

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP
October 26, 2025 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Betsey Reynolds Goldhorn, "In loving memory of my husband, Greg, on his 61st birthday."

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: The Spirit is here,

P: bringing vision and hope for our world.

L: Christ lifts us up,

P: welcoming us with loving arms.

L: God showers the earth,

P: nourishing all creation with grace.

L: Sense the Spirit moving within and among us.

P: Feel Christ's presence healing and blessing us.

L: As we gather in worship this day,

P: we receive the showering love of God. Amen.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER

God of Zion, strengthen us for the journey ahead. Lift our eyes to the hills, that we may see the light of your gracious loving presence. Open our minds to your visions and dreams, that we may claim our place as your children, and we may run with faithfulness the race set before us. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" - UMH #110

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, have mercy on us in our times of sin and pride. Pour out your forgiveness, and shower us with the blessings of your guidance and grace. Stand by us in our times of weakness, and strengthen us to move forward in faith. Help us finish this race with gratitude and joy, that others may receive the blessings of all you are doing through us and all you have yet to do. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

L: Hear the Good News! You, who have been brought low, are lifted and brought high in the saving grace of Christ, the mighty love of God.

P: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Joel 2:23-32 (ESV)

Psalm 46 (ESV)

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (ESV)

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS *(Children will be dismissed right after)*

HYMN of PREPARATION: "How Firm a Foundation" – UMH #529

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

SERMON: Be Steadfast and Strong

1. Not the end of the Story
2. Finish the Race
3. There's Always Hope
4. Keep the Faith

RESPONSE HYMN: "Guide My Feet" – FWS #2208

OFFERTORY: "Special Music Selection"

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "How Great Thou Art" – UMH #77

BENEDICTION:

L: Keep the faith, even when doubt is all around.

P: Fight the fight, when justice and love seem far away.

L: Run the race with confidence, for Christ is leading the way.

P: Go forth with confidence as the followers of God.

L: Go forth with humility as sisters and brothers of Christ.

P: And abide in courage as visionary sons and daughters of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

** Prayers are from Abington Worship Annual 2019*

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:23-32 (ESV)

“Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before.

²⁴ “The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter my great army, which I sent among you.

²⁶ “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

³⁰ “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

³² And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Psalm 46 (ESV)

46 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (ESV)

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!

¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

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)

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

SMALL GROUP 1: Thursday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM)

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)

TRUSTEE'S MEETING: First Monday of every month. Next: Monday, November 3rd, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: Saturday, November 1st and 15th, 9:30 am (Zoom)

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)



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, Nov. 2nd is All Saints Sunday. Please submit the names of loved ones (who've passed since Nov. 3rd 2024) to the Church office by Thurs. October 30th if you'd like to have their names read in Church.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE

Also on Nov. 2nd is the Open House at the Parsonage. Please come by and visit and bring something to share. The sign-up sheet is in the breezeway.



*United Methodist Church at
Shrub Oak.*



Bowling Fellowship Sundays!

Location: Jefferson Valley Bowling Lanes
Sundays (Start date: October 26 or November 2)

Time: 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Warm-up: 1:30 – 1:40 PM

Bowling begins: 1:50 PM

Cost: \$23 per person

Duration: 16 weeks — includes 3 games each week, prizes, and a dinner celebration at the end of the season!

Whether you're a seasoned bowler or simply looking for fellowship and fun, all are welcome! Bring your family and friends and be part of this joyful new ministry. Sign up today and let's roll together in faith and friendship!

For more information or to sign up, contact:

Wes Battle — wsbpro2@gmail.com

Beverly Martinez

1176 EAST MAIN STREET

SHRUB OAK, NY 10588

PHONE: (914) 245-4682

EMAIL: UMCSO.NY@GMAIL.COM

Bowling Fellowship Sundays!

We hope you'll join us for these upcoming Sundays of continued fellowship and fun. You can sign up in the breezeway or contact Wesley Battle Sr. for more information.



HARVEST BASKETS: We will be sponsoring our annual Harvest Basket outreach program to support those in our local community who may be in need this holiday season. If you'd like to donate, we accept non-perishable foods (as listed below) or monetary donations toward an ACME gift card intended for purchasing a Thanksgiving turkey. We kindly request all donations be received by, **November 23rd**. We also ask that you check the "best by" dates to ensure freshness for Thanksgiving. The bags will be packed in the GP Room on that day for delivery. If you would like to gift a check or cash, please contact Kathy Casey at: luminany@aol.com

Suggestions: Cranberry Sauce, Canned vegetables, Canned Yams, Boxes of Stuffing, Boxes/Pouches of Mashed Potatoes, Jars/Pouches of Gravy, Canned Fruit, Boxes/Pouches of Brownie, or Cookie Mix. We thank you in advance for your generosity and look forward to another year of this great mission.

KATONAH ASP 5K WALK/RUN: Saturday, October 25th. 8:30 am at FDR Park

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: is Sunday, November 2nd. Please submit names of loved ones who've passed since November 3, 2024 to the church office by Thursday, October 30th, if you'd like to have their names read in church.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE: Sunday, November 2nd, following worship, we will gather for fellowship at the Parsonage for the annual Open House. Please see the sign up sheet in the breezeway to bring something to share.

AD COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday, Nov.5th at 7 pm (GP Room)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: If you have a child going into 7th grade, please speak to Pastor Sandy or Kathy Casey regarding upcoming confirmation classes.

A NOTE ABOUT PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have prayers you would like put out on the Church Prayer Chain please submit them directly to Fran Maddalone at: fmm515@aol.com. If you send it anywhere else it will not be seen or posted in a timely manner.

JOE SPINA'S ADDRESS: Anyone wanting to reach out to Joe with prayers, encouragement, and warm thoughts from home can send them to:

RCT Spina, Joseph
Kilo Co 3rd RTBN, Platoon #3100
Box 16330
Parris Island, SC 29905-6330

YOUNG ADULT GROUP FORMING! We are excited to be starting a Young Adult Group at UMCSO this fall! If you are a young adult, please fill out this survey so we can find a good time for our first meeting. If you know of a young adult who may be interested, please forward this link to them, or have them speak to Pastor Sandy or Lisa Grace. We look forward to growing this new ministry!

[Young Adult Meeting Survey](#)

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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This Week's Birthdays:

Billy Ryder	10/29
Bob Davies	10/31

No Anniversaries This Week