

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

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“OUR THIRD CENTURY IN SERVICE OF THE LORD”

The Gimes

Honorable Reverend Sandra B. Mantz, Pastor



May 2026 Vol. 48, No. 5

Next Deadline 5/25/26

Dear UMCSO Family,

David and I enjoy traveling with our family, for several reasons. It is a joy to explore God's world, we love history, architecture, the beautiful flora and fauna of each country, and mostly The People! Not matter what country I have been in, I have enjoyed the people. As I travel I love to connect with others. It makes me realize how we are all connected in our amazing world, like an intricate tapestry of love. As I have gotten older I have gotten a deeper sense of, and appreciation for all things of God and the depth of beauty of His world and all His people. One thing that really struck me is the believers I met from around the world. It shows how we all need the Lord.

One of my favorite hymns is “*Leaning on the Everlasting arms.*” Anthony Showalter was leading a singing school in an Alabama church in 1887. When he returned to his boardinghouse room one night, two letters awaited him. Both were from former students, and both men told of the recent loss of their wives. Mr. Showalter wrote back, seeking to comfort the young men in the midst of their grief. But what to write? When he came to the end of each letter, he wanted to include a Bible verse. He picked Deuteronomy 33:27, “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms”

He pondered the words of that verse as he penned them into the letters, and the lyrics of the chorus of *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* came to his mind. He wrote to his friend, Elisha Hoffman, explaining that he had a chorus, but no verses. Mr. Hoffman wrote back with the rest the words of this famous hymn.

”(hymnswelove.blogspot.com/2012.)

It reminds me that there is nothing that can keep me from God's love. The melody is a happy and joyful one, the third stanza is as follows:

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

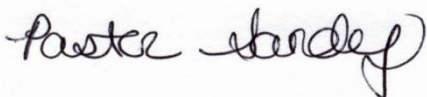
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, and leaning on the everlasting arms.

The story behind the hymn is equally compelling in its simplicity. At times life around us can be frightening, depressing and stressful no matter where we live; in Spain or Shrub Oak. While we cannot hide from the difficult times, because of Jesus we are **never alone**. To me this is one of the key components of what being a Christian is all about. It is not a **religion but a relationship** with a living amazing Lord who has so much to offer to all. Jesus said "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt 11:30).

We were created to love our Lord with all of our heart, soul and mind, not merely to fulfill a list of deeds. Certainly we are also called to obey God's commandments, but doing that alone misses the heart of the matter. If we keep our focus on the greatest commandment of loving God and loving others, everything else will fall in place. We can rest in the arms of Jesus.

As we continue on our pilgrim journey may we do so with faith and trust, remembering God walks with us. When we are weary take a rest on the road and lean on His arms. But don't forget, since God has given us so much, once you receive your peace, go share it with someone else so they too can be blessed: Pass it on!!

Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Andy". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2026



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

Confirmation Classes: meet every Sunday following worship, upstairs in Room #21.

Breakfast Run: Sunday, May 31st. Meals will be prepped at 6 am before departing for NYC - Toiletry bags will be assembled on Fri, May 29th



Small Group Leaders:
Sat. May 2nd and 16th – 9:30 am on Zoom

Membership Committee Meeting:
May 3rd following worship

Trustees Meeting: May 4th at 7 pm (Zoom)

Ad Council Meeting: May 20th, 6 pm in the GP Room



Lisa Casey	3
Logan Gaylor	3
Sundeep Thomas	3
Brent Horton	7
Eric Coleman	9
Richard Haigh Jr.	11
Karla Marie Ruth	15
Joshua Moore	17
Derek Gilbert	19
Michael Will	20
Mary Washburn	21
Sharon Krueger	23
Jamal Neal-Young	24
John Neal-Young	26
Kathy Schiavi	26
Debby Haigh	27
Kim Ryder	27
James Horton	31



Darrah and Michael Walls	6
Glory and Jacob Dharmaraj	25
Sharon and John Krueger	31



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 UMC SO CHURCH DIRECTORY

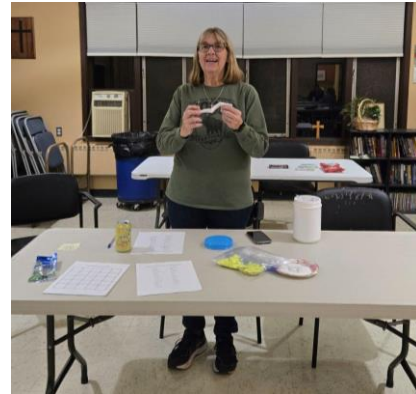
If you have any updated information or new emergency contacts, please get in touch with Maxine Haigh, Marilyn Bucher or the church office.

Sunday School Corner

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” -- Romans 8:14

As the weather gets warmer and the end of the school year approaches, we are grateful that our children and youth have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of meaningful events.

Going back a month, in March, we were blessed to host a Family Bingo Night, filled with good food and (mostly) friendly competition. Special thanks to Kathy Casey for organizing and providing us with some sweet prizes!



Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for some upcoming events:

- 1) **May 31: Breakfast Run into New York City.** Contributions of toiletries are gratefully accepted. You can find the contribution box in the breezeway.
- 2) **June 5: Family Game Night at 5:00 pm.** Come enjoy a pot trust dinner and some games with your church family!
- 3) **June 21: Honors Day.** We will honor our children and youth, and they will share some of their learning from Sunday School this year.



As we enter the beautiful season of spring, we are thankful that we have had so many opportunities to teach our children and youth about the love of Jesus!

Yours in Christ,
The Sunday School teachers



LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

<p><u>Sunday, May 3rd</u> (5th Sunday of Easter) Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14</p>	<p><u>Sunday, May 10th</u> (6th Sunday of Easter) Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21</p>
<p><u>Sunday, May 17th</u> (Ascension Sunday) Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11</p>	<p><u>Sunday, May 24th</u> (Pentecost) Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Cor 12:3b-13 John 7:37-39</p>
<p><u>Sunday, May 29th</u> (Trinity Sunday) Gen 1:1-2, 4a Psalm 8 2 Cor 13:11-13 Matt 28:16-20</p>	



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	1 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	2 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Grp Ldrs</u> <u>9:30 am</u>
3 (5 th Sunday of Easter) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Communion Sunday Membership Committee meeting after worship	4 <u>Trustees Meeting</u> 7 pm (Zoom)	5 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	6	7 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	8 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	9 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
10 (6 th Sunday of Easter) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Mother's Day	11	12 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	13	14 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	15 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	16 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am <u>Small Grp Ldrs</u> <u>9:30 am</u>
17 (Ascension Sunday) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	18 <u>Women's Small Group</u> 7:00 pm	19 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	20 <u>Ad Council Mtg</u> 6pm (GP Room)	21 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm Zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm Zoom	22 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am	23 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
24 (Pentecost) (Red) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u>	25	26 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am	27	28 <u>Prayer Group</u> 11 am, Chapel <u>Small Group 1</u> 1 pm, zoom <u>Eve. Bible Study</u> 7:30 pm, Zoom	29 <u>Small Group 2</u> 10:00 am Packing of toiletries for Brkfst Run	30 <u>Men's Group</u> 8:00 am
31 Trinity Sunday) (White) 10:30 am <u>Worship, Sanctuary</u> <u>On-line Live Worship: www.umcso.com</u> Breakfast Run – Packing of meals 6:00 am						