

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



April 12, 2026 | Second Sunday of Easter

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 | Psalm 16 | 1 Peter 1:3-9 | John 20:19-31

Prelude: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

Medley/Hatton

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship:** Psalm 16

UMH 748

Musical Response: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

Leader: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

People: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a glorious heritage.

L: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; even at night my heart instructs me.

P: I have set the Lord always before me; the Lord is at my right hand; I shall not be moved.

Musical Response: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

L: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure.

P: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your godly one see the pit.

L: You show me the path of life;

P: in your presence there is fullness of joy, in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Musical Response: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

***Opening Hymn:** "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

UMH 304

Unison Prayer of Confession

UMC Discipleship Ministries (adapted)

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day and offer the truth of our lives: The fear that stifles us, the prejudice that impedes us, the ignorance that hinders us, and the doubt that plagues us. Forgive us and help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places, move to those places where love is needed, and have faith that you are with us. This we pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

Silent Confessional Prayer and Words of Assurance

New Testament Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message: "Plenty of Witnesses"

Children's Time Hymn: "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

W&S 3008

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

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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: "Show and Tell Learning"

Remembering Ron Giannattasio

Speakers: Richard Pancoast, Elaine Wood, and Lynn Scully

Anthem: "It Is Well with My Soul"

Spafford/Bliss/Foster

Introduced by Jack Brunt

Prayers of the People/ Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "As the Deer"

Martin Nystrom

***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

Compassionate and faithful God, you meet us behind locked doors and in the doubts we dare not speak aloud. Like Thomas, we long to see, to touch, to know—and yet, by your grace, you call us blessed for believing without seeing. Accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. Use them to reach others still searching for hope, healing, and connection. Let our giving testify to your Resurrection power and shape us into a community where wounds are not hidden but held with love. In Christ, who breathes peace upon us, we pray. Amen.

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

UMH 308

Benediction

Postlude: "The Wonderful Cross"

Tomlin/Watts/Walt/Reeves/Mason

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



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Thomas wanted to see to believe that Jesus had risen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers Today

The flowers on the communion table today are given by friends of Ron Giannattasio, members of Long Hill United Methodist Church prior to its merger with Nichols UMC.

Ron served the Long Hill UMC congregation for many years prior to the merger and before coming to First UMC of Shelton as our organist. We welcome our siblings in Christ to worship today as we remember Ron and all he did for us all as he helped us worship God in all God's glory through his musical gifts.



Congregational Forum – April 19

If you have ideas, questions, concerns, or anything else to share with First UMC's Leadership Board, the Congregational Forum is the place to do it. We will meet 20 minutes after worship ends on Sunday, April 19 (about 11:30 AM) in the front of the sanctuary.

Leadership Board Meeting – April 23

Our next Leadership Board meeting will be on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 PM in the Giffin Room. Board members, please make every effort to attend. Thank you!

The Coming Weeks:

Sunday, April 19: Native American Ministries Sunday. Worship at 10:00 AM. We will have an offering for this "Special Sunday," one of six on the UMC's calendar. It is also the **Festival of God's Creation Sunday**, an ecumenical day to commit to preserving and restoring God's creation.

Sunday, April 26: 10:00 AM Worship. It will be the 4th Sunday of Easter.

Upper Room Devotional Magazine

The March/April and May/June issues of *The Upper Room* are available in the narthex and the hallway outside Wilkinson Hall. Feel free to take a copy to help you explore and gain a deeper understanding of scripture. And it is free!

Food Pantry Needs:

We are almost empty of all food other than the Outreach Program items that are our foundation. Anything you can add to our Blessing Box will be more than appreciated. It will be a blessing to others! We can always use the following:

pasta & rice
packaged/canned milk
canned/packaged protein (tuna, chicken)
beans (black bean, chickpeas)
canned packaged fruit
peanut butter & jams/jellies/preserves
canned chili

hot & cold cereal
fruit/vegetable juice
canned/packaged soup
pasta sauce
canned pasta

Thank you for all your donations!

TO REACH PASTOR BILL

Please call or text 475-282-2800. He may also be reached via email: pastor@umcshelton.org. His typical hours at the church office are Mondays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm (but may vary).

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.

SERVING TODAY:

Bill Florin, Pastor
Lynn Scully, Music Director
Joe McWilliams, Pianist Organist
Rich Rollinson, Liturgist
Sal Iorfino, Video & Sound Tech

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Bill Florin, Pastor
Lynn Scully, Music Director
Leadership Board: Chris Craft, Kim Dumschott, Suzena James, Linda Loglisci,
Ken Miller, Jorge Varas, Raechel Vargas, Elaine Wood, Bob Yamnicky

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

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Easter People, Raise Your Voices UMH 304

Easter people, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter people, let it sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us
from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us
to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter,
with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster
to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia. Alleluia!
See the power of heavenly throngs.

Open the Eyes of My Heart W&S 3008

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you.
(repeat the above)

To see you high and lifted up,
shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love,
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

To see you high and lifted up,
shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love,
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy. I want to see you.

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**