

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar are given by Grace Reynolds, “In loving memory of my husband, Loyal Reynolds.”

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: We come with joy to this celebration of God’s love!

**P: Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love.**

L: We come with hope to this witness to God’s power!

**P: Challenge and encourage our spirits to serve you, Lord.**

L: We come with a willingness to proclaim God’s presence to all.

**P: We thank God for this invitation to worship, witness and serve. AMEN.**

**PRAISE & WORSHIP:**

**PRAISE SHARING**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**Leader:** Let the whole earth praise the Lord! Let the mountains and hills proclaim God’s handiwork! Let the seas roar and the waves crash in symphonies of praise! Let all creation sing God’s new song of love!

**People: Praise be to God who has created and is creating anew! Praise be to God who re-creates God’s love in us each day!**

**Leader:** Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation. As we gather here this day we hear your message of power and love through the witness of Jesus Christ as he prepared his disciples for his departure. He gave to them the words of encouragement about living in your love, and through that love being witnesses to the whole world of your peace and hope. Be with us this day, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word. AMEN.

**OPENING HYMN:** “What a Friend we Have in Jesus” – UMH #526

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Easter is such a wonderful season, Lord. Hope springs anew in our hearts. As the earth is being refreshed by the warmth of spring, so we have been refreshed and made new by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we want to stay in this euphoria forever. But you have called us to go into the valley, to those who need to hear of your love and to feel your caring presence. In his words of hope, Jesus prepared his disciples to be

witnesses. We have heard these words before, but far too often, we have turned our backs to this message. We don't quite believe that we are capable of actually living our whole lives in your love. So we act in ways that are often neglectful and hurtful of others. We take more time pampering ourselves than we do helping other people. It is easier to justify our selfish desires than it is to witness to your transforming love. Stop us in our tracks, O Lord. Turn us around. Help us to face our weakness and your forgiving grace. Heal us of our sins, and place us again on the paths of peace. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God remembers steadfast love to all the people. We are healed and called to again be God's beloved children and witnesses. Receive that healing love and share the good news with all you meet, that God is love and in God there is no darkness or fear. AMEN.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Ephesians 4:4-6, 32 (NIV)

1 John 5:1-6 (NIV)

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**

**HYMN of PREPARATION:** "Jesus, Draw me Close"- FWS #2159

**GOSPEL:** John 15:9-17 (NIV)

**SERMON:** Called to Serve (ASP and UM Army Mission Moment)

**RESPONSE HYMN:** "Pass it On" – UMH #572

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

**OFFERTORY:** "To Believe"

## **DOXOLOGY**

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Blessed Assurance" – UMH #369

## **BENEDICTION:**

Friends and Beloved of Christ, you have been chosen to go into this world with the message of God's love. Bear fruit of hope and joy, peace and justice, with all that you meet. May God's peace be with you all. AMEN

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Ephesians 4:4-6, 32:** (NIV)

**4** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

**2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

**3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

**4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;

**5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

**6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

### **1 John 5:1-6** (NIV)

**5** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

**2** This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

**3** In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

**4** for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

**5** Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

**6** This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

## GOSPEL READING

### John 15:9-17 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

<sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.

<sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

<sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

# 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.

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## 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.

UMC50 WAS ASKED TO COLLECT FINGER NAIL AND TOE NAIL CLIPPERS. GOAL IS 200.

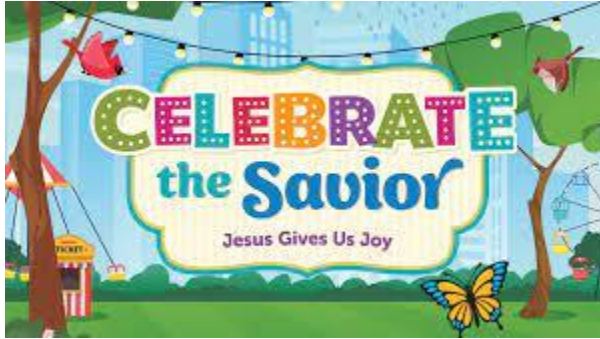
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE JUST PLACE YOUR DONATION IN THIS BOX.

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. Only 1 week left to donate, please help us reach our goal of 150!

## 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 18<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, 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. The cut-off date for donations is 5/12 and we are severely short of our goal of 150, please help and donate as you are led.

**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.

**MISSIONS MEETING:** Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.  
(Zoom)

## 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.

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