

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

May 17, 2026 - Ascension Sunday

ALTAR FLOWERS:The flowers on the altar are given by Doug Gaylor, “In memory of my mother, Marilyn.”

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: What a glorious vision!

P: Jesus gave the glorious promise of an Advocate!

L: Then he ascended to God!

P: What joy there must have been in the hearts of the disciples.

L: May God find such joy in our hearts and spirits!

P: Prepare us, Lord, for the mighty works you place before us. AMEN.

PRAISE and WORSHIP:

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” – UMH #154

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

We have to confess, O Lord, that we are people who want to have everything proven for us. We hear the message in the scripture of Jesus’ ascension, and we smile, not truly believing the vision. Forgive us for our doubts and attitudes. Help us remember that everything Jesus taught us was to prepare us to help build God’s realm here on earth. We are called to be people of faith, not of absolute proof, as we understand it. Let us place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Let us look with eyes of faith as he ascends to the Father. We pray in his Name, AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Although you have not stood on the mountaintop to see his ascension to God, believe in the love and power of Christ who taught you how to be faithful and joyful disciples. Rejoice, and believe in him who came that you may have abundant life. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)

Ephesians 1:15-23 (ESV)

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Immortal, Invisible God Only..." - UMH #103

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53 (ESV)

SERMON:The Blessing at Bethany

1. Receive the Promise
2. Cultivate and Commit
3. Share God's Love

RESPONSE HYMN: "He Lives" – UMH #310

OFFERTORY: "Be Not Afraid"

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" – UMH #327

BENEDICTION:

Lord of love and light, you have called us to this place and have fed us with your loving spirit. Now send us on our way in joyful service and peace in your world. AMEN.

<https://ministrymatters.com/2021-04-1-worship-connection-may-21-2023/>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,

² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;

⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Ephesians 1:15-23 (ESV)

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53 (ESV)

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.

⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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: Meets once a month at 7:00 pm on Zoom.
Next meeting: June 8th

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: TBD

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: Next meeting: Saturday May 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)



AD COUNCIL MEETING: May 20th at 6 pm in the GP Room.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026: Meets every Sunday following worship, upstairs in classroom #21 unless otherwise specified.

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: (of greatest need are items in red)

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: UM Army trip dates this year are July 5th – July 11th. Anyone interested in participating should contact Doug Gaylor.

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

Birthdays

Wayne Mantz	5/17
Joshua Moore	5/17
Jacob Dharmaraj	5/18
Derek Gilbert	5/19
Michael Will	5/20
Mary Washburn	5/21
Sharon Krueger	5/23

Anniversaries this week

Pastors Sandy and David Mantz 5/17