United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak
November 8, 2026 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Patty Antonucci. “To our Veterans: Thank you for your courage, service, and sacrifice. God Bless you and your families.”

CALL TO WORSHIP:
L: We are pulled in many directions.
P: Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.
L: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.
P: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.
L: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.
P: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. AMEN.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP VIDEO

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:
Through the week of stress and demands, we come to you this day, O Lord. Awaken us again to your comforting and loving presence in our lives. Help us to be open to the many ways in which you have called to us and sustained us. Make us ready to be of service to you. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “I Know Whom I Have Believed” – UMH #714

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O Lord, there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that are demanded of us. Schedules become crowded. We live by the clock. We think we are ready for all events that will come our way. But we are rarely ready for you. We would like you to come to us at a planned time so that we can fit you into our busy lives. Forgive us, Lord, for trying to make you a scheduled event. We have moved you to a time on our weekly calendars. Yet you are the eternal God who has always loved us and been ready to receive us. Help us to learn that, with you as our foundation, we can handle anything that comes our way. With you as our focus, all things pale in comparison. Let us look at the priorities in our lives and see where we have placed service to you. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:
In the deepest darkness, in the times when all seems lost, we are not lost to God. God calls us to be ready for God's new kingdom. In all this God is with us. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Joshua 24:1-3, 24:14-25 (NIV)
Psalm 78:1-7 (NIV)

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Trust and Obey" – UMH #467

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

SERMON: "Choose Wisely"

1. Serve the Lord
2. Heed God's Teaching
3. Be Prepared Always

RESPONSE HYMN: "Thy Word is a Lamp" - UMH #601

OFFERTORY HYMN: Special Music Selection

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Are Ye Able" – UMH #530

BENEDICTION:
God has called and chosen you to be witnesses to hope and peace in God's world. Go in peace and this same healing, reconciling love and peace will be with you. Go and serve the Lord your God in all that you do. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joshua 24:1-3, 24:14-25 (NIV)

24 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

2 Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

3 But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac.

14 “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods!

17 It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled.

18 And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

19 Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins.

20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

21 But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.” (Cont’d)

22 Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

23 “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”

24 And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God and obey him.”

25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

Psalm 78:1-7 (NIV)

[1] My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

[2] I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

[3] things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

[4] We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

[5] He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,

[6] so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

[7] Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

25 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

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.7th and 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.**

CRAFT GROUP: **Next meeting is: Sat. 11/7 at 10 am.**

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

Craig Davis	11/08
Michelle Galecki	11/08
Carmery Battle	11/10
Donovan Matthews	11/10
Khloe Francis	11/11
Charlie Donadio	11/13
Norman Reid	11/13
Pastor Iwy Yatri	11/13

No Anniversaries This Week