

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



**May 10, 2026 | Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day | Festival of the Christian Home**

**Revised Common Lectionary Texts**

Acts 17:22-31 | Psalm 66:8-20 | 1 Peter 3:13-22 | John 14:15-21

**Prelude:** "The Voice of God is Calling"

Holmes/Lloyd

*Please come to silence as we honor the work of our musician to prepare us for worship.*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Miracle Sunday Testimonial Video #4**

**Centering Prayer**

**\*Call to Worship**

UMC Discipleship Ministries (adapted)

Leader: Easter people, no matter the bends and curves in our path,  
Jesus does not leave us alone on this journey of faith.

**People: God gives us the Spirit, our Advocate and Helper.**

L: The Spirit lives in and among us, pointing us all toward the way, the  
truth, and the life of Jesus.

**P: God gives us the Spirit, our Guide and Guardian.**

L: The Spirit draws us into God's story, showing us how to cooperate in  
writing God's dream into reality.

**P: God gives us the Spirit, our Eternal Companion.**

L: Easter people, God's story abides in you, calling you to live as co-  
creators of love and abundant life.

**P: We come to worship God and listen for the Spirit who inspires,  
guides, and helps us join in God's story, until God's kingdom comes on  
earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"

UMH 152

## **Unison Prayer of Confession**

Divine God, though Jesus taught us to keep the commandments of God, we confess that we sometimes keep the commandments of our own hearts instead. We rebel, seeking our own pleasure and desires while ignoring those around us despite the model you set for us in Christ Jesus. Remind us anew that you created us in love and have worked through the ages to wash us of our sin. In this Easter season, make your Holy Spirit move among us and through us to rehabilitate us and restore us to full and right relationship through your overflowing grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## **Silent Confessional Prayer and Words of Assurance**

### **New Testament Lesson:** Acts 17:22-31

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

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message:** "Not Silver or Gold"

**Children's Time Hymn:** "Step by Step" (3x, 3<sup>rd</sup> time acapella) W&S 3004

### **\*Gospel Lesson:** John 14:15-21

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** "The Promised Third"

**Anthem:** "Through the Window"

Schram

**Prayers of the People/ Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Invitation To Offer Our Gifts**

**Offertory:** "Once Again"

M. Redman

**\*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  
**Abiding Spirit of Love, you have not left us orphaned. Even in our uncertainty, you draw near, whispering truth, stirring memory, teaching us to live as those who know we are loved. As Jesus offered himself in love and obedience, so we offer these gifts today—not out of obligation, but as signs of our love and trust. Take them, bless them, use them—to remind the world that Christ’s story abides in us. May your Spirit strengthen us to live what we give and give what we believe. In the name of the one who promised never to leave us. Amen.**

**\*Mother’s Day & Christian Family Prayer** UMBOW 427 (adapted)  
**In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name. Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love, granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely, endurance to those who care for sick family members, and wisdom to those enduring times of change.**  
**We give you thanks for the gifts of love we have received from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion. For those who are mothers or have loved in a mother-like role, we ask for your enduring blessing on them. As we have been loved by you and by others, so may we love.**  
**Grant us your peace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen**

**\*Sending Hymn:** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” UMH 89

**Benediction**

**Postlude:** “Shout to the Lord” D. Zschech

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **CROP Hunger Walk Collection Still Open**

There is still time to contribute to the CROP Hunger Walk fundraiser. You can give through our Sunday offering by writing **CROP** on your check or envelope. If you prefer to give online, the link is right here:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/first-united-methodist-church-shelton>

### **Sidewalk Repair Mini Fundraiser**

We have a short-term fundraiser running to pay for \$2,500 in repairs to the sidewalk outside the sanctuary and classroom/hall buildings. We have already collected \$1,000, so we are 40% there. If you would like to give to this effort, just write **SIDEWALK** on your check or envelope.

*Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our church!*

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### **Putting “People” into the Liturgy**

Did you know that the word “liturgy” is often translated from the Greek as “work of the people”? Our liturgy, the practices of our worship, involve all.

If you would like to do more of the “work” of praising God, please see Pastor Bill. This could include writing a prayer, serving as liturgist, sharing a message, or anything else that serves to worship God. We are a lay-driven church, so feel free to get creative!

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### **Suggestion Box in Narthex**

Do you have a question or comment to share. One more way to do that is through the suggestion box in the narthex. Of course, you can always feel welcome to speak with Pastor Bill about questions or concerns. **We are all in ministry together.**

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## The Coming Weeks:

**Sunday, May 17:** Ascension Sunday worship at 10:00 AM. Also, we will collect for Miracle Sunday, the UMC's church-wide effort to raise funds for theological students around the world.

**Sunday, May 24:** Pentecost Sunday worship at 10:00 AM. It is also Aldersgate Day, as profound day for John Wesley in 1738.

**Sunday, May 31:** Trinity Sunday worship at 10:00 AM.

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## Preparing for Worship

We received a suggestion for the congregation to be silent during the organ prelude at the beginning of worship. Our organist, Joe M, works hard to select and rehearse meaningful music each week. Please honor his work by coming to silence when he begins playing.

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## 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!***

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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 typical hours at the church office are Mondays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm (but may vary).

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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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## **SERVING TODAY:**

Bill Florin, Pastor  
Lynn Scully, Music Director  
Joe McWilliams, Pianist Organist  
Rainer Keller, 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:** [UMCSHELTON.ORG](http://UMCSHELTON.ORG)

## **I Sing the Almighty Power of God UMH 152**

I sing the almighty power of God,  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
who filled the earth with food,  
who formed the creatures thru the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground we tread,  
or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below,  
but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in your care;  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.

## **Step by Step (3x 3<sup>rd</sup> time acapella) 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.

## **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee UMH 89**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;

hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us,  
binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.