

## 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



January 2026 Vol. 48, No.1

Next Deadline 1/25/26

Happy New Year UMCSO Family!

As we enter into 2026, are you pondering the future? Concerns about finances, family, health, broken relationships and other matters 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. It is also a time to set New Year's Resolutions. In Colossians 3:15-17 Paul gives us great Resolutions as we enter into 2026.

*<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

In the spirit of resolution, listen to Paul's guidance to the Colossians: **let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.** In our recovery from the stress of the season, and in light of family dynamics that are sometimes less than ideal, we hear this gentle word of wisdom. We humbly acknowledge that Jesus Christ, whose birth we have celebrated, is the Lord of all things.

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.** Sometimes we begin a new year with grand intentions to read the entire Bible, from cover to cover.

Then, in early January we crash and burn somewhere in Leviticus!

Instead, we need to allow the word of Christ—some parable, some teaching, some fragment of good news—to dwell in us.

We should also sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.

Carols help us to offer praise to God for the miracle of new birth and new life.

Finally, **we are to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

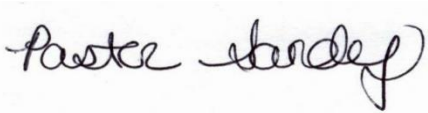
As we begin a new year, in both civic and church calendars, we aspire to live as Jesus lives; to be his presence in the world. The incarnation, God taking human form, becomes a reality as we live in peace, as the scripture dwells in us and changes us, as we offer praise, as we follow the One who is the word made flesh, full of grace and truth.

**This is the very best resolution of them all!**

Trust Him, imitate Him, and love Him. Know that there is real power for transformation for those He calls his own and He will indeed make all things well. Jesus walks with us through the highs and lows of life and for this we may be grateful eternally. God wants His people to prosper and flourish. God is with us and will stand with us not only to simply get us through this next year but will help us overcome with abundance!!

Happy new Year 2026!!

Blessings and Love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Shady". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Pastor" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Shady".

The following is a lovely poem; I pray it blesses you!...

## **The Work of Christmas**

By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.

*Howard Thurman (1899 – 1981), was a key figure in the life of the USA during the 20th century. Thurman was an author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. He was also an early leader and mentor in the nonviolence movement that shaped and included Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **January 2026**



#### **SUNDAYS, 10:30 AM**

WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE IN-PERSON &  
LIVE STREAMED

**January 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Jan. 3rd<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> on Zoom

**Trustees Meeting:** Monday, Dec. 5th  
at 7 pm (Zoom)



Russ Reynolds	1
Laura Hoenig	4
Dominick Schiavi	4
Augustus Aryee	6
Jerome Marcellly	6
Robert Reynolds	8
Mary Ferreira	12
Tim Carey	14
Annette Reynolds	17
Elliot "Jay" Drisko	18
Linda Hoernes	21
Thomas Antonucci	23
Peter Sutton	23
Sawyer Gilbert	24
Tommy DeMartino	30
James Gale	30
Margaret Reid	31



Yvonne and Victor Chung	5
Marilyn and Glen Bucher	17
Lisa and Jaime Latasa	31



### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to sign up for flowers on the altar please contact Michele Squibb. [squibbm14@gmail.com](mailto:squibbm14@gmail.com)

*Thank you to all who glorified the altar and sanctuary with the donations of all the beautiful Poinsettias.*

### **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.





# *Christmas 2025*



*And a Happy and Blessed New Year to All!*

## Sunday School Corner

*"All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace." – Isaiah 54:13*

This December was truly a season of joy as our children and youth learned about the miracle of Christmas.

In both church and Sunday School, the younger children learned about the story of Jesus' birth and the meaning of the Advent candles. Each week in church, Rachel Pinto and Lisa Grace led special Advent Children's Moments. Each week in Sunday School, we unrolled an Advent scroll with the candle and a special figure for each week.

Thanks to Kathy Casey, Kathy Schiavi, Lisa Grace and several adult actors, we were able to put on a very successful Christmas pageant the Sunday before Christmas!



As we begin the New Year, mark your calendars for an important event to come! On **Sunday, January 4, we will be holding our annual New Year's Breakfast** after worship. Chef Jack "Flapjack" Casey will provide pancakes, and there is a sign-up sheet posted for other items.

We pray for a blessed New Year for all.

Yours in Christ,  
The Sunday School Teachers



## **LAY LEADERSHIP UMCSO 2026**

*"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."*

*(Colossians 3:23-24)*



On November 23, 2025, at our Church/Charge Conference we elected the following people to the various committees and working groups of our church. Many thanks to all who served in many ways during the year.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – 2026**

The Administrative Council consists of: (1) listed Officers, (2) designated “Members-At-Large, and (3) Chairs of Committees, sub-Committees, and Work Areas. The Administrative Council meetings may be attended by any member of the Church, or interested person, but without vote, unless in one of the three categories listed above. The Administrative Council may meet on call of the Chair or Pastor. The Administrative Council usually meets on Sunday, following our worship.

#### **Church Officers**

**Chair, Administrative Council**

**Recording Secretary**

**Lay Leader**

**Treasurers**

**Financial Secretaries**

**Chair, Finance Committee**

**Chair, Board of Trustees**

**Chair, Staff/Parish Relations**

**Chair, Missions Committee**

**Chair, Membership Committee**

**Chair, Worship (Ushers/Acolytes/Communion)**

**Chairs, Youth Ministry**

**Lisa Grace**

**Communications**

Cliff Cullum

**Coordinators/Education**

Lisa Grace/Annette Reynolds

**Annual Conference, Lay Representative Member**

**Chair, Men’s Group**

**Laity Coordinator, Northern Westchester Parish**

**Linda Hoernes**

Marilyn Bucher

Marilyn Bucher/Kathy Schiavi

Linda Hoernes/Betsy Goldhorn

Cliff Cullum/June Willis

Doug Gaylor

Russ Reynolds

Annette Reynolds

Cory Casey

Maxine Haigh

Deborah Vesuvio

Pastor, Samantha Palumbo,

Marilyn Bucher/Deborah Vesuvio/

Kathy Casey/Doug Gaylor/

Dianne Benincasa

Russ Reynolds

Dianne Benincasa/**Barbara Conklin**



## **Committees, Boards and Work Areas**

### **Committee on Lay Leadership (Formerly known as Nominations)**

Ex-Officio, Lay Leader, Marilyn Bucher, Kathy Schiavi

<b><u>2026</u></b>	<b><u>2027</u></b>	<b><u>2028</u></b>
Michele Squibb	Linda Hoernes	<b>Colette Carpenter</b>
Dom Schiavi	Maxine Haigh	<b>Brent Horton</b>
Annette Reynolds	Doug Gaylor	<b>Daryl Lindholm</b>

### **Missions & Outreach**

<b><u>2026</u></b>	<b><u>2027</u></b>	<b><u>2028</u></b>
Susan Crookston	Lilia Gutowski	<b>Barbara Conklin</b>
Cory Casey (Chair))	Kathy Casey	<b>Annette Reynolds</b>
Patty Antonucci	Nick Aryee	<b>Sarah Moden-Alliston</b>

### **Staff/Parish Relations**

Ex-Officio, Lay Leader, Marilyn Bucher, Kathy Schiavi  
Ex-Officio, Annual Conference Lay Representative, Dianne Benincasa  
Safe Sanctuaries Chair, Kathy Casey

<b><u>2026</u></b>	<b><u>2027</u></b>	<b><u>2028</u></b>
Susan Crookston	Annette Reynolds	<b>Bev Goodman</b>
Robert Gutowski	Michele Squibb	<b>Daryl Lindholm</b>
Barbara Conklin	Betsy Goldhorn	<b>Nick Aryee</b>

### **Board of Trustees**

<b><u>2026</u></b>	<b><u>2027</u></b>	<b><u>2028</u></b>
Peter Hoernes	Karla Ruth	<b>Russ Reynolds</b>
Doug Gaylor	Debbie Vesuvio	<b>Jonathan Goodman</b>
Glen Bucher	Susan Crookston	<b>James Matthews</b>

### **Endowment**

Glen Bucher, Doug Gaylor, James Matthews, Peter Hoernes

### **Education**

Doug Gaylor, Lisa Grace, Kathy Casey, Cory Casey, Lisa Casey, Annette Reynolds, Sarah Moden, Theresa Aryee, Kathy Schiavi, Colette Carpenter, Wendy Cervini, **Lynne Schrot** and all active teachers.  
Safe Sanctuaries Chair, Kathy Casey

### **Finance**

Ex-Officio, Lay Leader, Marilyn Bucher, Kathy Schiavi  
Ex-Officio, Annual Conference Lay Representative, Dianne Benincasa  
Doug Gaylor (Chair, Finance) Linda Hoernes and Betsy Goldhorn (Treasurers); Cliff Cullum and June Willis (Financial Secretaries); Glen Bucher (Trustees Treasurer); Curtis Conklin (Chair, Administrative Council); Annette Reynolds (Chair, Staff/Parish Relations)

### **Audit**

James Matthews

### **Membership and Church Growth**

<b><u>2026</u></b>	<b><u>2027</u></b>	<b><u>2028</u></b>
Lindsey Gilbert	Annette Reynolds	<b>Maxine Haigh</b>
Beverly Martinez	Susan Crookston	<b>Bev Goodman</b>
Colette Carpenter	Dianne Benincasa	<b>Doreen Matthews</b>

### **Book of Remembrance**

Beverly Martinez

### **Worship – Rev. Sandra Mantz, Chair**

Maxine Haigh, Susan Crookston, Peter Hoernes, Lilia Gutowski (Greeters)	Dawn Zampell Brown(Music)	Alice Fennell (Hospitality) <b>Sarah Moden-Alliston</b>
Flowers: Michele Squibb Décor: Michele Squibb, Betsy Goldhorn, Barbara Conklin, <b>Rachel Ward, Debbie Vesuvio, Annette Reynolds, Linda Hoernes</b>	Cliff Cullum (A/V)	Cliff Cullum (A/V) and crew
Debbie Vesuvio: Ushers, Acolytes & Communion (Various Helpers)	ALL MEMBERS (Coffee Hour)	ALL MEMBERS (Coffee Hour)

## **Craft Circle**

Betsy Goldhorn, Linda Hoernes, Rachel Ward, Michele Squibb, Annette Reynolds, Maxine Haigh, Carol Pugh, Yvonne Chung, Sarah Moden-Alliston, Samantha Palumbo, June Willis, Debbie Vesuvio, Pastor Sandy

## **Evangelism**

Pastor Sandra Mantz, **Peter Hoernes**  
(new members to be added at will)

**\*\*Bold indicates those who are new to the position or starting a new term in 2026**  
**Rev. Sandra B. Mantz November 23, 2025**

## **LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

<b><u>Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(Epiphany Sunday)</b>  Jer 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephes 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18	<b><u>Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(Baptism of the Lord)</b>  Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matt 3:13-17
<b><u>Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany)</b>  Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	<b><u>Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany)</b>  Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1,4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matt 4:12-23





# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel  <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom  <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	<b>2</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>3</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am  <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
<b>4 (Epiphany Sunday) (White)</b> <b>HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>  10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a></u>  11:30 am <u>New Year Pancake Brunch, GP Room</u>	<b>5</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm  <u>Trustees Meeting</u> 7:30 pm	<b>6</b> <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel  <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom  <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	<b>9</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>10</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
<b>11 (Baptism of the Lord) (White)</b>  10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a></u>	<b>12</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel  <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom  <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	<b>16</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>17</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am  <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
<b>18 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany) (Green)</b> 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a></u>	<b>19</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	<b>20</b> <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel  <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom  <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	<b>23</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>24</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
<b>25 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany) (Green)</b>  10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: <a href="http://www.umcso.com">www.umcso.com</a></u>	<b>26</b> <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	<b>27</b> <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am, Chapel  <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm, zoom  <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm, Zoom	<b>30</b> <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<b>31</b> <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am