



The Messenger

Shelton Presbyterian Church

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

September 2025

FALL SCHEDULE

PROGRAMS RESUMING THIS FALL

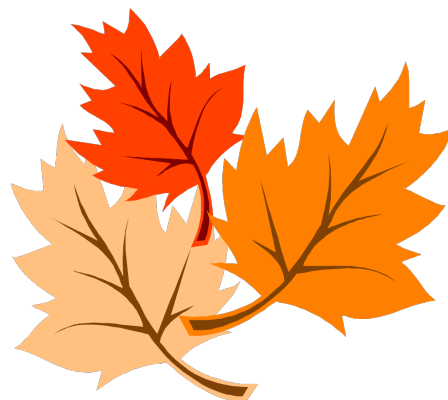
SUNDAY SCHOOL begins again Sun, Sept 7th, 10:05am

JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP resumes Tues, Sept 9th, 6pm.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP resumes Wed, Sept 10th, 6pm.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY begins again Wed, Sept 10th, 10am.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY returns Thurs, Sept 18th, 7pm.



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP CLASS AND LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 12, 2025

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Lobby fellowship area

To register for the class, sign up at the Welcome Center or mark your interest on the yellow welcome card. You may also call or text Terri Saylor, 360-490-5174 to register or to obtain further information. Childcare will be provided if requested.

The class, led by Pastor Jeff, is an opportunity for individuals to learn more about the church before making a commitment to membership. Topics that will be covered during the class include the church's history and mission, its core beliefs and values, the meaning of church membership, and how to get involved in church activities and ministries. Questions are welcomed. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Love, Inc. has partnered with the Salvation Army to provide "Bell Ringers" for the upcoming holiday season. In return, 90% of the collections will be paid to Love, Inc. to be used for the work they do in our local community. If you would like to do a shift as a bell ringer, either at Fred Meyer or at Walmart, please contact Leanna Shipp at Love INC, at loveinc.office@hcc.net or call 360-462-5683.

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

I had a wonderful vacation this year. I am so appreciative for this congregation, and I enjoy being the pastor here, but it's really nice to have some time away to recharge and be renewed. It's also a source of great peace to know that we have such capable people filling in while I'm gone. Pastor Terry, Pastor Marcus, Pastor Susan, and Tina all did a great job preaching as did the worship team in leading the music.

Over vacation I was able to spend time with family. Heidi's siblings came out to visit on a couple of different occasions. It was nice to reconnect with them. I got to see my parents and visit with them. I connected with old friends that I hadn't seen since high school. I did some car camping with Heidi and with my boys. And of course, I played a lot of disc golf. One of my favorite memories from the vacation was backpacking on the north coast of the Olympic National Park. I was hiking with my sons Ethan, Landon, and Carson. Braden wasn't able to go. He had classes to attend for his master's program. Taylor Simmons also came with us. We had a great trip. We travelled the trail taking the North leg of the Ozette triangle and then heading south all the way down to Rialto beach. It was about 23 miles long. We took four days and three nights. It was such a beautiful trip and I had a great time. I was thinking about what makes these experiences so meaningful and it boils down to three things:

Connecting with friends and family. Relationships require time, time to sit and talk, or to just be together. Reconnecting, without the stress of a busy schedule, is so very important.

Disconnecting from the world's worries and stressors. When you're backpacking, life gets very simple. You have a trail to follow. You must find water and purify it to drink. You have a tent to set up, and you have food to cook and eat. There's no TV or radio, no internet, no social media, no distractions. It was so much easier to be fully present and in the moment.

Experiencing the beauty of God's creation. There is something restorative about being in Nature. We spend most of our time in manmade structures, artificial environments. Getting out in nature is life-giving. A walk in the woods can do wonders.

Thank you for allowing me to get away. I do not take it for granted. I am blest to Pastor this congregation. I hope you are finding ways in your own life to connect with family and friends, disconnect from the stressors in life, and to experience God's beautiful creation. May God bless you as he has so richly blest me.

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. **This study will resume Sept 18th**

Women's Bible Study

Women meet Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM at the church. The study is led by Lori Matlock. **This study will resume September 10th**



September Birthdays



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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28	
Lay Leader	Mary May	Robin Pizanti	Melissa Casey	George Bowen	

UPDATES/ADDITIONS TO CHURCH DIRECTORY

BURKEL, Clara
Carlstrom Comfort, 5012 Brockdale Rd, Shelton

CORBETT, Bill & Lynn
340 E Woodland Dr., Shelton
360-490-1981, golfer42@hctc.com

HERMANN, Mark
4048 61st Ct. SW, Olympia, WA 98512

JOHNSON, Tom & Paula
171 E Viewcrest Dr., Union, WA 98592
360-898-2255, paulaj@hctc.com

PECK, Katie
3300 21st Ave SW, Apt H6, Olympia, WA 98512
360-970-8547, Katiepeck445@gmail.com

PRICE, John & Ciara
1313 W Cota St, #27, Shelton
360-545-5407

SAN NICOLAS, Greg & Laura
1126 Buena Vista Ave, Shelton
360-999-8903, laurasannicolas@rocketmail.com

It's Teacher Appreciation time again! Your Outreach team will be collecting snacks for teacher lounges in our 15 county schools. Stop by our table in the church lobby for more information.



SPC Youth News



YOUTH GROUP IS BACK AT CHURCH

September 9th and 10th, 6:00-8:00pm

Tuesday, Sept 9th is Jr. High Youth Group for grades 6-8. We will have extra fun celebrating the start of school and a new season with food and games.

Wednesday, Sept 10th, High School Youth Group is back! We are so excited to celebrate with you the start of a new school year through games, food and worship.

Feel free to come hand out in the game room early at 5:00pm

Shelton Presbyterian Church
PO Box 2510
Shelton WA 98584

Tina VanderWal

We had just gotten home from a wonderful dinner at Budd Bay Café in Olympia, when I started receiving several texts from concerned friends about a brush fire. When they told me the address, I realized that it was just above us. We tried to drive near there but couldn't see anything. It was getting dark and around our bedtime. I realized that I was totally unprepared for a major disaster like a fire. What do I grab if the fire gets close? Our kitty Molly, pictures, important documents, medications? And what about our chickens? Do we let them go, so at least they won't get fried, but then the raccoons and other predators will probably get them. I was really starting to worry. Would the fire fighters be able to warn us in time if the fire came down our hill? Chuck and I finally decided to pray and retire to our beds, although it was to a fitful sleep.

But in the morning when we woke up and all was still well; we thanked God that the fire was contained. I also realized that I need to be more prepared. I need to know where important papers and pictures are that I would want to take with me. The thing is – we always think that disasters happen to other people, not to us. But the horrible flooding of the Guadalupe River in Texas and the Bear Gulch fire here in Washington prove otherwise. We don't know what tomorrow might bring. So, we need to be prepared both physically and spiritually. My sister-in-law Cheryl's brother, Darren, his wife, their daughter, and family went to Hawaii on a wonderful vacation. They were all swimming in the ocean when Darren saw that his granddaughter was struggling to get back to shore. He dove in to save her. She made it back to shore, but her grandfather, Darren, sadly drowned. I'm not sharing this to scare anyone, I'm just trying to say – we just don't know when our time is up. As a friend told me, we all come into this world with an expiration date – we just don't know when it is. Besides a will and health directives, what else do I need to do? Well, I finally have a date to update our will. It's a good thing because my kids who are all adults with their own children were still supposed to go to their Aunt and Uncle's. I also need to know where all the important things are so that I can gather them up quickly. But spiritually, am I ready? Have I reached out to all my family, friends and loved ones? Have I made amends to everyone I need to? I don't think I'm ready spiritually, either. But I hope to make progress towards that spiritual peace every day.

Sweet Lord, thank you for your wake-up calls. That brush fire was definitely mine. Lord, please guide us to know what you would have us do to be prepared for whatever may come. And each day let us become more loving to all - more like you. "Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." 2 Thessalonians 5: 1-2