

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak**

**April 12, 2026 Second Sunday of Easter**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The peace lilies on the altar are given by the church in celebration of spring and in honor of God who makes all things new!

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Though darkness seems to envelop us.

**P: Jesus breaks through with a word of peace.**

L: Fears are banished!

**P: Hope is more than restored**

L: Rejoice! The Lord is with us!

**P: We rejoice in the peace and blessings he brings. AMEN.**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

**PRAISE SHARING**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Gracious Lord, Easter was such a high point. We walked through the weeks of Lent and then boldly marched with Jesus into Jerusalem. Our steps hesitated and faltered during Holy Week when we ate with our Lord and then ran from his crucifixion. It was so hard for us to really believe in the miraculous event of Easter when our beloved Lord was raised from the dead. We, like Thomas, wonder if it was real or something made up from desperate longing. Help us to listen to your words with our hearts and our ears. Remind us that the Lord brings his peace to us all. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN:** "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" – UMH #304

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

We listen to the news, read the newspapers, and wonder if peace will ever reign in your world, Lord. Today we have been invited to be with the disciples in that hidden place where they also wondered about peace and hope. You broke through. You shattered the darkness and they were astonished again. Help us to understand that you will bring peace to each one of us. Forgive all those times when we treat this moment of revelation as though it was impossible. Give us the courage to reach out to you and touch our hearts once again. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Open your hearts and ears, beloved people of God. You are loved, forgiven and chosen to be called disciples. Be at peace!

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV)

Psalm 16 (NIV)

**CHILDREN'S MOMENTS** *(Children will be dismissed right after)*

**HYMN OF PREPARATION:** "Open Our Eyes" (2x) – FWS #2086

**GOSPEL:** John 20:19-31 (NIV)

**SERMON:** Overcoming Fear and Doubt

1. Admit Your Doubts
2. Trust in God
3. Perseverance Yields Rewards

**RESPONSE HYMN:** "We Walk by Faith" – FWS #2196

**OFFERTORY:** Special Music Selection

## **DOXOLOGY**

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

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Spirit of Faith, Come Down" – UMH #332

### **BENEDICTION:**

It's time to go from this place into our everyday worlds. Lord, make us a blessing to all whom we meet. Give us courage, love and hope, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **1 Peter 1:3-9** (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

<sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

<sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

<sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **Psalm 16** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."

<sup>3</sup> I say of the holy people who are in the land, "They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."

<sup>4</sup> Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.

<sup>5</sup> Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

<sup>6</sup> The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

<sup>7</sup> I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup> I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

<sup>10</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

<sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

## GOSPEL READING

### JOHN 20:19-31 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

<sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## 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: April 20<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: To be determined

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG:** Saturday Apr. 18th, 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=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0plRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

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



**CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026:** Will Continue to meet while Pastor Sandy is away, and each Sunday following worship, upstairs in High School room #21, unless otherwise specified.

**BOWLING FELLOWSHIP:** Bowling will resume this week for anyone interested at JV Lanes from 1:45 – 5:00.

**TRES DIAS SECUELA:** Here at UMCSO, Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1- 4 pm.

**EDUCATION MEETING:** Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> following worship

## **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

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### **Birthdays**

Deb Vesuvio 4/14

Phyllis Maskiell 4/15

Len Lindholm 4/16

Wendy Cervini 4/17

### **Anniversaries**

James and Jaime Hoernes 4/13

Michael Sr. and Theresa Barnett 4/15