



October 2023

# The Messenger

## Shelton Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jeffrey W. Bursch, Pastor  
1430 Shelton Springs Road / PO Box 2510  
Shelton, Washington 98584  
360-432-8696

### MISSIONS COMMITTEE

It's hard to believe that it's October! The summer brought food donations to the Saint's Pantry and the Youth Connection collected during Kid's Camp. Then a generous donation of school supplies to the Shelton School District for their backpacks. Thank you so much.

In October, we're gearing up with more opportunities to serve our community. Oysterfest is a great opportunity to bond with our church community over bacon and scallops, and serving delicious food to our local community. Oysterfest is THE fundraiser for our youth mission trips. Be sure to sign up to help!

The last Sunday in October (actually a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) is the preparation for recognizing our church Veterans and those at the VFW. Beth Gregg will lead a card-making party after church. They are beautiful and easy to do - take a couple of minutes to use your creativity and make a Veteran's Day card. It's not hard (even I can do it!) and is so appreciated by our Veterans. We will also need COOKIES to bag up and hand out with the cards.



Also, if the weather permits, George Bowen will lead a highway pick-up team on the section of Highway 101 that is assigned to Shelton Presbyterian Church. We will have sign-up sheets in the foyer on October 15 and 22.



Don't forget to check the monthly **Community Homeless** dinner sign-up sheets on the Missions bulletin board. We plan, cook, and serve a dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month.

The Missions Committee meets on the 1st Sunday of every quarter. We will be planning our November and December activities. Please join us at our next meeting on October 1st!

Please ask a Missions Committee Member if you have any questions: Bill Chisholm, Pat Sanborn, Terri Saylor, Jubilee Whitman, Lynn Wilson, Donna June, Karen Bowen, Carole Hagan, Chris Appleyard, Karen Everett, Erin Clifton and Jeff Bursch

### NEW MEMBER CLASS

New Member class is the first Sunday, October 1st, following the Worship service. Lunch is provided. You are welcome to attend; we look forward to seeing you there!



## Word from the Pastor

### Letting Go

Last week my wife, Heidi, and my son, Carson, drove my son, Landon, up to Bellingham to start college at Western Washington University. I was unable to go with them as I was conducting a wedding for Kyle and Carrie Dycus (a very wonderful and joy-filled event). Heidi and Carson helped Landon move in, said their goodbyes, and left him to begin this new chapter of his life.

We've been preparing for this day for a long time. Ever since my boys were very young, they knew they would be headed to college after high school. I realize a secondary education is not in the cards for everyone, but for my family, the expectation has always been that my children will go to college. So, it's not as if taking Landon to WWU came out of the blue or was an unanticipated transition. No, we have been preparing for this day for a long time. And still, it's very hard.

On the morning of his departure, while we were loading up the van with Landon's things, I stopped him in the driveway. "You know, just because you are up at college, doesn't mean we cannot stay in contact. Your mom and I are always available. We can talk on the phone or video chat anytime. If you need help with your classes or just want to talk, we are here for you." His eyes began to well up with tears. I moved in and gave him a hug. We both cried.

I am very proud of Landon, just as I was of his brothers, Braden and Ethan, when they went off to college. I am happy for him, for what he will experience in the next four years, for the training he will receive that will set him forth on his career path as an adult, for the friendships he will make and the man he is already becoming. Landon, I believe, is also happy. He is excited and hopeful and ready to begin this next chapter. And still, it's very hard. Life is like that. There is pain in the recipe. It's baked in. You cannot avoid it. In fact, if you are doing it well, living and growing in God's love, then you will experience not only the joy of love, but the pain of love, too. You do not get one without the other.

I know that the next season of life for my family will be good. There will be new challenges and celebrations waiting for us. I do not wish to go backward, neither do I wish to maintain the status quo. No, growth means moving forward, and we must embrace it and not be afraid. God is doing a new thing. We won't be able to see it if we are looking backward. So, I embrace the new chapter and look to the future with hope. And still, it's very hard.

Pastor Jeff

## Bible Studies

### ***Men's Bible Study***

Men meet Thursday mornings at 8:00 AM in the Fireside Room. This study is led by different men in the church. Please join us.

### ***Soup & Bible Study***

This study is usually held the **1st and 3rd** Thursdays of the month at 7:00 pm. Enjoy soup at 6:30 and then study the Bible. The study is led by Pastor Jeff and is open to everyone. It is held in the lobby of the church. Please join us.

### ***Women's Bible Study***

Women meet Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM at the church. The study is led by Lori Matlock.



### October Birthdays



4 Jean Williams	26 Terri Gushee
5 Mark Hermann	26 Carol Larson
12 Marcus Clifton	



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Isaiah/Marty Brooks	Isaiah/Marty Brooks	Karen Bowen	Susan Casey	Harris Haertel

# SPC Youth News

## Oyster Fest 2023

This years Oyster Fest will help fund our Youth Groups' Summer trips such as a possible Service trip and Summer Camp. This year is unique as our Youth Group is smaller in size and we are in the process of gathering everyone back together after I had my Sabbatical. Growth will happen as the fall goes in but we have Oyster Fest right in front of us. So this year we may need to depend on more volunteers from our greater church family than in the past. We need help Monday through Friday (Oct. 2-6) to prepare for Oyster Fest and then help running Oyster Fest and cleaning up. Each year we have had lots of fun working hard and getting to know each other more. Below are times volunteers are needed. Sign-ups are at the church. You can also contact the office or Marcus (306-713-3334) directly to sign up.

Monday: 1:00-6:00; Tuesday shopping 9:00-3:00; Wednesday precooking bacon 10:00-6:00; Thursday thawing and set up 10:00-4:30; Friday setting up at Ouster Fest 10:00-5:00 (trucks to transport supplies needed)

All Church Prep Party with dinner is Thursday, Oct 5, 4:30-8:30.

Shifts at Oyster Fest: Sat. 8:30-12:30; 12:15-4:30; 4:15-8:00. Sun 8:30-12:30; 12:15-5:00

Sunday Cleanup: 4:00 until finished

Items we need to borrow: Large coolers, propane tanks and a wagon



Shelton Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 2510  
Shelton WA 98584

Tina VanderWal

Trust – it's just a five-letter word, but if it is broken, it can have severe consequences.

We just dropped off our kitty, Molly, to the Vet to have her teeth cleaned. It sounds like an easy procedure, but they put them to sleep and if a tooth is too far gone, they will extract it. Many years ago, we brought our cat C.K. to the Vet. They extracted several teeth, and he was so miserable. Then about a month later he passed away. Was his death due to the teeth removal, we don't know, but the incident broke our hearts and our trust. And even though he was 13 years old at the time, and Molly is just 9 years old, both Chuck and I found ourselves dreading dropping her off because we were fearful of the outcome. That's the problem with broken trust – it is hard to rebuild.

Throughout our lives we have to put our trust in so many people. When we get married, we have to place our trust in our spouse, believing that they will always be faithful to us. We've all seen the damage that breaking that trust can do, not just to the couple but their families.

When we fall ill, we place our trusts in the doctors and nurses to heal us. Most of the time that trust is rewarded with successful surgeries or recoveries. But sometimes things go wrong, and trust is broken. In every facet of our lives trust is a factor. From banking to your children's teacher, to our church leadership, to government, to our friendships, we need to believe that they are honest and truthful in their dealings with us and that they will never harm us.

The problem is those are all people and humans are fallible. Inevitably, they will sometimes make mistakes. When I was working as a personnel manager and something slipped through the cracks, I was so grateful that we could always fix it. That isn't always possible in other fields like medicine.

Ultimately, there is only ONE who you know will never break your trust, and that is Jesus. No matter what you are going through He will be with you throughout it all. Does that mean everything will work out perfectly if you trust in him – No. But He never promised that; in fact, He said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." But we can trust - that He will never leave us nor forsake us and that He will be with us throughout each day of our lives.

Thank you, sweet Lord for your unfailing love for us, for being the ONE we can always trust.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6