



The Messenger

Shelton Presbyterian Church

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

February 2026

Please Join Love INC of Mason County



Soup & Song Benefit Concert & Dessert Auction



Saturday, February 7, 2026, 4:30 PM

Shelton Presbyterian Church

Suggested Donation: \$20
Presale tickets call: (360) 462-5683

Featuring music by: Pastor Jeff Bursch

Harpist: Ellen Hageman

*All Proceeds toward Love INC ministries
to help people in need in Mason County.*

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Watch for winter "White Sales" as we will be collecting new bedding and towels for the **Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center**. The drive begins on February 8 with the Development Director from the Center coming to share the work being done at the Center and continues through February 22. Items needed are plastic mattress covers, twin and full bed fitted sheet sets, pillows, blankets, comforters as well as towels and washcloths.



MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Join us for the next **membership class and luncheon Sunday, March 8, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm** in the 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. 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.

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

I don't have many friends on Facebook. If you sent me a friend request, and I did not reply, don't be offended. You are in good company. I'm not even friends with my siblings on Facebook. That's intentional on my part. I don't participate in Facebook that way. It gets too political, but in a personal way, and I don't need that in my life. However, I do open Facebook occasionally to peruse for good deals on Facebook marketplace. And on one occasion, before I got to Marketplace, a post popped up from someone explaining how he deconstructed his faith and is no longer a Christian. I don't know this man. It's just a post the algorithm thought I needed to read.

The post was heartbreaking, but even more so were the comments that people made-- one person after another explaining how the church had let them down, mistreated them, and how that led to them disconnecting from the church, and for many, from their faith altogether. The stories were all too familiar-- a woman in an abusive marriage told to return and submit to her abuser, a parent with a gay child told their child will spend an eternity in hell, a seeker asking legitimate questions told that doubting is a sin, a survivor of Church abuse witnessing the cover-up and being told to simply forgive, a church driven by politics of division and hate. It was one story after another of people experiencing and rejecting controlling, legalistic, and narrow-minded expressions of Christianity.

Some of the commentors, like the original poster, had become atheists, but many still believed in God and found inspiration in the teaching of Jesus. They just no longer felt comfortable in the institutions that bear his name. They are thoughtful and decent people that don't fit in overly dogmatic churches. They rejected the church, but not Jesus. Reading through the comments was both disturbing and encouraging. It was disturbing because my heart breaks for those who have experienced so much church trauma. But it was encouraging because SPC can be that safe space that people long for. It was an affirmation of our shared calling. We do not gather around doctrinal purity and conformity. We do not gather around legalistic morality. We do not gather around social and political uniformity. We gather in Jesus' name to Love God, Love people, and Serve the world. That's it. That's who we are. There is a hurting world that needs us to be that. May God bless us as we seek to live out this identity together.

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 Bill Corbett. 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.



February Birthdays



2 Jim Penney	13 Meira Lynema
2 Pat Sanborn	14 Isaiah Brooks
4 Jason Johnson	14 Jeff Bursch
5 Jen Johnen	14 Bonnie Schumacher
5 Therese Pizanti	18 Kylea Weschler
9 Amanda Wilgenburg	23 Donna June
10 Kim Holbrook	25 Linda McElroy
10 Bill Lanning	26 Jake Swartz
10 Ben Watkins	28 Terri Saylor
12 Gary Sarver	29 Ellen Macomber

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22	
Lay Leader	Cynthia Bowen-Angevine	George Bowen	Amanda Wilgenburg	Gary Sarver	

FEBRUARY 14th

SPC Youth News



YOUTH-SPONSORED PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Starting the first Sunday in February (1st), our youth will be cooking up a Pancake Breakfast following worship once a month - the first Sundays of the month throughout the Winter and Spring of 2026. This is a fundraiser for our youth that helps them raise money for the cost of summer camp.

Your support is SO APPRECIATED!!

SO DON'T FORGET—THE FIRST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH ARE PANCAKE SUNDAYS !!! Starting February and through the Spring months.

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Tina VanderWal

Last Thursday I had an infusion called Reclast. Due to cancer treatment and thyroid medication, I have osteoporosis which also comes as we age. This once-a-year 15-minute infusion is pretty amazing. It binds to bone mineral, where it remains active to inhibit osteoclasts – the cells that break down bone. It reduces bone resorption and significantly increases bone density and strength in the spine and hips, lowering fracture risk. Incredible, right?! Because what do many elderly people die from - complications after a fall. Thank you, Lord, for this new drug.

So, as I'm sitting there waiting for the infusion, I meet a young woman getting an infusion next to me. She is a forester and loves her job. We talk a little bit about how great state jobs are and especially the health insurance benefits (since Chuck and I both worked for the state). When I ask her if her infusion is for cancer (most are) she explains that hers is for a rare disease that attacks the nerves/muscles. She started feeling like she could no longer grip anything, which in her job was essential. The interesting thing is that her mother-in-law has the exact same disease. So, when she started having the symptoms they were able to diagnose it quickly. I told her that definitely had to be a God thing. She agreed. She married a man whose mother has the same rare disease that she gets – what are the odds?

Sadly, it took much longer for them to diagnose her mother-in-law, so she lives with the nerve/muscle damage that occurred until they found the cause and a suitable treatment.

The other miraculous thing, she comes in every six weeks for a 4-hour infusion of immunoglobulins – and it keeps her nerves/muscles healthy. The miracles of science. God gave someone the incredible knowledge to research and find a drug to help this woman and countless others to lead healthy lives.

I know that our God is amazing. But there are times like this when I see how he helps his creations – us, lead better lives and I am blown away.

Thank you, sweet Lord, for your astounding gifts. You are an amazing God.

“Sovereign LORD, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do?” Deuteronomy 3:24