

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT SHRUB OAK

March 8, 2026 Third Sunday in Lent

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Margaret Abraham, “In honor of Jessica’s Birthday; may it be as wonderful as she is.”

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: O come, let us sing to our God and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

P: We lift our hearts and voices in joy and thanksgiving for being here together in the presence of our beloved God.

L: Come, let us worship this amazing God, for we belong to God.

P: We will listen for God’s word and live in the hope it inspires. Amen

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving and caring God, we come this morning in hope— hope that will sustain us in our trying times, our lonely times, our doubting times. Refresh us this morning with the living water of your presence and love.

Open us to the possibilities of friendship—the possibilities of encountering you in unexpected ways, the possibilities of seeing the miraculous in everyday life. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” – UMH #400

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Patient and ever-faithful God, we come to you this morning confessing that we can be a grumpy and unsatisfied people. When things are not perfect in our eyes, we murmur and complain, and grumble and doubt. We lose hope in the people around us and, even worse, we lose hope in you. We challenge instead of accept. We put you to the test rather than trust your caring love. Forgive our doubts and complaining. Forgive our loss of hope. Let your healing, life-giving waters pour over us. Restore our souls. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Our hope and assurance rest in God's unfailing love and forgiveness. Open your hearts and minds and souls that the healing waters of God's never-ending love and forgiveness may flow into and over you. Know that in this love and forgiveness you have encountered the living God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 17:1-7 (NIV)

Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" – FWS #2158

GOSPEL: John 4:5-26 (NIV)

SERMON: The Water of Life

1. Are you a grumbler?
2. Live in hope.
3. Thirst no more!

RESPONSE HYMN: "Fill My Cup Lord" – UMH #641 (2x)

OFFERTORY: Special Music Selection

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" – UMH #361

BENEDICTION:

We have encountered the living God through the love of the living Christ. We have been refreshed by living water. Go now to live in the hope this encounter inspires. Be water bearers to a dry and parched world, knowing that the God of love and hope goes before you and with you always. Amen.

https://ministrymatters.com/2020-02-06_worship_elements_march_12_2023/

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 17:1-7 (NIV)

17 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-26 (NIV)

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

(Cont'd...)

¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

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 7th 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=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0pIRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

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

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



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Begins Sunday, March 8th at 2 am. Please don't forget to adjust your clocks ahead 1 hour before bed on Saturday, the 7th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026: Classes have begun and will take place every Sunday following worship in Pastor Sandy's office unless otherwise specified.

LENTEN SERVICES: There will be a service each Wednesday of Lent at a different church. This week's Lenten service, March 11th, will be held at Katonah-Purdys 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.

THE NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COOPERATIVE PARISH
INVITES YOU TO
WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

JOIN US EACH
WEDNESDAY DURING
LENT AS WE SHARE

THE
'FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT'
GALATIANS 5, 22

6PM FOR SOUP SUPPER



7PM WORSHIP SERVICE
(IN-PERSON OR ZOOM)

CONTACT CHURCH LOCATION
FOR ZOOM LINK



PLEASE BRING A NON-
PERISHABLE FOOD
ITEM FOR THE
OFFERING

5 CONVENIENT
LOCATIONS

FEB 25: GRACE UMC
337 PEEKSKILL
HOLLOW RD
PUTNAM VALLEY, NY 10579

MAR 4: YORKTOWN UMC
2300 CROMPOUND RD
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY
10598

MAR 11: KATONAH-PURDYS
UMC
5 BEDFORD RD
KATONAH, NY 10536

MAR 18: PEEKSKILL UMC
1040 MAIN STREET
PEEKSKILL, NY 10566

MAR 25: SHRUB OAK UMC
1176 E MAIN STREET
SHRUB OAK, NY 10588

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/Blessedassurancetoday>

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



This Week's Birthdays:

Matthew Spina 3/12

No Anniversaries This Week