

# The United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

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"OUR THIRD CENTURY IN SERVICE OF THE LORD"

## The Chimes

Reverend Iwy Patel-Yatri, Pastor



March, 2017 Vol. 39, No. 3

Next Deadline 3/19/17

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are heading into the season of Lent, which is a 40 day journey in preparation for Easter. Lent is a time of spiritual reflection, where we are invited to spend time with God in prayer, reflecting upon what Christ did for us by suffering on the cross. The journey to the cross was painful and hard, yet Christ was disciplined in drawing strength for the task ahead of him. Christ was intentional in spending time with God in conversation, in prayer so that he could be strengthened.

As we consider Christ's example, we too are invited to focus on our spiritual discipline. Often we start our spiritual journey strong, convinced that we will keep our eyes on Christ and follow him. Yet, like those disciples who made bold promises and scattered when Christ was arrested, we too scatter when there are problems and the road becomes hard. Life is not easy and when we face challenges, we might be tempted to give up. We lose the zeal and passion that we first felt when we encountered Christ.

Following Christ's example, I invite us to consider our spiritual discipline, particularly, that of prayer; of spending time with God in conversation.

To help us consider this, I share with you a story from William D. Boy'd, "Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome."

Some years ago a young man approached the foreman of a logging crew and asked for a job. "That depends," replied the foreman. "Let's see you fell this tree." The young man stepped forward and skillfully felled a great tree. Impressed, the foreman exclaimed, "Start Monday!" Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday rolled by, and Thursday afternoon the foreman approached the young man and said, "You can pick up your paycheck on the way out today."

Startled, he replied, "I thought you paid on Friday." "Normally we do," answered the foreman, "but were letting you go today because you've fallen behind. Our daily felling charts show that you've dropped from first place on Monday to last on Wednesday."

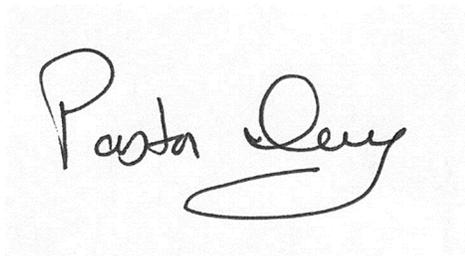
"But I'm a hard worker," the young man objected. "I arrive first, leave last, and even have worked through my coffee breaks!" The foreman, sensing the boy's integrity thought for a minute and then asked, "Have you been sharpening your ax?" The young man replied, "I've been working too hard to take the time."

The point of that story is that we all need to take time to "sharpen our ax." In prayer, we are inspired, nurtured and reminded of Christ's love for us and his gift of forgiveness and

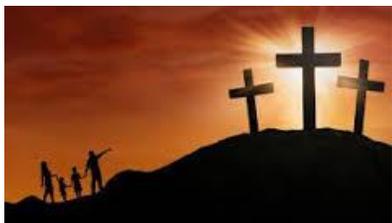
salvation. It is also in prayer that God helps to strengthen us spiritually for the work he has called us to do in this world.

During this Lent, I invite us to be intentional in spending time with Christ and reflecting upon his amazing love for us that offers us eternal life. Included in this newsletter is more information about Lent and the activities we will engage in to grow in our relationship with Christ. Look forward to seeing you at these events.

Walking the Journey with you,



### **LENT: A SEASON OF SPIRITUAL PREPARATION**



Wednesday, March 1st, 7pm: Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 5th, 5pm, Lenten Bonfire

### **Holy Week Services:**

Sunday, April 9th: Palm/Passion Sunday (Palm Procession in church & dramatic reading of the Passion of Christ)

Thursday, April 13th, 7:30pm: Holy Thursday Service (Soup & Bread Dinner, 6:30pm)

Sunday, April 16th, Easter Sunday, (Easter Egg Hunt)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Friday, March 3rd**

12:00 Noon

World Day of Prayer at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, 648 Harrison Avenue, Peekskill

### **Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 a.m.

Record Keeping/Archives Retention Workshop

### **Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Girl Scout Sunday

5:00 p.m. Lenten Bonfire

### **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

Men's Group

8:00 a.m. GP Room

### **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Daylight Saving Time begins

### **Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m. GP Room

"Hungry Dinner"

### **Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

During worship, Halos performing

After worship, Ad Council Mtg.

Please join us for these special events and bring your family and friends!



### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Friday, March 3rd

12:00 Noon

The World Day of Prayer will be held at the **Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, 648 Harrison Avenue, Peekskill** on Friday, March

**3<sup>rd</sup>, at 12 noon.** Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context, and lifting up issues of mission, justice and peace that are important to them. This year the WDP Committee of the Republic of the Philippines will offer the theme, "Am I being unfair to you". Several women from UMCSO are participating in the service, and invite you to join them. A light lunch will follow. Please bring a dish to pass.



### **GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY**

We will be celebrating **Girl Scout Sunday on March 5<sup>th</sup>**. The Girl Scouts will be participating in the Worship service and hosting the coffee hour. They will also be taking orders for their delicious Girl Scout cookies.



### **LENTE BONFIRE**

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

5:00 p.m.

As we begin Lent and focus on our spiritual state, let us consider the fruits we bear in our lives. St. Paul lists them in Galatians 5: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,

gentleness, and self-control. In contrast, he lists what is not from God: enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissension, envy, and drunkenness.

I invite you to reflect upon the feelings and situations in your life that are not from God and write them down. At the Lenten bonfire, we will burn the papers so that Christ can help us to let go of them and in turn bear fruits that honor our Lord. **Join us on March 5<sup>th</sup> for our Lenten Bonfire at 5:00 p.m.** and we let go of our burdens to Christ.



The Men's Group will be meeting **Saturday, March 11 & 25, at 8:00 a.m. in the GP Room** Join us for a light breakfast and Christian fellowship. All are welcome. If you have any questions please email: [soumc.men@gmail.com](mailto:soumc.men@gmail.com)

**Russ Reynolds**



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**

**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Just a reminder – don't forget to set your clocks **ahead** on Saturday night before you go to bed. Daylight saving time begins **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**.



**“HUNGRY DINNER”  
Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.**

Please join us for a “Hungry Dinner” on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Confirmation students. Prior to a spaghetti dinner, we will share information about hunger, domestically and internationally. There is a sign up sheet in the GP Room to know how many will be attending.

In lieu of a contribution of a hot dish, we ask that everyone bring nonperishable food items to help stock a pantry.

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**YCP TheaterWorks**

YCP TheaterWorks proudly presents Christopher Durang’s “*Vana and Sonia and Marsha and Spike*” in the UMCSO Parish Hall

YCP TheaterWorks has resurrected Chekhov! He is alive and well in Bucks County, PA where adult siblings Vanya and Sonia reside in their old family home, mourning their lost dreams and missed opportunities. When their often-wrong, fortune-telling maid warns of impending dangers and their movie star sister, Marsha, arrives unexpectedly with a young, sexy boy-toy Spike, the family is launched into a

rollicking weekend of one-upmanship and exposed nerves. With wit and absurdity, this delightful comedy will tickle your funny bone and stimulate your mind.

Performances are scheduled for **Friday and Saturday nights** (February 24 & 25, March 3, 4, 11) at 8:00 pm. **Sunday matinees** (February 26, March 5, 12) at 2:00 pm.

See Marshall Moseley for group rate tickets of \$15 each for UMCSO members and friends.

**PWP (People without Partners) will be attending Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.** There is a sign up sheet in the GP Room. We will be eating out before the performance for those who are interested.

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**PREVIOUS EVENTS**



**Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Marilyn and Glen Bucher**

During coffee hour on January 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Marilyn and Glen’s 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of January 17<sup>th</sup>.

May God bless them richly in their future years together!



**SOUPER BOWL  
OF CARING SUNDAY**

**On Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>,** our youth held soup pots to collect money for our SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY. The youth collected money for those who are hungry and hurting. Our church donated our entire Souper Bowl collection to our local food pantries at St. Mary’s in Mohegan Lake and Peekskill United Methodist Church. The youth collected over \$400.

Thank you for all the generous donations. Those who need help may not know the name of the person who cared, but God does. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime.

Thank you.

**Linda Hoernes**

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**BOY SCOUT SUNDAY  
February 12<sup>th</sup>**

A special thank you to Boy Scout Troop 38; Pack Scout Troop 38, Den 2; and their leaders Dr. Carl Thompson and Cindy Rubino for hosting the coffee hour on February 12<sup>th</sup>.



## Lectionary Scripture Readings for the month of March, 2017

**Sunday, March 5**  
(First Sunday in Lent)

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

**Sunday, March 12**  
(Second Sunday in Lent)

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

**Sunday, March 19**  
(Third Sunday in Lent)

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

**Sunday, March 26**  
(Fourth Sunday in Lent)

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

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### Sunday School Corner

*“Whoever welcomes one such child in My name welcomes Me.” (Mark 11:37)*

Spring is just around the corner-really! Although we are all looking forward to seeing crocus blossoms poking through the snow and hearing the return of the songbirds, we at Shrub Oak can rest assured that as we wait for Spring, the Sunday School classes have not been idle. Teachers have been diligently instructing their students in the life and teachings of Jesus and guiding them in how to put their faith into action.

For example, on February 5,<sup>th</sup> some of our Sunday School youth held large soup pots at the church doors for the *Souper Bowl of Caring* (it was also *Super Bowl Sunday*- get it? :). As congregants left the church service, they placed monetary donations to two local food pantries in the pots. Our youngsters collected over \$400 in those pots! Praise God for encouraging generosity in our people and for showing our children that they can be a part of helping the poor and hungry, as Jesus told us to.

On Sunday, February 19, the Sunday School children and their teachers and parents went on a ‘field trip’ to the Cortlandt Nursing Home to deliver hand-crafted valentines to the residents (a snowstorm prevented us from going the previous Sunday). As our children personally delivered their cards, the recipients’ faces glowed with love and gratitude for these acts of kindness. Sometimes it’s the little things that show God’s love so powerfully...

Our Middle School Class presented a puppet show during worship on Sunday, February 26. The theme of the show was *forgiveness*, the script was written and produced by the students (assisted by their able teachers, Doug Gaylor and Lisa Grace), and the actors, or

puppets, were masterfully controlled by student puppeteers. *Bravo!* to the Middle School Class! We all learned about the blessing of forgiveness from this well-done show.

Creativity abounds in all the Sunday School classes. Please take a moment to look at the bulletin board in the hall next to the office. There you will see a treasure chest, spilling out the gifts of the Spirit. We thank the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class and their 'crafty' teachers, Kathy Casey, Doreen Matthews and Kathy Schiavi for this great, thought-provoking bulletin board.

Lenten services will begin the first Sunday in March. We are blessed to have Lisa Grace and Rachel Ward-Pinto working with Pastor Iwy to present the Children's Moment part of the service during this holy time before Easter. **There will also be a Lenten Bonfire at 5 pm on Sunday, March 5.**

We are so blessed to have several of our youth as liturgists on the third Sunday of the month. These young people make the commitment to practice reading Scripture, and to come to church early to rehearse. They do it as an offering to God and to the congregation. If there are any youth who would like to serve in this capacity, it will be a blessing to the church and to you, personally. Please see Lynne Schrot or Pastor Iwy if you feel you would like to be a part of this important ministry.

God has blessed our church with families who know and understand the importance of bringing their children to church. It is in church that they learn more about the God who loves them so much. It is in church that they meet other young people who want to serve the Lord and His people. It is in church, and then reinforced at home, that they learn about commitment to God and what that means. God bless our families and our Shrub Oak Sunday School.

In Jesus' Name,

**Lynne Schrot**

## LENT: JOURNEYING TO THE CROSS



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The imposition of ashes reminds us that our sin brings death and separation from God. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry and ultimate journey to the cross. During Lent, we reflect upon Christ's redemptive work on the cross and invitation to share in his resurrection.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Consider starting a spiritual discipline during Lent to help you to draw close to God and as a way to prepare your heart and mind for Easter and truly accept Christ as your savior.

### LENTEN ACTIVITIES AT UMCSO

#### *40 Days of Prayer*

We will be reading daily from the book, "Draw the Circle – The 40 Days of Prayer Challenge" by Mark Batterson. We hope that you join us as we strive to grow in our relationship with Christ.

#### *Random Acts of Kindness*

Let us make a difference by engaging in "Random Acts of Kindness." These can be as simple as smiling at a stranger or opening the door for someone. More than ever, we need to reach out to one another with the love of Christ and shine his light in the world.

#### *Weekly activities by confirmands:*

**Week 1** - Be nice to a family member. Do something kind at home.

**Week 2** - Do something nice for an extended family member. (maybe visit grandparents, offer to help aunt/uncle/cousin with something. Or write them a card if they live far away. Be creative - the sky is the limit)

**Week 3** - Random Acts of Kindness in the Shrub Oak community. (To be organized after church. Deliver food to local food pantries, put away carts left out in the lot, clean up trash, etc.)

**Week 4** - Write cards to some of our church members that might be sick, shut-in or going through tough times.

**Week 5** - Call some of our church members just to say hi and check to see how they are doing.



**EASTER SUNDAY – April 16, 2017**

We will decorate our Sanctuary with Easter Lilies.

We trust that, as a member and friend, you will give these plants in memory or honor of loved ones. If you would like to provide a lily(s), please fill out this form and present to Grace Reynolds, Joan Prentice, the offering plate, or the Church office. Thank you.

**Orders must be received by SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017**

Plants are \$10.00 each. It would be helpful if your payment accompanied your order. Thanks in advance for helping to make our Sanctuary lovely on Easter! Please make checks payable to: "UMCSO". In the memo section of your check (bottom left) please indicate "Flowers".

WE WILL PROVIDE \_\_\_\_\_ PLANT(S)

Please print: name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) to be memorialized: \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) to be honored: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please call Grace Reynolds (914) 962-4944 or Joan Prentice (914) 629-4520.



**June 25, 2017**

**Celebrating the past, present and future of our Church**

**We are all part of the living history of the Church,  
come celebrate our heritage and help plan for the future.**

**150 years ago, our congregation had outgrown the original church built in 1787. After  
years of planning, they placed the cornerstone of our current building and further  
solidified our position in the community for centuries to come.**

**Join us in celebrating with a Church picnic, music, games  
and a historical display honoring our Church.**

Please note

Every Sunday is Food Sunday



# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b><u>EVERY SUNDAY IS FOOD SUNDAY</u></b></p>			<p><b>1</b> Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Service</p> <p>Small Group 1 1:30-2:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> Prayer Group 11-11:30 am</p>	<p><b>3</b> Small Group 2 10-11 am 10:00 am CfC <i>GP Room</i> World Day of Prayer 12:00 Noon <i>Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Peekskill</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> Record Keeping/ Archives Retention Workshop</p> <p>11am <i>GP Room</i></p>
<p><b>5</b> First Sunday in Lent (Purple) Celebrating Girl Scout Sunday 9:30a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 12 - 1:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00 pm Lenten Bonfire</p>	<p><b>6</b> Women's Small Group 6:30-7:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p> <p>Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>7</b> Bible Studies: 10:00 am &amp; 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>8</b> Small Group 1 1:30-2:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>9</b> Prayer Group 11-11:30 am</p>	<p><b>10</b> Small Group 2 10-11 am 10:00 am CfC <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>11</b> Men's Group 8-9:00 am</p> <p>Small Group Leaders 9:30 am <i>GP Room</i></p>
<p><b>12</b> Second Sunday in Lent (Purple) Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm PWP attending play 12 - 1:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>13</b> Women's Small Group 6:30-7:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>14</b> Bible Studies: 10:00 am &amp; 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> Small Group 1 1:30-2:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> Prayer Group 11-11:30 am</p>	<p><b>17</b> Small Group 2 10-11 am 10:00 am CfC <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> Third Sunday in Lent (Purple) 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship "Chimes Deadline" 12 - 1:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00 pm "Hungry Dinner"</p>	<p><b>20</b> Women's Small Group 6:30-7:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>21</b> Bible Studies: 10:00 am &amp; 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> Small Group 1 1:30-2:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>23</b> Prayer Group 11-11:30 am</p>	<p><b>24</b> Small Group 2 10-11 am 10:00 am CfC <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>25</b> Men's Group 8-9:00 am Small Group Leaders 9:30 am <i>GP Room</i> 9-1:00 pm Band Practice <i>Sanctuary</i></p>
<p><b>26</b> Third Sunday in Lent (Purple) UMCOR Sunday 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship, Halos performing After worship, Ad Council Mtg. 12 - 1:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>27</b> Women's Small Group 6:30-7:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>28</b> Bible Studies: 10:00 am &amp; 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>29</b> Small Group 1 1:30-2:30 pm <i>GP Room</i></p>	<p><b>30</b> Prayer Group 11-11:30 am</p>	<p><b>31</b> Small Group 2 10-11 am 10:00 am CfC <i>GP Room</i></p>	