



# THE VOICE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SHANDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2025 | Volume 66, Issue 4

## THE GLORIOUS MYSTERY

“Seven Stanzas at Easter” by John Updike

Make no mistake: if He rose at all  
it was as His body;  
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules reknit, the amino acids rekindle,  
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,  
each soft spring recurrent;  
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the eleven apostles;  
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,  
the same valved heart  
that-- pierced-- died, withered, paused, and then regathered out of enduring Might  
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,  
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded credulity of earlier ages:  
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,  
not a stone in a story,  
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of time will eclipse for each of us  
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,  
make it a real angel,  
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair, opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen  
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,  
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,  
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed by the miracle,  
and crushed by remonstrance.

The glorious mystery of our faith is that, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has defeated the powers of sin, death, and evil in this world. In the words of John Updike, “Let us walk through the door” and experience the glory of Easter – God’s eternal life now and forever!

Grace and peace,

Smoke



**Rev. Smoke Kanipe**  
Senior Pastor  
[skanipe@shandonumc.org](mailto:skanipe@shandonumc.org)

# Journey To EASTER

## FAMILY EASTER EVENT

Join us on **Sunday, April 6**, from **3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** for a special Easter event! As you move through the stations, you'll experience the Easter story while creating your own set of Resurrection Eggs—a hands-on way to learn about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In addition, enjoy a meaningful prayer bead station and a cookie-decorating station, making this a wonderful afternoon of faith, fun, and fellowship.

Each family will take home their Resurrection Eggs and prayer beads to use for years to come.

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate the story of Easter together! Register at [shandonumc.org/register](http://shandonumc.org/register).

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## LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION

Last year, the Cooperative Ministry provided 2,193 food boxes and snack packs. This Lent, you can help by donating items to their emergency food pantry. Pick up a bag and shopping list from the Bruner or Dunn-Smith Building hallways, and return the filled bags on **Sunday, April 6**.

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## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Palm Sunday, April 13:

- Traditional Worship at **8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary
- Contemporary Worship at **11:05 a.m.** in the Gym

**Holy Thursday, April 17:** Communion service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with music by the Chancel Choir.

### Good Friday, April 18:

- 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. - Sanctuary open for meditation.
- 7:00 p.m. - Service in the Sanctuary. Music by the Chancel Choir.

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## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

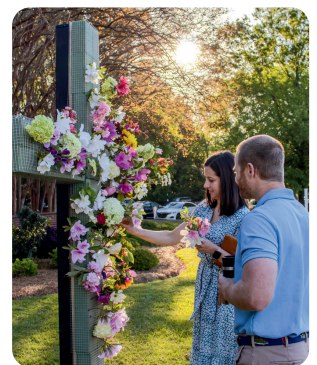
### Sunrise Service

Join us at **7:00 a.m.** on the East Lawn for an intimate Easter morning worship service. Bring your own lawn chairs and dress for the weather. In case of rain, please check our website for updates.

### Worship Services

Celebrate Easter at one of our morning services:

- Traditional Worship at **8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary with music from the Chancel Choir and Capitol City Brass.
- Contemporary Worship at **11:05 a.m.** in the Gym



**Flowering the Cross:**  
Remember to bring fresh flowers on Easter Sunday to decorate the cross as we celebrate Jesus is Risen!



## LENTEN OFFERING

As we focus on the Lenten season, share God's love through your contribution to Shandon's Lenten Offering. Learn more about the ministries we will support through our 2025 Lenten Offering.

**TRANSITIONS:** Your support helps men and women in the Midlands transition from homelessness to stability, employment, and permanent housing.

**THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY:** Your support will help this organization serve men and women across the Midlands, helping them transition out of homelessness by stabilizing their lives, increasing their income, and securing permanent housing.

**THE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC:** Your support will help this organization provide quality health care, at no cost, to residents of the community who cannot pay for such services and who have no health insurance.

### MAKE YOUR LENTEN GIFT

- Give online at [shandonumc.org/give/lent](https://shandonumc.org/give/lent) or text SUMC to 73256, selecting "Lenten Offering" from the list of funds.
- Make checks payable to Shandon UMC: Designate "Lenten Offering" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to Shandon UMC Business Office, 3407 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205.

Please make your Lenten offering online or by check by **Easter Sunday, April 20.**

## CHOIRS HELD "HYMNS & ANTHEMS: ADVENT-PENTECOST"

On Sunday, March 16, the sanctuary was filled with music, scripture, and prayer during a special Lenten service led by Rev. Eddie Huss. This service featured powerful musical offerings from the Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers, St. Nicholas Choir, Youth Singers, and organist Kipp Gill. Thank you to everyone who participated and attended this beautiful evening of worship.

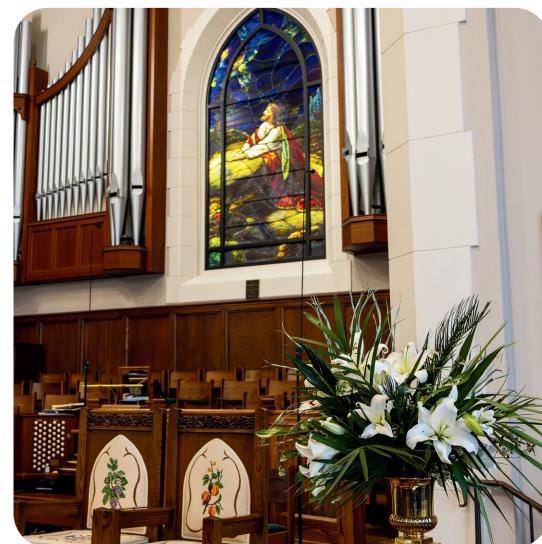


# Memorials and Honorariums

**In Honor of Gardner Long for the Technology Fund**  
Mary and Richard Parker

**In Memory of George Raymond Brown**  
The JOY Class

**In Memory of Kreig Leuschner**  
The JOY Class



## Flowers at the altar

### **Sunday, April 6**

The flowers at the altar are given in gratitude to honor our Genesis Classmates by Bob and Jennie Rush.

The flowers at the altar are given with love to honor Jay Blair by his family.

### **Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday**

The altar arrangements are given to the glory of God and in honor of the season.

### **Sunday, April 20 - Easter**

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of Kemper Zeigler by her family.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Curtis and Mamie Coleman, and Marion and Rachel Knox, with love by Lex and Cathy Knox.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in honor of their wedding anniversary by Rhyne and Twyla Stowe.

### **Sunday, April 27**

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of Chad Gibbons by Laura, Jordan, Meg and Maura.

The flowers at the altar are given in celebration of Bob Roof for his birthday and in memory of Bobbie and Brenda Clarke by Harriett Roof and family.

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## SPONSOR AN EASTER LILY

Sponsor an Easter lily for our worship spaces in honor or memory of your loved one. Each plant is \$20. You can also give a donation to our Landscaping Fund. **Order online by April 6, at [shandonumc.org/register](http://shandonumc.org/register)**, or you can also fill out an order form located in the pew rack and place it in the collection plate during worship. We will publish these tributes in our Easter Sunday bulletins.

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## CONNECTIONS TO TOUR THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Have you ever been to the Greek Festival and wondered what the church looked like inside? This is your chance for a private tour of the Greek Orthodox Church with Father Michael on **Wednesday, April 2, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** The bus will leave Shandon at 10:00 a.m., and we will head to Pitas for lunch directly after the tour. There is no charge for the tour, however, please register so we know how many to expect. Please contact Susan Curran for more information or questions at [scurran@shandonumc.org](mailto:scurran@shandonumc.org) or (803) 466-1344. Register at [shandonumc.org/register](http://shandonumc.org/register).

## SPRING MUSICAL

The St. Nicholas and Cherub Choirs will present their Spring Program on Wednesday, April 2, at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The St. Nicholas Choir will perform the musical “Easter—The One When Jesus Lives,” featuring dialogue written by Amy Martin reflecting on the events of Holy Week. The Cherub Choir will share some of their favorite songs. Each choir member will be recognized for their participation during the 2024–2025 year. All are invited to attend and celebrate these young musicians!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MANNA

**April 2, 5:00–6:00 p.m.** (Last One of the Spring!) Enjoy Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Roll, Salad, and Dessert. Join us afterward for the Children’s Choir Spring Musical at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Pre-order your meal by **Monday at 5:00 p.m.** at [shandonumc.org/manna](https://shandonumc.org/manna).

## TRIPLE T - DRIVE THROUGH MEAL PICKUP

Triple T offers convenient meal options on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Meals are \$9 and must be preordered by **5:00 p.m. on Mondays** at [shandonumc.org/triplet](https://shandonumc.org/triplet). Pick-up is easy—stay in your car, and we’ll bring your meal to you in the church parking lot between **11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon**.

**April 1:** Lasagna, Cucumber and Tomato Salad, Garlic Bread, and Dessert

**April 3:** Tuscan Chicken, Bowtie Pasta, Vegetable, Roll, and Dessert

**April 8:** Pork Tenderloin, Broccoli Casserole, Roasted Vegetables, Roll, and Dessert

**April 10:** Roast Beef, New Potatoes, Lima Beans, Roll, and Dessert

**April 15:** Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, and Dessert

**April 17:** Cold Plate – Chicken Salad, Pasta Salad, Fruit Salad, Bread, and Dessert

**April 22:** Chicken Fingers, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, Roll, and Dessert

**April 24:** Mexican Casserole, Black Beans, Rice, Roll, and Dessert

**April 29:** Lemon Chicken, Rice, Roasted Vegetables, Roll, and Dessert

**May 1:** BBQ Pork, Rice, Green Beans, Slaw, Roll, and Dessert

## NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Conrad as our new administrative assistant. A longtime Shandon member, Sarah is the wife of Brock Conrad III and mother of Jamie and Nate. Sarah has an extensive background working with non-profits like Richland First Steps, Together SC, and United Way. We are very excited about the expertise and enthusiasm that Sarah is already bringing to our staff. Welcome, Sarah!



## PLANNING A MEETING AT SHANDON?

To better serve all the groups here at Shandon who need space to meet, we are now using an online room reservation request system. You can find it at [shandonumc.org/reserve-a-room](https://shandonumc.org/reserve-a-room). If you need help submitting your request, you may contact Sarah Conrad at [sconrad@shandonumc.org](mailto:sconrad@shandonumc.org) or (803) 722-1032.



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

On March 2, we celebrated Children's Sunday in the LifeLine Service. The children led the lesson, read scripture, sang in the Cherub and St. Nicholas Choirs, ushered, and helped to serve communion. It was a simple and special way to highlight their role in worship.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The United Women of Faith are deeply grateful for your support of the recent Clothing and Book Sale. With your generosity, we raised over \$22,000—all of which will be given to numerous nonprofits, most of them right here in Columbia. This is the highest amount ever raised through this sale!

Additionally, several organizations received in-kind donations to further their missions, including Cooperative Ministry, EMS Closet, Keepin' It Real, State Street Baptist Church Shoe Ministry, and His House. This week of hard work was more than worth it, and none of it would have been possible without you!



A proud mom returned to shop Saturday and showed Frances Tompkins a photo of her son in his new blazer: "He read a book in it. He was so proud. He didn't want to take it off."







## GREENING OUR FAITH - LENTEN CROSS

Create a beautiful greenery cross for your door while learning about Lenten traditions in Wesley Hall. Join us on **Wednesday, April 9, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. or Thursday, April 10, from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** Limited to 24 participants per session; \$35 registration fee. A waiting list is available if sessions fill. Register at [shandonumc.org/register](http://shandonumc.org/register).



## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

One of the times the men of Shandon UMC gather to fellowship and grow our faith is at our Men's Prayer Breakfast on the third Thursday of each month. This month's Prayer Breakfast will occur on **Holy Thursday, April 17, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.** in Player Hall. Please mark your calendar, invite a friend or two, and plan to join us.

## SHANDON SISTERS - CONNECTIONS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Shandon Sisters provides connections for young women (ages 25ish - 45ish). Join us for a casual gathering to connect with mature women ahead of you in life's journey. Our time together will include fellowship, light refreshments, conversation, and a brief reflection with "pearls of wisdom" from one of our facilitators. Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 10, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Stephanie Black.

For more information, contact Anne Marie Crosswell by email at [amacrosswell@gmail.com](mailto:amacrosswell@gmail.com) or Ruthie Taylor at (803) 318-7484. Friends are welcome.



## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FIND COMMUNITY - SEEKERS LUNCH

If you're 23 to 30 and looking for community, join the Seekers group for lunch after the 11:00 a.m. Traditional or 11:05 a.m. Lifeline worship service. It's a laid-back way to connect with others in your stage of life. The next lunch is **Sunday, April 27**, at Taziki's. Bring a friend—we'd love to see you! Rev. Maggie Canteley is partnering with this group and wants your input on future gatherings and ideas. To get connected, reach out to Rev. Maggie or fill out the interest form at [shandonumc.org/seekers](http://shandonumc.org/seekers).

## SHANDON CUP RETURNS: ADULT SUMMER SPORTS LEAGUE

We are excited to announce that our sports and recreation program, Shandon Cup, will return this summer! Members, visitors, and friends aged 18 years or older are invited to participate. This summer's primary activity will be volleyball—all skill levels are welcome!

We will gather on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Shandon UMC Gym. The program will run from **May 21 to July 30** (excluding June 4 for VBS). The cost for participating is \$10 per person, which includes all activities, equipment, and a hot dog cookout at the season's end. Childcare is available for infants through rising 6th graders but must be requested. Register online at [shandonumc.org/register](http://shandonumc.org/register). Still have questions? Contact Halley Borthen (828) 289-8954 or Camlin Talbot (803) 727-8685.



## TAKE THE TREK TO MEMBERSHIP

Are you ready to become a full member of Shandon UMC? TREK is Shandon UMC's pathway to membership. Our next course will begin on **Sunday, May 4, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** It is designed to help you connect with our ministers, staff, ministries, and one another. To register for the course, go to [shandonumc.org/trek](http://shandonumc.org/trek). If you still have questions, please contact Pastor James Grubb at [jgrubb@shandonumc.org](mailto:jgrubb@shandonumc.org) or call the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you are already a Shandon member and know of someone interested in joining, please share this information with them.

### Schedule of Sessions

Sunday, May 4, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, May 18, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

## MISSION TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

We are excited to share that the Mission trip to El Salvador will be **Sunday, July 27, through Sunday, August 3, 2025**. If you have been thinking about going, this is the year to do it! We are looking for new team members to lead this mission in the future, so all first-timers are encouraged to go. For more information, please contact Candler Rhodes at (803) 727-0077.



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Once again Shandon is a sponsor in the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build. Shifts are from **8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, Saturday, May 10, and Saturday, May 17**. The site is at 1531 Middle St in Cayce. Grab your friends and help make someone's dream of home ownership a reality. Volunteers should be 18 years old and should register online at [shandonumc.org/register](http://shandonumc.org/register).

## SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION DINNER

The United Women in Faith Special Mission Recognition Dinner will be on **Tuesday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m.** in Player Hall. The UWF will recognize church members who have made a significant contribution to missions. Beth Irick, Chief Executive Officer of The Cooperative Ministry, will be the speaker. The cost is \$10 and reservations should be made with Jennifer Parker at [jpclemsongirl@gmail.com](mailto:jpclemsongirl@gmail.com) or (770) 301-6376 by May 2.



2024 Special Mission  
Recognition Honorees

## STEWARDSHIP: Thank You For Your Faithfulness!

### GIFTS - OPERATING BUDGET

Month of February 2025		Year-To-Date 2025	
Revenues:	\$250,110	Revenues:	\$466,054
Expenses:	280,289	Expenses:	519,165
Net:	<b>\$(30,179)</b>	Net:	<b>\$(53,111)</b>

### WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 IN PERSON**  
Give during service or during office hours
- 2 ONLINE**  
[shandonumc.org/give](http://shandonumc.org/give)
- 3 REALM APP**  
Find Realm Connect in the app store
- 4 TEXT**  
Text 73256 and enter SUMC

QUESTIONS? Contact [nprobst@shandonumc.org](mailto:nprobst@shandonumc.org)





## THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR PANCAKE SUPPER

Submitted with love from the 5th Grade Class

On March 4, our 5th grade Sunday school class hosted a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. The event welcomed approximately 250 attendees and featured a menu of more than 1,500 pancakes, 20 pounds of grits, and 600 sausage patties. The supper raised \$1,700, with every dollar going directly to EMS Closet and Homeless No More. Special thanks to Chef Tim, the guests who attended, and the many volunteers who helped make the evening a success.



## GALA TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Shandon is a partner with Family Promise of the Midlands, which houses, supports, and guides many families in crisis in the Columbia area. Their "Night of Promise Gala" will take place the evening of **Thursday, April 10**, with food, live music, dancing, auctions, and special guest speaker Craig Melvin from the "Today Show."

Please join us for a lovely evening! Visit [qtogo.us/l/fpmidlands/tickets](http://qtogo.us/l/fpmidlands/tickets) for more information and tickets.



## MORE JUSTICE AND SHANDON UMC ...A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

*What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

Shandon is involved in many ministries that “love mercy”. Our church family contributes time, talents, and money toward efforts that show compassion to others.

Our partnership with MORE Justice gives us the opportunity to comply with God’s directive to “do justice.” Justice holds our leaders accountable for the fair treatment of everyone in our community. Nehemiah Chapter 5 teaches us how God wants us to “do justice.” Citizens of Jerusalem were starving and were forced into unsurmountable debt to save themselves, ultimately losing their homes, crops, land, and children to greedy money lenders. Nehemiah used his righteous anger to gather the people together in a great assembly, demanding that the lenders return everything to the people. When faced with the power of the entire community, they had no choice but to comply.



Sue Kanipe speaking at the 2024 Nehemiah Action Assembly

MORE Justice gathers members of 27 congregations in our community to convince our public officials of policies and practices needed to “do justice.” We need to increase our great assembly!

### MORE Justice is working on four major efforts in our community:

- **Food Justice:** Around 65,000 Richland County residents face food insecurity. MORE Justice has partnered with the City of Columbia’s Food Policy Committee to use public land in low-access areas for pop-up markets, produce stands, and community gardens. A mobile market—a grocery store on wheels—was also created to bring food directly into neighborhoods. More work is needed to ensure these programs succeed and last.
- **Affordable Housing:** About 16,000 Columbia families spend over 30% of their income on housing. In Richland County, 44.8% of renters do the same. A minimum-wage earner would need to work 89 hours a week to afford a one-bedroom apartment. MORE Justice helped create a local Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF), with \$4 million committed or planned by Richland County Council. Continued effort is needed to fully fund the AHTF.
- **Gun Violence:** Community members have shared stories of families hearing gunshots at night, of grief because of losses of loved ones to gun violence, and of anger at feeling unsafe in their own communities. MORE Justice has worked with local officials to create the Office of Violent Crime Prevention to help oversee the reduction of the gun violence crisis. More work is needed to ensure best practices are implemented.
- **Mental Health:** Many community members report despair and a lack of mental health resources. First responders are often unprepared to handle crises. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) equips them to respond safely. Over 300 officers have been trained to divert people in crisis toward help instead of jail. More training and support are still needed.

**WE NEED YOU!** Please join Shandon members who are already involved in MORE Justice for a Rally at Shandon Presbyterian Church on **Monday, April 7**, to prepare and motivate for the Nehemiah Action Assembly. And please join us on **Wednesday, May 12**, for the Nehemiah Action Assembly. These events are critical to our support of MORE Justice and its goals stated above.

If you have questions, please contact Biff Sowell, Smoke Kanipe or Claire Manning.



# QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

By Doug Neal, Church Treasurer

BEFORE TAKING REQUIRED DISTRIBUTION THIS YEAR FROM YOUR INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT, CONSIDER CONSULTING YOUR TAX ADVISOR ABOUT A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION ("QCD").

IRA owners, age 73 or older, are required to take annual distributions from their tax-deferred IRAs based on IRS guidelines/instructions (tax-free Roth IRAs are excluded), and certain owners of inherited IRAs may have Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) in 2025. Generally, these distributions are taxable as income and may cause a loss of other tax benefits and/or increase Medicare premiums. Ouch, Ouch!

As stewards of the financial resources God has entrusted to us, it is not only wise, but prudent to use these resources in the most tax and cost-efficient manner possible. So, if you are required to take a minimum distribution this year and plan to contribute to Shandon UMC this year, consider a QCD.

To do that, you should consult your tax advisor, but here's how it generally works if properly done: the amount of the QCD can count towards the amount of the RMD without being taxed as income, but the QCD must be made before making the RMD. Excluding the QCD from taxable income essentially saves the giver income taxes at their marginal tax rate. Of course, since the QCD is not included as taxable income, it is not deductible on the giver's tax return (that would be "double dipping").



As stewards of the financial resources God has entrusted to us,  
**it is not only wise but prudent**  
to use these resources in the most  
tax and cost-efficient  
manner possible.

In short, the QCD allows givers to use their donation to Shandon UMC (or another charity) to help satisfy their RMDs, save on taxes, and, as mentioned above, may have other benefits. What a great way to satisfy your RMDs while giving to Shandon UMC!

**Note:** This article is for general information only and is not intended to give personal, specific, or any other tax advice to any reader. There are limits and rules that apply to QCDs depending on your personal situation, so be sure to consult your tax adviser before proceeding or taking any action based on this article.

## Understanding Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)



### Eligibility and Limits

- Age 70 1/2 or older
- Up to \$108,000 annually



### Tax Benefits

- Counts toward RMDs
- Reduces taxable income



### Consult a Tax Professional

- Ensure proper execution
- Comply with IRS regulations



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS 2025

Vacation Bible School at Shandon UMC is coming **Monday, June 2, to Friday, June 6**, and we need amazing adult and youth volunteers to help make it a fun and faith-filled adventure for our children! Whether you can serve all week, a few days, or behind the scenes, we'd love to have you! Join us for this exciting journey of faith!

### Volunteer Roles Available:

- Science – Lead hands-on experiments that bring Bible lessons to life!
- Crafts – Help kids create meaningful projects to take home.
- Bible Story – Share God's Word through engaging storytelling.
- Recreation – Organize fun and active outdoor games.
- Crew Leader – Escort small groups of children to each station.

Volunteers with younger children: If your child is not old enough for VBS, you must register them for childcare during your volunteer shifts.

Visit [shandonumc.org/register](https://shandonumc.org/register) to sign up as a volunteer!

## THE WELL-MADE CHRISMON

On Sunday, March 9, The Well Women's Ministry hosted the first of four quarterly Chrismon workshops. Two groups gathered for a focused and meaningful time of creativity and connection. While getting to know fellow church members, participants created their first Chrismon, Son of Righteousness. The result: lasting memories and beautiful ornaments that will be part of our church's story for years to come.

Upcoming Chrismon workshops will be held on **June 8, September 21, and November 16**.

Save the dates and stay tuned for registration details!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Sunday School at **9:45 a.m.**, where children from age 2 through 6th grade can explore Bible stories and grow in faith within a welcoming community.

**2 & 3 year olds:** Bible story & songs

**K4-2nd & 4th-5th:** The Easter Story

**3rd grade:** understanding the Bible & Bible skills

**6th:** Gospel of Luke

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS LOCATIONS:

**Infants, Toddlers, Two-year-olds, and Three-year-olds:** 1st floor Knox Building

**Four-year-olds, and 5K Students:** 1st floor DuBose Building

**1st-6th Grades:** 2nd floor DuBose Building

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – ROAD TRIP: ON THE GO WITH GOD!

Get ready for a week of faith-filled adventure as Shandon UMC presents Vacation Bible School (VBS): Road Trip – On the Go With God! Join us from **Monday, June 2, through Friday, June 6**, as we explore God's love through engaging lessons, music, crafts, and fun activities.



**Who:** VBS is open to children who have completed 3-year preschool (age three by 9/1/2024) through current second-grade students (2024–25 school year).

**When:** Monday, June 2, to Friday, June 6, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day

**Where:** Shandon UMC

**Cost:** \$25 per child (non-refundable)

**Registration:** Saturday, March 15, to Tuesday, April 15, or until full

- Shandon UMC members receive priority registration. Non-members will be placed on a waitlist.
- After April 15, if space is available, those on the waitlist will be contacted to complete registration.
- Space availability may vary by age group.
- Volunteers: If you are serving as a VBS volunteer and have a child younger than 3 years of preschool age, you must register them for childcare on the days you volunteer.

Register at [shandonumc.org/register](https://shandonumc.org/register). Don't miss this exciting journey of faith! We can't wait to see you there!

## LIONS AND GIANTS

**3 & 4K** (Age 3 by September 1, 2024): Join Ms. Cari for a fun-filled preschool version of "Lions and Giants" on **Sunday, May 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.** in Player Hall! We will play games and have a special Bible time designed for little ones.

**5K-5TH GRADE:** Join Ms. Cari for "Lions and Giants" on **Sunday, May 4, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.** Children in grades 5K-5th are invited for an exciting time of fellowship, games, and Bible time. Noodle Tag, Gaga Ball, and Capture the Flag are just some of the games we may play.

Both events are drop-off, and no registration is required. We hope to see you there!

## SAFE SANCTUARY MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

**Reminder of the Month: "Line of Sight Rule"** - Each room or space on the church campus designated for children or youth will have a completely uncovered window in the door or a glass window in the room wall that allows the view of the inside of the room from the hallway.



## METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (MYF)

MYF is a place at Shandon UMC for our 7th-12th graders to come together to have fun, celebrate each other, and learn more about being followers of Jesus Christ. Check out the schedule below for our middle and high school groups.

**April 6:** What does the Cross mean to you? All middle schoolers, high schoolers, and their friends will meet from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We will eat dinner, play games, have open gym time, and have Bible study.

**April 13:** What are you doing for spring break? Join us for dinner at Groucho's Deli on Forest Drive from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**April 20:** He is Risen! We will not have MYF on Easter Sunday.

**April 27:** EX-CON Night at MYF from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.! We will invite Shandon UMC 6th graders to join us for MYF for the first time. We will have a blacklight Nerf competition in the gym to celebrate their confirmation. Students are invited to bring their Nerf blasters and darts for a night of competitive games. All age groups will meet together this night.



## DAY CAMP

Students who have completed any of the grades 3rd to 12th by the summer of 2025 are invited to join us for Shandon UMC Day Camp, which will be held on the Heathwood Hall School campus from **Monday, June 2, to Friday, June 6**. Students are invited to join us for the week as we enjoy art, music/songs, Bible study, paddling, ropes courses, Gaga Ball, and initiative games. Current eighth-grade students and older will serve as counselors.



### Registration Details

- Registration is **Saturday, March 15, to Tuesday, April 15**.
- Registration cost is \$125 per student.
- Shandon UMC members receive priority registration. Non-members will be placed on a waitlist.
- After April 15, if space is available, those on the waitlist will be contacted to complete registration.
- Space availability may vary by age group.

Register at [shandonumc.org/register](https://shandonumc.org/register)

## STUDENT LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST

Lent can be a powerful season for Christians as we meditate and fast in preparation for Easter. To encourage middle and high school students in their faith, we will host weekly Prayer Breakfasts in Player Hall from **6:45 until 7:30 a.m.**

**Middle schoolers meet on Tuesdays (April 1 and 8)**

**High schoolers on Thursdays (April 3 and 10)**



## GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

To honor our graduating high school seniors at Shandon UMC, we will hold a unique service for them on **Sunday, May 11, at the 8:45 a.m.** traditional service. After the service, we will hold a reception in Player Hall for our seniors and their families. If you have a student who would like to participate, please get in touch with Andy Morris at [amorris@shandonumc.org](mailto:amorris@shandonumc.org).



## HELPING TWEENS GROW IN FAITH

This spring, our Children and Families Ministry offered two powerful studies—Treasured for Girls and Level Up for Boys—each designed to help tweens navigate identity, friendship, emotions, and faith in safe, encouraging spaces. In Level Up, fathers and sons gathered to explore big questions about life and faith, strengthening their bond while sharing honest conversations and meaningful activities. Through Treasured, moms and daughters connected deeply while learning about self-worth, emotions, and God’s love, guided by trusted leaders and thoughtful discussion. Contact Cari Treece at [ctreece@shandonumc.org](mailto:ctreece@shandonumc.org) for more information.



## JOURNEY OF FAITH: STUDENTS TO BE CONFIRMED

Since January, 37 students have been part of Shandon UMC’s Confirmation class—gathering weekly to explore what it means to follow Christ and be part of the church. Through lessons, meaningful conversations, and a weekend retreat, they’ve grown in their understanding of faith, grace, and discipleship. One special highlight was creating stoles that reflect their personal faith journeys—symbols they’ll wear as they stand before the church on **Confirmation Sunday, April 27**, to affirm their faith and become full members of Shandon UMC. Please keep these students in your prayers as they prepare for this important milestone in their lives.



# STAFF DIRECTORY

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#### **Custodial Staff:**

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**Mamie Brown, Travis Brown, Willie Brown, Sr., Rocky Flowers**

**Maintenance: Jim Morrow**

#### **Security:**

**David Hadley, Security Supervisor**

**Cedrick Finney, Lisa Gibbs, Tori Gregg, Michael White**



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