



The Messenger

Shelton Presbyterian Church

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

November 2023

Welcome New Members



Britteny Givens has lived in the Shelton area for the past two years. She started attending SPC after an invite from Jeneca Lynema. She enjoys painting and drawing, and anything dealing with Art. She loves classic movies and reading books (her favorite is Redeeming Love). Britteny enjoys the outdoors and children. We are thankful for her love of children for she has been hired to work in our Nursery.

Stephanie Chapman (pictured with her grandson, Cody) came to the Shelton area around five years ago. Retired Nursing/Business owner, she shared about what brought her to SPC: "God brought me here" was her answer. Stephanie is a dragracer and her interests include music, dogs, art and her '86 Mustang Gt.



Linda Ferguson (no picture) is a retired Special Education teacher; she shared that she loved her job of 43 years. Nine of those years she taught at Mountain View Elementary here in Shelton. She said that she wasn't a regular church goer, but "life has a way of changing and that pushed me to return to the church." Recently widowed, she has two grown children. She volunteers at the Shelton School District Family Resource Center which involves a clothing bank, and food bank among other things. Linda enjoys reading, crafting, and hanging out with family and friends.

Julie Phelps (no picture) has lived in the Shelton area for the past five years. She is currently employed as an Accounting Tech. Widowed with two grown children, she had a desire to return to church after a long period of time of being away. Julie enjoys hiking, kayaking, swimming and skiing.

SPIRIT IN ACTION...CONNECTION 2023

Our Fundraiser has officially started!! Your volunteer Decorating Committee will be in the foyer every Sunday during the month of November, 2023. Please stop by to see the vision, share in naming the gathering spaces, make donations, and Connect.

OUR PURPOSE

Create a comfortable environment to promote connection, conversation, relationship and intimacy with God and to encourage each other to live Our Mission:

Love God, Love People, Serve the World

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER:

Friday, November 10th at 7:00pm - Annas Bay Veteran's Concert - SONGS OF FREEDOM
Wednesday, November 15th at 6:00pm - Youth Group activity - FRIENDSGIVING
Wednesday, November 22 at 1:00pm - Memorial for Bruce Cowan

Word from the Pastor

When I was around 14 years old my family started attending Wabash Presbyterian church, "The little church in the country with a whole lotta love." It was a small church situated on the plateau between Auburn and Enumclaw. It was surrounded by family farms and 10-acre plots with large homes owned by lawyers and doctors. The building was old and small. It probably held less than 100 people when full. There were wooden pews, with slats that creaked when you shifted your weight, a church bell that rang before the service started, and a small Sunday school classroom on the other side of the sanctuary wall. The hymns numbers were always listed on a placard up front. Someone got up and strummed a guitar for a few choruses during the offering. It was quaint and humble, and it felt like home.

That little church grew rapidly during my adolescent years from a community of around 150 to around 1,000 on any given Sunday. It was remarkable. Every week there would be new faces and you knew you needed to get there early if you wanted a seat. Of course, there were several remodels and expansions, multiple worship services, and eventually a brand-new building. It was a wonderful time and I look back with such fond memories. Oddly enough, I don't remember any of the sermons. Not one. I remember that the preaching was good. It was focused on Scripture, down to earth, and practical. But I do not remember any of the messages, maybe a joke or two, but none of the sermon points.

What I do remember is the people. I remember Don and Debbie Taylor who opened their home for a youth Bible study and told their stories about how they left a hippie drug culture and became followers of Jesus. I remember Spencer Nelson who led the youth choir with such enthusiasm. I remember Pastor Rex who had a photographic memory and knew every person's name. I remember so many wonderful people who welcomed me each week with joy and acceptance.

And this is how it should be. Jesus didn't say, "They will know you are my disciples by your doctrine." He said, "They will know you are my disciples by the way you love one another." The church does not simply preach a message of love, but it is called to live a message of love, to embody what we preach.

I am grateful to be serving a church today that also embodies God's love. Consistently, people tell me that coming to church at SPC is like coming home, a place where they are loved and accepted. They experience the presence of God in worship and the love of God in community. My hope is that we will continue to grow in our capacity to welcome others, build relationships, and experience the unity of God's Spirit. It's not about programs or strategies. It's about receiving and expressing the amazing love of God.

In Christ,
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. [Study resumes September 13th.](#)



November Birthdays



2 Melody Olels	18 Mary May
5 Diana Hall	19 Linda Tinsman
5 Peggy Mitchell	20 Joe Cable
6 Achaya McMullin	22 Landon Bursch
8 Nancy Ostheller	25 Lisa Garner
10 Susan Casey	26 Kyle Dycus
10 Tyler Matlock	28 Cohen Holzgrove
16 Lynn Wilson	28 Margaret Lynema
17 Trevor Matlock	28 Troy Woodard
18 Bohdan Clifton	30 Margie Todd

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26	
Lay Leader	Mary May	Mark Schlauderaff	Cynthia Bowen-Angevine	Harris Haertel	

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

A big **thank you** for those making cards (thank you Beth Gregg!) and cookies to celebrate Veteran's Day. (bring your bagged cookies by Sun Nov 5th). What a great way to say "thank you for your service" from Shelton Presbyterian Church. Also thank you to George Bowen and brave volunteers for their willingness to do highway cleanup. And thank you to Michelle & Karen for providing lunch for our 5th Sunday, Oct 29th.

Is this the "final" **Apple Cup** challenge? If you are a Cougar (cat) or a Husky (dog) or if you aren't either one, bring cat or dog food to support your favorite pet. The collection bin is in the foyer. Donations will be given to the 5XL Shelton pet food bank that provides pet food to seniors, low income and homeless families. The "fight" is on – GO TEAM! For more information, contact Cynthia Bowen Angevine at 505 280-9024 or Pat Sanborn at 360 791-9047. Collecting cans through November 26th.

Community Homeless dinners need volunteers. The signup sheets are on the Missions bulletin board. It's one of the ways we serve our community on a monthly basis.

As the weather gets colder and the rains come, and the wind blows, the Fall/Winter needs for Crazy Love Ministries becomes critical. We are collecting gloves, handwarmers, men's socks & underwear, flashlights & batteries, coats and ponchos. There is a bin in the foyer for donations; taking donations until November 5th.

Crazy Love serves a Friday night dinner every week. If you would like to help serve or would like more information, contact Jubilee Whitman 206 999-5714.

The Mission Committee meets on the 1st Sunday of every other month. Our next meeting is on December 3rd. Please join us on our mission to Serve the World during the Christmas season.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Austin, Houston & Jessy
9704 Lookout Dr., Olympia, WA 98502
Houston cell: 253 686-5632
Jessy cell: 253 686-2087
Email: brighteyesjessy@msn.com
Zone 9 - Lynch Rd/Cole Rd/Olympia/McCleary

Chapman, Stephanie
130 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Shelton, WA 98584
Phone: 253 303-9341
Email: dragracer2222@gmail.com
Zone 6 - Downtown/Angleside/Mt View/Capital Hill

Elmund, Dale
Phone number change to: 360 837-7381

Ferguson, Linda
(add): Zone 4 - Timberlake/Agate Rd

Givens, Britteny
17 Garden Tracts Rd, Montesano, WA 98563
Phone: 206 981-8694
Email: brittenygivens92@gmail.com
Zone 9 - Lynch Rd/ Cole Rd/Olympia/McCleary

Killian, Jim & Brenda
New email: killianjw186@gmail.com

Taylor, Kristina
4185 E. Mason Lake Dr. W., Grapeview, WA 98546
Phone: 360 432-8890
Email: Macawes1@outlook.com
Zone 2 - Mason Lake/Grapeview

Wardwell, Ariana
(add): P. O. Box 672
Zone 7 - Angleside/Downtown/Mt View/Capital Hill



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Tina VanderWal

As I grow older it becomes more apparent to me that so much around us is not what it seems to be on the surface. I'm sure you all knew that "flawless" couple who seemed so loving, had it all together raising their perfect children. (That should have been my first clue that something was off.) Then all of a sudden, they get a divorce and everyone's thinking what happened? How can this be? They were so happy. Obviously not. Later the truth comes out, one of them was abusive or an alcoholic or a drug user or one had cheated on the other. The perfect house of cards comes crashing down. As the old saying goes, "Don't judge a book by it's cover".

I had a physical reminder of this recently. Chuck and I were taking a walk up the county road when our neighbor's dog comes walking down the middle of the street. He's a large dog, but I'm thinking he's friendly as his tail is wagging. I reached down to pet him and in a split second he bit me on my hip (luckily for me it was not the hip that just had surgery). I had jeans on, so he didn't break the skin, but I had a bruise the size of a grapefruit for weeks. I should have been more cautious.

I know that we have to be more discerning in life. What is safe? What is dangerous? What is the truth and what is a lie? It's even trickier now with all the information barraging us daily on the internet. I read an article the other day about one of my favorite singers. As I read, I thought this doesn't sound like her at all. Sure enough, later I found out it was totally false. So please be careful out there. Too many are purposefully trying to deceive us. Pray for discernment and I know our good Lord will help you. To determine whether a person is honest in what they say, do as Jesus taught us and look for the fruit of their words – their works. Do they truly love everyone as Jesus asks or are they excluding some? Do they love their neighbors as themselves? Neighbor includes everyone not just those with the same beliefs.

Thank you, sweet Lord for providing us with discernment in this complicated world.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23