

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

1176 East Main Street • Shrub Oak, New York 10588 • Office: 914-245-4682
Parsonage: 914-245-3114 • E-mail: umcso.ny@gmail.com

"OUR THIRD CENTURY IN SERVICE OF THE LORD"

The Chimes

Honorable Reverend Sandra B. Mantz, Pastor



December 2025 Vol. 47, No. 12

Mailed on December 4, 2025 - Next Deadline 12/28/25

Dear UMCSO Family,

The Advent and Christmas seasons are wonderful times of the year. The Advent season prepares us gradually for the coming of the King, and at Christmas we celebrate the Babe of Bethlehem's birth. The story, told long ago, is revisited anew each year and, if we simply slow down and soak in the meaning of Advent and Christmas, we experience the wonder of the season anew also. It is really about the baby who came to make a difference in our world.

The Prophet Isaiah says it so beautifully in Chapter 9: 6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this"

Jesus came in the flesh as a little baby that first Christmas so that He could bear our punishment at the Cross, and then conquer death by rising from the dead. If you think about it, it's entirely appropriate for Jesus Christ, who is the hope of the world, to have come in the form of an infant, because babies are hope personified. They are pure

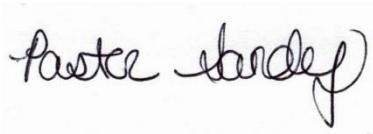
potential. Mary had great hope for her son. The previous year, she had been visited by an angel, Gabriel, who gave her this promise: "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." —Luke 1:31-33. This promise to Mary echoed the prophecy of Isaiah, given seven centuries earlier.

When Jesus was born, God made it clear that this baby was the one for whom the world had been waiting, watching and hoping, a Savior, a Deliverer, a King. What joy must have filled Mary and Joseph's hearts as they looked down at their tiny son, wrapped in blankets, lying in an ordinary manger filled with straw, surrounded by cows and sheep and donkeys.

That baby came into this world for several reasons: to let us know what God is like, to inform us of God's plan, to heal our hurts, to be our peace, and to transform us. Rededicate your life to Jesus anew. Have faith and believe.

May God richly bless you all, and Merry Christmas!

Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Foster Under". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2025



SUNDAYS, 10:30 AM

WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE IN-PERSON &
LIVE STREAMED

December 14th

Caroling at JV Mall: 1:00 pm, all are welcome.

Poinsettia Orders: Due by Dec. 14th

December 20th

Pageant Rehearsal: at 4:30 pm, pizza will be served.

Live Nativity: at 6 pm

Tres Dias Christmas Secuela: 1:00 at Bedford UMC

December 21st

Christmas Pageant: 10:30 am during Worship.

December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 7 pm

January 4th 2026

Church Wide New Year Brunch: Following Worship in the GP Room. This is a pot-trust event so please plan to bring a dish to share.



Small Group Leaders:

Sat. Dec.6th and 20th on Zoom

Trustees Meeting: Monday, Dec. 8th at 7 pm (Zoom)



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up for flowers on the altar please contact Michele Squibb. squibbm14@gmail.com

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, and Lynne Schrot, send cards to those who aren't well. So, please let us know and we will send a card to cheer them up or encourage them. ~ *Maxine Haigh*



UPDATES TO UMC SO CHURCH DIRECTORY

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



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



Asha Sundeep and Sundeep Thomas 27

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. We are pleased with how much our children and youth have learned about God this year, and we are planning many activities to help them grow in their understanding of our faith during this important season.

During the fall, our middle school class participated in several activities designed to help them better understand important ideas in the Bible. They picked one idea (that God created all of us), and thought of a story they could use to teach this idea to younger children. On November 23, they presented their story as a puppet show during the Children's Moment. Special thanks to Peter Hoernes and Doug Gaylor for setting up the puppet theater, and kudos to all of the youth for their great performances!



This coming month will be packed with other events that celebrate the season. We kicked off the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, with our annual Trim-A-Tree event. We made beautiful ornaments to decorate our Christmas tree, and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of food, fellowship and carols.

On **Saturday, December 20**, our children will present a **Living Nativity** for the church at 6:00 pm. On **Sunday, December 21**, they will be acting out the story of Christmas in a **pageant** during the service. **Rehearsal will be held before the Living Nativity on December 20.**

Finally, mark your calendars for our annual **New Year's breakfast** to be held on **Sunday, January 4** 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. May each one of us feel the love of Jesus as we celebrate the miracle of his birth.

Yours in Christ,
The Sunday School Teachers

December Events

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Now



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 EVE 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 14, 2023.** If you have any questions, please call Michele Squibb at 914-393-5682. Please make checks out to UMCSO and write "Poinsettias" in the memo line.

Prices For Poinsettias This Year Are As Follows

(Please circle your choices and note quantity beside each)

6.5 inch (\$11 ea.) # _____

8 inch (\$25 ea.) # _____

10 inch (\$30 ea) # _____

Name and Phone # of Donor: _____

Person(s) to be Memorialized _____

Person(s) to be Honored _____



CAROLING AT THE JV MALL

Sunday, December 14th, at 1:00 pm

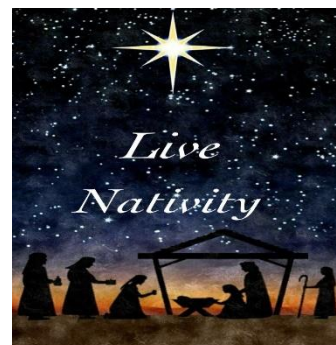
On **Sunday, December 14th**, we will be at the JV Mall doing our annual Christmas Caroling. It is a lot of fun, and the adults and children enjoy having us sing. Singing is a great way to worship our Lord and let people in our community know that we are a church who loves the Lord. Hope to see you there for this wonderful time.

Blessings! Annette Reynolds

LIVE NATIVITY

Saturday, December 20th, 6:00 pm

Please join us once again for our 4th annual Live Nativity on Saturday, December 20th on the front lawn. Please contact Annette Reynolds at 914-474-4033 if you are interested in helping.



ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is up in the back of the sanctuary. Each angel has a gender and age written on it with specific needs on the back. Feel free to use the link below for the Amazon wish list as well.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3Cl8H3VUD040P?ref=wl_share

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 24th at 7 pm






LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

DECEMBER 2025

<u>Sunday, December 7th</u> (2nd Sunday of Advent) Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Rom 15:4-13 Matt 3:1-12	<u>Sunday, December 14th</u> (3rd Sunday of Advent) Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 1:46b-55 James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11
<u>Sunday, December 21st</u> (4th Sunday of Advent) Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Rom 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-25	<u>Sunday, December 28th</u> (5th Sunday of Advent) Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Heb 1:1-4, (5-12) John 1:1-14
<u>Wednesday, December 24th</u> <u>(Christmas Eve)</u> Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20	<u>Thursday, December 25th</u> <u>(Christmas Day)</u> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Heb 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm (Zoom)	2 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	3	4 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	5 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	6 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
7 2nd Sunday of Advent (Purple) 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 (Zoom) <u>Trustees Meeting</u> 7 pm (Zoom)	9 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	10	11 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	12 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	13 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
14 3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> <u>Caroling at JV Mall: 1 pm</u>	15 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm (Zoom)	16 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	17	18 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	19 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	20 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am <u>Pageant Rehears- 4:30</u> <u>Live Nativity- 6 pm</u>
21 4th Sunday of Advent (Purple) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> <u>Christmas Pageant</u>	22 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm (Zoom)	23 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>Candlelight Service</u> 7:00 pm	25 Christmas Day 	26 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	27 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
28 1st Sunday after Christmas (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 (Zoom)	30 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	31			