

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**January 18, 2026**  
**Second Sunday After Epiphany**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar are given by Marilyn and Glen Bucher, "In joyful celebration of 59 years of marriage."

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Listen up, everyone! God has given us work to do.

**P: God has called each of us before we were even born.**

L: It was God who named us.

**P: It is God who claims us.**

L: The light of God's love shines in us.

**P: Let's shine God's love into all the world!**

**PRAISE & WORSHIP**

**PRAISE SHARING**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God of Isaiah, you are our God, too. You spoke to the prophets, but your message did not end with them. There is still work to be done, and we pray to hear your call afresh. Help us joyfully claim our role as your beloved servants, knowing that you provide all that we need to do our work. You walked with us before we were even born, and you continue to hold us by the hand each and every day of our lives. We pray with the confidence of those who have been filled with your light. We pray with the assurance of those who have been called into fellowship with your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN:** "How Great Thou Art" - UMH #77

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Faithful God, you call us to be saints, but we are more comfortable with the role of sinner; you call us to be your servants, but we worry that we lack the skills to do your work; you put a new song of praise in our mouths, but we stumble on unfamiliar words; you show us the work to be tackled, but we turn away defiant, insisting we have more important things to do.

Put your song on our lips and in our hearts, and remind us of the joy that awaits us when we put our trust in you. Guide us into the light of your unwavering, never-ending, and grace-filled love. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God is faithful and ever-present. The God who knew us before our birth loves us still and strengthens us, that we will one day be blameless. Through the gift of Jesus Christ, God offers forgiveness, grace, and mercy. Enter into the light!

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 49:1-7 (MSG)

Psalm 40:1-11 (MSG)

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

**HYMN OF PREPARATION:** “The Summons” – FWS #2130

**GOSPEL:** John 1:29-42 (MSG)

**SERMON:** The God of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

**RESPONSE HYMN:** “I Love to Tell the Story” – UMH #156

**OFFERTORY:** “Special Music Selection”

**DOXOLOGY**

**PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN:** “Amazing Grace” – UMH #378 (vs 1,2,3,6)

### **BENEDICTION:**

Go in the love of the One who strengthens us for the work to which we are called. Go in the fellowship of Jesus Christ, who claims us as sisters and brothers. Go in the community of the Holy Spirit, who binds us together with all the saints. Go with grace to shine God's love into all the world. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Isaiah 49:1-7 (MSG)**

Listen, far-flung islands, pay attention, faraway people: God put me to work from the day I was born. The moment I entered the world he named me.

<sup>2</sup> He gave me speech that would cut and penetrate. He kept his hand on me to protect me. He made me his straight arrow and hid me in his quiver.

<sup>3</sup> He said to me, “You’re my dear servant, Israel, through whom I’ll shine.”

<sup>4</sup> But I said, “I’ve worked for nothing. I’ve nothing to show for a life of hard work. Nevertheless, I’ll let God have the last word. I’ll let him pronounce his verdict.”

<sup>5</sup> “And now,” God says, this God who took me in hand from the moment of birth to be his servant, to bring Jacob back home to him, to set a reunion for Israel— What an honor for me in God’s eyes! That God should be my strength!

<sup>6</sup> He says, “But that’s not a big enough job for my servant— just to recover the tribes of Jacob, merely to round up the strays of Israel. I’m setting you up as a light for the *nations* so that my salvation becomes *global!*”

<sup>7</sup> God, Redeemer of Israel, The Holy of Israel, says to the despised one, kicked around by the nations, slave labor to the ruling class: “Kings will see, get to their feet—the princes, too—and then fall on their faces in homage Because of God, who has faithfully kept his word, The Holy of Israel, who has chosen you.”

## **Psalm 40:1-11 (MSG)**

I waited and waited and waited for God. At last he looked; finally he listened.

2 He lifted me out of the ditch, pulled me from deep mud. He stood me up on a solid rock to make sure I wouldn't slip.

3 He taught me how to sing the latest God-song, a praise-song to our God. More and more people are seeing this: they enter the mystery, abandoning themselves to God.

4 Blessed are you who give yourselves over to God, turn your backs on the world's "sure thing," ignore what the world worships;

5 The world's a huge stockpile of God-wonders and God-thoughts. Nothing and no one comes close to you! I start talking about you, telling what I know, and quickly run out of words. Neither numbers nor words account for you.

6 Doing something for you, bringing something to you - that's not what you're after. Being religious, acting pious - that's not what you're asking for. You've opened my ears so I can listen.

7 So I answered, "I'm coming. I read in your letter what you wrote about me,

8 And I'm coming to the party you're throwing for me." That's when God's Word entered my life, became part of my very being.

9 I've preached you to the whole congregation, I've kept back nothing, God - you know that.

10 I didn't keep the news of your ways a secret, didn't keep it to myself. I told it all, how dependable you are, how thorough. I didn't hold back pieces of love and truth for myself alone. I told it all, let the congregation know the whole story.

11 Now God, don't hold out on me, don't hold back your passion. Your love and truth are all that keeps me together.

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **John 1:29-42 (MSG)**

29-31 The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I’ve been talking about, ‘the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.’ I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God.”

32-34 John clinched his witness with this: “I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, ‘The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ That’s exactly what I saw happen, and I’m telling you, there’s no question about it: *This is the Son of God.*

35-36 The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb.”

37-38 The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, “What are you after?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

39 He replied, “Come along and see for yourself.” They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened.

40-42 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard John’s witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, “We’ve found the Messiah” (that is, “Christ”). He immediately led him to Jesus.

Jesus took one look up and said, “You’re John’s son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas” (or Peter, which means “Rock”).

## 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** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00 pm, (ZOOM) Next: Feb. 16th

**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, February 2nd, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG:** Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21st, 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=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0plRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

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

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



**PLEASE NOTE - MONDAY WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP:** Will now be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month instead of weekly. Their next meeting will be on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm on Zoom.

**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.

**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

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

Chris Brown	1/12
Jay Drisko	1/18
Linda Hoernes	1/21
Thomas Antonucci	1/23
Peter Sutton	1/23
Sawyer Gilbert	1/24

## **No Anniversaries This Week**