

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



October 25, 2026 | 22nd Sunday after Pentecost | Reformation Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 | Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 | Matthew 22:34-46

Prelude: "Spirit of God, Descend up My Heart"

Croly/Atkinson

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 worship the God who first loved us.

People: We come to open our hearts to God's presence.

Leader: In every moment of life, God invites us to live in God's love.

People: May we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Leader: As branches draw life from the vine, we draw life from Christ.

People: May God's love bear fruit in the way we love one another.

All: Let us worship God with grateful and joyful hearts!

***Opening Hymn:** "Morning Has Broken"

UMH 145

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for being present with us in every moment of our lives. Open our hearts to your love and help us grow closer to you. May your love shape our lives and guide us to love one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Anthem: "Love is the Greatest of These"

Allen

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 22:34-46

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "What Does God Really Want from Us?"

***Hymn of Response:** "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

UMH 402

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 Servant Song"

Richard Gilliard

***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, all that we have and all that we are come from your love. Receive these gifts as an expression of our gratitude and our desire to share your love with others. May they bear fruit in acts of compassion, kindness, and hope, so that our neighbors may experience your presence through the ministry of this church. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** "Jesu, Jesu"

UMH 432

Benediction

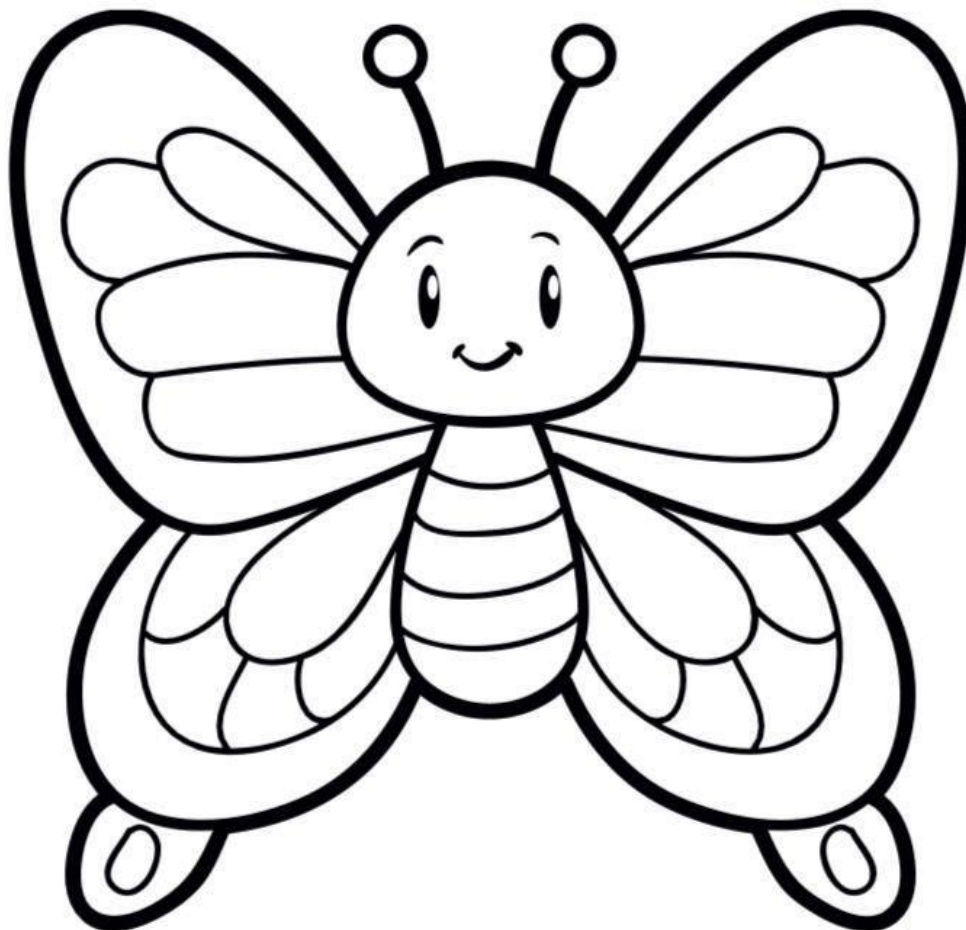
Postlude: "Australian Benediction"

Anonymous

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

"the lord is my rock"

psalms 18:2



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You - Blessing of the Animals

What a beautiful day we had for our Blessing of the Animals!

With wonderful weather, joyful hearts, and so many adorable animal friends, it was truly a special afternoon. A total of 65 beloved pets received blessings!

It was even more meaningful to have Rev. Lucille Fritz from Huntington Congregational Church and Rev. Albert Hahn from Nichols UMC join us in blessing the animals, along with the participation of the animal shelter.

I am especially grateful for the wonderful teamwork that made this day possible. From setting up and cleaning up, hanging banners and flyers, arranging music and sound equipment, inviting friends and neighbors, preparing refreshments and crafts, and welcoming guests—so many people generously shared their time and energy.

To everyone who helped, participated, and supported this event, thank you from the bottom of my heart! Your love and teamwork made this a joyful celebration of God's love for all creation.

We will put together a photo board from the event and share it with everyone as soon as it is ready.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Pastor Juhye

Happy Birthday

We would like to wish our members Happy Birthday during service. Please email Rosemarie at office@umcshelton.org your birthdate (don't need to include year). Thank you!

Save the Date

Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish Charge Conference
Saturday, Nov 14, at 10:00 AM
at Huntington UMC

All Saints Sunday – November 1

On Sunday, November 1, we will observe **All Saints Sunday**. During Holy Communion, we will remember and honor those who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday.

If you would like us to remember a family member or friend during this special time of worship, please send their name to **Rosemarie** at the church office by **Sunday, October 25**.

Email: office@umcshelton.org

Together, we will give thanks for their lives and celebrate the love of God that holds us together, both in life and in death.

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.

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
Joe McWilliams, Pianist Organist
Rich Rollinson, Liturgist
Sal Iorfino, Video & Sound Tech
Fellowship: Pat Fitzsimmons

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

Morning Has Broken UMH 145

Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian UMH 402

Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Jesu, Jesu UMH 432

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away.

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you

Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.