

## **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT SHRUB OAK**

**March 22, 2026 - Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar are given by the Church, “In celebration of the arrival of Spring and to the Glory of God who is faithful in every season.”

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Our lives feel all disjointed as though they were a valley of dry bones.

**P: But the Spirit of God will bring connection and continuity to our lives.**

L: The Spirit of God breathes hope into each one of us.

**P: The Spirit of God challenges us to be people of faith.**

L: Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.

**P: Open our lives, Lord, and break us free from doubt and fear. AMEN.**

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4558/worship-connection-march-26-2023>

### **PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

### **PRAISE SHARING**

### **OPENING PRAYER:**

God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call: for you are the One who hears, and you are the One who acts, bringing us new life with your grace and love and power. Lead us in our time of worship, that we may be prepared to follow your lead in places where life is at risk— places where hope seems far away, places where dreams die during sleep. When we leave these walls, help us live the teachings we proclaim within this place of worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN:** “Lord of the Dance” – UMH #261

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Forgive us, O God, when we see the world through rose-colored glasses rather than as it really is, much less the way you seek it to be. Forgive us, Holy One, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world for the bland conviction that all will be well. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

### **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Hear the Good News:

The God we serve is the God of life, the God of hope, the God of new beginnings— even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams. That rattling of bones in Ezekiel’s vision may be heard as the shackles that once held us down in fear, sin, and guilt. God defies these deadly entanglements with the power of life. This we trust, and by this we live. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NIV)

Psalm 130 (NIV)

### **CHILDREN’S MOMENTS**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION:** “Precious Lord, Take my Hand” – UMH #474

**GOSPEL:** John 11:1- 45 (NIV)

**SERMON:** A Foretaste of Glory Divine

1. Dry Bones can Live!
2. From Despair to Hope
3. The Resurrection and the Life

**RESPONSE HYMN:** “Cares Chorus” (2x) - FWS #2215

**OFFERTORY:** Special Music Selection

### **DOXOLOGY**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Are Ye Able" – UMH #530

### **BENEDICTION:**

L: We are a people loved by God.

**A: We will live as signs of this love.**

L: We are a people blessed with hope.

**A: We will live in light of this hope.**

L: May the love of God, the grace of Christ,  
and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith  
and set us loose to share God's love with all.

**A: Amen and amen!**

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4820/worship-elements-march-26-2023>

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Ezekiel 37:1-14** (NIV)

37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

<sup>2</sup> He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.

<sup>3</sup> He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’

<sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.

<sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.

<sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’”

<sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’”

<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

<sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.

<sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

### **Psalm 130** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

<sup>3</sup> If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

<sup>6</sup> I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

<sup>8</sup> He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **John 11:1- 45** (NIV)

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

<sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)

<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

<sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

<sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

<sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,

<sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

<sup>8</sup> "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light.

<sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."

<sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,

<sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

<sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,

<sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

<sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

<sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

<sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.”

<sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

<sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

<sup>34</sup> "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## UMCSO WEEKLY 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.

**WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00 pm, (ZOOM) Next: March 16<sup>th</sup>

**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 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG:** Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.

**LENTEN SERVICES:** The final Lenten service will be this coming Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, here at UMCSO. It begins with a lite soup supper at 6 pm followed by the service at 7 pm. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the offering. (*The service can be viewed online by going to our website and clicking on the Live Stream Worship tab.*)

**MISSION MEETING:** Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm (Zoom)

**AD COUNCIL MEETING:** Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup>:**

Traditional Service 10:30 am

Palm Parade

### **Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

7:00 pm Service

Holy Communion

### **Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

Prayer Vigil Hours 12:00pm – 3:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service – 7:00 pm

### **Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>:**

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](http://UMCSO.com) and Select the Live Stream Worship Tab**

**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:**

LeeAnne Chung	3/27
Lilia Gutowski	3/27
Natalie Grace	3/28

**No Anniversaries This Week**