

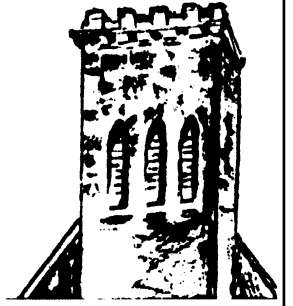
United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

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“OUR THIRD CENTURY IN SERVICE OF THE LORD”

The Chimes

Honorable Reverend Sandra B. Mantz



April 2024 Vol. 46 No. 4

Next Deadline 4/15/24

Dear UMCSO Family ,

We have had a lot of rain this year. But rain is so important. I am so grateful for our rain. I remember a few years ago when I lived in Connecticut we were under drought conditions. For a brief time we could not water our lawns or wash our cars outside. Now <https://www.drought.gov/> exists so we can monitor droughts in all 50 states. We need water to survive. Local farmers may get a bit anxious as they plant their crops, knowing there is a need for water.

At times there are “seasons” in our spiritual lives where we feel dry; perhaps it is because of a personal situation. But God calls us to trust in him in all situations. Jeremiah 17:7-8 says:

*Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.*

*⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit*

For John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, seeking to live a life of holiness, a life devoted to God, was of vital importance. If you look at his journals you will find that the seriousness of his spiritual discipline extended all year long; he strived for holiness on a daily basis. However, John Wesley struggled with many a season of drought before fully embracing the power of God.

John Wesley and his brother were leaders of the evangelical revival in the Church of England in the eighteenth century. They both attended Oxford and there they gathered a few friends with whom they practiced a strict adherence to the worship and discipline of the Book of Common Prayer. From this strict observance is how they received the nickname, "Methodists." Along with two fellow students, they formed a small club, for the purpose of study and the pursuit of a devout Christian life.

Having been ordained as Anglican priests, the brothers went to the American colony of Georgia in 1735, John as a missionary and Charles as secretary to Governor Oglethorpe. They found the experience disheartening, and returned home in a few years. On the way, John's ship encountered a terrible storm. What caught Wesley's attention was that, while the English on board were screaming for fear of their lives, the German Moravians sang songs. Wesley asked one of them "Weren't you afraid? Weren't your women and children afraid?" The man said, "Thank the Lord, we were not afraid; we are not afraid to die."

Later, Wesley met with one of the German pastors for advice. The pastor asked him, "Do you have the witness within? Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?" Wesley was caught off guard (not something that happened very often). And so the pastor asked, "Do you know Jesus Christ?" Wesley said, "I know he is the Savior of the world." The pastor replied, "That's true, but do you know he has saved you?" Wesley said, "I hope he has died to save me." "But do you KNOW?" And then comes those powerful lines from John Wesley, "I said, 'I do.' But I fear they were vain words as he continued to struggle with his faith.

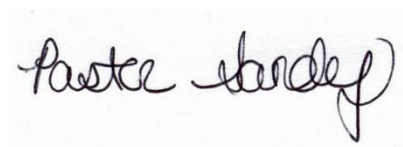
However, what was to happen to Wesley on May 24, 1738 would forever change his life and the world we now know. He wrote the following in his journal: *"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given to me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*

Wesley's Aldersgate experience is identified as a turning point in his spiritual growth. He moved from a spiritual dry season to the true beginning of revival in his heart that he would share with others.

Has your heart been strangely warmed? May the Holy Spirit touch each one of us so that we can follow with faith. I pray that Wesley will be our inspiration as we grow in our faith and Holiness and put God first as we go out in mission to the world to feed the sick and help those in need.

May the Lord touch each of us and give us such passion, joy and devotion that we may share the Good News of hope with others. And, when we have yet another rainy day, may we thank God for the blessings and growth that comes because of it.

Blessings and Love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

UPCOMING EVENTS
April 2024



SUNDAYS, 10:30 AM
WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE
IN-PERSON & LIVE
STREAMED

April 8th: Bishop Bickerton
Visits, see details and
itinerary below.

Town of Yorktown Special
Election: April 16th 6:00 am
– 9:30 pm in the Parish Hall



Sunday School Teachers,
Sunday - April 14th, after
Worship Service

Trustees Meeting,
Monday, April 1st – 7pm

KNOW SOMEONE WHO
COULD USE A CARD?



If you know someone who is
sick or having surgery,
please let us know. Our
dedicated members,
Annette Reynolds & Lynne
Schrot send cards on behalf
of our church family. So,
please let us know and we
will send a card to cheer
them up or encourage them.

Maxine Haigh



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Christopher Chung	1
Colleen Adira Gutowski	2
Karl Schoonmaker	3
Bill Ryder	4
John Spina	4
Deborah Vesuvio	14
Darrah Walls	14
Pat Golanec	15
Phyllis Maskiell	15
Len Lindholm	16
Wendy Cervini	17
Pastor Sandy	24
Lydia Aryee	25
Kathy Casey	26
Les Hazelton	27
Larry Robcke	27
Dave Zugner	30



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Ravi and Shari Renjen	1
Jaime & James Hoernes	13
Theresa & Michael Barnett	15
Lisa & Chris Grace	29
Linda & Michael Stella	29



ALTAR FLOWERS 2024

Thank you for your gift in providing Altar Flowers for the glory of God! Please contact Michele Squibb squibbm14@gmail.com if you would like to sign up for flowers.

UPDATES TO UMC SO CHURCH DIRECTORY



If you have any updated information or new emergency contacts, please contact Maxine Haigh or the office for updating.



Also special thanks to all our volunteers who so freely and willingly give of their time and talent in the name of the Lord!

Choir

- Al & Alice Fennell
- Bev Goodman
- Twila Hunter
- Beverly Martinez
- Marshall Moseley
- Hank & Lynne Schrot
- Jerome Marcelly
- Stanley Mochulsky

Altar Flowers

- Jean Engel
- Asha Dias
- Antonucci Family
- Pastor Sandy
- Easter Lilies
- Palms- Grace Reynolds

Liturgists

- Hank & Lynne Schrot
- Rachel Ward
- Barbara Conklin
- Logan Reynolds
- Nick Ayree

Education

- Kathy Casey and Lisa Grace



Communications & Chimes

- Marilyn Bucher
- Debbie Vesuvio
- Cliff Cullum

Audio Visual

- Cliff Cullum
- Dylan Matthews
- Joe Spina
- Pheby Aryee

Greeters & Ushers

- Annette Reynolds
- Debbie Vesuvio
- Doreen Matthews
- Kathy Schiavi
- Barbara Conklin
- Freddy Arias
- Nick Aryee
- Linda Hoernes

Children's Moment

- Pastor Sandy

Hospitality

- Alice Fennell

SPR

- Annette Reynolds

Cooperative Parish

- Peter Hoernes
- Dianne Benincasa

Sunday School Corner

“All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.”

~ Isaiah 54:13

As we enter the month of April, we are well into our observance of the Lenten season. In Sunday School, our younger children have been participating in a study of the different faces of Christ. They enjoyed our parade on Palm Sunday, and after we learned about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, a few of them tried their hand at making palm crosses.

On Easter itself, the younger children will participate in a religious egg hunt during Sunday School, with each egg holding an object that helps them remember the story of Easter. After the service, they will also search for candy-filled eggs in the churchyard. Don't forget to bring your baskets!

Also, be sure to mark your calendars for **Honors Day** on **June 16**. On this special day, our children and youth help to put on the service, and they are recognized for their participation in Sunday School.

May God bless each of you and your families during this holy season.

Yours in Christ,

The Sunday School Teachers



“We are an Easter People and Hallelujah is our song.” ~ Pope John Paul II



THE FREE MARKET THAT WAS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 4TH HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 25TH AND WILL NOW BE THE UMCSO:



AND



Volunteers are needed for bake sale items and anyone interested in gathering to make pies can contact Sarah Alliston to make arrangements. Also needed are volunteers to help with:

Set up (8:30 am -10:00 am), Helping Day Of (10:00 am – 3:00 pm), and Clean up (3 pm - 4:30 pm)

Please prayerfully consider how you may help. There are sign up sheets posted in the Breezeway!

ON APRIL 8th: We look forward to a visit from Bishop Thomas Bickerton. His Schedule will be as follows:

4:00 pm: Cooperative Parish (Coordinators Only)

5:00 pm: Rest of clergy joins Q&A

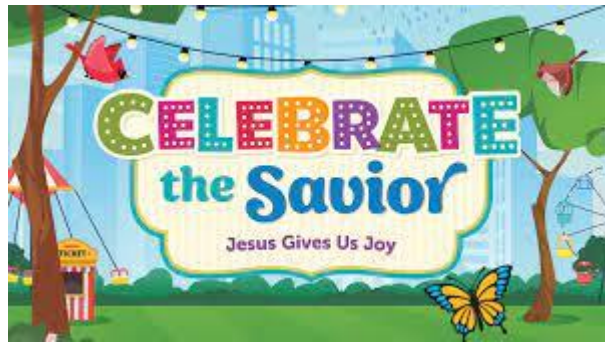
6:30 pm: Laity arrival and dinner

7:30 pm: Worship rally experience;

Keynote Speaker: Bishop Bickerton

9:00 pm: Departure

Why Attend Vacation Bible School ?



VBS stands for Vacation Bible School, and it is a summer church outreach focused on giving kids a fun and creative place to learn about the Bible and to build relationships with other kids and churches in the area. VBS offers the church fun and creative methods of teaching kids and youth Christ-like values and relationship-building skills. It is an excellent outreach tool into the

community—a way to invite those who do not normally attend to come into the church, get involved, and build relationships with others and with Jesus Christ. Churches generally run VBS for a week, and each program has its own theme (medieval castles, water parks, the Old West, etc., for example) that children can explore. A week of VBS usually includes games, snacks, crafts, skits, and, of course, Bible lessons! There is always a connection between God and the theme, allowing kids to discover God in a creative way and it offers a variety of ways for the entire congregation to become involved. We invite you join us from

July 22nd - 27th. We'll begin with a light supper from 4:30 - 5:00 and VBS will follow from 5 - 7:30 pm. Please watch for more details soon.





HEALTH KITS

OUR COOPERATIVE PARISH WILL BE MAKING HEALTH KITS THAT WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

ALL 10 CHURCHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ITEM.

UMCSO WAS ASKED TO COLLECT FINGER NAIL AND TOE NAIL CLIPPERS. GOAL IS 200.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE JUST PLACE YOUR DONATION IN THIS BOX.

ANY QUESTIONS.... PLEASE CONTACT DIANNE @ 914-736 7666.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS PROJECT.


You can find the collection box for this project in the breezeway if you feel led to donate.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

<p><u>Sunday, April 7th</u> (Second Sunday of Easter)</p> <p>Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31</p>	<p><u>Sunday, April 14th</u> (Third Sunday of Easter)</p> <p>Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48</p>	<p><u>Sunday, April 21st</u> (Fourth Sunday of Easter)</p> <p>Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3: 16-24 John 10:11-18</p>
<p><u>Sunday, April 28th</u> (Fifth Sunday of Easter)</p> <p>Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4: 7-21 John 15:1-8</p>		



April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Every Sunday is Food Sunday!</p>	1 <u>Trustees Meeting</u> 7:00 pm	2	3	4	5	6 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
7 (2 nd Sunday of Easter) (White) HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	8 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm <u>Bishop Bickerton Visits</u> 4:00 – 9:00 pm	9 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am <u>Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm	10 <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm	11 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am Chapel	12 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	13 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
14 (3 rd Sunday of Easter) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Teacher's Meeting following worship	15 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	16 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am <u>Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm	17 <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm	18 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am Chapel	19 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	20 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
21 (4 th Sunday of Easter) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	22 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	23 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am <u>Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm	24 <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm	25 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am Chapel	26 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	27 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
28 (5 th Sunday of Easter) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	29 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	30 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am <u>Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm				