

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



September 6, 2026 | 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Exodus 12:1-14 | Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14 | Matthew 18:15-20

Prelude: "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

Schirmer/Winkworth/Nicolai

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: We come with different stories, different experiences, and different ways of seeing.

People: Yet we are gathered as one body in Christ.

Leader: Christ meets us here with grace.

People: Christ is present among us.

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts to God and to one another.

People: Together, let us worship the God who makes us one.

***Opening Hymn:** "God Is Here"

UMH 660

Opening Prayer

God of grace, you gather us as your people and call us to grow together in Christ. Teach us to listen with humility, to speak with love, and to make room for one another. Where we differ, give us understanding. Where we struggle, give us grace. And in all things, remind us that Christ is among us. Shape us into the community you are calling us to become, so that our life together may reflect your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson: Romans 13:8-14

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Special Music: "His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Martin/Gabriel

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 18:15-20

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Christ Among Us"

Hymn of Response: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee "

UMH 430

Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer

Lord in your mercy/Hear our prayers

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "Ancient Words"

Lynn DeShazo

***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 strengthen your church, serve our neighbors, and share your grace. Shape us into a community that reflects the love of Christ, who is always among us. Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation by the Pastor

Confession (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silent Confessional Prayer & Words of Assurance

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. That proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: Glory to God. AMEN.

Preparing the Bread and Cup

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion and concludes:
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread / Giving the Bread and Cup

Thanksgiving Prayer following Holy Communion

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

Grant that we may go into the world

In the strength of your Spirit

To give ourselves for others,

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

UMH 557

Benediction

Postlude: "Ancient of Days"

Harvill/Sadler

*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.

Pastor Juhye's Office Hours

Pastor Juhye will not have office hours from Monday, September 7 to Friday, September 11. She will be attending a spiritual formation training session.

Save the Dates

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

Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish Charge Conference

Saturday, Nov 14, at 10:00 AM

The meeting location will be determined later.

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
packaged/canned milk
canned/packaged protein (tuna, chicken)
beans (black bean, chickpeas)
canned packaged fruit
peanut butter & jams/jellies/preserves
canned chili

hot & cold cereal
fruit/vegetable juice
canned/packaged soup
pasta sauce
canned pasta

Thank you for all your donations!

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.

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
Elaine Wood, 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

God Is Here UMH 66o

God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here, in honesty of preaching,
here, in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,

all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee UMH 430

O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds UMH 557

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.