

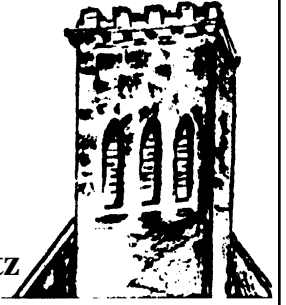
## United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

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“OUR THIRD CENTURY IN SERVICE OF THE LORD”

# The Chimes

Honorable Reverend Sandra B. Mantz



December 2024 Vol. 46 No.12

Next Deadline 12/20/24

Dear UMCSO Family,

“Keep Christ in Christmas”: we see this on cars, bumpers stickers and magnets. What does this mean to you today? Life, Church gatherings, school concerts, family parties, shopping etc., threaten to get in the way of pondering the fact that Jesus is the reason for the season. In the midst of the business of this season do not forget about Jesus. Who He is, why He came and how He wants us to live. Our lives can be chaotic and confusing but Jesus came to give us order and peace.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” ( John 1:14)

Jesus came to shine as the light in the darkness. We must recognize, honor, worship and adore Him. Jesus is here, offering hope and joy. He wants to be our Lord and Savior and for us to not only trust in Him, but to share his love with others. That is what being a Christian all is about! God has blessed us so very much. At Christmas then, we celebrate his birthday, a day that changed the world. “Love came down at Christmas”: amazing love, powerful love, transformative love. Love that, when embraced by us, gives us peace, joy and comfort.

It not only changes us but enables us to reach out to others in His name. Life in Christ is the light that illuminates the darkness and gives us hope for our future.

As you are reading this today perhaps you are pondering the future. What will next year bring? Concerns about finances, family, health, broken relationships, even politics, threaten to embitter us. The message of Christmas reminds us that, although we do not have control over the details of our lives, Jesus is with us on our journey.

Trust Him, imitate Him, and love Him. Know that there is real power for transformations for those he calls his own and he will indeed make all things well.

Have a blessed, joyful and hope filled Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.  
Love and Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Andy*

## UPCOMING EVENTS December 2024



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

### December

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Trim a Tree (12pm – 3pm  
with pizza lunch)

**7<sup>th</sup>:** Craft Fair and Bake  
Sale 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
(Sign-up sheet in breezeway)

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Caroling at the mall  
(following worship)

**14<sup>th</sup>:** Cookie Swap – 12-3 pm  
(A sign-up sheet is posted in the  
breezeway)

**21<sup>st</sup>:** -Tres Dias Christmas  
Secuela 2:00 pm in the  
sanctuary, followed by  
refreshments and fellowship in  
the GP Room.

- Pageant rehearsal at 4:30  
in the Parish Hall with pizza  
dinner.

- Live Nativity at 6:30 pm

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Christmas Pageant

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Service at 7:00 pm



**Small Group Leaders:** Sat.,  
December 7th, 9:30 am

**Trustees Meeting:** Mon.,  
December 2nd, 7:00 pm

**Ad Council Meeting:** Mon.,  
December 16, 6 pm (Zoom)

**Education Meeting:** Sun.,  
January 12<sup>th</sup> following worship



### POINSETTIAS

The **due date** for Poinsettia  
plants to decorate the sanctuary  
is **Sunday, December 15, 2024**.  
There are forms at the back of  
the Sanctuary for you to  
complete if you wish to provide  
a plant in memory of or in honor  
of a loved one.



Please contact Michele Squibb  
[squibbm14@gmail.com](mailto:squibbm14@gmail.com)

If you would like to sign up for  
flowers on the altar. There are  
no more dates available for  
2024 but you can sign up for  
slots in the coming year, 2025.

### UPDATES TO UMCSO CHURCH DIRECTORY



If you have any updated  
information or new  
emergency contacts,  
please get in touch with  
Marilyn Bucher or Maxine  
Haigh.



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Fernando Arias	2
Emily Mantz	3
Cameron Stokes	3
Al Will	3
Olivia Bardin	6
Yvonne Chung	8
Christopher Bucher	9
Kathleen Mareno	12
Doug Gaylor	13
Dianne Benincasa	15
Doreen Matthews	17
Aria Supino	18
Nicholas Aryee	19
Jordan Philips	19
Gary Speedling	20
Lisa Latasa	23
Meridith Gutowski	24
Xavier Payne	24
Dana Neal Young	27
Debby Speedling	27
Jennifer Goodman	28
Dwayne Hoffmann	29
Logan Reynolds	30



**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Doris and Bruce Shields	27
Asha Sundeep and Sundeep Thomas	27



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

**Liturgists**

- Rachel Ward
- Doug Gaylor
- Brent Horton
- Sarah Moden-Alliston
- Annette Reynolds

**Ushers**

- Annette Reynolds
- Debbie Vesuvio
- Doreen Matthews
- Kathy Schiavi
- Barbara Conklin
- Linda Hoernes
- Rachel ward

**GREETERS**

- Maxine Haigh
- Susan Crookston
- Jonathan Goodman

**Audio Visual**

- Cliff Cullum
- Joe Spina
- Nick Aryee
- James Horton

**Choir**

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

**Education**

- Kathy Casey and Lisa Grace

**Altar Flowers**

- Rachel Ward
- Susan Crookston
- The Aryee Family
- Cory Casey

**Communications & Chimes**

- Debbie Vesuvio
- Marilyn Bucher
- Cliff Cullum

**Hospitality**

- Alice Fennell

**SPR**

- Annette Reynolds

**NORTH WEST, CO OP PARISH**

- Peter Hoernes
- Dianne Benincasa

## Sunday School Corner

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." ~3 John 1:4*

Advent is here. For Christians, this season is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for our celebration of Christ's birth. Here in our church, we are planning many activities to help our children and youth grow in their understanding of our faith during this important season.

This past Sunday, we started our **Advent Children's Moments**. Each week, the children will add a figure to the Nativity in the front of the church as they learn about that figure's role in the story of Jesus' birth. We also held our annual **Trim-A-Tree** event, and everyone enjoyed crafting beautiful ornaments to decorate the tree in the sanctuary.



On **Saturday, December 21, at 6:30 pm**, the children will once again participate in a **Living Nativity** in front of the church. Please come and join us for this special event and encourage community members to stop by as well.

The following day, **Sunday, December 22**, the children will present our yearly **Christmas pageant** during the worship service.



**Practice for both the pageant and the Living Nativity will take place on Saturday, December 21 at 4:30 pm**, with pizza provided between the practice and the Nativity. Anyone interested in taking part in the pageant should speak to one of the Sunday School teachers. Adult volunteers to help would be welcome.

Finally, mark your calendars for an important event to come in the New Year! On **Sunday, January 5, we will be holding our annual New Year's Breakfast** after worship. Chef Jack "Flapjack" Casey will provide pancakes, and there will be a sign-up sheet posted for other items.

Enjoy this blessed season with your family and with extended family of brothers and sisters in Christ. Each one of us feel the love of Christ as we celebrate the miracle of his birth.

Yours in Christ,  
The Sunday School Teachers



our  
May



## Angel Tree

UMCSO has a re-envisioned Angel Tree outreach mission this year; partnering with Love In Action we have 'adopted' four local families to share the love and light of Christ with this Holiday season. In addition to these families, we are targeting other folks in our congregation and broader church family to gift to this year. With the goal of lifting someone's day, if you'd like to contribute gifts (\$5-\$20), please grab an Angel ornament and an instruction sheet from the back of the sanctuary or purchase something from the Amazon Wishlist created for this purpose: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3CI8H3VUD040P?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3CI8H3VUD040P?ref_=wl_share)  
\*\*Gifts must be returned to the church by Sunday, December 15th to allow time for delivery\*\*

This Thanksgiving Season our congregation provided Harvest Baskets to 15 families in our community. We worked with Love In Action and Family Ties to support these families in need during this time of giving thanks and gratitude. Thank you to all who sent donations!



**All are welcome to join us, this Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, for our Christmas Craft Fair. If you have craft goods you'd like to sell you can rent your own table to sell privately, or you can contribute goods to the Church table. All proceeds from the Church table will go to the Missions and Outreach committees to bless the ministry of the church and others. Table rentals for vendors is \$30 for non-members and \$20 for church members. The Craft Fair hours have been extended and are now 10 am- 3 pm. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the breezeway for anyone who would like to contribute Bake Sale items.**

**CAROL SINGING AT THE JV MALL**  
**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 – 1:00 pm**



**Come one, come all!**

On **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will be at the JV Mall doing our annual Christmas Caroling. It is a lot of fun, and the adults and children enjoy having us sing. Singing is a great way to worship our Lord and let people in our community know that we are a church who loves the Lord. Hope to see you there for this wonderful time.

Blessings!  
Annette Reynolds



**UMCSO ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP**

**Guess what everyone... in a sneeze it will be Thanksgiving... AND... guess what comes after that.... Our Annual Christmas Cookie Swap.**

**Date: Saturday...December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.**

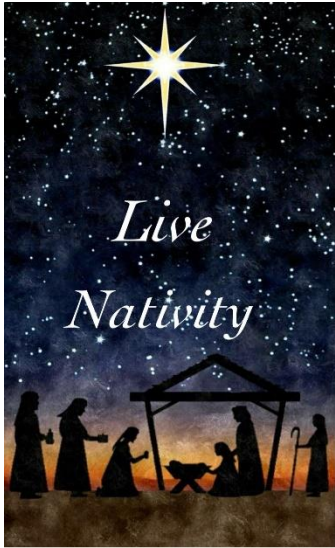
**Entrance Fee: 2 dozen homemade cookies. If you are unable to bake, then you may go to a bakery.**

**We would appreciate it if everyone brought one dish (ie) finger foods or appetizer. Beverages, coffee, tea, etc. will be provided.**

**Any questions, please feel free to call Dianne @ 914-806-2492 or Joy @ 845-494-9582.**







**LIVE NATIVITY**  
**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm**

Please join us once again for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Live Nativity on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> on the front lawn. Please contact Annette Reynolds at 914-474-4033 if you are interested in helping.



Christmas is coming and as we prepare ourselves spiritually, we also start planning for decorating our sanctuary for the holidays. The poinsettias will be delivered and in place for the Christmas Eve Service. You may give these plants as gifts, memorials, or in honor of a living person, **PLANTS MAY BE TAKEN HOME AFTER THE CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE.**

If you are interested in providing poinsettia plants, please fill out this form and return to Michele Squibb or the church office. Please place your order by **Sunday, December 15, 2024.** (See form in mailchimp.)

If you have any questions, please call Michele Squibb at 914-393-5682. Plants are **\$15.00** each. Please write in the memo line that the check is for UMCSO

<b>Name of Donor:</b> _____	<b>Telephone #</b> _____
<b>Will provide _____ Red Poinsettia Plants</b> (# of plants)	
<b>Person(s) to be Memorialized:</b> _____ _____	
<b>Person(s) to be Honored:</b> _____ _____	



*“ Our Time, Talents, and Treasures are a gift from God. What we do with them is our gift back to Him”*

*God has been so faithful and committed to our abundant blessings. As we reflect on all of them in the close of the year, may we all prayerfully consider how we will renew our commitment to Him in our giving.*

**In the coming weeks we will be focusing on the tremendous blessings God has bestowed on us. We will hear testimonies to His goodness in our lives and of those among us. Below is the Stewardship Campaign Card for 2025. You do not need to do anything with it at this moment; they will be made available in Church. In the meantime, we ask that you simply read through it, reflect on the goodness, gifts and blessings you have received, and pray about how you might want to give back in the New Year. The campaign will wrap up on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2025, as we submit our pledge cards and our intentions to the glory of God.**

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD**

*"Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." - 1 Cor. 4:2*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



Recognizing our personal responsibility as stewards of God, and demonstrating our faith in and love of God, we make the following commitments:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I/ We will pray regularly for our church, our friends and our world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I/ We will endeavor to attend worship and other church activities faithfully.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I/We will step out in faith to tithe this year for the first time!
- \_\_\_\_\_ I/ We will work toward giving a tithe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I/ We will give \_\_\_\_\_ a week, a month, semi- monthly (please circle one) to support UMCSO
- \_\_\_\_\_ I/We will volunteer for service in a mission project or otherwise support missions globally & locally.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I/ We will serve/participate on a ministry team or invite someone to church this year.

## LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

<p><b><u>Sunday, December 1st</u></b> <b>(1st Sunday of Advent)</b></p> <p>Jer 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thess 3: 9-13 Luke 21:25-36</p>	<p><b><u>Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)</b></p> <p>Mal 3:1-4 Luke 168-79 Phil 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6</p>
<p><b><u>Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)</b></p> <p>Zeph 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18</p>	<p><b><u>Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup></u></b> <b>(4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)</b></p> <p>Mic 5: 2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Heb 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)</p>
<p><b><u>Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(Christmas Eve)</b></p> <p>Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(Christmas Day)</b></p> <p>Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Heb1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14: 41-52</p>
<p><b><u>Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(First Sunday after Christmas)</b></p> <p>1 Sam 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Col 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52</p>	



# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 (First Sunday of Advent)</b> Holy Communion Sunday 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a> <u>Trim A Tree</u>	<b>2</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm <u>Trustees Meeting</u> 7:00 pm	<b>3</b> <u>Bible Studies</u> 10:00 am GP Room  <u>Bible Studies</u> 7:00 pm (ZOOM)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>7</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am  <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am  <u>Craft Fair 10-3 pm</u>
<b>8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)</b> (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a>  <u>Caroling at JV MALL</u> following worship	<b>9</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> <u>Bible Studies</u> 10:00 am GP Room  <u>Bible Studies</u> 7:00 pm (ZOOM)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <u>Prayer Group In-Person</u> 11:00 am Chapel  <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm (ZOOM)	<b>13</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>14</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am  <u>Annual Cookie Swap</u> 12-3 pm
<b>15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)</b> (Green) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a>	<b>16</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	<b>17</b> <u>Bible Studies</u> 10:00 am GP Room  <u>Bible Studies</u> 7:00 pm (ZOOM)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <u>Prayer Group In-Person</u> 11:00 am Chapel  <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm (ZOOM)	<b>20</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>21</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am  <u>Tres Dias Open Secuela</u> 2:00 GP room <u>Live Nativity</u> 6:30 pm
<b>22 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)</b> (Green) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a>	<b>23</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	<b>24</b> <u>Bible Studies</u> 10:00 am GP Room <u>Bible Studies</u> 7:00 pm (ZOOM)  <u>Candlelight Service</u> 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 	<b>26</b> <u>Prayer Group In-Person</u> 11:00 am Chapel  <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm (ZOOM)	<b>27</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>28</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
<b>29 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas)</b> (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a>	<b>30</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	<b>31</b> <u>Bible Studies</u> 10:00 am GP Room <u>Bible Studies</u> 7:00 pm (ZOOM)				