

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak**  
**Order Of Worship**  
**December 21, 2025 – Fourth Sunday Of Advent**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar are given by Mary Vance, “Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday Xavier, with love from the family!”

**GREETING**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:** The Cervini Family  
Light the Advent Candle – FWS #2090 – (v.1,2,3,4)

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: We have been looking for a sign.

**P: Emmanuel—God with us.**

L: We have been waiting for a savior.

**P: Emmanuel—God with us.**

L: The time is near—can it be?

**P: Emmanuel—God with us.**

L: Come let us worship the God of sign, wonder, and promise. Amen

**PRAISE & WORSHIP:**

**PRAISE SHARING:**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

We come this morning, tired from rushing around, tired of trying to meet the demands and expectations of the season. Slow us down. Help us center our thoughts. Restore in us a childlike wonder, and a belief that dreams really do come true. We call on your name. Be with us and in us, Emmanuel. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN:** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” - UMH #224

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

O God, we are easily distracted and slightly jaded, and cannot believe Christ is almost here. There are still presents to be bought—never mind wrapped. There are parties to attend, cookies to be baked, trees to be trimmed. Sometimes we cannot wait until all this hubbub is over. Where is the time to sit, to sleep—never mind to dream? We can get so caught up in the busyness of the season that we miss the gift the season is meant to be. We have heard the scriptures and

stories so often that they have become white noise. For our frenetic pace, for our exhaustion, for our tunnel vision, for our missing the wonder and awe of a baby born to fulfill promises made long ago, forgive us. Restore to us the sense of surprise that you came to us as a little baby, unexpected, yet longed for. God of the visioners and dreamers, may we always be ready to receive your gifts. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God comes to us in dreams and visions, in prophecies and affirmations, in longing and in hope, in salvation through a little child. Claim this promise for yourself, and let God's healing love fill you. Amen

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Isaiah 7:10-16 (ESV)

Romans 1:1-7 (ESV)

## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

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

**HYMN of PREPARATION:** "Go Tell it on the Mountain" – UMH #251

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

**THE MESSAGE:** "The Eyes of Love"

**RESPONSE HYMN:** "There's a Song in the Air" – UMH #249 (vs 1,4)

**OFFERTORY:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

## **DOXOLOGY**

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

**CLOSING HYMN:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" – UMH #230

### **BENEDICTION:**

Go forth with a dream in your soul and a song in your heart, knowing that God's promises are always fulfilled. The time is almost here. Get ready for wonder! Amen

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Isaiah 7:10-16** (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz:

<sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”

<sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

<sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

<sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

### **Romans 1:1-7** (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

<sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

<sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

<sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

<sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

<sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **Matthew 1:18-25** (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,

<sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

*The Poinsettias On  
the Altar are donated  
by the following members:*



Pastor Sandra Mantz and Family

"In celebration of the birth of Jesus, and in loving memory of our  
parents; Dr. and Mrs. Earle Biassey and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mantz"

Glen and Marilyn Bucher

"Given with love and thanksgiving for our family and our Church family"

Maxine Haigh

"In loving memory of my husband, Richard Haigh Sr.,

And my parents, Eunice and Dr. Marvin Freid"

Bev Goodman

"In Loving memory of the Goodman and Harrington Families, and in  
honor of Hope and Lucas"

Kathy, Cory, and Lisa Casey

"In loving memory of Edna Klausman-Valentine and Marie Casey;  
amazing Moms and Grandmas"

Deborah Vesuvio

"In Honor, Praise, Glory and, most of all, Thanksgiving to Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit; who bless me beyond merit. Some unseen, some  
unspoken, but none unnoticed"

Lynne and Hank Schrot

"In loving memory of our parents; Charles and Ingel Wallace and  
Henry and Alma Schrot"

Glenda Rivera-Geis

"In loving memory of William W. Geis Jr., Della Geis, William W. Geis  
Sr., Rose Metzler, and Alfredo Rivera"  
and "In honor of Scott Martino"

Yvonne Chung

"In memory of Emma Crichlow and Bernice Thorney"

The Reynolds Family

"In memory of Carol and Anna" and  
"In honor of Grace and Betsey"

## **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) No meeting this week

**PRAYER GROUP:** Thursday, 11:00 am (Chapel) No Meeting this week

**SMALL GROUP 1:** Thursday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM) No meeting this week

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Thursdays, 7:30 pm with Pastor Sandy (ZOOM). (See link below). No meeting this week

**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, January 5th, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG:** Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 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=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0pIRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

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

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

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**PAGEANT PRACTICE:** This Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. Pizza will be served!!



## **Angel Tree**

The **deadline** for Angel Tree donations is **This Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**. Feel free to use the link below for the Amazon wish list as well.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3CI8H3VUD040P?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3CI8H3VUD040P?ref=wl_share)

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Your 2026 Offering envelopes will be available after worship starting this Sunday!

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** Wednesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**Bowling Fellowship Fun Continues!** The group, now known as “The UMCSO Holy Rollers,” meets on Sundays at JV Lanes and all are welcome. See the sign-up sheet in the breezeway or contact Wesley Battle Sr. (914-837-4835) for more information. Practice from 1:30-2:00 pm, bowl from 2-5 pm.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** This Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> during worship

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

**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

.....

### **This Week's Birthdays:**

Lisa Latasa	12/23
Meridith Gutowski	12/24
Xavier Payne	12/24
Dana Neal-Young	12/27
Debby Speedling	12/27

### **Anniversaries This Week**

Sundeeep and Asha Sundeeep Thomas	12/27
-----------------------------------	-------