

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



April 7, 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Revised Common Lectionary Texts:

Acts 4:32-35 | Psalm 133 | 1 John 1:1-2:2 | John 20:19-31

Prelude: "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Massenet

Welcome & Announcements (including Native American Ministries Sunday explainer video)

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship:**

UMC Discipleship Ministries (Adapted)

Leader: How shall we live when shadows gather?

People: Drawn to God's unquenchable light, we are also drawn into one another's presence.

L: What was hidden has been revealed; we are woven together with all creation, children of God and stewards of all we have been given.

P: When we live in the light, as God is in the light, we are one with each other.

L: Let us worship God, who is our Light and Salvation.

P: Let us worship the resurrected Jesus, Savior of the World.

***Hymn:** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

UMH 420

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Glorious Lord, Creator of all that is good, we come before you knowing that we are not always generous and not always considerate of the effects of our actions. Whether due to worry, selfishness, or some other reason, there are times when we do not reflect the Risen Christ in our lives. During this Easter season of renewed life, reignite our generosity and faith in you to provide. Move us to have giving hearts, striving to be more Christ-like in all we say and do. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confessional Prayer & Words of Assurance

First Scripture Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Following each lesson is said:

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message: "Unbelievable"

Second Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2

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

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Reading:** John 20:19-31

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Testimony and Generosity"

Anthem: "Doxology"

Holmes

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "Ev'ry Morning is Easter Morning"

Avery & Marsh

***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

Generous God, as we gather to offer our tithes and offerings, we are reminded of the words of the apostle John about the Word of life. Just as your Word brings light into our lives, may our giving be an act of generosity, a reflection of the abundance of your grace and love. We thank you for the forgiveness and grace offered through your Son, Jesus Christ, and as we give, may we also steward these gifts wisely for the betterment of your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation: "Come, Share the Lord"

TFWS 2269

Holy Communion

UMH Page 13

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion and concludes:

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Music: "Jesus Remember Me"

Berthier

Prayer following Holy Communion

***Hymn:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

UMH 557

Benediction

Postlude: "Am I a Soldier of the Cross"

Arne

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAY REPRESENTATIVE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEEDED

The 2024 New York Annual Conference will be in a new location this year. Much closer to us here in Shelton, the event will be in Stamford, Connecticut. Now we need to select a lay member of our church to attend, participate, and report back to the congregation concerning the conference.

To learn about the role, please review the document – “The Role of the Lay Member of Annual Conference” – that offers the job description. The link to it is here:

https://www.awfumc.org/files/old_files_library/Lay_Member_Role.pdf

This is an incredible opportunity to better understand how our United Methodist Church works, how decisions are made, and our priorities for the next church year.

The 2024 conference will be held **June 7-9 at the Hilton Stamford Hotel & Executive Meeting Center**. If you would like to discuss representing us in the important, meaningful way, please speak with Pastor Bill as soon as possible. Thank you!

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Board of Trustees – Today, after Fellowship

Church Council Meeting - Sunday, April 14 after Fellowship

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.

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).

SERVING TODAY:

Bill Florin, Pastor

Carol Osgood, Organist

Karen Dains, 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

Breathe on Me, Breath of God UMH 420

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Come, Share the Lord TFWS 2269

We Gather Here In Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through his loving Son the father makes us one:
Come, take the bread; come drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here,
everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host;
Come, take the bread; come drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.

We are now a family
of which the Lord is head;
though unseen he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming king;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread; come drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.

Blest Be the Tie that Binds UMH 557

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.