United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak
November 15, 2026 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Elizabeth Reynolds Goldhorn "In honor of my Mom, Grace Reynolds' 88th Birthday."

CALL TO WORSHIP:
L: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?
P: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.
L: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.
P: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.
L: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.
P: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. AMEN.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP VIDEO

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:
Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" – UMH #206

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O Lord, you continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy of acclaim. We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we have been given. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world; remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today. Forgive us when we have treated it as a nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. In Jesus' blessed Name, we pray. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:
Hear the Good News! You are loved by God and given so many gifts to be used to help others. Do not fear to use these gifts, for God is with you, continually blessing you and the gifts in your service. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 123 (NIV)
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NIV)

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Jesus Keep me Near the Cross" – UMH #301

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

SERMON: Serving Well

1. Be An Encourager
2. Consequences Are Real
3. Share Hope

RESPONSE HYMN: "Make me a Servant" - FWS #2176 (2x)

OFFERTORY HYMN: Special Music Selection

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Shine, Jesus Shine" – FWS #2173

BENEDICTION:
As you have been blessed, now go to be a blessing to others. Go, bringing the news of peace and hope, of healing and love. Go and the God of peace and joy will always go with you. AMEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 123 (NIV)

[1] I lift up my eyes to you, to you who sit enthroned in heaven.

[2] As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy.

[3] Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy on us, for we have endured no end of contempt.

[4] We have endured no end of ridicule from the arrogant, of contempt from the proud.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NIV)

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,

2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.

15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.

17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.

18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

(Cont’d)

[26] “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest
where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

[27] Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that
when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

[28] “‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.

[29] For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance.
Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

[30] And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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: November 16th.

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: 9:30 am in the GP room

TRUSTEE'S MEETING: First Monday of every month. Next: Dec. 7th at 7:30 (Zoom)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: Next meeting**:** Saturday Nov. 21st, 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=MXVlUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0plRi8rUT09
Meeting ID: 261 044 7551
Passcode: 246240
One tap mobile
+16469313860,,2610447551#,,,,*246240# US
+16465588656,,2610447551#,,,,*246240# US (New York)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BREEZEWAY CONSTRUCTION: **The breezeway project has begun! Access to the building during the week may be limited during this process. We will keep you informed of any possible interruptions to foot traffic, parking, or weekly meetings and which entrance(s) are best suited for Sundays.**

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR and BAKE SALE: **Saturday, November 14th, 9 am-3 pm.**

EDUCATION MEETING: **This Sunday, November 15th following worship.**

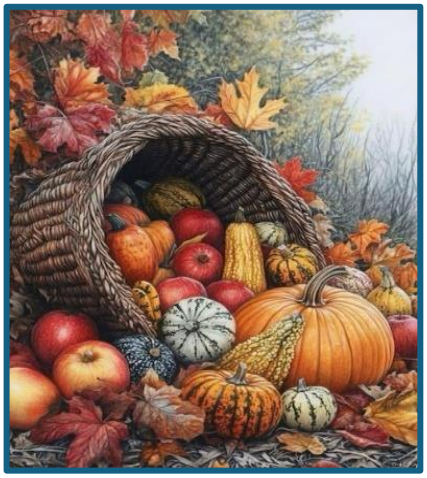
CHARGE CONFERENCE: **Saturday, November 21st at Peekskill UMC, 2 pm.**

GREETERS NEEDED:



There is an old quote that says, *"People will forget what you said, they will forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel."*

We look forward to anyone who would be willing to be a Greeter on Sunday mornings to help welcome new faces and potential new members. Please sign up in the GP Room or speak to Pastor Sandy, Maxine Haigh, Debbie V, or Peter Hoernes.



HARVEST BASKETS: **We will be sponsoring our annual Harvest Basket outreach program to support those in our local community who may be in need this holiday season. If you'd like to donate, we accept non-perishable foods (as listed below) or monetary donations toward an ACME gift card intended for purchasing a Thanksgiving turkey. We kindly request all donations be received by, November 22nd. We also ask that you check the "best by" dates to ensure freshness for Thanksgiving. The bags will be packed in the GP Room on that day for delivery. If you would like to gift a check or cash, please contact Kathy Casey at:** luminany@aol.com

Suggestions: Cranberry Sauce, Canned vegetables, Canned Yams, Boxes of Stuffing, Boxes/Pouches of Mashed Potatoes, Jars/Pouches of Gravy, Canned Fruit, Boxes/Pouches of Brownie, or Cookie Mix. We thank you in advance for your generosity and look forward to another year of this great mission.



Trim a Tree is Sunday, Nov. 29th following the service. There will be a signup sheet in the GP Room for anyone who can volunteer to plan a craft idea, bring the necessary craft supplies, and man the table.

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

Birthdays

Emily Galecki	11/15
Debra Ruth Mancusi	11/16
Theresa Aryee	11/17
Stephen Speedling	11/19
Leslie Sutton	11/19
Grace Reynolds	11/20
Linda Drisko	11/21
Leo Gutowski	11/21
Dylan Matthews	11/21
Jessica Santoro	11/21

Anniversaries This Week

Debra Ruth and Mike Mancusi	11/16
Freddy and Jacqueline Arias	11/17
Theresa and Augustus Aryee	11/20