

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, Pastor



February 2026 Vol. 48, No.2

Next Deadline 2/25/26

Dear UMCSO Family,

*"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ~ Isaiah 1:18*

This is such a beautiful verse. The color scarlet was associated with sin and guilt. It is deeply dyed and not easily washed out, yet God is promising a complete cleansing and renewal that is beyond human capability.

Snow and wool are both white and pure, symbolizing the complete forgiveness and purification that God offers. Through this verse we see God's readiness to forgive and His ability to purify. This is an invitation to repentance and a promise of God's grace to those who are willing to confront and confess their sins.

We have had quite a bit of snow this winter. It has been cold but I think it is so beautiful. The quietness of the falling snow flakes and the beauty of fresh fallen snow is so peaceful. For me it also brings back wonderful memories. As a child I played in the snow and joyfully anticipated snow days. While I was in college in Wisconsin we enjoyed the snow and bitter cold and awaited the promise of a beautiful spring. Playing in the snow with my children was also a special experience.

As we grow older, the joy of the snow has dissipated. It is dangerous to drive in, alters our schedules and is a mess to clean up. Simply stated, even the thought of a snow storm can bring on stress and frustration. However, we cannot control the weather or will it away. We need to accept it with grace. I enjoy the snow because it slows me down. When you are stuck in the snow during these wintry, snowy days, take time for cozy contemplation.

Proverbs 16:9 reads:

*In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the LORD establishes their steps.*

Life is full of concerns. With the intensity of our jobs, families, concerns about of our nation and world, it is easy to get overwhelmed. However, God is here for us guiding our steps.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th and the beginning of Lent. We are reminded of our mortality and our need to come before God anew. It is a reminder to move forward. God loves us so much that He sent His son to die for us on a cross. This act frees us and by His resurrection we now have the hope of a new life.

Psalm 51 is known as the Confessional Psalm. It is a Psalm of David and is read on Ash Wednesday. It leads us to repentance and is a heartfelt plea that joy and salvation be restored. David made many mistakes but God is a God of restoration. This is a Psalm of Penitence. Here the psalmist speaks his confession and asks God to heal and create a clean heart.

¹ *Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions. and cleanse me from my sin!*
² *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,*

⁷*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

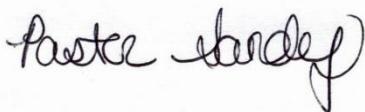
¹⁰*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

¹¹*Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

¹²*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit. (from Psalm 51)*

Seeking God's presence in our lives is the pathway to joy. We should strive to focus our lives on God. May Lent bring you joy and peace and I pray that God will meet your every need. Stay warm in the snow and may the Lord keep you safe and blessed and speak to you during the days and nights of cozy contemplation.

Blessings and Love,



¹⁸*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2026



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

February 1st

Valentine's Day Cards: Please join us for coffee hour and help make Valentine's Day cards for the Healthcare Center.

February 8th

Souper Bowl Sunday: We are collecting donations for the local Food Pantry.

February 18th

Ash Wednesday, Services are as follows:

12 pm at UMCSO (for Yorktown, Grace, Shrub Oak, and Peekskill churches)

12 pm at Mt. Kisco UMC (for Katonah, trinity Boscobel, and Mt. Kisco churches)

7 pm here at UMCSO for all

February 21st

Lenten Bonfire/Soup and Salad Dinner: Saturday, Feb 21st, at 5:00 PM. Please see the sign-up sheet in the breezeway.

Tres Dias Secuela: 1-4 pm in the Parish Hall



Cooperative Parish Meeting:

This Sunday, Feb. 1st at 3 pm in the GP Room

Trustees Meeting: Monday, Feb. 2nd at 7 pm (Zoom)

Small Group Leaders:

Sat. Feb. 7th and 21st on Zoom

Ad Council: Wednesday, Feb. 11th, 7 pm on Zoom

Education Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 22nd following worship.

Bowling Fellowship: Continues to meet (weather permitting) every Sunday from 1:45 – 5:00 pm at JV Lanes. Everyone is welcome!



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 UMCSO 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.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries



Beth Gilleo	3
Beverly Martinez	4
Robert Gutowski	5
Bjorg Davis	7
Karen King	7
Anne Bradley	9
Veronica Rosario	9
Stella Johnson-Ganney	10
John Reed	10
Patty Robcke	10
Benjamin Robcke	11
Ruth O'Neal	11
Stephanie Spina	12
Linda Stella	15
Nancy Mannino	16
Glenda A. Rivera-Geis	20
Maria Demartino	23
Barbara Conklin	26
Suzanne Libfeld	26
Rosalin Darling	28

Garrett and JoAnn Stokes	2/20
Rich Jr. and Debby Haigh	2/25
Daniel Sr. and Jennifer Pagano	2/25



Sunday School Corner

“All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.”

~ Isaiah 54:13

As we enter the month of February, we are grateful for the blessings of this new year. On January 4, we enjoyed a wonderful New Year's Breakfast after church. Special thanks to the Casey family chefs for the delicious pancakes!!

On February 1, at coffee hour, we will once again be calling on everyone to utilize their artistic talents making Valentines. The Valentines will be distributed to residents of local nursing homes and hospitals in the hopes of bringing some joy to their holiday.



We will once again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 8. Youths will stand outside of the church with soup bowls and take donations for local soup kitchens. Anything you can contribute will be greatly appreciated!



Finally, mark your calendars for the Lenten Bonfire on Saturday, February 21 at 5:00 pm. After a light meal, we will reflect upon our sins over the past year, and we will use the bonfire to symbolically “burn” and renounce them as we enter the Lenten season. Please join us for this beautiful and meaningful event.

We wish you all of God's blessings in the coming month.

Yours in Christ,

The Sunday School Teachers

Events and Happenings This Month

VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS

This Sunday, Feb. 1st, during coffee hour, please come help us celebrate and spread the love as we make Valentine's Day cards for the Healthcare Center!



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday, Feb. 8th, we will be collecting donations for the local Food Pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items and/or a small monetary contribution to help tackle hunger.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18th 2026 SERVICES



There will be a 12:00 pm service at UMCSO (for Shrub Oak, Peekskill, Grace, and Yorktown churches), a 12:00 pm service at Mt. Kisco UMC (for Mt. Kisco, Trinity Boscobel, and Katonah churches), and a 7:00 pm service at UMCSO for all.



LENTEN BONFIRE: Saturday, Feb. 21st at 5:00 pm. Please sign up in the breezeway to bring something to share for the soup and salad dinner.

TRES DIAS SECUELA: Saturday Feb. 21st from 1- 4 pm in the Parish Hall.

UPDATE ON JOE SPINA: Joe has finished his advanced training at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and transferred, on 1/27, to the US Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida for the next 9-12 months. All cards, letters, etc. for Joe can now be sent to his new address:

SPINA, JOSEPH
440 ROBERTS AVE.
PMB #2368
PENSACOLA, FL 32511





LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 2026

<p><u>Sunday, February 1st</u> (4th Sunday after Epiphany)</p> <p>Mic 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Cor 1:18-31 Matt 5:1-12</p>	<p><u>Sunday, February 8th</u> (5th Sunday after Epiphany)</p> <p>Isa 58:1-9 (9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9 (10) 1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16) Matt 5:13-20</p>
<p><u>Sunday, February 15th</u> (Transfiguration Sunday)</p> <p>Exod 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 9 2 Pet 1:16-21 Matt 17:1-9</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, February 18th</u> (Ash Wednesday)</p> <p>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10 Matt 6:1-6, 16-21</p>
<p><u>Sunday, February 22nd</u> (1st Sunday of Lent)</p> <p>Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Rom 5:12-19 Matt 4:1-11</p>	A photograph of a wooden cross, a small bowl, and palm fronds, symbolizing Lenten observance.



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 4 th Sunday after Epiphany (Green) HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: www.umcsocom Cooperative Parish meeting – 3 pm GP Room	2 <u>Trustees Meeting</u> 7 pm (Zoom)	3 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	4	5 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	6 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	7 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
8 5 th Sunday after Epiphany (Green) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: www.umcsocom Souper Bowl Sunday	9	10 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	11 <u>Ad Council Meets</u> 7 pm Zoom	12 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	13 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	14 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
15 Transfiguration Sunday (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: www.umcsocom	16 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm (Zoom)	17 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	18 <u>Ash Wednesday</u>	19 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	20 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	21 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
22 1st Sunday of Lent (Purple) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> On-line Live Worship: www.umcsocom Education Meeting after worship	23 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm (Zoom)	24 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	25	26 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11:00 am <u>Small Group 1</u> 1:00 pm <u>Bible Study</u> 7:30pm ZOOM	27 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Conference Call	28 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am