

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

August 9, 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

Pat Williams

God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.

My spirit answers, here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.

God breathes on us the Holy Spirit, knitting many members into one body, the body of Christ.

Together we answer, here we are Lord. Come, Holy Spirit.

God has yet more vision for the people. Who will work for God to extend God's kingdom into our hurting world?

Here we are Lord. Empower us for your work.

God calls the small, and helps them do great things. God calls the weak, and reveals their hidden gifts. God calls the rejected, and opens their eyes to their worth.

Here we are Lord, humble and waiting.

Then let us gather, old and young, small and great, to dream God's dreams, receive God's power, and do God's deeds.

Here we are Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us.

Work your redeeming will in us, that all the world may be one through the power of your love. Amen.

* Song

"Build Your Kingdom Here"

(see screen)

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

Gracious God, we make faith more complicated than it needs to be. We search for you in sacred places, in books and beliefs, in rules and rituals, in beautiful ceremonies and the wisdom of religious leaders. Yet even as we search everywhere for you, we often overlook the place where you are already waiting: within the quiet depths of the human heart. Forgive us when our striving keeps us from noticing your presence. Free us from the need to make faith impressive or difficult. Teach us to become still, to listen with humility, and to recognize your grace already at work within and among us. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Hear the good news:

God is not hidden from us. Before we begin to search, God is already near— within us, beside us, and among us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, freed from our striving, and welcomed again into grace. Thanks be to God!

Alleluia! Amen!

Hymn # 403

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

(see screen)

Children's Blessing

People: "The Lord be with you!"

Kids: "And also with you!"

Sermon

"Parks and Rec and the Gifts of Misfits"

Rev. John Asher

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 NIV

Hymn # 419

"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

(see screen)

Offering Our Gifts

*** Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Song

"Wherever You Lead"

(see screen)

Community Life

* Song

"Made for More"

(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.

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Attribution Notes:

Call to Worship: written by David Inglis. Posted on the Henrietta United Church of Christ website. <http://www.henriettaucc.org/PastorsPage/CallsToWorship.shtml>

Offering Introduction: adapted from writings by John van de Laar. Posted on his excellent Sacredise.com website.



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