

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

April 26, 2026 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by the Casey Family, “In honor of Kathy Casey’s Birthday!”

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Can you hear the voice of God?

P: We hear God calling us by name.

L: Are you troubled or distressed?

P: We come here to find a place to rest for awhile.

L: Come and find a guide who knows these lands.

**P: We come to praise our Shepherding God,
whose pathways and doors lead to life.**

PRAISE HYMN: “Open the Eyes of my Heart” - Halos

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Shepherding God, bring us into your fold. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Help us see the way we should go, the way we should live. Help us hear your voice calling our name. Enliven this time of worship, that we may find true life as we join with others: praising your name, celebrating your great goodness, and sharing your love for all people. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “This is the Day” – UMH #657

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Shepherding God, be with us in our need. Like sheep who have gone astray — we have not heeded your voice, calling us to follow the right paths, beckoning us to lie down and be restored; we have acted as if our salvation lies in busyness and control. We do not want to be sheep— dependent on a shepherd for everything. We want to do it alone — to maintain our independence. Forgive us for rejecting your shepherding care and your love and guidance. Forgive us for our need to do it by ourselves, to be separate from the flock. Forgive us for doubting your presence in times of trouble. Forgive us our despair in the face of seemingly unrelenting evil and death. Lead us back to the path of life. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the Good News! Jesus said, I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. In so confessing, we have returned to the shepherd, the guardian of our souls who welcomes us with open arms and a glad heart. Know that the shepherd of our lives never abandons us, is always calling our name, and unfailingly loves and forgives us. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

1 Peter 2:19-25 (ESV)

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "I Was Created"

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10 (ESV)

SERMON: **Overseer of our Souls**

1. Listen to His Voice
2. We Do not Stand Alone
3. The Abundant Life

RESPONSE HYMN: "He Came Down" – FWS #2085

OFFERTORY: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord" – FWS #2258

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "They'll Know we are Christians" – FWS #2223

BENEDICTION:

We have been refreshed and restored. We have been called and guided. Let us go forth knowing who our true shepherd is, following his path, secure in the knowledge that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 Peter 2:19-25 (ESV)

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10 (ESV)

¹⁰ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.

² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

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 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 pm, (ZOOM) Next: May 20th

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: Next meetings: Saturday May 2nd and 16th, 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: Pastor Sandy returns this week and is looking forward to meeting with all of you! (pssst...Don't forget to wish her a Happy Birthday!)

BREAKFAST RUN: On Sunday, May 31st, our youth and teachers will make their way to NYC with provisions for the those in need. The following list are the requested items, and the collection box is in the breezeway, please donate as you are able:

Men's dark colored summer t-shirts: (Med, Lg, X-Lg)

Men's black socks

Wash cloths

Bar Soap

Tooth paste and Toothbrushes

Trial size Shampoo and Deodorant

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP: The "UMCSO Holy Rollers" meets on Sundays from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at JV Lanes. (1:45 if you want some practice time). All are welcome!

Summer 2026 Youth Mission Trip Opportunities

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

Isaiah 6:8



ASP trip dates for this year are June 27th - July 5th

Anyone interested in going on this rewarding and worthwhile mission trip should contact Cory Casey.



UM Army trip dates this year are July 5th - July 11th

Anyone interested in participating in the work of blessing others with their service should contact Doug Gaylor.

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

Birthdays

Kathy Casey	4/26
Les Hazelton	4/27
Larry Robcke	4/27
Dave Zugner	4/30

Anniversaries this week

Lisa and Chris Grace	4/29
Linda and Michael Stella	4/29