

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



June 21, 2026 | 4th Sunday after Pentecost | Father's Day

Revised Common Lectionary Texts

Genesis 21:8-21 | Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Psalm 17

Romans 6:1b-11 | Matthew 10:24-39

Prelude: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

T. Chisolm

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

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Prayer

UMC Discipleship Ministries

***Call to Worship:**

UMC Discipleship Ministries

Leader: When we feel abandoned and alone, unable to find a way out of the wilderness that surrounds, we cry out to God.

People: And God listens to us.

L: When we feel discouraged and defeated, unsure we will ever really be able to make ends meet and worried that no matter how hard we work, it will never be enough, we cry out to God.

P: And God listens to us.

L: When we feel lost and forgotten, unable to find the words for the grief, isolation, and despair that we feel, our hearts cry out to God.

P: And God pays attention to us.

L: As we gather in this place and time, remember: You are not alone. God knows where you are, and God listens to the cries of our hearts.

P: May we also listen to one another as God guides us toward the cool, refreshing waters we need to continue on our journey as the family of God. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" v1-3, 7

UMH 57

Unison Prayer of Confession

UMC Discipleship Resources

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confessional Prayer and Words of Assurance

***Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 10:24-39

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

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11

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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: "Alive to God"

Anthem: "Lead On"

N Allen/D Allen

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Recognition of the Gift of Service

Our Sunday School Teachers: Linda L., Dustin K, and assistant James W.

Song of Praise: "There's a Spirit of Love in this Place"

W&S 3148

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "Abba Father"

S. Groves

***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**

Pastor Bill

Gracious God, you who loved us first, we bring gifts to you in faithful, trusting response. While we often cannot predict how our giving will affect others, we know that you have a plan for your people and the living Body of Christ, the Church. Amplify the impacts of what we bring, today and always, for the strengthening of your realm here on earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, your great gift to the world, we pray. Amen.

Father's Day Unison Prayer

Pastor Bill

Loving Creator, on this Father's Day we thank you for the gift of your grace, grace that strengthens fathers, uplifts families, and meets us in every season of life. Bless all those men who nurture, guide, and protect us with love, our fathers and those who step in to fill the role. Bless them with patience, compassion, love, and hope, that their lives may reflect your steadfast care for all your children of the world. Amen.

Farewell Litany

Elaine Wood

Introduction & Scripture Lesson

Leader: ...With a mixture of joy and sadness, we give thanks for our time together and mark the ending of his ministry with us.

Congregation: Pastor Bill, you were called to be our pastor, bearer of the Word of God, minister of the sacraments, and sustainer of the love, order, service and discipleship of the people of God. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you (and Carin) have been important in our life together.

Pastor Bill: People, of God, I was called to serve in this place. I thank you, members and friends of the First United Methodist Church of Shelton for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation: We express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure. May God continue to guide and equip you and give you peace.

Leader: Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor Bill and Carin and our life together in this congregation and community. In thanksgiving, we praise you for raising up faithful servants among us for ministry in your Church. We give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** "I've Got Peace Like a River"

TFWS 2145

Benediction

Postlude: "Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty"

B. Fits

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Immigrant Pastors' Legal Fund

We were reminded at annual conference on June 14 how important it is to support our immigrant pastors as they navigate the legal process. We have been doing this faithfully over the last year with proceeds from our monthly luncheon earmarked for this fund. As a result, First UMC of Shelton was recognized at the conference when this year's offering for the fund was introduced. Well done, all! We are making a difference, and it has been noticed.

Summer Giving

Please remember to stay current with your pledge or giving to First UMC of Shelton over the summer. The bills keep coming even when our people are away on vacation. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Summer Special Music

If you have an idea for special music over the coming summer, please see Lynn, our music director, to discuss it. From solos to small ensembles, from voice only to pieces with accompaniment, we will consider all ways in which we can praise God through the spiritual gifts of our congregation.

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.**

Safer Sanctuaries Spotlight

The people of the United Methodist Church are committed to providing safe, nurturing environments where all can grow in their faith. Through *Safer Sanctuaries*, we work to ensure that screening, supervision, reporting, and response plans are in place to minimize risk to children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

First UMC of Shelton is working to refresh its policy, so you can expect to hear more about this over the coming months.

For now, keep in mind that **Safer Sanctuaries is a ministry**, not just a set of rules. When our people are safe, they can grow in the love of God as we all work to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. Safety is part of the fertile soil of spiritual formation that we provide.

The Coming Weeks:

Sunday, June 28: Worship at 10:00 AM. Patti Early of UMC of Monroe will be our guest preacher.

Sunday, July 5: Be sure to attend this 10:00 AM worship service to welcome our new pastor, Reverend Juhye Hahn. Holy Communion will be celebrated, and there will be a reception in Wilkinson Hall after.

Counters Needed

We need to add a few more counters to ensure that we are using safe financial practices. If you are a member of this church and would like to be trained to work as part of a counting team, please see Chris Craft to serve. This is important, so your help will make a big difference.

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
Elaine Wood, 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

O For a Thousand Tongues (v 1-3, 7) UMH 57

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrow cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

In Christ, your head, you then shall know,
shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipated your heaven below,
and own that love is heaven.

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place W&S 3148

There's a spirit of love in this place,
there's a spirit of love in this place.
You can't see it, but it's there just as precious as the air.
There's a spirit of love in this place.

O alleluia, sing alleluia!
We bless your holy name,
O alleluia, sing alleluia!
There's a spirit of love in this place.

There's the presence of peace in this room,
there's the presence of peace in this room.
In God's tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds.
There's the presence of peace in this room.

O allelulia, sing allelulia!
We bless your holy name,
O allelulia, sing allelulia!
There's a spirit of love in this place.

I've Got Peace Like a River TFWS 2145

V1: I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river
In my soul. (REPEAT)

V2: I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
In my soul. (REPEAT)

V3: I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean
In my soul. (REPEAT)