

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak
September 20, 2026 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are donated by Marshall Moseley, “Given in thanks to God for three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.”

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: In the midst of the desert heat, God heard the cries of the people.

P: Help us, Lord, please help us.

L: Manna was given and water gushed forth from a rock.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

L: In the midst of the deserts of fear and frustration, God will provide for our needs.

P: Lord, come to us and heal us. AMEN.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord, whether we have come to you from long ago, or have just come to you now, you reach out with love and blessing for each one of us. Help us remember your mercy and your love and offer greetings and blessings to each other in your name. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah” – UMH #127

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Forgiving Lord, we are such jealous people. We want to make sure that we get what we deserve, that we are always treated fairly. Yet we complain when you treat others, who have not worked as hard or been as faithful, with such love. Just like the workers in the Gospel lesson, we want to know why you are as generous with the late-comers as you are with us. After all, we whine, we’ve been here longer. You are merciful and compassionate. You do not count the time, but the quality of the heart. Forgive us, generous Lord, when we have been so petty about your love. Heal and restore us. Help us reach out with love and hope to others in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the Good News!

Blessings are showered on all who seek God. Come and rejoice! God has given you such love and mercy. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 16:1-15 (NIV)
Acts 2:14-21 (NIV)

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" – UMH #400

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV)

SERMON: God's Generosity

1. God Always Provides
2. Call on the Name of the Lord
3. God's Abundant Grace

RESPONSE HYMN: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" – UMH #396 (vs 1,3)

OFFERTORY: Special Music Selection

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" – UMH #462

BENEDICTION:

God shows mercy and love to all God's people. Go into the world where strife and injustices prevail and bring God's love to each one, not counting the cost, but rejoicing in the sharing. God's peace is with you always. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16:1-15 (NIV)

16 The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt.

² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

⁵ On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt,

⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?”

⁸ Moses also said, “You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.”

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses,

¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

Acts 2:14-21 (NIV)

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV)

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.

² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’

⁵ So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.

¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’

¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.

¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?

¹⁶ "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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: Tuesday 10:00 am (In Person)

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

SMALL GROUP 1: Thursday, **12:30** 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: **(Resumes 9/27)** 9:30 am in the GP room

TRUSTEE'S MEETING: First Monday of every month. Next: Oct. 5th (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

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)

*ANNOUNCEMENTS
and
UPCOMING EVENTS*

COOPERATIVE PARISH PICNIC: Here at UMCSO, Saturday, Sept. 19th, at 1:30 pm. Each church is responsible for a certain component of the meal, Shrub Oak will be supplying hot dogs and hamburgers.

RALLY DAY: This Sunday, Sept. 20th. Please come help us celebrate the start of a new school year with our annual Pancake Breakfast at 9:30 am before worship!

SMALL GROUPS ARE RESUMING SOON:

Sun. Morning Bible Study – Starts on 9/27, 9:30 am GP Room

Bowling Group – Starts on 9/27, 2-5 pm JV Lanes

CRAFT GROUP MEETINGS: Will be Fri. 9/25 at 5 pm, Sat. 10/3 at 10 am, Sat. 10/17 at 10 am, Sat. 11/7 at 10 am

WOMEN'S FALL TEA: Saturday, Sept. 26th, From 2-5 pm

TEACHER'S MEETING: Sunday, Sept. 27th following worship.

DISTRICT TRAINING DAY: Saturday, Oct. 10th here at UMCSO, 10 am – 12 pm with lunch following. Come Worship, Learn, and Connect - and discover what the roles of our committees are.

PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, Oct. 18th following worship.

TRUNK OR TREAT/PUMPKIN PATCH: Sunday, Oct. 25th from 1-3 pm.

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR: Saturday, November 14th, 9 am-3 pm.

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

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

Locksley Philips 9/21

Inza Martinez 9/22

Theresa Barnett 9/23

Chris Mannino 9/23

Anniversaries This Week

Gayle and John Spina 9/20