Lord" Darlene Zschech arranged by Carol Tornquist
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 turn our hearts to the wonder of God.

People: We lift our eyes to the One who made heaven and earth.

Leader: In creation, in grace, and in every season of life, God is with us.

People: Our hearts are filled with wonder and praise.

Leader: Let us rejoice in the greatness and goodness of God.

People: With grateful hearts, let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn:** "How Great Thou Art"

UMH 77

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, you call us beyond the lives we would choose for ourselves into the life you desire for us. Give us courage to follow Jesus, grace to let go of what we cling to, and faith to trust where he leads. Shape our lives in the way of Christ. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Special Music: "You Are the Rock"

Hufstetler/Wright

Soloist: Lynn Scully

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 16:21-28

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Who goes first?"

***Hymn of Response:** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

TFWS 2129

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: "Give Thanks"

Henry Smith arranged by Mark Hayes

***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, receive these gifts and receive our lives.
Use what we offer to share your love and serve your world.
Lead us to be faithful in all that we do.
May our giving become part of our following. Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** "Where He Leads Me"

UMH 338

Benediction

Postlude: "I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger"

arranged by Joel Raney

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

What Hymn Carries You?

Is there a hymn that lifts your spirit, gives you strength during difficult times, brings you comfort, or reminds you of God's presence?

We would love to know the hymns that are meaningful to you—and sing more of them together in worship.

Please choose a Post-it note and write down the **title of a hymn or song** you love from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, *The Faith We Sing*, or *Worship & Song*. Then place it on the whiteboard in the narthex.

Share a song that has carried you, so we can sing it 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.

Save the Dates

Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish Charge Conference

Saturday, Nov 14, at 10:00 AM

The meeting location will be determined later.

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 Juhye about questions or concerns.

We are *all* in ministry together.

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
Steve Bozek, 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

188 ROCKY REST RD. // SHELTON, CT 06484

PHONE: (203)929-3537 **WEB:** UMCSHELTON.ORG

How Great Thou Art UMH 77

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (v. 1) TFWS 2129

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus
no turning back, no turning back.

Where He Leads Me UMH 338

I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

Refrain

Where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

He will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory,
and go with me, with me all the way.