

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



April 20, 2025 | Easter Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Acts 10:34-43 | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 | 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 | John 20:1-18

Prelude: "Rejoice the Lord is King"

Darwall

Choral Introit: "You are My All in All" (W&S 3040)

Jerrigan

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship**

UMC Discipleship Ministries

Leader: Beloved, Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Our Savior is risen!

P: Our Savior is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Steadfast Love is risen!

P: Steadfast Love is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: This is the day that God has made.

P: Let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn:** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

UMH 302

Prayer of Confession

UM BOW 477 (adapted)

Almighty and most merciful God, you know the thoughts of our hearts. We confess that we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have transgressed your holy laws. We have disregarded your word and sacraments. Forgive us, O Lord. Give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things. Having been delivered from the bondage of sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus, may we bring forth fruit worthy of repentance and forever walk in your holy ways. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Moment of Silent Confessional Prayer & Words of Assurance

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

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

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Acts 10:34-43

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message: "Each a Part"

Children's Hymn: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

TFWS 2088

***Gospel Reading:** John 20:1-18

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

Thanks be to God. *(Children are dismissed to Sunday School)*

Sermon: "Mourning, then Morning"

Anthem: "Christ is Alive" (UMH 318)

Wren

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "He Shall Feed His Flock"

Handel

***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

Radiant God, whose love endures forever, we gather today in the light of resurrection hope, offering these gifts as a response to the abundant grace we have received. In this period of spiritual renewal, may our giving reflect the joy of the empty tomb and the promise of life everlasting. Transform our offerings into acts of love that bring light to the world, just as Christ's light dawned in our hearts. We dedicate these gifts to your service, trusting that, in your hands, they will bring forth new life. Amen.

***Sending Hymn: "Christ is Risen"**

UMH 307

Benediction

Postlude: "And the Glory of the Lord"

Handel

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

District Conference and CT's Time with Bishop Bickerton

The Connecticut District Conference will be on Saturday, May 3 at Hartford's North UMC from 8:30 – 3:30. A continental breakfast and lunch are included.

Bishop Bickerton's Time with the Connecticut District will be the evening of Monday, May 5 at Meriden First UMC from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Dinner is included.

If you would like to attend, please tell Pastor Bill which events you would like to register for. We will submit a group registration. If you prefer, you can register directly. Also, if you need a ride, Pastor Bill will be attending both days and has plenty of room in his vehicle. Just let him know that you would like to carpool.

The Need for Food Continues

The Blessing Box, our drive-up, self-serve micro food pantry, continues to get lots of traffic. All unexpired, unopen, nonperishable food items are welcome. We especially need the basics such as canned veggies, beans, and proteins (i.e., tuna and chicken). Canned soups are good, too. Anything you can give will be a blessing to those in need. Thank you.

CROP Hunger Walk: May 4

The 51st annual CROP Hunger Walk in Bridgeport is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, May 4. If you would like to walk or donate to support this important effort, please speak with Laura Schultz or Elaine Wood for details.

Native American Ministries Sunday: May 4

Our next Special Sunday in the United Methodist Church is Native American Ministries Sunday on May 4. As with all Special Sundays, we will support this with a dedicated offering. Here is a brief description of how donations are used:

Contributions help develop and strengthen Native American ministries within each United Methodist annual conference and provide scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry. Last year, UMC congregations donated \$240,000 to support this vital ministry.

Here is the link to a two-minute YouTube video to learn more:
<https://youtu.be/fsecsdd6pJQ>

How Can We Serve Better?

We are all in ministry together as members of the church of Jesus Christ. Our United Methodist tradition is to be in both worship and service to transform the world as we strive to make disciples of Jesus. So, where do you see a need? How can we be a more vital part of our community right here in Shelton?

If you see an opportunity for us to make a difference, please bring the idea forward. We can leverage the resources of our Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish, our Shelton Clergy.



**The tomb is empty.
Christ is alive!**

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.

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 8:30 am to 1:30 pm (but may vary from week to week).

SERVING TODAY:

Bill Florin, Pastor
Ron Giannattasio, Organist
Elaine Wood, Liturgist
Sal Iorfino, Video & Sound Tech

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Bill Florin, Pastor
Ron Giannattasio, Organist

Bob Singletary, Chair. of Church Council
Bob Wood, Chair. of the Board of Trustees
Jorge Varas 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:** UMCSHELTON.ORG