



The Messenger

Shelton Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jeffrey W. Bursch, Pastor
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April 2025

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Thank you SPC for helping the Outreach Ministry put together 16 totes of groceries and 14 Easter baskets for families in our community with elementary-age children.

Pictured below are Carol Hagen and Pat Sanborn at our collection table.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest members of Shelton Presbyterian Church. From left to right are:

- Rick Reclusado
- Edie Reclusado
- Esther Novak
- Brinnon Stevens
- Brittney Stevens
- Matthew Berry
- Robin Gagnon
- James Peterson (Autumn Peterson, not pictured)
- Gail Straus

APRIL EVENTS

Memorial for Bill Schumacher - April 12, 2:00pm

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 7:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE - April 20, 10:00 am



Happy Easter

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

It's happened so many times in my ministry, that I almost take it for granted. I'm talking with someone after church and they tell me, "Pastor, it felt like you were preaching directly to me today!" And then they go on to explain how what I said dovetailed beautifully with the circumstances of their life, providing just the right words at the right time. I'm no longer surprised when it happens. It has happened so many times.

The skeptical side of my brain has a rational explanation for such phenomenon. It's just a matter of odds. Like the psychic who stands before a room full of people and says, "I'm sensing the letter, "M." Does anyone have a loved one who has passed over whose name starts with the letter "M?" In a large enough room full of desperate people, there's bound to be an "M." And if not, there are 25 other letters in the alphabet to work through. Faith healers use a similar strategy. "Is there someone here with a bad back? I'm sensing a bad back." Five percent of the population have chronic back pain. In an arena of 1,000 people that's at least 50 candidates, and more if you include the non-chronic variety. The same phenomenon occurs with preaching. Odds are a sermon will connect in a significant way with at least one person in attendance.

But I think there is more going on here than just the law of probabilities. I've seen how impactful a message can be, how beautifully God can fashion a word for the right person at the right time. Without any special knowledge on my part, sermons are often precisely what someone needs to hear. Sometimes this happens on the first Sunday visit. I heard that story a couple times in the last membership class. "It was my first Sunday, and you spoke just to me." The skeptical side can explain it away, but the mystic in me knows it is so much more. It's the voice of God. It's God's living word bringing encouragement in a way that only God can.

So don't be surprised if on some Sunday it feels like I've taken aim at a bullseye painted on your heart. It's not me. It's the Spirit of God speaking in a powerful and encouraging way. It's a blessing when it happens, not something we need to over analyze or explain away, just grace that we receive. I'm honored to be a part of it, but it's not really about me. I'm just an instrument that God is using that morning. So, when listening to the next sermon, keep your ears open and your heart open, and when you hear and experience the love of God, receive it, thank God for it, and walk in the truth that it brings.

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.

Thursday Night Bible Study

This study is held every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm. 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.



April Birthdays



1 Jordyn Martinell	10 Jeanne Haertel
1 Katie Peck	16 Scott Hilburn
3 Jaxon Holzgrove	16 Dale Ritter
5 Lynn Corbett	20 Brenda Killian
9 Morgan O'Donnell	24 Heidi Bursch
10 Audrey Beaudoin	
10 Margaret Dosland	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27	
Lay Leader	Mark Schlauderaff	Arline Fullerton	Melissa Casey	Linda Ferguson	

SPC Youth News

DINNER AND AUCTION FUNDRAISER

for Youth Service Trip to Belize

Thank you everyone for all the wonderful donations. We had over 100 items donated for the auction. We also had a wonderful turnout with 130 tickets sold. We did many different fun events with one of them being the Beard for Computers Fund. Which the goal of 3,000 was hit so I lost my beard. I deeply miss it, but its worth the cause. In total \$17,600 was raised. This will go directly to projects the students are doing in Belize. These projects are building walls for a new church, running a VBS for an elementary school, installing 2 computer labs in 2 schools, doing a block party with a local church and helping with much needed projects at Belize Christian Academy in Belmopan. We are so grateful for all the work and support. If you would like to support students in helping them pay for their plane ticket, please contact me. -Marcus Clifton



Pictured on the right is the group of adults and youth who are going to Belize on the Youth Service trip.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2025

It is time to start gearing up to celebrate our 2025 High School Graduates. Please notify Marcus or the office of any SPC youth graduation. We will have them fill out a student spotlight survey and participate in a Graduating walk through after Church on June 8th. We would also like to recognize adults with further education accomplishments. We will share in the Messenger and make an announcement at church. Please let us know if you or someone you know would like to be recognized.



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Tina VanderWal

Life is a series of chapters, the story of your life. It starts with your parents and your siblings but soon branches out to include others. With every new chapter you may add some new characters - new friends. Many chapters have challenges that you have to face. By the grace of God, my husband and I just finished one of those chapters - the cancer chapter. My husband doesn't have to see a doctor for six months, and I had my last infusion on Friday – yay! After my infusion, the nurses played Celebration by Kool and the Gang and they, my husband and myself all danced. Afterwards, I got to ring the bell and then received hugs from all of the nurses. It was a wonderful ending to a difficult chapter. It reminded me that we need to celebrate the victories in our lives more often. End a tough chapter with happiness and joy.

In every book, there is usually a page in the beginning of the book where the author thanks everyone who made that book possible. I think that is also very important in our lives, being thankful, grateful. I brought cupcakes for the nurses in the infusion room to thank them for all their work and compassion during the 16 infusions. And right now, I want to thank everyone of you who sent cards, prayed for us, brought us meals, or helped us in any way during that time. Each one of you helped us get through those gray days. And we thank you, appreciate you, and love you for your kindness and compassion. We feel so blessed to have this amazingly caring church family. Thank you all and may God dearly bless you for your kindness.

We know that there may be other chapters in the future that revisit cancer or present other challenges. But this I also know – we need to appreciate and have joy and gratitude to our sweet Lord all of our days for He is present with us in every chapter. Thank you, sweet Lord for the wonderful people, your angels on earth, who help us through the darkest days and for You being with us always!

“You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,” Psalm 30:11