



Photos - left to right: Bishop Leonard Fairley serves communion to confirmands and their families • Connections trip to Artfields • Silent disco at MYF

THE VOICE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SHANDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 2026 | Volume 67, Issue 5

YOUTH MISSION PROJECT: A NEW CHAPTER

For over 40 years, Youth Mission Project has been a core part of our student ministry, giving high school students the opportunity to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. If you ask youth participants or their parents about Youth Mission Project, or YMP, you'll no doubt find their faces light up as they tell stories of their own or their children's participation. The experience of working to repair homes in the heat of July, playing with children at Vacation Bible School, and living in close Christian community with each other in a gym for a week has laid a foundation for service that we want to see continue.

In 2025, however, a door was closed. The church in Hollywood, South Carolina, where we had gathered since 2009, was no longer able to host us. In response, a leadership team came together to pray, reflect, and discern what makes YMP meaningful and how to carry that forward in a new way.

After much prayer and discussion, we still haven't found a community to invest in long-term, but we do have a plan for this year. For the summer of 2026, our team plans to host YMP right here in Columbia, as we believe it is imperative for our students to experience service in missions sooner rather than later. With great excitement, we would like to share with the Shandon UMC congregation that this year, from July 12-16, we will host Youth Mission Project here at Shandon UMC. Our students will stay on campus together overnight in our gym and serve our local community through construction projects and other ministries. **Registration is now open to any student currently enrolled in 9th-12th grade** and can be found at shandonumc.org/events. Any student who would like to participate must commit to the week, and any student or parent who would like more information can reach out to me at any time.

As a congregation, we ask for your prayers as we do things a little differently this year. We also ask for continued prayers as we look toward the long term and work to carefully create meaningful mission opportunities for our students at Shandon UMC as they grow in faith.

Serving alongside you,

Andy Morris



Andy Morris
Director of Student Ministries



IN Memoriam

Darrell Wade Hanshaw

January 26, 1965 — April 8, 2026

Dr. Hal Holland Crosswell, Jr.

November 29, 1934 — April 17, 2026

MaryAnn Smith Eubanks Crews

August 22, 1937 — April 20, 2026



MEMORIALS *and* HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Graham Brown

Augusta Beckman Circle
JOY Sunday School Class to *Oliver Gospel Mission*
Anna Boyle
Susan and Jim Brant
Susan Collins
Kathy and Hal Crosswell
Kay Jordan
Cathy and Lex Knox
Pam Meacham
Betty and Doug Neal
Sandra Pappas
Joanna and Bill Walkup

In Memory of Curtis Everett Coleman

The Family

In Memory of MaryAnn Crews

Donna Pleicones

In Memory of Betty Farr

Chuck and Susan Salley and family

In Memory of Libby Kelly

David Allen
Susan and Jim Brant
Lou and Tom Garner and family
Donna and Major Pearman
Joanna and Bill Walkup
Margaret Witten

In Memory of Ray Kightlinger

Susan and Jim Brant
Mary Hellams
Ed and Sara Ellen Ringley

In Memory of Adeline Lundy

JOY Sunday School Class
Susan and Jim Brant
Kathy and Hal Crosswell
Patsy and Paul DeBorde
John and Barbara Ridgill

In Memory of Glenn Marlowe

Joanna and Bill Walkup
Betsy and Jim Young

In Memory of Rhett Perry

The JOY Sunday School Class to *Hampton Wildlife Fund*
Biff and Jan Sowell

In Memory of Susan Harper Redd

Bruce Miller

In Memory of Sam Reese

Robert and Ellen Burks
David and Debbie Compton
Jane Pregnall
Carolyn Silvester
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Troutman

In Memory of Tommy Sanders

Susan and Jim Brant
Leanne and Sonny Jarrett

In Memory of William Wells

Sarah Foster and Beverly Bergeron

In Memory of MaryAnn Crews

Donna Pleicones

In Honor of Tripp and Maren Harris

Judy and Bobby Harris

In Honor of Lorraine Conrad

Marshanna Brown

Technology Fund In Honor of Gardner Long

Anne Cox
Leanne and Sonny Jarrett

ALTAR *Flowers*

Sunday, May 3

The flowers at the altar are given in memory of **George and Patsy McIntosh** by Barbara Cobb and family.

The flowers at the altar are given in honor of **Elsie Jordan Carll** and **Heath "Hank" Mustin Carll, Jr.**, and in memory of **Harper Frances Carll**, by their parents, Leah and Heath Mustin Carll, Sr.

Sunday, May 10

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of our mothers, **Rachel S. Knox** and **Mamie F. Coleman**, by Lex and Cathy Knox.

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of **Edith Meyers**, in honor of **Kasey Meyers**, and in celebration of the first wedding anniversary of **Katie and Peyton Pryor**, with love by Karen Meyers.

Sunday, May 17

The flowers at the altar are from the wedding of **Katherine Cromer and Wilson Strausbaugh**, who were married on May 16, 2026. The flowers are given in loving memory of their grandparents: **Mr. Roy Bunyan Cromer, Jr.**, **Mr. & Mrs. Judd Bernard Farr**, and **Mr. James Nelson Strausbaugh**, and in honor of their grandparents: **Mr. & Mrs. John Q. Caughman**, **Mrs. Roy Bunyan Cromer, Jr.**, and **Mrs. Lucy Wilson Strausbaugh**.

Sunday, May 24

The flowers at the altar are given in honor of **Ben Brantley** for our 32nd wedding anniversary by Ashley Brantley.

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Verd Peterson**, **Mr. & Mrs. J. Wallace Craig**, and **Mr. William R. Drake** by Mr. & Mrs. Stephen M. Cunningham (Verd Anna Craig) and Mrs. William R. Drake (Jane Wallace Craig.)

LIVE *Lawn* ON THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Bring your lawn chairs and friends, and join us for great music, food, and community.

The concert is free and open to all.

Chef Tim's chicken tenders and sides, and ice cream truck treats will be available for purchase.



THURSDAY, MAY 21 • 6:30 PM
with **PRETTIER THAN MATT**



THURSDAY, JUNE 11 • 6:30 PM
with **WHISKEY TANGO REVUE**

GriefShare: Finding Hope After the Loss of a Spouse

Losing a spouse is one of life's most painful experiences, and no one should have to walk that road alone. Shandon UMC invites you to a special GriefShare session designed to offer comfort, community, and hope to those navigating life after the loss of a life partner. Join us on **Sunday, May 3**, in Knox 214 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 for materials. To register, visit griefshare.org or contact Lilla Ann Briggs at forgivento7@gmail.com.

Soap Felting

Join us in Wesley Hall on **Wednesday, May 6, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** (childcare will be provided upon request) as Rev. Maggie Cantey teaches us another felting class. During our time together, you will receive materials to create a bar of felted soap. These soap bars are perfect for gentle exfoliation and make great gifts or decorations. This class is perfect for any level of experience, as you can choose a simple swirl pattern or needlefelt more intricate designs onto your soap bar. The cost is \$12. We hope to see you there! Register at shandonumc.org/events.



Afternoon Tea at Laura's Tea Room

Join us for a charming afternoon tea experience at Laura's Tea Room in Ridgeway, SC, on **Thursday, May 7**. The three-course tea includes an assortment of sweet and savory items, homemade scones, and a pot of tea. Meet at church at 10:30 a.m. and return by 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person. Friends are welcome, but space is limited. Please contact Susan Curran at scurran@shandonumc.org or sign up at the table across from the reception desk in the Great Hall of the Bruner Building.

Find Your Place at Shandon: Take the TREK

TREK is a three-session journey designed to help those new to Shandon connect with others, explore our campus, and learn more about the Christian faith and the United Methodist Church. Along the way, participants discover opportunities to serve and to be supported as they grow in faith.

MAY COURSE SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 3, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. • **Wednesday, May 13**, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. • **Sunday, May 17**, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Childcare is available. Sign up at shandonumc.org/trek. For more information about TREK, please contact Rev. James Grubb at jgrubb@shandonumc.org.

Men's Golf Outing

Join us for a round of golf at Northwoods Golf Club on the afternoon of **Thursday, May 14**. Pick your playing partner, and you will be paired with another twosome to help you get to know a couple of new guys and build greater community within our church. Cost will be \$45 per golfer, and participants can register at shandonumc.org/events by May 1.

For more information, contact Pastor James (jgrubb@shandonumc.org), Hunter Griffin (hgriffin2@gmail.com), or Charlee Rose (clrose2008@yahoo.com).



Coffee In The Courtyard

How many times have you seen someone at Shandon UMC whom you wish you had an opportunity to share a cup of coffee with and get to know a little bit? That is the purpose of the Coffee in the Courtyard events. Our next one is scheduled for **Sunday, May 17, from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.** in the courtyard outside the gym. The church will provide the coffee, lemonade, biscuits, and scones. You just need to show up and make some new connections. Because, as we say in each TREK Class, "We are better together."



Men's Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to our men's prayer breakfast on **Thursday, May 21**, from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. in Player Hall. Chef Tim will provide a delicious full breakfast, and there will be a short program. Rev. James Grubb will lead this month's program as we share one more Men's Prayer Breakfast with him before his retirement. Join us and bring a friend to be filled with food, fellowship, and faith.

Join the Book Club

The Shandon UMC Book Club meets on the third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is **Thursday, May 21**, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 223 on the second floor of the Bruner Building. We are reading *Buckeye*, by Patrick Ryan. Newcomers are welcome. To receive reminders, email Gera Singletary at davegera4@icloud.com.

About every five months, members share recommendations and select books for the upcoming months. Selections span a range of genres, and participants are welcome to volunteer to lead a discussion.

Seekers: Community for Young Professionals

Young professionals ages 23–30 are invited to join the Seekers, a group centered on connection and community. The next monthly gathering will be held on **Sunday, May 24**, at 12:15 p.m. at Taziki's. To learn more or join the email list, contact Rev. Maggie or complete the interest form at shandonumc.org/seekers.

Shandon Cup Returns

We are excited to announce that Shandon Cup returns this summer, with volleyball as our primary activity. We will gather each Wednesday from **June 10 to July 29**, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in the gym.

Anyone 18 years or older is invited to participate. High school students may participate with an adult family member present.

The cost is \$15 per person and includes all activities, equipment, and an end-of-season awards banquet with hot dogs and chips. Childcare for infants through rising sixth graders is available, but must be requested in advance.

Registration opens May 1 and closes June 1. Grab some friends and register at shandonumc.org/events.

Still have questions? Contact James Grubb at jgrubb@shandonumc.org.



Summer Bible Study

Summer is almost here, and you may be heading to the beach! Have fun, but don't forget to save the dates now for our no-registration, no homework, come-as-you-are, whenever-you-can Summer Bible Study, as we go, not to the beach, but to the mountains. Each **Wednesday from June 10 - July 29**, we will meet in Wesley Hall from **10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** to explore *Mountains in the Bible*. Come learn about locations in the Bible, mountain-top experiences, and how to grow closer to God. Friends are always welcome. Questions? Contact Ruthie Taylor at (803) 318-7484.

America the Beautiful

Join us to celebrate America the Beautiful on **Sunday, June 21**, at noon in the gym. This is a family event for all to enjoy. A buffet lunch including fried chicken, barbecue, and all the sides will be served. The choir and Capitol City Brass, will lead us in a collection of inspiring and toe-tapping patriotic songs. The cost for adults is \$10.00, and a child's meal is \$5.00. Wear your best patriotic attire to show your spirit. Reservations are required by Monday, June 15, at 5:00 p.m. Make your reservations: shandonumc.org/events



Save the date! Chrismon Workshop in July

Join us around the table on **Sunday, July 26**, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 223 of the Bruner Building for our Summer Chrismon Workshop. While getting to know fellow church members, you'll learn the meaning and craft of Chrismon making. In this session, we'll create one new Chrismon and help you finish any Chrismon from earlier workshops. All materials are provided, but space is limited. Sign up at shandonumc.org/events. For questions, contact Susan Curran at scurran@shandonumc.org or (803) 466-1344.

United Women In Faith Circles

Augusta Beckman Circle

Augusta Beckman Circle will be meeting for a covered dish dinner on **Monday, May 11**, at 6:00 p.m., at the home of Betty Neal

Contact: Mary Parker (843) 364-8553, mpark446@gmail.com

Mary Campbell Circle

2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in Player Hall.

Contact: Angie Moore (803) 261-4464, amhmoore4@gmail.com

Naomi & Ruth Circle

2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in Committed Disciples Classroom (Knox building)

Contact: Sara Roberts Ruzensky (803) 280-0558, s.roberts.ruzensky@gmail.com

Susanna Wesley Circle

2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at different locations.

Contact: Jennifer Davis (803) 920-6527, jadjcd@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

Summer 2026

Wednesday, June 10–Wednesday, July 29

Summer Bible Study

10:30 a.m., Wesley Hall

Wednesday, June 10–Wednesday, July 29

Shandon Cup*

6:00 p.m., Gym

Thursday, June 11

Live on the Lawn with Whiskey Tango Revue

6:30 p.m., East Lawn

Sunday, June 14

Reception in honor of Rev. James Grubb

12:00 p.m., Player Hall

Sunday, June 14–Sunday, August 2

Combined Worship (alternating 11:00 a.m. Traditional and 11:05 a.m. LifeLine)

Sunday, June 21

America the Beautiful: U.S. 250th Birthday Edition*

12:00 p.m., Gym

Sunday, July 5

Children's Popcorn and a Movie

9:45 a.m., Player Hall

Sunday, July 12, 19, 26

Summer Soul Series

9:45 a.m., Player Hall

Sunday, July 12–Saturday, July 16

Youth Mission Project*

Tuesday, July 14, and Thursday, July 23

Connections Trip to McBee: Peaches and More*

Wednesday, July 22

Christmas in July Mother-Daughter Craft Event*

7:00 p.m., Wesley Hall

Sunday, July 26

Chrismon Workshop*

4:00 p.m., Bruner 223

Sunday, August 2

Blessing of the Backpacks (both services)

Final Combined Worship for the summer

Wednesday, August 5

UWF Garage Sale Member Preview

Friday, August 7–Saturday, August 8

UWF Garage Sale

Gym and Player Hall

Sunday, August 9

Promotion/Christian Education Sunday (all services)

Sunday, August 9

Blood Drive

Player Hall

Mid-August (date TBD)

Back to School MYF Bash

5:00–7:00 p.m., Gym/Courtyard

Wednesday, August 19

Chancel Choir Rehearsals

7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 30

Bible Presentation to 3rd Graders*

11:00 a.m. Traditional and 11:05 a.m. LifeLine

Sunday, September 6

Children's Popcorn and a Movie

9:45 a.m., Player Hall

** Events may require advanced registration.*

Our full calendar of events can be found on our website: shandonumc.org/calendar



Celebrating Confirmation



Shandon UMC celebrated the Confirmation of 21 sixth-grade students as they publicly professed their faith in Christ and were welcomed into the United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 19. Bishop Leonard E. Fairley preached and officiated the rite of Confirmation for these students.

Health and Wellness - Blood Drive

Give the gift of life - The Shandon Blood Drive is **Sunday, May 17**, in Player Hall, **9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Please go to the Red Cross website or scan the QR code to sign up. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments will be taken first. An e-gift card of \$20 to a merchant of your choice will be emailed to you following your donation.



*16 to 18-year-olds can donate with parental permission.

Thank You For Supporting "Power in Changing"

The Journey Sunday school class appreciates the generous support from our congregation as the class collected diapers and wipes for the Power in Changing Diaper Bank in Columbia. The donations included 2,500 diapers and 54 packs of wipes, which go directly to families in need in the Midlands area.



Jake Ruzensky delivers a truckload of much-needed diapers and supplies to the Power in Changing Diaper Bank.

INTERESTED IN SERVING AT SHANDON?

Explore current volunteer opportunities and find a place to use your gifts at shandonumc.org/servewithus

May On Millwood

Join our friends at Epworth on **Saturday, May 30**, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a special day celebrating Epworth's 130th anniversary. Bring your church group and enjoy the Columbia Classic Chevy Car Club, children's activities, live music, campus tours, and more. Lunch from Shealy's BBQ will be provided while supplies last. Reservations are preferred: friendsofepworth.org/may-on-millwood/



Volunteer to Serve at Transitions

Shandon UMC's serving team is looking for five volunteers on **Monday, May 25**, to help serve dinner at Transitions from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. Volunteers will serve prepared meals, greet residents, and hand out desserts and beverages. Parking is available in the Transitions parking lot, accessible off Calhoun Street between Main and Assembly Streets. Upon arrival, sign in at the Calhoun Street entrance and proceed to the Dining Facility. Aprons, gloves, and hairnets are provided, and a baseball cap may be worn in place of a hairnet. Staff will orient volunteers to the serving process. To sign up, visit shandonumc.org/servewithus.

Coffee & Conversation

If you've ever considered volunteering with Children's Sunday School, I'd love to have coffee and a conversation with you to answer questions and discuss opportunities. Each class has a teaching team, providing flexibility and built-in support. It's a wonderful opportunity to build meaningful connections with children and their families.

We have needs across a variety of age groups, from two years and up. You can serve where you feel most comfortable. Please reach out to start the conversation.

Blessings,

Cari Treece, Director of Children and Family Ministries
ctreece@shandonumc.org

STEWARDSHIP: *Thank You For Your Faithfulness!*

GIFTS - OPERATING BUDGET

Month of March 2026			Year-To-Date 2026		
Revenues:		\$280,136	Revenues:		\$729,298
Expenses:		\$253,306	Expenses:		\$759,791
Net:		\$26,830	Net:		\$(30,493)

WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 IN PERSON**
Give during service or during office hours
- 2 ONLINE**
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



LIONS AND GIANTS

3 & 4K (Age 3 by September 1, 2025): Join Ms. Cari for a fun-filled preschool version of “Lions and Giants” on **Sunday, May 3**, from 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. in the gym! 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 3**, 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 Four Square 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!



SUMMER FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR CHILDREN THIS SUMMER

Wednesday, June 17: Movie Night: rising Kindergarten-rising 6th grade, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Player Hall. This IS a drop-off event.

Thursday, July 9: Popsicles at the Park (playtime with friends, popsicles, and a Bible story with Ms. Cari): children of all ages, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., at Gills Creek Memorial Park Splash Pad, 24 Forest Lake Place. This IS NOT a drop-off event.

Sunday, July 19: Bingo Night: rising Kindergarten-rising 6th grade, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Player Hall. This IS a drop-off event. Younger children may attend if accompanied by a parent.

Wednesday, July 29: Water Day for rising 4K grade through rising 6th grade children. There will be a morning and an afternoon time slot. This IS a drop-off event. Registration is required and will be available at a later date.

POPCORN AND MOVIE SUNDAY

Children’s “Popcorn and Movie” will be offered during the Sunday School hour for our 4-year-old through 5th-grade Sunday School classes on **Sunday, May 24**, from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Children may be dropped off and picked up in Player Hall.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Beginning on **Sunday, May 31**, we will combine Children’s Sunday school grade levels into 3 groups. K4-K5, 1st-2nd, and 3rd-5th. The last date of combined Sunday school will be Sunday, July 26. On Sunday, August 9, Promotion Sunday, children will move to their new classrooms.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, August 2: Blessing of the Backpacks at both services.

Sunday, August 9: Promotion/Christian Education Sunday at all three services.

Sunday, August 30: Bible Presentation to 3rd Graders at 11:00 a.m. Traditional and 11:05 a.m. LifeLine services.



METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (MYF)

Methodist Youth Fellowship is the place for 7th through 12th graders to fellowship, play games, and grow in their relationship with Christ. Our usual meeting time is 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sundays in the Youth Zone at church. However, please refer to our schedule below for the special events we have planned for each night.

May 3: Let's celebrate Cinco de Mayo early at MYF! Join us for tacos, piñatas, and time in the Bible together as we explore the topic of "grace" in the month of May. Join us from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, open gym, games, and Bible study.

May 10: We will not meet for MYF on Mother's Day. Hang out with your family to show them how much they mean to you.

May 17: Is the end of school tiring you out? Let's take a study break and compete in some team games! Join us from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, open gym, games, and Bible study.

May 24: MYF is out to dinner! Join us from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Casa Linda on Beltline Blvd.

May 31: Day Camp counselor orientation from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Heathwood Hall for all rising 8th through 12th grades who have registered.

YOUTH USHER SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 31**, our middle and high school students will serve as ushers at our 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. traditional worship services. In this role, they will distribute bulletins before the service and assist with collecting the offering. We need at least eight students for each service. Please email Andy at amorris@shandonumc.org to let us know at which service your student will serve.

YOUTH MISSION PROJECT

Registration is now open for Youth Mission Project, a week of serving, worship, and community. This year's YMP will take place **July 12-16**, in Columbia, with students staying on campus at Shandon UMC while serving in the local community. Open to rising 9th-12th grade students, participation requires a full-week commitment. Learn more and register at shandonumc.org/events.

ASBURY HILLS

Summer 2026 registration is now open for elementary, junior high, and senior high camps. Operated by SC United Methodist Camps and Retreat Ministries, Asbury Hills is a place for Christian birth, growth, and renewal in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Camp session details and registration are online at asburyhills.org or scan the QR code.

Why Summer Camp Matters:

- **Confidence:** Camp builds confidence for kids to try new things
- **Curiosity:** Camp gives kids a chance to explore in a safe, hands-on environment

Character: Camp develops character through fostering respect for others, creating a sense of community and cultivating problem-solving skills.



Applications are also being accepted for summer camp staff. Please visit asburyhills.org for details.



Thanks, Buds!

Thank you to the more than 40 Shandon members who showed up and made their voices heard at the MORE Justice Nehemiah Action Assembly on April 27. Because of the work of advocates like you, positive change is happening in our community.

Couldn't make it to the event but still want to get involved? Contact MORE Justice team leaders Biff Sowell or Claire Manning to be added to the Shandon MORE Justice email list to learn about current issue campaigns and simple steps you can take to lend support.



If you would like to learn more about the issues presented, the commitments requested from public officials, and ways you can support, visit shandonumc.org/MOREJustice or scan the QR code.

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

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