

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP
January 11, 2026 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by our faithful church families, “In joyful and prayerful celebration of the New Year.”

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Welcome to worship this day!

P: We have come seeking God's blessings and love.

L: They shall be given to you.

P: We have come seeking forgiveness and healing.

L: These will be offered to you. Open your hearts to receive God's Good News.

P: We open our hearts to all of God's words and ways for us. AMEN.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear the story of your Son's baptism, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: “Holy, Holy, Holy” - UMH #64

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the Good News! The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 42:1-9 (NIV)

Psalm 29 (NIV)

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "I Was there to Hear Your Borning Cry" – FWS #2051

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

SERMON: Destined for a Purpose

1. Set Apart to Serve
2. God has a Plan for our Lives
3. Strength for the Journey

RESPONSE HYMN: "Spirit of the Living God" – UMH #393 (2x)

OFFERTORY: "Special Music Selection"

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Jesus Shall Reign" – UMH #157

BENEDICTION:

Go forth joyfully. God is with you. Bring peace and hope to all you meet. And may God's eternal love shine through you always. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 42:1-9 (NIV)

42 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.

³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

⁵ This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

⁶ “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

⁷ to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

⁸ “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

Psalm 29 (NIV)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
 worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
 the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

UMCSO SCHEDULE

Zoom links are included in Mailchimp. Please contact us with your email (umcsny@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, January 12th, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: Saturday January 17th, 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

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



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Your 2026 Offering envelopes, as well as 2025 statements, will be available for pick up following worship by the church office.

UPDATE ON JOE SPINA: What a blessing it was to have Joe back home with us for a while! Sadly, he's on his way south again, so may we all remember him in our prayers throughout his training. His address will be changing and we will post it when we get it but, in the meantime, all cards, letters, etc. can be sent to John and Gayle and they will make sure he gets them.



John and Gayle Spina
60 Ridge Rd.
Garrison, NY 10524

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP: Bowling Fellowship continues! The group, now known as "**The UMCSO Holy Rollers**," meets on Sundays at JV Lanes and all are welcome. Bowling is from 2-5 pm (1:30 if you want to practice) See the sign-up sheet in the breezeway or just show up! Contact Wesley Battle Sr. (914-837-4835) for more information.

POST HOLIDAY MEETINGS: All weekly and monthly meetings will resume according to their original schedules.

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:

Mary Ferreira 1/12

Tim Carey 1/14

Annette Reynolds 1/17

Anniversaries This Week

Glen and Marilyn Bucher 1/17