

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



September 27, 2026 | 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Exodus 17:1-7 | Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13 | Matthew 21:23-32

Prelude: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" Walworth/Trad. German
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 toward God.

All: We open our hearts to God's presence.

Leader: Christ calls us to listen, to follow, and to be changed.

All: We are ready to follow where Christ leads.

Leader: God's grace meets us where we are and leads us toward new life.

All: May our lives bear the fruit of God's love.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who is still at work among us.

All: Let us worship God with open hearts.

***Opening Hymn:** "We Gather Together"

UMH 131

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, You meet us where we are, but you do not leave us there.

You call us, guide us, heal us, and turn our hearts toward you.

As we worship today, open our eyes to see where you are at work. Clear away whatever keeps us from following Christ, and make room in us for your grace.

Shape us into people who listen to your voice, follow your way, and bear the fruit of your love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Anthem: "I Surrender All"

Trad/Maudlin/Woodard

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 21:23-32

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "The Authority That Turns Us Around"

***Hymn of Response:** "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

UMH 349

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: "The God of Abraham Praise"

Olivers/Trad. Hebrew

***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, You have given us grace that changes our lives and love that calls us toward you.

Receive these gifts and use them to bring healing, hope, and new life to others.

**And as we offer these gifts, help us also to offer ourselves, that our lives may bear the fruit of your love. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:** "God Be with You till We Meet Again"

UMH 672

Benediction

Postlude: "He is Exalted"

Twila Paris

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

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF WORLD



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing of the Animals – Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 18, from 2:00–4:00 PM.

There are many ways to help: Welcome & Greeting, Pet Blessing Certificates, Refreshments, Pet Treats, Pet Memorial Table, Family & Pet Photo Spot, Pet Food Donation Collection, Set-Up, and Clean-Up.

A volunteer sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Please consider signing up to help us welcome our neighbors and their beloved pets for this special community event.

Thank you for helping us make this a warm and welcoming afternoon!

Upcoming Events

1. Baptism & Membership Induction
Sunday, October 11
 2. Office hour next week - Monday, September 28 & Friday, October 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 3. World Communion Sunday - October 4
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Thank You!

Thank you to **Elaine Wood and Brenda Hogue** for volunteering to serve as our representatives on the **Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish Council**. We are grateful for their willingness to represent First UMC of Shelton and serve in this shared ministry with our neighboring United Methodist churches.

Save the Dates

Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
(changed from October 4)

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.

Liturgists

We need liturgists for 10/4, 10/11 and 10/25. If you can help with any of these dates, please call the office or use the signup sheet in the narthex. Thank you.

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.

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

188 ROCKY REST RD. // SHELTON, CT 06484

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

We Gather Together UMH 131

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord was at our side, all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus UMH 349

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face, wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
in the light of his glory and grace.

God Be with You till We Meet Again UMH 672

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.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
neath his wings securely hide you,

daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing around you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.