

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



**April 19, 2026 | Third Sunday of Easter
Native American Ministries Sunday | Festival of God's Creation**

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 | Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 | 1 Peter 1:17-23 | Luke 24:13-35

Prelude: "Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

Speratus/Trad. German

Welcome & Announcements

Video: UMC Native American Ministries Sunday

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship**

UMC Discipleship Ministries

Leader: Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week inundated with news reports, social media posts, and reels that inundated us with information, worry, and stress.

People: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.

L: We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

P: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.

L: We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

P: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.

L: Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

P: May the good news of the Resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God! Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Christ Is Alive"

UMH 318

Unison Prayer of Confession

UMC Discipleship Ministries (adapted)

Heavenly Companion on our journey, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when you are with us. Yet sometimes we would cling to you, hoard the blessings of relationship with you, and not share your love with others. Forgive us, Dear One.

Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world. Press us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that someone who hungers for spiritual food may be filled by our witness to your grace. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died. Amen

Silent Confessional Prayer and Words of Assurance

New Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-23

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message: "God in Creation"

Children's Time Hymn: "Across the Lands"

W&S 3032

***Gospel Lesson:** Luke 24:13-35

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Heartburn"

Anthem: "Lead On"

Allen

Prayers of the People/ Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Clephane/Maker

***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

Astounding God of the road and the table, you walk with us even when we don't recognize you. You speak, and our hearts burn within us. You break the bread, and our eyes are opened. Today, we bring these offerings as signs of our gratitude and hope. May our giving reflect the joy of being found, the wonder of Resurrection, and the call to share good news. Use these gifts to kindle faith, feed the hungry, and proclaim your presence in every Emmaus moment. We give because we've seen you—alive, loving, and leading us still. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Miracle Sunday Testimony Video #1

The full connection of the United Methodist Church is participating in Miracle Sunday on May 17 to benefit The Endowment Fund for Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. The UMC has annual conferences in these regions, so we will be combining our efforts to help with a special offering.

***Sending Hymn:** "How Great Though Art"

UMH 77

Benediction

Postlude: "The Old Rugged Cross"

Bennard

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



Two disciples were met by Jesus, who told them about all that had happened in Jerusalem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Sunday Today

There are two special events on today's UMC calendar. It is both **Native American Ministries Sunday**, with a special offering, and the **Festival of God's Creation**.

When we give for NAMS, we support education and programs to help Native America students achieve higher education goals withing our area (annual conference) and nationally.

Festival of God's Creation is the Sunday closest to Earth Day, April 22. We will take a little time during our worship service to celebrate God revealed in creation through word, prayer, and song. Consider making time this week for an earth-friendly activity (e.g., trash cleanup) or energy efficiency improvements (e.g., LED lights installed) at home or work.

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

Sunday, May 3: 10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion. 5th Sunday of Easter. CROP WALK is scheduled for the afternoon.

Saturday, May 9: Messy Church from 4:30-6:30. The theme will be Ascension of the Lord. (The Ascension Day on the church calendar is May 14.)

Sunday, May 10: Mother's Day worship at 10:00 AM.

CROP WALK

The next CROP Walk will be on Sunday, May 3 in Bridgeport. If you would like to participate, please see our captain, Laura Schultz. Also, please consider a financial contribution to help address food insecurity needs in our area. Thank you!

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

Katherine Beisel, 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

188 ROCKY REST RD. // SHELTON, CT 06484

PHONE: (203)929-3537 WEB: UMCHELTON.ORG

Christ is Alive UMH 318

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and dwell in every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior, in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Across the Lands W&S 3032

You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice

Refrain:

You're the author of creation,
You're the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

Yet you left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost
and exchanged the joy of heaven,
for the anguish of a cross.

With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered,
that the guilty may go free.

With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father,
interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home.

How Great Thou Art UMH 77

O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!