



The Messenger

Shelton Presbyterian Church

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

September 2024



Special Speaker: Rev. Susan Hermann

WOMEN'S RETREAT - SAT SEPT 28th

9:00am - 2:00pm

Plan to attend this WONDERFUL day retreat happening at SPC.

- Theme: The Holy, Healthy Woman
- Special Speaker: Rev. Susan Hermann
- Workshops offered on Building a Healthy Body, Spirit and Mind
- Light Breakfast and Lunch provided
- Cost: \$10.00 (scholarships available)
- Contact person: Eileen Bailey at 360 490-5396 or email wildcatz66@yahoo.com
- Sign-up begins Sunday, September 1st

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our next Membership Class is happening on Sunday, September 15th, after worship. There are Membership Invite postcards available at the Welcome Center located in the church foyer. Pick one up to take with you. Come and meet Pastor Jeff and share lunch together, as well as an informational membership class following lunch.

If you have further questions, you may contact Terri Saylor at 360-490-5174 or email: terriandstevesaylor@yahoo.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School begins again on Sunday, September 8th! We are looking forward to another exciting year together. Plan to come and see what all the excitement is about.



WORD FROM THE PASTOR

You have probably heard the Latin phrase “ex nihilo” at some point in your life. In English it means “out of nothing.” The term has traditionally been used to defend the concept that God created the world out of nothing, that is, without any preexisting materials. For much of my life, I assumed this was the “biblical” position. I assumed that the creation story of Genesis 1 described and supported this idea. I was wrong.

Genesis begins, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*” (Gen 1:1-2) The story does not begin with nothingness. It begins with chaos. The earth is formless and void- without shape and empty. There is a darkness covering the waters (water is often a symbol of chaos in the Old Testament). The picture is of a dark watery existence, without life or light, where chaos reigns, but the Spirit of God, or wind of God (wind and spirit are the same word in Hebrew) hovers over the deep.

That’s where our creation story begins, not with nothingness, but with deep waters, a dark unsubstantiated chaos. And then God Speaks, “Let there be light,” and the darkness is contained by the boundaries of day and night. God continues by creating a vault (KJV, firmament) that separates the waters above from the waters below. God then separates the waters below to reveal dry land.

God is not so much creating at this point in the story as he is organizing. God is placing limits and boundaries around the darkness and limits and boundaries around the waters of chaos. In so doing, God creates a habitable space he then fills with plants and animals and humans that he creates. God orders the chaos and interjects light and life.

The creation stories of Genesis are not scientific or historical accounts. They are deep theological stories revealing the character of God, a God who transforms chaos into order and brings light and life into empty places of darkness.

Sometimes the world seems out of control. Sometimes our lives feel out of control. It can appear that the forces of destruction and chaos have the upper hand, but do not despair! Our scriptures teach us that God can bring order out of the chaos and shine his light in the midst of the darkness. Matthew tells us that when Jesus died on the cross, darkness swept over the land for three hours (Matthew 27:45). In that moment it appeared that the forces of chaos had won. But on resurrection Sunday, the light of God’s power brought Jesus to life.

Hold fast to Jesus. Trust in the transforming power of God’s Spirit operating in love. Let the Peace of Christ guard your heart, and may God bring order and light and life into your world.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

Bible Studies

Men’s Bible Study

Men meet Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM at the church. This study is led by different men in the church. Please join us.

Soup & Bible Study

This study is *usually* held every other Thursday at 7:00 pm. Dessert will be served. The study is led by Pastor Jeff and is open to everyone. It is held in the lobby of the church. Please join us. *Watch the bulletin for when this is scheduled.*

Women’s Bible Study

Women meet Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM at the church. The study is led by Lori Matlock. Resuming September 4th



September Birthdays



1 Dean Johnen	11 Dan Dickey
1 Jim Killian	15 Paula Johnson
3 Marty Brooks	17 Rachelle Anderson
3 Kristi Holzgrove	18 Tom Allen
5 Melissa Metzler	23 Nicki Cook
6 Arlene Bates	24 Britteny Givens
7 Ethan Bursch	27 Dewayne Matlock
8 Joe Everett	29 Doug Watkins
9 George Bowen	30 Patty Berry
9 Harris Haertel	30 Bill Schumacher

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Lay Leader	Arline Fullerton	Cynthia Bowen-Angevine	Margaret Dosland	Mary May	Harris Haertel

CONTACT INFO FOR NEW MEMBERS

Arline Fullerton
 2490 W State Rte 108
 Shelton WA 98584
 360 432-9175

Elizabeth Jahnke
 630 E Aycliffe Dr
 Shelton WA 98584
 509 439-9292

Melissa Metzler
 2630 W Little Egypt Rd
 Shelton WA 98584
 253 229-7829

Elizabeth Moon
 2271 E Johns Prairie Rd
 Shelton WA 98584
 360 427-6022

Mark & Pam Schlauderaff
 1850 E Island Lake Dr
 Shelton WA 98584
 360 426-1560



YOUTH GROUP

New Fall Schedule for Youth Group
 beginning Sept 10th & 11th:
**TUESDAYS AT 6-8PM JUNIOR HIGH
 YOUTH GROUP**
**WEDNESDAYS AT 6-8PM HIGH SCHOOL
 YOUTH GROUP**



Watch for upcoming news about a Belize Service Trip - Summer of 2025. This trip will be for students entering grades 9-12 and recent SPC Youth Group graduates.



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Tina VanderWal

Last week was both very sad and busy in our household. My brother-in-law Don had unexpectedly passed away on the Friday before. He was a loving husband, a wonderful father and grandfather and so many Sheltonian's favorite auto mechanic as the owner of VanderWal's Garage. We will all dearly miss him. So, we were busy trying to help with preparations for his celebration of life on Saturday, and we had made plans for our grandchildren to spend the night that Wednesday and I was preparing a sermon for Sunday.

The celebration of life for Don was truly beautiful, the visit with our grandchildren, Payton and Sydney went great and thanks to your many prayers, the sermon went well.

So, we made it through a stressful week. The next day Chuck and I are reading our devotional, "Jesus Always" by Sarah Young and I am blown away. My sermon the day before was on "An attitude of Gratitude" and there were my words staring at me on the page. It was incredible! And I realized those were God's words, said first to Sarah and years later to me.

This is what I read, "The more you thank me for your salvation, My love, and other blessings the more you will realize how really blessed you are. And a grateful attitude increases your joy. You can nourish this gladness by thanking Me in your silent prayers, in your written, spoken, or whispered words, and through music."

They were God's words that I spoke, and that Sarah wrote - not mine or Sarah's. We were just vessels to bring the words to His loved ones.

It also was a reminder that Jesus is with us every day. He knows before we make a move what is happening in our lives and He helps us through each one, even the stressful or sad days.

Lord, You never fail to amaze me. You are all-knowing and all-powerful, yet You love us and keep us in Your care every single day. Thank You, sweet Lord for all of Your many, many blessings in my life and in the lives of our family, friends and those we haven't even met yet. We are forever grateful.

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men." Psalm 107:21