

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak
August 23rd, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Barbara and Curt Conklin, “In memory of our beloved friend and sister in Christ, Ellen Buccellato.”

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Life can sometimes be very difficult.

P: We look around and wonder where God is.

L: In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

P: God surrounds us with love and courage.

L: Come, let us praise God for God’s abiding presence.

P: Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don’t recognize your loving presence. AMEN.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: “The Goodness of God” – The Halos

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus’ name. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “I’m so Glad Jesus Lifted Me” – FWS #2151

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 133 (NIV)
Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

There are far too many times, O Lord, when we have neglected or ignored the needs of others because it just wasn’t convenient for us to help. We backed away with excuses on our lips and indifference in our hearts. Forgive us and set us on the right path of service and compassion in the name of Jesus who modeled faithful living for us. Remind us that we are residents of a global community. Help us to hear the plight of those who have been voiceless. With the gifts that we have and the love of Christ, direct our lives in compassionate service to others. In Jesus’ name, we pray. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Through the abundance of God's mercy and forgiving love, you are empowered to be disciples, to reach out to others, to offer the words and deeds of hope in a struggling world. God's blessings are poured over you for this service. AMEN

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "My Life Flows On" – FWS #2212

GOSPEL READING: Psalm 124 (NIV)

SERMON: Living the Transformed Life

1. Remember God is on Our Side!
2. Do Not be Conformed to the World
3. We Have the Keys to the Kingdom

RESPONSE HYMN: "I Will Trust in the Lord" – UMH #464

OFFERTORY: "God is so Good" - FWS #2056

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Guide my Feet" – FWS #2208

BENEDICTION:

The world awaits the love and gifts you have to offer. Go forth in joy and peace to be God's witnesses this day and all your days. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 124 (NIV)

¹ If the LORD had not been on our side— let Israel say—

² if the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us,

³ they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us;

⁴ the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,

⁵ the raging waters would have swept us away.

⁶ Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Romans 12:1-8 (NIV)

¹² Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith;

⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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: September 21st.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY: (**Resumes on 9/15**) Tuesday 10:00 am (In Person)

PRAYER GROUP: Thursday, 11:00 am (Chapel)

SMALL GROUP 1: Thursday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM)

EVENING BIBLE STUDY: (**Resumes on 9/17**) 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: (**Resumes 9/20**) 9:30 am in the GP room

TRUSTEE'S MEETING: First Monday of every month. Next: TBD

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: Next meeting: Saturday September 19th, 9:30 am (Zoom)

Pastor Sandy Mantz invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study (**Meetings resume Sept 17th**)

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)



EDUCATION MEETING: Tuesday, Aug. 25th at 7 pm on Zoom, link will be sent.

SMALL GROUPS SUMMER SCHEDULE: Please see the above “Weekly Schedule” to see when your group resumes meetings following their summer break.

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP: Bowling will resume on 9/27 and everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

PUTNAM VALLEY FOOD PANTRY: Is experiencing a great need for women’s feminine products. There will be a collection box for supplies in the breezeway that will be delivered to Grace UMC every Wednesday. Please donate as you’re able.

TO ANYONE DROPPING OFF DONATIONS: If you are dropping off clothing or any other items, PLEASE, clearly label the items with the intention (Rummage sale, craft room, etc). We cannot be responsible for items left unattended outside.



Rally Day: Sunday Sept. 13th. Breakfast and blessing of the backpacks

United Women of Faith Meeting: Friday, Sept. 18th at 5:30 at Grace UMC

Cooperative Parish Picnic: Saturday, Sept. 19th, time TBD

Women’s Fall Tea: Saturday, Sept. 26th, From 2-5 pm

Parsonage Open House: Sunday, Oct. 18th

Trunk or Treat/Pumpkin Patch: Sunday, Oct. 25th from 1-3 pm

Annual Craft Fair: Saturday, November 14th, 9 am-3 pm

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

Charles Horton	8/23
Alessandra Zonetti	8/23
Carley Battle	8/25
Joy Santaroni	8/25
Alice Fennell	8/26

Anniversaries This Week

Daryl and Tawyanna Francis	8/25
Rev. Jim and Bjorg Davis	8/29