

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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter! Christ has Risen Indeed! We have just traveled with Jesus through the Lenten season, Holy Week and culminated with a Celebration for a Resurrection. It has been so meaningful. One question remains on my mind - why can't we be this focused all year?

Living a passionate Christian life was crucial for John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. If you look at his journal you will find that the seriousness of his spiritual discipline extended all year long; he strived for holiness on a daily basis.

John Wesley and his brother were leaders of the evangelical revival in the Church of England in the eighteenth century. They both attended Oxford and there they gathered a few friends with whom they undertook a strict adherence to the worship and discipline of the Book of Common Prayer, from which strict observance they received the nickname, "Methodists." Along with two fellow students, he formed a small club, for the purpose of study and the pursuit of a devout Christian life.

Having been ordained as Anglican priests, they went to the American colony of Georgia in 1735, John as a missionary and Charles as secretary to Governor Oglethorpe. They found the experience disheartening, and returned home in a few years. On the way, John's ship encountered a terrible storm. What caught Wesley's

attention was that, while the English on board were screaming for fear of their lives, the German Moravians sang songs. Wesley asked one of them, "Weren't you afraid? Weren't your women and children afraid?" The man said, "Thank the Lord, we were not afraid; we are not afraid to die."

Later, Wesley met with one of the German pastors for advice. The pastor asked him, "Do you have the witness within? Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?" Wesley was caught off guard (not something that happened very often). And so the pastor asked, "Do you know Jesus Christ?" Wesley said, "I know he is the Savior of the world." The pastor replied, "That's true, but do you

know he has saved you?" Wesley said, "I hope he has died to save me." "But do you know?" And then comes those powerful lines from John Wesley, "I said, 'I do.'" But I fear they were vain words as he continued to struggle with his faith.

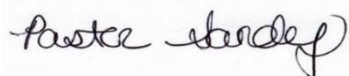
However, what was to happen to Wesley on May 24, 1738 would forever change his life and the world we now know. He wrote the following in his journal: *"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given to me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*

Wesley's Aldersgate experience is identified as a turning point in his spiritual growth. But the same questions apply to each of us. Do you know? Has your heart been strangely warmed?

May the Holy Spirit touch each one of us so that we can follow with faith. I pray that Wesley can be our inspiration as we grow in our faith and Holiness and put God first as we go out in mission to the world to feed the sick and help those in need.

Jesus is calling us to live transformed lives where we can bring hope and just believe. So, as we move forth in this post Lenten season, let us do so still devoted to the Lord who loves us and has work for all of us to do. We are Easter People. God promises that He will walk with us and will answer our prayers. Christ died for our sins and that through faith in Him we can gain eternal life. When we find ourselves in painful circumstances that cause us to question and doubt God's love, care and faithfulness we must trust God. Rejoice because Christ has Risen, may that reality transform us.

Blessings and Love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Stanley".

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2026



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

Confirmation Classes: are every Sunday following worship, upstairs in High School classroom #21 unless otherwise specified.

Tres Dias Secuela: April 18th from 1-4 pm here at UMCSO



Small Group Leaders:

Sat. April 18th on Zoom.

Trustees Meeting: Next meeting to be determined

Education Meeting: Sunday, April 19th following worship.



| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Christopher Chung | 1 |
| Colleen Adira Gutowski | 2 |
| Karl Schoonmaker | 3 |
| Bill Ryder | 4 |
| John Spina | 4 |
| Deborah Vesuvio | 14 |
| Darrah Walls | 14 |
| Phyllis Maskiell | 15 |
| Len Lindholm | 16 |
| Wendy Cervini | 17 |
| Pastor Sandy | 24 |
| Lydia Aryee | 25 |
| Kathy Casey | 26 |
| Les Hazelton | 27 |
| Larry Robcke | 27 |
| Dave Zugner | 30 |



| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| James and Jaime Hoernes | 4/13 |
| Michael Sr. and Theresa Barnett | 4/15 |
| Chris and Lisa Grace | 4/29 |
| Michael and Linda Stella | 4/29 |



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.

He is Risen Indeed!

What a glorious season we are in; Easter Season and the arrival of Spring! God's promises are evident in both. The lead-in to both takes us through some dark, cold, and lonely days. But the triumphant ending can be seen in the unity of His believers, the expectant smiles of His children, and the rebirth of His creation as everything comes back to life.





LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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| <p><u>Sunday, April 5th</u> (Easter Sunday)</p> <p>Acts 30:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 Col 3:1-4 John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10</p> | <p><u>Sunday, April 12th</u> (2nd Sunday of Easter)</p> <p>Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31</p> |
| <p><u>Sunday, April 19th</u> (3rd Sunday of Easter)</p> <p>Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35</p> | <p><u>Sunday, April 26th</u> (4th Sunday of Easter)</p> <p>Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10</p> |



April 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP room | 1 | 2 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom | 3 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am <i>Good Friday Prayer Vigil 12-3 pm, Tenebrae Serv. 7 pm</i> | 4 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am |
| 5 (Easter Sunday) (White) 7:00 am Sunrise Service 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> | 6 <u>Trustees Meeting</u> TBD | 7 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP room | 8 | 9 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom | 10 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am | 11 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am |
| 12 (2nd Sunday of Easter) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> | 13 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm | 14 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP room | 15 | 16 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom | 17 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am | 18 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Group Leaders</u> 9:30 am <u>Tres Dias Secuela</u> 1-4 pm |
| 19 (3 rd Sunday of Easter) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Education Meeting following worship | 20 | 21 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP room | 22 | 23 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom | 24 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am | 25 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am |
| 26 (4 th Sunday of Easter) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> | 27 | 28 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am GP room | 29 | 30 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am, Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm, zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm, Zoom | | |