

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT SHRUB OAK

March 15, 2026 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are in celebration of the impending Spring; the season of impending renewal, hope, and growth.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: The Lord is our shepherd; we will have all that we need; we are released from fear.

P: The Shepherd guides us in fruitful living, giving us healing and pardon.

L: Even though difficulties and dangers may lie ahead, we do not need to fear.

P: God's love and strength are as a rod and staff for us.

L: God will give us abundantly from God's own love.

P: Surely this goodness and mercy will be with us all of our days, and we will dwell in God's loving care forevermore. AMEN.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness, and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: "Open my Eyes, That I may See" – UMH #454

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the Good News: Even though you have lived in darkness, God's light is being poured out for you. Accept the light and love that is freely offered, and be transformed by its healing mercies. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 23 (KJV)

Ephesians 5:8-14 (NIV)

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "He Leadeth Me" – UMH #128

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41 (NIV)

SERMON: A Journey of Discovery and Restoration

1. Be Willing
2. Open your Eyes
3. Restoration

RESPONSE HYMN: "Lamb of God" – FWS #2113

OFFERTORY: Special Music Selection

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" – UMH #140

BENEDICTION:

Lord, give us such sight, that we may see the many ways of serving you by helping others. Help us bring sight to others who dwell in deep darkness. AMEN.

https://ministrymatters.com/2020-02-08_worship_connection_march_19_2023/

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 23 (KJV)

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Ephesians 5:8-14 (NIV)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.

¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

¹⁴ This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41 (NIV)

⁹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes.

⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.

¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents.

¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind.

²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.”

²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses!

²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will.

³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind.

³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

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 Every 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 pm, (ZOOM) Next: March 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#)

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, March 16th, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: Saturday March 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=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0pIRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

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



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026: Classes have begun and will take place every Sunday following worship upstairs in the High School classroom (Rm #21) unless otherwise specified.

TRUSTEES MEETING: This Monday, March 16th at 7 pm. (Zoom)

LENTEN SERVICES: There will be a service each Wednesday of Lent at a different church. This week's Lenten service, March 18th, will be held at Peekskill UMC. It begins with a lite soup supper at 6 pm followed by the service at 7 pm. Please see the flyer below for full schedule and details.

FAMILY NIGHT: Friday, March 20th at 6:00 pm. Please join us for family dinner and game night; see the sign-up sheet in the breezeway to bring a dinner dish.

MISSION MEETING: Monday, March 23rd at 6pm (Zoom)

AD COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, March 24th at 7 pm (Zoom)

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP: "The UMCSO Holy Rollers," meets on Sundays at JV Lanes from 2-5 pm (1:45 if you want some practice time). Just show up or contact Wesley Battle Sr. (914-837-4835) for more information. All are welcome!



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.) # _____

Please print Name/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

Holy Week Schedule 2026



Palm Sunday, March 29th:

Traditional Service 10:30 am

Palm Parade

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd:

7:00 pm Service

Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3rd:

Prayer Vigil Hours 12:00pm – 3:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service – 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 5th:

Sunrise Service: 7:00 am

Traditional Service: 10:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt Following Service

(Don't forget your basket or bag)

The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services will be live streamed and can be viewed on our website:

UMCSO.com and Select the Live Stream Worship Tab

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:

Asha Dias	3/15
Joe Spina	3/15
Dan Hoernes	3/16
Garrett Stokes	3/20

No Anniversaries This Week