

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

July 12, 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

*** Call to Worship**

Helen Carpenter

Children of God: welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

*** Song**

"God So Loved"

(see screen)

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

Gracious Creator, we seek your blessing, knowing that we have not earned it. In our faults, we seek your guidance. In our sins, we seek your forgiveness. In our weakness, we seek your strength. In our sorrow, we seek your consolation. In our trials, we seek your justice. In our pain, we seek your peace. Hear our prayers, O God, and make our hearts new. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, reconciled, loved, and changed. Alleluia, amen!

Hymn # 341

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

(see screen)

Children's Blessing

People: "The Lord be with you!"

Kids: "And also with you!"

Sermon

"The Good Place and the Hell of Trying Harder"

Rev. John Asher

Scripture

Ephesians 2:1-10 NIV

Hymn # 260

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

(see screen)

Mission Trip Report

Sheri Martin

Special Music

"Praise Canon"

Summer Choir

Community Life

*** Song**

"Grace Like Rain"

(see screen)

*** Benediction**

Rev. John Asher

*** Postlude**

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.

CCLI License # 1452675/ Streaming License CCLI#20581555

Attribution Notes:

Call to Worship and Burden's Prayer: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

General Assembly Summary: Created with assistance from artificial intelligence.



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

PC(USA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY: HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED

Every other year, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gathers commissioners — equal numbers of pastors and ruling elders — along with advisory delegates for a national meeting called the General Assembly, where the church worships, discerns, and makes decisions for its shared life. This summer's assembly met first online and then in person in Milwaukee, concluding July 2. Here is some of what the assembly decided:

A New Confession: Rather than adopting the proposed new confession of faith — which names sins such as racism, idolatry, and the worship of power and money — the assembly voted to keep the work going, forming a new committee to carry it forward before it could ever be sent to presbyteries.

Denomination & Mission: Responding to last year's elimination of mission co-worker positions, commissioners created a commission to investigate how those decisions were made, and approved a ban on non-disclosure agreements in staff separations. They also adopted a two-year budget and per-capita rate.

Issues of Justice: The assembly affirmed access to gender-affirming health care, advanced divestment steps around climate and investment concerns, and declined to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary amid concerns about Christian nationalism. It lamented deaths tied to immigration enforcement, and on Israel and Palestine, passed resolutions naming grave harm to Palestinians and calling for peace.

Monogamy: The controversial overture requiring pastors in physical relationships to be monogamous was not adopted. Instead — as several advisory committees had urged — it was folded into a broader, better-resourced study of marriage, relationships, and sexual ethics.

That only scratches the surface. The assembly also worshiped, prayed, served, and shared fellowship — and chose Puerto Rico to host the next gathering in 2028. Give thanks for our fellow Presbyterians who gathered, deliberated, and made decisions that will help shape Shepherd, our denomination, and the world.