

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak
Order Of Worship
January 4, 2026 – Epiphany Sunday
Communion Sunday

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Maxine Haigh, “In memory of my father, Dr. Martin Freid, on his birthday.” And by Grace Reynolds. “In celebration of Russ and Betsey’s birthdays.”

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: O Come, Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

P: The Star in the dark sky heralded His Coming.

L: Led by the light of the Star, the Wise Ones came to pay homage.

P: We, too, come to the stable, seeking the infant King.

L: Come, Arise! Shine! The Light has come.

P: God’s Light of love is shining upon us. AMEN.

PRAISE & WORSHIP:

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, who breaks through the darkness of doubt and despair, be with us this day as we hear of the visit of the Wise Ones, who risked everything to follow a Star. Let us open our hearts and be willing to risk receiving the gift of gracious Love that you have to offer us in the form of our Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “We Three Kings” - UMH #254

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 60:1-6 (NIV)

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION *(Children will be dismissed right after)*

HYMN of PREPARATION: “What Child is This” – UMH #219

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

SERMON: “Will You Follow the Star?”

1. Be a Wise Seeker
2. Worship in Awe and Wonder
3. Joyfully Choose Another Route

RESPONSE HYMN: There’s a Song in the Air” – UMH #249

OFFERTORY: “Special Music Selection”

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: “The First Noel” – UMH #245

BENEDICTION:

The Light of the Star, the light of God’s love, shines before you as you leave this place. Go in peace, go in joy, go in love to meet God’s people in the world and greet them with the good news of salvation. AMEN.

https://ministrymatters.com/2018-12-01_worship_connection_epiphany_sunday/

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 60:1-6 (NIV)

60 “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father,

¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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)

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 5th, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: Saturday, January 3rd and 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

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

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

Announcements and Upcoming Events

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH: Join us this coming Sunday, January 4th for our New Year Brunch following worship and please bring something to share

ALL MEETINGS: Resume their regular weekly schedules beginning Jan. 5th

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP! The group, now known as “**The UMCSO Holy Rollers,**” meets on Sundays at JV Lanes from 2-5 pm (1:45 if you want some practice time) and all are welcome. See the sign-up sheet in the breezeway or just show up! Contact Wesley Battle Sr. (914-837-4835) for more information.

TRUSTEES MEETING: Monday, January 5th at 7:00 pm (Zoom)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: If you have a child going into 7th 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! 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/Blessedassurance.today>

There is a link to the Church's website
Pastor Sandy will post inspirational verses regularly

.....

This Week's Birthdays:

Elizabeth (Betsey) Goldhorn Reynolds	1/04
Laura Hoenig	1/04
Dom Schiavi	1/04
Roman DeMaria	1/05
Augustas Aryee	1/06
Jerome Marcelly	1/06
Dr. Robert Reynolds	1/08
Christina Richardson	1/09

Anniversaries This Week

Yvonne and Victor Chung	1/05
-------------------------	------