

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

November 1, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Bold print indicates congregational response.

We acknowledge that our church is on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe. The Puyallup people have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time, and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgment is one small step toward true allyship and we commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land and beyond.

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. John Asher

* Call to Worship

Dona Johnson

Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great –
God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.
Let us worship God today, for God is good –
God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.
Let us praise God today –
Because we are God's people.
Let us worship God.

* Song

"Your Love Never Fails"

(see screen)

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

**God, today we confess that we fall short in our most intimate relationships.
Forgive us for sour faces and cold shoulders, for clenched fists and icy stares.
Forgive us for hurtful words and for silences that wound.
Forgive us for the way we remember every hurt done to us, while the hurts we do to others are quickly minimized, explained away or forgotten.**

(continued)

You call us to carry a cross, and yet we complain when the way is hard, forgetting how much we have received, and how little we have sacrificed. Take away our hearts of stone, and give us hearts of flesh, which beat to the rhythm of your love, your love, your love. Amen.

Hear the good news: God knows the hurts we carry and the hurts we have caused, and still meets us with mercy.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, our hearts are made new, and we are set free to love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song "In An Age of Twisted Values" (see screen)

Children's Message and Blessing

People: **"The Lord be with you!"**

Kids: **"And also with you!"**

Sermon "Love Without the Mess" *Rev. John Asher*

Scripture Ephesians 4:25–32 NIV

Special Music "I Choose Love" *Shepherd Choir*
(Mark A. Miller, text by Lindy Thompson)

Welcome to the Table

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Thank you to Joe Derrig for baking this morning's communion bread.

Sharing the Elements

Communion Prayer

Community Life

- * Song "Another Hallelujah" (see screen)
- * Benediction *Rev. John Asher*
- * Postlude

A quote by composer Mark A. Miller:

"The words to the song 'I Choose Love' are by my friend Lindy Thompson, written in response to the murder in June 2015 of nine people who were at their church Bible study. The people of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Charleston, South Carolina, chose love when they offered forgiveness in the face of hatred and violence."

Its message contrasts pain and war with love, peace, and resurrection hope.

The words for the anthem today are:

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down, explanations can't be found.
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

We live stream each service. By your presence, you agree the church may publish, transmit, or telecast images that may be taken of you for use in communications related to the church. If you prefer to not sit in a visible area, we recommend the section on the right side of the sanctuary when entering. Please reach out to the office with any questions.

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We would love to share with you what's happening! Please scan the code and fill out the form to receive weekly email announcements.

Help Shape the Future of Our Children's & Youth Ministries!

YOUTH MINISTRY ASSESSMENT – NOVEMBER 8-9

Help shape the future of Shepherd's children and youth ministries! As part of our 2026–2027 Vision of Ministry, we are partnering with Ministry Architects for a two-day assessment on Sunday, November 8, and Monday, November 9, to listen to the experiences, hopes, and ideas of our congregation.

Listening sessions are available for:

Parents of Children & Youth — Sunday, 11:30 AM in the CE Wing

General Congregation — Sunday, 12:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Middle and High School Youth — Sunday, 6:00 PM, during a special Youth Group event

Church Staff & Team Leads — Monday, 12:00 PM, with a hybrid/Zoom option

Childcare will be provided for PK-5th grade. You only need to attend one session, even if you fit more than one group. Additional sessions are being offered to volunteers and youth staff. Everyone who cares about the future of these ministries is welcome.