

First United Methodist Church
of Shelton, Connecticut
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



**April 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM – 4th Sunday of Easter
Festival of God's Creation**

Revised Common Lectionary Texts:

Acts 4:5-12 | Psalm 23 | 1 John 3:16-24 | John 10:11-18

Entrance Music: "Trees We'll Never See"

Amy Grant

Link: <https://youtu.be/kYzGMsBwU8c?si=CNHZpHsgzfi1TOHS>

Prelude: "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"

Founds

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship:**

UMC Discipleship Ministries (Adapted)

Leader: How shall we live when we have more than enough?

People: We have no greater praise to offer than caring for your creatures and creation.

L: Jesus Christ is our teacher, our nurturing and tender Savior.

P: In this hour, O God, nourish us in the soil of your love

L: Let us worship God, the Ground of all Being.

P: Let us worship God, the giver of light and life. AMEN

***Hymn:** "The Gift of Love"

UMH 408

Invitation to Confession.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Ken Carter

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:

You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it.

Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the

creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confessional Prayer & Words of Assurance

Psalter: Psalm 23 (Easter Response)

UMH 754

Musical Response: The Good Shepherd comes that we may have life and have it abundantly.

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

P: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures,

L: leads me beside still waters, restores my life,

P: leads me in right paths for the sake of the Lord's name.

L: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

P: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Musical Response: The Good Shepherd comes that we may have life and have it abundantly.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

P: you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

P: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Musical Response: The Good Shepherd comes that we may have life and have it abundantly.

First Scripture Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Following each lesson is said:

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message: "If You Were a Sheep"

Second Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Reading:** John 10:11-18

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "What Can I Say?"

Anthem: "Touch the Earth Lightly"

Murray & Lim

**Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer &
The Lord's Prayer**

UMH 895

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "Lord, Bring the Time you Promised"

Filkins

***Presenting Our Gifts:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow." UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

UMC Discipleship Ministries (Adapted)

Gracious Provider, we gather with hearts filled with gratitude for the love you have shown us. Your Word reminds us that true love is seen in the self-sacrifice of Christ. As we offer our tithes and offerings, we are reminded of the importance of generosity and stewardship in every aspect of our lives. May these gifts reflect the love we have experienced in Christ and our commitment to steward them to do the work you would have us do. Use these offerings to bring justice, mercy, and hope to a world in need. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "This Is My Song"

UMH 437

Benediction

Postlude: "Majesty"

Hayford

*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

First United Methodist Church of Shelton will be holding a brief, one-item charge conference on Sunday, April 28 immediately after worship in the sanctuary. We will be voting yes or no for Jorge Varas to serve as our lay representative to annual conference. This should take no more than ten minutes. Rev. Doug Osgood will preside as elder.

Please plan to attend and vote if you are able. If you have questions, please see Pastor Bill or contact the office. Thank you.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given by Lynn Baldelli and Family in Loving Memory & Honor of their Loved Ones.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for our own Ximena Diaz-Varas as she works tirelessly to prepare for the UMC's General Conference that begins later this month in North Carolina. The workload is tremendous as Ximena, Assistant to the Bishop, supports Bishop Bickerton to lead decision-making that could lead to historic outcomes.

Please also pray for all our church leaders, both clergy and laity, as they work together to discern the way forward for our United Methodist Church. May the Holy Spirit move among them and work through them when they gather for holy conferencing.

SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday
May 5, 2024
1:30 pm**

RAIN OR SHINE

2.2 mile walk (or 1 mile walk) starts and ends at United Congregational Church in Bpt.

Greater Bridgeport Area 50th Anniversary Walk

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



BY  CWS

Visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/bridgeportct>

**25% of money raised stays
local to help fight hunger in
our communities.**

**Remaining funds support
CWS humanitarian projects.**



TO REACH PASTOR BILL

Please call or text 475-282-2800. He may also be reached via email: pastor@umcshelton.org. His office hours at the church office are Mondays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 2 pm (but may vary from week to week).

WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

An email newsletter is sent out each Wednesday. Please have any items for submission to the church office by Wednesday at 9 am. If you are not receiving the emails, sign up on the church website.

SERVING TODAY:

Bill Florin, Pastor

Carol Osgood, Organist

Chris Craft, Liturgist

Sal Iorfino, Video & Sound Tech

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Bill Florin, Pastor

Carol Osgood, Organist

The Rev. Doug Osgood, Interim Director of Music

Bob Singletary, Chair. of Church Council

Bob Wood, Chair. of the Board of Trustees

Elaine Wood Chair. of Staff Parish Relations Committee

WELCOME

We welcome you to our worship and our church community. We are so glad you are here. We invite you to participate in the service as much as you feel comfortable and to sit out parts of the service you might not yet feel comfortable with. Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here. As our "Welcoming Statement" says, "We welcome **all** to full inclusion in the life and ministry of our church."

(see below for complete "Welcome" and "Mission" statements)

SUNDAY WORSHIP // 10:00 also live-streamed & recorded
Fellowship 11:00 am

Welcoming Church Statement

A welcoming family of God committed to becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

We affirm and respect each individual as a child of God. We celebrate the uniqueness of each person and welcome people of every age, ethnicity, and race, sexual orientation and gender identity, marital status, socio-economic situation, and physical/mental ability.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to create a community of faith that reflects Christ's message of love and justice. We invite all to full inclusion in the life and ministry of our church in Christ.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SHELTON
188 ROCKY REST RD. // SHELTON, CT 06484
PHONE: (203)929-3537 WEB: UMCHELTON.ORG

The Gift of Love UMH 408

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

This is My Song UMH 437

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all nations,
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.