

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



October 4, 2026 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 | Psalm 19

Philippians 3:4b-14 | Matthew 21:33-46

Prelude: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Heber/Dykes

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: From many places and many stories, God gathers us as one.

People: We come to receive the grace of God.

Leader: When our hearts are closed, God keeps reaching out to us.

People: When we wander away, God keeps calling us home.

Leader: Christ welcomes us and makes room for us at the table.

People: We come with open hearts to worship, receive, and share God's love.

Leader: Come, let us worship God together.

***Opening Hymn:** "One Bread, One Body"

UMH 620

Opening Prayer

God of love, you keep reaching out to us and welcoming us into your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and to one another. As we worship with Christians around the world, make us one in Christ and send us out to share your love. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Anthem: "Let Us Break Bread"

arr Greer

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 21:33-46

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "The Love That Keeps Coming"

Hymn of Response: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

UMH 348

Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer

Lord in your mercy/Hear our prayers

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul"

Amon

***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 comes from you and belongs to you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and love. Use what we offer, and use our lives as well, to bring hope, healing, and grace to others. May the love we receive from you continue into the world through us. In Christ's name, we pray. 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:** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" TFWS 2223

Benediction

Postlude: "Our God Is Lifted Up"

Tim Smith

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

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 Event

Baptism & Membership Induction - Sunday, October 11

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
Ken Miller, 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

One Bread, One Body UMH 620

Refrain

One bread, one body,
one Lord of all,
one cup of blessings
which we bless.

And we, though many,
throughout the earth,
we are one body
in this one Lord.

Gentile Or Jew,
servant or free,
woman or man,
no more.

Many the gifts,
many the works,
one in the Lord
of all.

Grain for the fields,
scattered and grown,
gathered to one,
for all.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling UMH 348

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

Come home, come home;
you who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me.

O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love TFWS 2223

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in the land:

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: