

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



April 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM – 5th Sunday of Easter

Revised Common Lectionary Texts:

Acts 8:26-40 | Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21 | John 15:1-8

Prelude: “There is A Redeemer”

Green

Welcome & Announcements:

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship:**

UMC Discipleship Ministries

Leader: Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine

People: We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.

L: We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

P: We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.

L: When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

P: We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.

L: Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

P: We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.

***Hymn:** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

UMH 384

Invitation to Confession.

Prayer of Confession

UMC Discipleship Ministries

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.

Moment of Silent Confessional Prayer & Words of Assurance.

First Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Following each lesson is said:

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message: "Which Vine"

Message Response: "Jesus Loves Me" (v.1-3)

UMH 191

***Gospel Reading:** John 15:1-8

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Nourished"

Anthem: "God Leads Us Along"

Young

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

UMH 895

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "The Way That He Loves"

Mercer

***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 God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John's gospel. Through these words, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. May we always give with an attitude of praise and generosity as we do today. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"** UMH 140

Benediction

Postlude: "Were You There?" Berry

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARPOOL TO DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Connecticut District Conference will be on Saturday, May 4. If you would like to participate, we will have a carpool from First UMC of Shelton at 7:30 AM. Pastor Bill will be driving, so four seats are available (besides the driver). If you are limber and want to sit in the way-way back, we can have as many as seven people in the Explorer. Speak with Pastor Bill or call the office for a seat to get to Windsor and back. It's sure to be fun!

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for our own Ximena Diaz-Varas as she works at the UMC's General Conference that began on April 23rd 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.

INVITE OTHERS TO EXPERIENCE FIRST UMC OF SHELTON

We are all called to make disciples of Jesus Christ. All means all. That means we all must invite others, and ALL are invited. ALL are welcome. We are a welcoming community of Jesus Christ. Let friends, relatives, and neighbors know that we welcome them into our congregation of the United Methodist Church.

CROP WALK 2024

The CWS Crop Walk will be held in Bridgeport on Sunday, May 5. Please consider joining the First UMC of Shelton team by registering online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/teams>. Once there, just search for our church's team by entering "Shelton" in the *Find an existing team to join* box. Then start asking for donations to build our team's impact. If you cannot participate, consider a donation to our team.

The following link will bring you to a short video to tell you more about the CROP Hunger Walk. Please check it out and help if you are moved to do so.

https://youtu.be/k_bCQj_zysM?si=t82oiUvUVr4gqf36



Blood Drive

First United Methodist Church

Held in the Wilkinson Hall
188 Rocky Rest Road
Shelton, CT 06484

Wednesday, May 22, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.


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
Emily Florin, 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling UMH 384

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Jesus Loves Me (v 1-3) UMH 191

Jesus Loves me! This I know
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me."

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.

Great is Thy Faithfulness UMH 140

Great is thy faithfulness,
Oh God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not,
thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been,
thou forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies i see;
all i have needed

thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

Summer and winter
and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars
in their courses above
join with all nature
in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness,
mercy and love.

Pardon for sin
and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide;
strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!