

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



April 27, 2025 | 2nd Sunday of Easter

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Acts 15:27-32 | Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8 | John 20:19-31

Prelude: "Up from the Grave He Arose"

Lowry

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship:** Psalm 150

UMH 862

Musical Response: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord in his sanctuary;

People: praise God in his mighty firmament!

L: Praise God for God's mighty deeds;

P: praise God for his exceeding greatness!

L: Praise God with trumpet sound;

P: praise God with lute and harp!

L: Praise God with tambourine and dance;

P: praise God with strings and pipe!

L: Praise God with sounding cymbals;

P: praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

L: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

P: Praise the Lord!

Musical Response: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***Opening Hymn:** "Thine Be the Glory"

UMH 308

Prayer of Confession

UMC BOW 493

O God of Shalom, we have built up walls to protect ourselves from our enemies, but these walls also shut us off from receiving your love. Break down those walls. Help us to see that the way to your heart is through the reconciliation of our own hearts with our enemies. Bless them and us, that we may come to grow in love for each other and for you; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confessional Prayer & Words of Assurance

First New Testament Reading: Acts 5:27-32

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

Thanks be to God.

Second New Testament Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message: "Jesus Knows"

Children's Hymn: "God is Good" (v. 1, 3, 5)

W&S 3026

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

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

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

Sermon: "What Have We Seen"

Anthem: "Rejoice, The Lord is King" (UMH 715)

C. Wesley

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "O Perfect Love"

Barnby

***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

God, from you comes every bounty. Every sacrifice of life that sustains ours is the sacrifice of your beloved. As we return a small part of the bounty you have blessed us with, we pray that it will be used to forge stronger connections among all creation until the whole world is redeemed by your love. Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** "We Walk by Faith"

TFWS 2196

Sung Benediction: "Shalom to You"

UMH 666

Postlude: "When We All Get to Heaven"

Wilson

*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.

We will be submitting registration forms on Friday, April 25. Please contact the office if you would like us to add you to the roster for either or both events. If you prefer, you can register directly.

There will be a carpool. If you would like 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 be in the carpool.

A Note from Pastor Bill:

Thank you to all who participated in, supported, and attended our many Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter worship service activities. We had a wonderful season of fellowship, spiritual growth, and worship in our church and in the wider community.

There were lots of opportunities to serve. Our people cooked meals, served as liturgist, decorated the sanctuary, led Sunday School, and did so much more. A good-sized group also came together for an interesting and insightful book study.

We also experienced year-over-year attendance growth. There were 60 people in attendance at Easter worship (53 last year) and 50 on Palm Sunday (49 last year). For the four weeks up to and including Palm Sunday, our average attendance was 49 (41 last year). We also know that there are people connecting through YouTube wherever they are, down the street or across the country. (Thank you, Sal, for your technical expertise and commitment!)

As we move through the season of Easter and approach Pentecost in early June, let's be thinking and praying about how we can continue to show Christian love to our community through our service. Christ's resurrection was certainly a historical event, but it is also the time for us to step forward anew each year, recommitted to loving God and neighbor, showing the world that the Church rises to new life in response to our Risen Savior's grace.

Blessings to you and yours during this holy, blessed season. Thank you for all you do for our church.

In Christ,
Pastor Bill

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.

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>

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.

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 Association, and the United Methodist Church to do so much. See Pastor Bill or a member of our missions team to share your thoughts. Thank you!

If you would like to learn more about the United Methodist approach to worship and missions, click to read New York Annual Conference Bishop Bickerton's recent message here: <https://www.nyac.com/message-from-bishop-bickerton>



Sermon Notes – Inspiration – Ah-Ha! Moments

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).

SERVING TODAY:

Bill Florin, Pastor
Ron Giannattasio, Organist
Katherine Beisel, 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:** UMCHELTON.ORG

Thine Be the Glory UMH 308

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. **R**
No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **R**

God is Good, All the Time (v. 1, 3, 5) W&S 3026

God is good, God is good all the time.
God is good, God is good all the time.
In our doubts, hopes and fears, joys and tears,
God is good, God is good all the time.

God is good, God is good all the time.
God is good, God is good all the time.
When there's love to be found all around,
God is good, God is good all the time.

God is good, God is good all the time.
God is good, God is good all the time.
As our thanks and our praise now we raise,
God is good, God is good all the time.

Rejoice, the Lord is King UMH 715

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Jesus, the Savior, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he has purged our stains,
he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of earth and hell
are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

We Walk by Faith TFWS 2196

We walk by faith, and not by sight:
No gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

That when our life of faith is done
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.

We walk by faith, and not by sight:
No gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

Shalom to You UMH 666

Shalom to you now,
shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies
bless you, my friends.

In all your living,
and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom