

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



March 2026 Vol. 48, No.3

Next Deadline 3/25/26

Dear UMCSO Family,

Happy Spring!! We certainly have had a snowy winter but on March 20, it will be Spring. The trees will begin to bud, the grass will grow and the flowers will bloom. The cold of winter will be transformed into a vibrant array of colors. Just like in the words of the hymn:

Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth:

In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In the front yard of my childhood home, in Fairfield CT, was a large patch of golden Daffodils that the previous owner of the house had planted. Each and every year they bloomed and each and every year I would gaze at them, amazed by their beauty.

While I was serving as Pastor of the UMC of Waterbury, one of my members took me to a special place. The annual spring display of tens of thousands of daffodils and narcissus at Laurel Ridge along Wigwam Road in the Northfield section of Litchfield, CT.

Laurel Ridge Daffodils, is a beautiful area that was started by prominent Litchfield residents Remy and Virginia Morosani. They first planted 10,000 daffodil bulbs in the early 1940s, and plantings have continued and expanded over the years. It is worth the drive!! Daffodils are such joyful flowers and, as we sit amongst the white downy snow, I think about the daffodils, and the promise of a new Spring.

William Wordsworth, the English Poet said it best:

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed--and gazed--but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

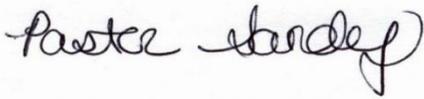
This poem reminds me that life is about attitude. Having a positive one gets you through the tough times. The comfort of the ordinary around us can bring us solace and peace. God created such an amazing world that we should never forget that with His presence we are never alone. We should find joy in the ordinary and remember...there is always hope. We may not be able to control our circumstances but we can control our attitude.

Philippians 4:4-8 states; *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.* ⁵ *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;* ⁶ *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* ⁷ *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

⁸ *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things*

The Lord is with us, and do not fret. Spring is around the corner.

Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2026



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

March 1st

Coffee hour celebrating Black History Month following worship, all are welcome.

Confirmation Classes begin this week and will meet every Sunday in Pastor's office following worship unless otherwise specified.

March 8th

Daylight Savings Time begins! Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hr. on Saturday night before bed.

March 20th

Join us for Church Family Night Dinner, March 20th at 6 pm and sign up in the breezeway to bring a dish to share.

March 29th

Holy week begins on March 29th, see below for the full Holy Week schedule.



Small Group Leaders:

Sat. March 7th and 21st on Zoom

Trustees Meeting: Next meeting to be determined



Nigel D. Ferreira	2
Cindy Ayling	2
Stanley Mochulsky	3
John Ayling	4
Jessica Abraham	5
Tony Capozza	5
Leslie Anne Norman	6
Marshall Moseley	7
Matthew Spina	12
Asha Dias	15
Joe Spina	15
Daniel Hoernes	16
Garrett Stokes	20
Doris Shields	24
Lee Anne Chung	27
Lilia Gutowski	27
Natalie Grace	28
Brielle Bucher	30
Ken Mannino	30
Glenna Outhouse	30
Michael Antonucci, III	31
Maxine Haigh	31



None This Month

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS: March 8th at 2 am we spring ahead 1 hour. So don't forget to adjust your clocks before bed on Saturday, March 7th,



ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

Sunday School Corner

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” -- Romans 8:14

The upcoming months will be busy ones for our Sunday School, and we are grateful that our children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of meaningful events.



During February, we worked to share God’s love with others in our community. With the help of the congregation during coffee hour, our children created beautiful Valentines that were delivered to Cortlandt Healthcare. We hope they brightened the days of the residents who received them. On “Souper Bowl” Sunday, our youth collected money for our local food pantry.

In March, we are very excited to announce that we are planning our first Family Night in quite a few years! **On March 20, we will host a Family Game Night. Please plan to join us at 6:00 pm for a pot trust dinner and some fun family games and activities!!**

In Sunday School, our elementary students are continuing with the Godly Play curriculum. During Lent, they will be learning about Jesus’ life and resurrection. On **March 29**, we will celebrate **Palm Sunday** with our traditional **Palm Parade**. The following week, on **Easter Sunday**, we will host two Easter egg hunts for the children: a **Biblical Easter Egg Hunt** during Sunday School and an outdoor hunt for candy-filled eggs after the service.



Finally, on **May 31st**, several of our youth and Sunday School teachers will travel to Manhattan for the **Breakfast Run**. We will serve breakfast to some of our needy brothers and sisters, and we will also distribute bags of necessities and hygiene supplies. Please check the breezeway for a list of needed donations.

As we enter the time of Lent, we are thankful that we have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with others.

Yours in Christ,

The Sunday School Teachers



Easter Sunday ~ April 5, 2026

On Easter Sunday we will again adorn our Sanctuary to honor the Lord. If you have family members, loved ones or friends you'd like to honor or memorialize, please order below and return this form with accompanying payment to the office or put in the collection plate. The cost of each plant is listed below. Please make checks payable to UMCSO and note "Easter Flowers" in the memo section.

Orders must be received by March 30, 2026

Please indicate your choices below by **noting quantity** beside each:

Lilies (\$14.75 ea.) # _____

6" Hydrangea (\$22 ea.) # _____

Tulips (\$8.75 ea.) # _____

8" Hydrangea (\$27 ea.) # _____

Daffodils (\$8.75 ea.) # _____

Hyacinths (\$8.75 ea.) # _____

Name and Phone # of
Donor: _____

Person(s) to be
Memorialized: _____

Person(s) to be
Honored: _____

If you have any questions please contact the Church office at 914-245-4682



LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

<p><u>Sunday, March 1st</u> (2nd Sunday in Lent) Gen 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Rom 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17</p>	<p><u>Sunday, March 8th</u> (3rd Sunday in Lent) Exod 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Rom 5:1-11 John 4:5-42</p>
<p><u>Sunday, March 15th</u> (4th Sunday in Lent) 1 Sam 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephes 5:8-14 John 9:1-41</p>	<p><u>Sunday, January 22nd</u> (5th Sunday in Lent) Ezek 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Rom 8:6-11 John 11:1-45</p>
<p><u>Sunday, March 29th</u> (Palm Sunday) Matt 21:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Phil 2:5-11 Matt 27:11 – 54</p>	



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 (2nd Sunday in Lent) (Purple) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> <i>Holy Communion Sunday</i> <i>Black Hist. Month Celebration/Coffee Hr.</i> <i>Confirmation class begins</i> <i>Education Mtg. following worship</i>	2 <u>Trustees Meeting</u> 7:30 pm	3 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	4 <u>Lenten Service</u> Yorktown UMC 6 pm	5 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	6 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	7 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
8 (3rd Sunday in Lent) (Purple) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	11 <u>Lenten Service</u> Katonah-Purd. UMC 6 pm	12 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	13 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	14 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
15 (4th Sunday in Lent) (Purple) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	16 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	17 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	18 <u>Lenten Service</u> Peekskill UMC 6 pm	19 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	20 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am <u>Family Dinner Night</u> 6 pm GP Room	21 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am
22 (5th Sunday in Lent) (Purple) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	23	24 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	25 <u>Lenten Service</u> UMCSO 6 pm	26 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	27 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	28 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
29 (Palm Sunday) (Purple) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	30	31 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am		<u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am, Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm, zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm, Zoom	<u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	<u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am