

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



May 3, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Fifth Sunday of Easter

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Acts 7:55-60 | Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 | 1 Peter 2:2-10 | John 14:1-14

Prelude: "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Winkworth/Neander

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship: "God is Here Too"**

C. Carvalhaes (adapted)

Leader: Come! Come into the place where God listens! Where you need no money, no status, no fine clothes.

People: Come as you are – broken, whole, sick, or well.

L: Come as you are – satisfied or with deep needs.

P: Come to sing; come to cry; come to hear.

L: Come to see. Come and be ready or come to be made ready.

ALL: We are here. God is here, too. Hallelujah!

From Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the End of the World (Abingdon Press, 2020), 56-57. ©2020 Abingdon Press. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (#26119)

***Opening Hymn:** "O God of Every Nation"

UMH 435

New Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

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

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message: "Now You Are God's People"

Children's Hymn: "If You Believe and I Believe" (x2)

W&S 3121

***Gospel Lesson:** John 14:1-14

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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: "Solid Stones All"

Anthem: "A Place at His Table"

Alexander/Kirkland

Prayers of the People/ Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "The Heart of Worship"

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**

B. Florin

Loving God, make our giving a heartfelt, generous outpouring of the vast abundance with which you have blessed us. Multiply the impact of these gifts and the work of this congregation to be steps toward a just world in which all God's children have enough and none should suffer. You favor the poor, O Lord, so we respond to equip your church to do the joyful work you would have us do for the multitudes who have less. As we commune at your table today and are nourished, and as we walk for the hungry this afternoon, remind us that we are all one body, each a living stone in need of your sustenance and love. Make these gifts an expression of our gratitude for all you have done for us. In the name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.

Reception of Transferring Member: Jerry Hoot UMH 38 (#15-16)

Presentation of the Transferring Member by Elaine Wood

Affirmation of Intention

Commendation and Welcome by the Congregation

Pastor: Members of the household of God...and perfect him in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and

our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Blessing

Hymn of Preparation: "Table of Plenty" (v1 & 2)

W&S 3173

Holy Communion

UMH Page 13

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 the One 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:** "Jesu, Jesu"

UMH 432

**Commissioning of CROP Hunger Walkers
Benediction**

Postlude: "Forever"

Tomlin

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CROP Hunger Walk TODAY

The 51st annual CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for today in Bridgeport, rain or shine. If you would like to walk, please see our team captain, Laura Schultz. Below is the QR code for easy giving to support this feeding ministry.



Special Sundays (Offerings)

Today is the final day for giving for Native American Ministries Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

May has two Special Sundays, **Miracle Sunday** on May 17 and May 31, **Peace with Justice Sunday**. Stay tuned for more information.

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.**

The Coming Weeks:

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.) Messy Church is open to all ages. If the weather cooperates, we will have a cookout, too!

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

Favorite Hymn?

If you have a favorite hymn you would like to sing in worship, why not drop a note into the new suggestion box? Your requests are welcome!

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
- hot & cold cereal
- packaged/canned milk
- fruit/vegetable juice
- canned/packaged protein (tuna, chicken)
- beans (black bean, chickpeas)
- canned/packaged soup
- canned packaged fruit
- pasta sauce
- peanut butter & jams/jellies/preserves
- canned chili
- 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 office 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
Kim Dumshott, 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

O God of Every Nation UMH 435

O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us,
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us,
and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.

Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants under-gird.

Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

If You Believe and I Believe (2x) W&S 3121

If you believe and I believe and we together pray,
the Holy Spirit must come down and set God's people free,
and set God's people free, and set God's people free;
the Holy Spirit must come down and set God's people free.

Table of Plenty (v 1 & 2) W*S 3173

Refrain:

Come to the feast of heaven and earth!
Come to the table of plenty!
God will provide for all that we need
here at the table of plenty.

O come and sit at my table
where saints and sinners are friends.
I wait to welcome the lost and lonely
to share the cup of my love.

O come and eat without money;
come to drink without price.
My feast of gladness will feed your spirit
with faith and fullness of life.

Jesu Jesu UMH 432

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away.

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.