

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak
July 5th, 2026 – Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Twila Hunter, “In honor and celebration of her granddaughter, Amia’s, birthday.”

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: We gather this morning appreciating the freedoms to worship, live, and serve in this land.

P: We draw near to the God who rules over all nations and holds the whole world in His hands.

L: May God continue to bless the Church in this land, and guide our steps toward justice, peace, and equality.

P: Remind us, Lord, that while we are citizens of this country, our ultimate citizenship is in heaven.

L: Come, let us worship the Lord, seeking His will above all earthly kingdoms.

P: With grateful hearts and spirits united, let us praise God!

PRAISE and WORSHIP:

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

God of heaven and earth, we gather in Your presence with thanksgiving and praise for the way in which You have revealed Yourself to us. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, we have come to know and love You; we have witnessed Your love and mercy in action; we have caught a glimpse of Your heart, and we have received the call to follow. Continue to reveal Yourself to us as we worship. May Your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts to Your presence here, and to the word that You have for us this morning. We long to meet You here, and to know You better. In the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Savior. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “This is my Song” – UMH #437

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful and loving God, we are so grateful for your redeeming love for each one of us. We confess that there have been times of doubt in our spirits. We confess that when the times of difficulties are upon us, we don't always believe that you will take our burdens. We feel we have to always be in control, trying to demand the desired outcome. Help us to place our trust in you. Remind us that you surround us continually with your care, you never just let us go to drift aimlessly about. Open our hearts and spirits again to your healing powers. For we pray these things in the name of Jesus, the one who will take our burdens and give us peace. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the good news, dear friends! Jesus releases us from our burdens. Place your whole trust in his love. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 7:15-25 (NIV)
Galatians 5:13-26 (NIV)

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "God of the Ages" - UMH #698

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (NIV)

SERMON: Let Freedom Ring

RESPONSE HYMN: "Cry of my Heart" – FWS #2165

OFFERTORY: Special Music Selection

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" – FWS #2158

BENEDICTION:

May Christ who dwells in you continue to do good work in you, blessing you with grace and perseverance to continue on in the journey of faith as you grow into the image of Christ more and more every day. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 7:15-25 (NIV)

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Galatians 5:13-26 (NIV)

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (NIV)

¹⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷ “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’

¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

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: July 13th

MORNING BIBLE STUDY: (Will break for summer beginning July 22nd)
Tuesdays 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). **Thursday night Bible Study is on hiatus for the summer and will meet again in Sept.**

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 meetings: Saturday July 18th, 9:30 am (Zoom)

Pastor Sandy Mantz invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study (**No meetings for the summer, resumes in Sept**)

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

+16469313860,,2610447551#,,,,*246240# US

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



NEXT COMMUNION SERVICE: Will be **July 19th** (not the 12th as previously reported)

SMALL GROUPS SUMMER SCHEDULE: Please note that the Thursday Evening Bible Study, as well as the Bowling group, will be on hiatus for the summer and will resume in September. If any other groups plan to break for the summer please let the office know.

SUMMER 2026 YOUTH MISSION TRIPS: Please pray for a safe trip home for our ASP Team! We're certain you were an amazing blessing to all! And continued prayers for the UM Army team who depart on July 5th and go out into the world as beacons of hope and help:

Welcome home ASP team!: (July 5): Cory and Lisa Casey, Jamen Cervini, and Leo Gutowski.

The UM ARMY team (July 5 - July 11): Doug Gaylor, Peter Hoernes, Lisa Grace, Beth Gilleo, James Horton, Wesley Battle Jr.

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING AND PICNIC: Sunday, July 12th at the Parsonage following coffee hour.

ALSO ON JULY 12th: Grace UMC will be joining us for worship as Pastor Sandy officiates at the Baptism of two of their members.

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP: Bowling group will be on hiatus until Sept.

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

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Birthdays

Asha Sundeep Thomas	7/05
Beverly Goodman	7/06
Jeannie Maher	7/06
Dolsen Eccles	7/08
Jareath Watkins	7/08
Daryl Lindholm	7/10
Mike Mancusi	7/10
Lisa Grace	7/11

No Anniversaries this week

-Opening Prayer: The Daily Grace CO.

-<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/core-faith/week-1-sixth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a/week-1-sixth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-core-faith-liturgical-resources>

- https://ministrymatters.com/2020-05-28_worship_connection_proper_9_year_a_option_2/

~ Andy Langford, UMC Discipleship Resources, *Prayer for Independence Day*