

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak**  
**August 30, 2026 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar are given Annette Reynolds, “In memory of my mom, Anna Piucci, who would have celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday today. Miss you very much Mom.”

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Give thanks to the Lord!

**P: We will sing God’s praises!**

L: Seek the Lord and God’s strength.

**P: We continually seek God’s presence in our lives.**

L: Remember all the wonderful things that God has done.

**P: Praise the Lord! AMEN.**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

**PRAISE SHARING**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Lord, we have gathered here today to hear your word for us. We marvel at the witness of Moses who received your call to liberate your enslaved people. We also struggle with the issues of safety and security that plagued Peter when Jesus set his sights on entering Jerusalem. Be with us this day, guiding our spirits and opening our hearts to hear your forgiveness and call to us. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

**OPENING HYMN:** “This is my Father’s World” – UMH #144

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Lord, perhaps your voice issuing forth from a burning bush is what we need to shake us from our complacency. We have a hard time comprehending your call to us because we feel so inadequate to respond in faithful service. So we look to others to do the work. We are happy to support their efforts with our funds and our limited interest. Now, Lord, we need to take the next step into actual service to you. Forgive our slowness of action and heart, O Lord. Quicken our spirits to accept the call you have for us. ...(over)

Give us courage and strength to do your will and help others in need. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

### **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

In the power of the burning bush, in the quiet stillness, in the everyday noises of living, God is calling to each one of us, telling us to trust in the gifts God has bestowed on us. You are beloved and blessed by God to be a blessing to others. Rejoice!

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Exodus 3:1-15 (NIV)  
Romans 12:9-21 (NIV)

**HYMN OF PREPARATION:** “The Summons” – FWS #2130

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 16:21-28 (NIV)

### **SERMON: Answering God’s Call**

1. Listen to God’s Voice
2. Holy and Faithful Living
3. Following the Way of Discipleship

**RESPONSE HYMN:** “Holy Ground” – FWS #2272 (2x)

**OFFERTORY:** Special Music Selection

### **DOXOLOGY**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN:** “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” – FWS #2129

### **BENEDICTION:**

Go boldly into the world in the confidence that God goes with you, guiding your steps in paths of peace and healing. Bring the good news of God’s love to all you meet. Go in peace. AMEN.

[https://ministrymatters.com/2020-07-18\\_worship\\_connection\\_proper\\_17\\_a\\_option\\_2/](https://ministrymatters.com/2020-07-18_worship_connection_proper_17_a_option_2/)

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Exodus 3:1-15** (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

<sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

<sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup> “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

<sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

<sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

<sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.”

**Romans 12:9-21** (NIV)

- <sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
- <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
- <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
- <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
- <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
- <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
- <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
- <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **Matthew 16:21-28** (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

<sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

<sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

<sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

<sup>28</sup> “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>.

**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: Tues, 9/8 at 7 pm (Zoom)

**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)



**SMALL GROUPS ARE RESUMING SOON:**

The following groups will resume their normal meeting schedules in Sept. as follows:

**Trustees Meetings - 9/8 at 7 pm on Zoom**

**Tues. Morning Bible Study - 9/15**

**Thurs Eve. Bible Study - 9/17**

**Sun. Morning Bible Study - 9/27**

**Bowling Group - 9/27**

**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.



**Super Sundae:** Sunday Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. Blessing of the backpacks and ice cream sundaes at coffee hour

**United Women of Faith Meeting:** Friday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at Grace UMC

**Cooperative Parish Picnic:** Here at UMCSO, Saturday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, time TBD

**Rally Day:** Sunday Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> kicks off a new school year with our annual Pancake Breakfast at 9:15

**Women's Fall Tea:** Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, From 2-5 pm

**Parsonage Open House:** Sunday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>

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

**Annual Craft Fair:** Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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**

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| MaryLou Gladwell | 8/30 |
| Kayla Francis    | 9/02 |
| Lisa Gaylor      | 9/02 |
| Mary Supino      | 9/02 |
| Curt Conklin     | 9/03 |
| Luke Kordys      | 9/05 |

### **Anniversaries This Week**

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| James and Megan Gale | 9/02 |
|----------------------|------|

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### ***In Remembrance***

We have recently learned of the passing of one of our long-time members, Donna Curry. Donna passed on August 25, 2026 under hospice care at home. Please remember her family in your prayers.