

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



**May 4, 2025 at 10:00 AM – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Native American Ministries Sunday**

**Revised Common Lectionary Texts:**

Acts 9:1-6 | Psalm 30 | Revelation 5:11-14 | John 21:1-19

**Prelude:** "Crown Him King of Kings"

Damazio

**Welcome & Announcements** with Native American Ministries video

**Centering Prayer**

**\*Call to Worship:**

UMC Discipleship Ministries

Leader: God, you call us from the corners of the Earth.

**People: From the cities and the prairies, from the ghettos and the tables of the wealthy.**

L: God, you sing to us from the corners of the universe.

**P: In the gentle ocean breeze, in the colors that burst forth from our landscapes, in the faces of children ravaged by war.**

L: God, you speak to us from the corners of the Earth.

**P: To the east, to the west, to the north and to the south, above us, below us, and within us, your voice rings clear. Send your voice to sing in us, we pray, as we worship this day.**

**\*\*Opening Hymn:** "Joy Comes with the Dawn"

TFWS 2210

**First Scripture Reading:** Acts 9:1-6

*Following each lesson is said:*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Scripture Reading:** Revelation 5:11-14

**Children's Message:** "Easter is a Season  
**Children's Hymn:** "Step by Step" (W&S 3004)

**\*Gospel Reading:** John 21:1-19

**Sermon** "Not Torn"

**Anthem:** "Give Me Jesus" (W&S 3140) African American Spiritual / V. Nix  
*The congregation is welcome to join in the refrain:*  
"Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, Give me Jesus."

**Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Invitation to Offer Our Gifts**

**Offertory:** "Here at Your Table Lord" Sherwin

**\*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  
**From the abundance with which we have been given, we give. O Lord, bless these gifts which we present this morning. May they be multiplied and amplified in their impact locally and around the world, bringing a full net of all that is needed to your hungry, hurting children. Gracious God, strengthen the hands of those who will use these gifts today as they and all of us are empowered and equipped by your Holy Spirit to fulfill the tasks of love that you have given us all. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Preparation:** "Come to the Table" TFWs 2264

**Invitation by the Pastor**

**Confession (Unison)**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Silent Confessional Prayer & Words of Assurance**

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. That proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**ALL: Glory to God. AMEN.**

**Preparing the Bread and Cup**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

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**

**Thanksgiving Prayer following Holy Communion**

**\*Sending Hymn:** "Joy in the Morning"

TFWS 2284

**Commissioning of Our CROP Hunger Walkers**

**Benediction**

**Postlude:** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Ellor

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



They were not able to haul the net  
because there were so many fish!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **CROP Hunger Walk: May 4**

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Bridgeport Area CROP Walk will be held on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 4:00 beginning and ending at the United Congregational Church, 2200 North Avenue in Bridgeport.

25% of the funds raised will go to help local hunger related programs including the Valley Food Bank at Spooner House. The other 75% will support programs of Church World Service including several in partnership with UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Last year the Bridgeport CROP Walk raised over \$31,000 with our congregation contributing almost \$2000.

How can you support this year's effort?

You can walk with us on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please speak with Laura Schultz and she can provide details.

You can donate to help stop hunger. Checks or cash designated for CWS/CROP will be gratefully accepted or you can donate online using the QR code below.



You can pray for our participants and all those that experience food insecurity.

This year, the funds raised by CROP Walks around the country are critical as Church World Service faces challenges with cuts to federal funding. Thanks for everything you may do to help fight hunger.

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## **Connecticut District's Time with Bishop Bickerton**

There will be a carpool to the CT District's evening with Bishop Bickerton on Monday, May 5. If you would like a ride, Pastor Bill will be attending and has plenty of room in his vehicle. Contact the office or Pastor Bill know directly that you would like to be in the carpool. There is still room available.

DEPARTURE TIME from FIRST UMC of SHELTON:  
Monday, May 5 at 5:00 PM

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## **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.

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## **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>

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## **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.

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## **TO REACH PASTOR BILL**

Please call or text 475-282-2800. He may also be reached via email: [pastor@umcshelton.org](mailto: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).

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## **SERVING TODAY:**

Bill Florin, Pastor  
Ron Giannattasio, Organist  
Kim Dumschott, 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



## **Joy Comes with the Dawn TFWs 2210**

### ***Refrain***

Joy comes with the dawn;  
joy comes with  
the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night  
with her song,  
joy comes with the dawn.

Weeping may come;  
weeping may come  
in the night,  
when dark shadows  
cloud our sight.

Sorrow will turn,  
sorrow will turn  
into song,  
and God's laughter  
make us strong.

We will rejoice,  
we will rejoice,  
and give praise,  
to the One  
who brings us grace.

## **Step by Step W&S 3004**

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise you.  
O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning,  
and I will learn to walk in your ways;  
and step by step you'll lead me,  
and I will follow you all of my days.

### **Come to the Table TFWS 2264**

Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

### **Joy in the Morning TFWS 2284**

There'll be joy in the morning on that day,  
there'll be joy in the morning on that day,  
for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,  
there'll be joy in the morning on that day.

There'll be peace and contentment evermore,  
there'll be peace and contentment evermore,  
every heart, every voice on that day will rejoice,  
there'll be peace and contentment evermore.

There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere,  
there'll be love and forgiveness everywhere,  
and the way of the Lord will that day be restored,  
there'll be love and forgiveness everywhere.