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



November 8, 2026 | 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 | Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | Matthew 25:1-13

Prelude: "It is Well with My Soul" Spafford/Bliss
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**:** The kingdom of God is already among us.
People: Let us open our hearts to God's presence.
Leader: God calls us to stay awake and attentive.
People: Let us notice God's grace in our everyday lives.
Leader**:** We wait with hope for the fullness of God's kingdom.
People: And we rejoice in the love and joy already given to us.
All: Come, let us worship the living God!

***Opening Hymn:** "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" TFWS 2088

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, you have already begun your work of love and new life among us. Yet we confess that we are often too busy, distracted, or weary to notice your presence.

Awaken our hearts to the signs of your kingdom. Renew our joy, strengthen our hope, and teach us to care for one another along the way.

As we worship today, help us receive your grace with gratitude and live more fully in your love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Anthem: "Stand and Bless the Lord" Fettke

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 25:1-13
This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Living Between the Already and the Not Yet

***Hymn of Response:** "Blessed Assurance" UMH 369

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 Loving Kindness" Hugh Mitchell

***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 comes from your goodness. We offer these gifts with grateful hearts, trusting that your kingdom is already at work among us.

Use our gifts and our lives to bring hope to the weary, kindness to those in need, and joy to our community. May our giving be a sign of your love, here and now. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** "God of Grace and God of Glory" UMH 577

Benediction

Postlude: "He Giveth More Grace" Flint/Mitchell

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


THANK
YOU
VETERANS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leadership Board Meeting

“Leadership Board Meeting” today after service.

Community Thanksgiving Service

“Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 4:00 PM
Huntington United Methodist Church
338 Walnut Tree Hill Road

An offering of monetary donations and non-perishable food items will be collected to benefit Spooner House and the Valley Food Bank.

ALL ARE WELCOME!”

Save the Date

Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish Charge Conference

Saturday, Nov 14, at 10:00 AM
at Huntington UMC
338 Walnut Tree Hill Road, Shelton

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!

Food Pantry Needs:

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!

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
Hector Aguilan, Liturgist
Sal Iorfino, Video & Sound Tech
Nathan Vargas, PowerPoint Operator
Fellowship: Ken Miller

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 CHUCH OF SHELTON
188 ROCKY REST RD. // SHELTON, CT 06484
PHONE: (203)929-3537 **WEB:** UMCSHELTON.ORG

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High TFWS 2088
Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

Blessed Assurance UMH 369
Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

God of Grace and God of Glory UMH 577
God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

for the facing of this hour, (of this hour)
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days, (of these days)
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, (kingdom's goal)
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving thee whom we adore, (we adore)
serving thee whom we adore.