

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar are given by the Casey family, “Happy Spring to all our Church family and Happy Birthday to Kathy and Lisa!”

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Come to the vineyard of God.

**P: We seek Christ, the vine of great love.**

L: Drink from the waters of life.

**P: We live in the light of God’s grace.**

L: Come to the vineyard of God.

**P: All are welcome here! Amen**

**PRAISE & WORSHIP:**

**PRAISE SHARING**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN:** “Gather Us In” – FWS #2236

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name and it will be granted. In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven! Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NIV)

1 John 4:7-21 (NASB)

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**

**HYMN of PREPARATION:** "Help us Accept Each Other"- UMH #560

**GOSPEL:** John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

**SERMON:** Are You Connected?

**RESPONSE HYMN:** "Bind us Together" – FWS #2226

## **PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY:** "Yes, He Did!"

## **DOXOLOGY**

**CLOSING HYMN:** "They'll Know we are Christians" – FWS #2223

**BENEDICTION:** (read responsively)

L: Beloved children of God, love one another well.

**P: We will abide in Christ's generous love.**

L: Be born in the Spirit of grace.

**P: We will live in the fullness of hope.**

L: Grow into branches bearing the fruit of love:  
peace, joy, hope, faith.

**P: We will remember that the greatest harvest  
is the harvest of love.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

<sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

<sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

<sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

<sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

### 1 John 4:7-21 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let's love one another; for love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

<sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was revealed in us, that God has sent His only Son into the world so that we may live through Him.

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we remain in Him and He in us, because He has given to us of His Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God.

<sup>16</sup> We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

<sup>17</sup> By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, we also are in this world.

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love, because He first loved us.

<sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and *yet* he hates his brother *or sister*, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother *and sister* whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

<sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God must also love his brother *and sister*.

## GOSPEL READING

### John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

<sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

<sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

<sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

<sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

<sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

# RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

**Saturday, May 25, 2024**

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

Set Up (8:30 – 10:00am), Helping Day Of (10:00 am - 3:00 pm), and Clean Up (3:00- 4:00 pm) Sign up sheets are posted in the breezeway.

---



## 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.

The  
Collection Box  
for these  
items is in  
the  
breezeway.

## 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 to come join us the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. It begins with a light supper from 4:30 - 5:00 and then VBS from 5:00-7:30 pm.

Watch for further details coming soon!

## **UMCSO SCHEDULE**

**Zoom links are included in Mailchimp. Please contact us with your email (umcso.ny@gmail.com) or call 914-245-4682 if you would like to receive Mailchimp emails.**

### **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP** Monday, 7:00 pm, (ZOOM)

**MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday 10:00 am (In Person)

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday 7:00 pm (ZOOM)

**SMALL GROUP 1:** Wednesday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM)

**PRAYER GROUP:** Thursday, 11:00 am (Chapel)

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Thursdays, 7:30 pm with Pastor Sandy (ZOOM). (See link below).

**SMALL GROUP 2:** Friday, 10:00 am (phone 1-267-807-9495; 656355452#)

**CRAFTS FOR A CAUSE:** Friday, 11:00 am - 12 noon (various homes)

**MEN'S GROUP:** Saturday 8:00 am (ZOOM)

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** 9:30 am in the GP room (In person)

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG:** Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am

**VBS PLANNING MTG:** Wed., May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm in the GP Room

### **Pastor Sandy Mantz invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

Topic: Bible Study

Date/Time: Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2610447551?pwd=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0plRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,2610447551#,,,,\*246240# US

+16465588656,,2610447551#,,,,\*246240# US (New York)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Although Pastor Sandy is away class **will** be meeting this Sunday, April 28th, and May 5<sup>th</sup> following worship.

**RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE:** Preparations for the Rummage and Bake Sale on May 25<sup>th</sup> are in full swing! Donated items can be left in the breezeway (as long as they're out of the way of foot traffic) Please see the sign-up sheets in the breezeway if you are led to help out.

**THE COOPERATIVE PARISH:** will be making health kits that will go to the Annual Conference. Our church has been asked to contribute fingernail and toenail clippers. There is a collection box in the breezeway for these items.

**THIS JULY:** Vacation Bible School is making a comeback this July 22-27<sup>th</sup>. See details above and watch for further info coming soon.

### REACH US ON FACEBOOK

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

<https://www.facebook.com/Blessedassurancetoday>

There is a link to the Church's website  
Pastor Sandy will post inspirational verses regularly.

---