



THE VOICE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SHANDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2026 | Volume 67, Issue 3

BEE LIKE JESUS

One bit of excitement around the church lately involved a hive of bees. Somehow, they found their way into the exterior wall of the Bruner Building across from Dreher. Fortunately, we were able to hire a beekeeper to help them find a new home.

When you think about it, Shandon UMC is a lot like a beehive. There is activity galore all week long (as you've probably noticed when you look for a parking place!). For example ...

- Church basketball season has just ended – for 3 1/2 months each year, the gym is a "beehive" of activity.
- This week, we have hosted two concerts – one by the Columbia Choral Society and one by the Wofford College Singers.
- Since the first week of January, pipe fitters, HVAC technicians, electricians, and contractors – along with assorted cranes, cement trucks, drills, metal saws, etc. – have been replacing our 76-year-old AC system.
- Five days a week, we host Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Five days a week, our preschool serves approximately 130 families.

You get the idea – “busy bees”!

But bees are not just about busyness. The beehive is an ancient Christian symbol – going back at least to St. Ambrose and St. John Chrysostom in the 4th century. You can occasionally see it in stained glass windows. Our friends in the Church of Latter-Day Saints particularly love this image, and it appears on the state flag of Utah.

Well, lots of interesting information, and I'll let you do your own Google search. But here's a neat little summary from the internet:

The beehive is a recognized Christian symbol ... It historically represents a pious, unified community or the church itself, with bees, symbolizing diligence, order, and zeal.

At Shandon UMC, may we not only be "busy bees," but also a "pious, unified community" full of "diligence, order, and zeal"!

Grace and peace,

Smoke



Rev. Smoke Kanipe
Senior Pastor



A colony of 40,000 honeybees was removed from the Bruner Building and relocated to a bee farm in Blythewood. Jim Morrow, our custodian, suited up to oversee the undertaking.

a season of *Lent*

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," meaning "lengthen," and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation and preparing to begin his ministry.

LENTEN OFFERING

As we focus on the Lenten season, share God's love by contributing to Shandon's Lenten Offering. Learn more about the ministries we will support through our 2026 Lenten Offering.



THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY:

Your support will help this ministry increase the economic self-sufficiency of people experiencing poverty in the Midlands through crisis assistance and sustainability programs.

SENIOR RESOURCES:

Your support helps seniors remain healthy and independent by providing services that promote aging in place, support daily living needs, and serve as a safety net for older adults in the Midlands.

TRANSITIONS:

Your support helps men and women across the Midlands of South Carolina transition out of homelessness by stabilizing their lives, increasing income, and securing permanent housing.

MAKE YOUR LENTEN GIFT

- Give online: shandonumc.org/give/lent
- Make checks payable to Shandon UMC. Designate "Lenten Offering" in the memo line.

Please make your Lenten offering online or by check by Easter Sunday. Donations made online and by check will be included in your annual contribution statement.

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

An Evening Prayer Service will be held on **Sunday, March 1**, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers, St. Nicholas, and Youth Choirs will offer music for this special Lenten worship service.

SPONSOR AN EASTER LILY

Sponsor an Easter lily for our worship spaces in honor or memory of your loved one. You can also give a donation to our Landscaping Fund. The deadline to order is **Sunday, March 15**. Fill out a card (in the pews) or order online at shandonumc.org/lily.

STUDENT MINISTRY LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST

Lent can be a powerful season for followers of Jesus as we meditate and repent in preparation for Easter. To encourage middle and high school students in their faith, we will host weekly Prayer Breakfasts in the Youth Zone Game Room from 6:50 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. on Thursdays (**March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2**) throughout Lent. For more information, see page 11.

JOURNEY TO *Easter*

GREENING OUR FAITH: LENT

Lent is a time of reflection and penitence, and visual reminders of the season help us to stay faithful to those purposes. Join us in Wesley Hall on **Wednesday, March 18**, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (childcare provided), or **Thursday, March 19**, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., for a time of fellowship and creativity as we create greenery reminders for Lent. We will create two items: a wreath and a cross, both made from dried boxwood branches. Each item will be approximately 9x9". Friends are welcome. Space is limited. The fee is \$30.

Register at shandonumc.org/events.



FAMILY LENT LAB: CREATE, PRAY, PREPARE

Families with children are invited to our Lent and Easter family event on **Sunday, March 22**, from 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the gym. Activities are designed for preschool through 5th grade. Childcare is available upon request for infants through age 2.

Stations include Praying with Pretzels, Lent in a Box, Prayer Cubes, and cookie decorating. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required at shandonumc.org/events. See page 14 for more details.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 29: 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Traditional services in the Sanctuary and 11:05 a.m. LifeLine Contemporary service in the Gym.

Holy Thursday, April 2: Communion service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary with music by the Chancel Choir. (childcare available)

Good Friday, April 3:

12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. - Sanctuary open for meditation.

6:30 p.m. - Service in the Sanctuary (childcare available). The Chancel Choir and soloists will present *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, by Theodore Dubois.

Easter Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. on the East Lawn. Bring your own lawn chairs. Traditional Services at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 11:05 a.m. LifeLine Contemporary Service in the Gym.

LENTEN COIN CALENDAR

During Lent, we are invited to reflect and ask, “What can we do for others?” A meaningful way to practice compassion as a family is by collecting coins throughout Lent and donating them after Easter to support those in need. Pick up a Lenten Coin Calendar and instructions at the Sanctuary and LifeLine entrances.

IN Memoriam

Samuel Fudge Reese

October 22, 1940 - February 9, 2026

Elizabeth Coleman Kelly

June 28, 1958 - February 18, 2026



MEMORIALS *and* HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Sam Reese

Nancy Buchanan
Mary Hellams
Nancy Probst
Judy and Butch Roberts
Sally and David Seavey
Pat and Bob Spear
Pamela and Raymond Wells

In Memory of Tommy Sanders

Donna and Major Pearman
Anne Philbeck
Sally and David Seavey

In Honor of Gardner Long for the Technology Fund

Barbara Griffin

ALTAR *Flowers*

Sunday, March 1

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **Jeff Smoak** by Laura, Miller Ayn, Tucker Smoak, and Mary Smoak.

Sunday, March 8

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **David Murday**, and **Donald and Dorothy Baker Snow**, by their daughter, Deborah Snow, and granddaughters, Elspeth Snow Murday and Alanna Snow Murday.

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **Margaret Morgan "Peggy" Tarr** by William Bennett Tarr, Kurt Haas, Paige Haas, Ceci Haas, Frank Munn, and Joan Munn.

Sunday, March 15

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **Brian Martin, Larry Foster, Ed Martin, and Sonny and Jerry Foster**, by Edwin and Amy Martin and family.

Sunday, March 22

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **Bill Dunn, Joe W. Dunn, Roberta S. Dunn, and Harriet Faust** by Gessner S. Dunn and children.

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **George White, Carrie White, Harry Snider, and Isabel Snider** by Sylvia and Tom Snider.

Sunday, March 29

The flowers at the altar are given in honor of **Jim Covington and Nola Covington** for their 71st wedding anniversary on March 26, and in honor of **Jim Covington** for his 95th birthday on March 29 by their family.

The flowers in the narthex are given in honor of **Watson Bradley** in celebration of his 2nd birthday by his grandparents, Cathy and Cal Watson.

MANNA REFRESHED

Join us on Wednesdays in Player Hall for dinner and fellowship. Meal service is open from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., and you are welcome to stay and enjoy time together after the buffet closes. Meal prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Childcare is available in the gym from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

MENU

- **March 4:** Pork Tenderloin, Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Brown Rice, Cheese Biscuits, Mixed Green Salad, Fruit, and Dessert
- **March 11:** Greek Chicken, Roasted Red Potatoes, Sauteed Green Beans, Cucumber Salad, Mixed Green Salad, Rolls, and Dessert
- **March 18:** Beef with Broccoli, Chinese Vegetables, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls with Sauce, Mixed Green Salad, Pineapple, and Dessert
- **March 25:** Last Manna – Children’s Spring Musical – Chicken Fingers, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, Green Salad, Hawaiian Rolls, and Dessert
- **March Kid’s Meal:** Buttered Noodles, Yogurt, Clementine

ORDER

Pre-ordering meals is required. Orders may be placed at shandonumc.org/manna by 8:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY

We had an amazing group of children leading our 11:00 a.m. Traditional worship service on Sunday, February 8. Thank you to all the participants and their families for your support.



CLOTHING & BOOK SALE

FOR *Missions*

FRIDAY MARCH 13
8AM - 2:30PM

SATURDAY MARCH 14
8AM - 1:00PM



The United Women in Faith need your help for our 5th Annual Clothing and Book Sale

Friday, March 13, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 14, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This is a cash-only sale. All proceeds benefit local nonprofits in the Midlands.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate:** Drop off clothing, books, accessories, and cardboard boxes on **Tuesday and Wednesday, March 10-11, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in the gym. Please bring hanging clothes on hangers and jewelry in individual bags if possible. There are extra hangers in the hallway of the Bruner building if you need them. **Please note that the drive-through drop-off will be held on the Adger Street driveway loop this year.**
- **Volunteers needed**
 - **Setup:** Help with setup and organization on **March 10-11, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** There is no need to register; just drop in.
 - **Cleanup:** **100 volunteers needed on Saturday, March 14, at 1:00 p.m.** to help box up unsold donations and reset the gym for LifeLine. We need all hands on deck. Let us know you're all in! Sign up at shandonumc.org/cleanup.
- **Spread the Word:** Invite your friends and neighbors, and share the event on social media.
- **Provide Food:** Donate lunches or snacks for volunteers.

Contact:

- **General Information:** Jennifer Parker - jpgclemsgirl@gmail.com, text (770) 301-6376 or Bobbie Moore - bobbie.moore0529@gmail.com, text (803) 728-7255.
- **Food Donations:** Carolyn Hall - mchajcek@gmail.com, text (803) 422-0951.

Thank you for making this event a success!



Find community



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

All men are invited to our men's prayer breakfast on **Thursday, March 19**, 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.

Please 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, March 19**, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 223 on the second floor of the Bruner Building. We are reading *House of Smoke*, by John T. Edge.

Our selections span a wide range and are chosen six months at a time. Newcomers are welcome. To receive reminders, email Gera Singletary at davegera4@icloud.com.



SEEKERS LUNCH

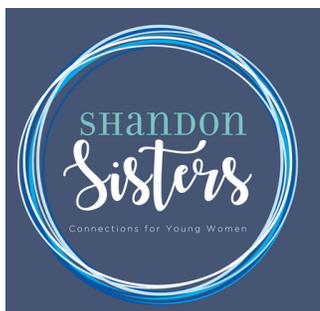
Young professionals ages 23–30 are invited to join the Seekers, a group centered on connection and community. The next monthly gathering will be held on **Sunday, March 22**, at 12:15 p.m. at Taziki's.

To learn more or join the email list, contact Rev. Maggie or complete the interest form at shandonumc.org/seekers.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: CONFIDENTIAL CARE AND SUPPORT

Stephen Ministry offers one-on-one, confidential support to individuals in our church and community who are experiencing life's challenges. Stephen Ministers are trained lay caregivers who complete 52 hours of instruction in listening, caring, and offering Christ-centered encouragement. They walk alongside others during difficult times with compassion and confidentiality. If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Rev. Smoke Kanipe at (803) 722-1063 or skanipe@shandonumc.org.

SHANDON SISTERS – CONNECTIONS FOR YOUNG WOMEN



Who: Women (ages 25ish – 45ish) Friends are welcome

What: Join us for a casual gathering to connect with mature women who are ahead of you in life's journey. Our time together will include fellowship, light refreshments, conversation, and reflection time.

When: Wednesday, March 11, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Come after the manna meal. Childcare is available at the church for this event.

Where: The home of Lori Yandle, just a few blocks away from the church

For more information, contact Anne Marie Crosswell at amacrosswell@gmail.com, Taylor White at tmunnwhite@gmail.com, or Ruthie Taylor at (803) 318-7484.

AHUACHAPÁN: STORIES FROM THE MISSION FIELD

On **Sunday, March 22, during the LifeLine Worship service**, Shandon UMC welcomes Brian Dubberly, a long-term individual volunteer with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) and a North Carolina Conference missionary. Brian serves in El Salvador, where he coordinates volunteers and serves as the lay member of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Methodist Church in El Salvador. He has also been Shandon's direct missionary liaison since our congregation began sending mission teams there.

Join us to hear firsthand updates on current mission needs, stories of God's work in Ahuachapán, and ways you can continue supporting and participating in this important partnership.



PATH TO MEMBERSHIP - TAKE THE TREK

TREK, Shandon's new member path, is a three-session journey designed to help you connect with others who are new to Shandon, explore our campus, and learn more about the Christian faith and the United Methodist Church. Along the way, you'll also discover opportunities to serve and to be supported as you grow in your faith.

March 2026 TREK Course Schedule

Sunday, March 8, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 15, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLES

Augusta Beckman Circle

Monday after the 1st Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in Player Hall.

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

Mary Campbell Circle

2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in Player Hall.

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

Naomi & Ruth Circle

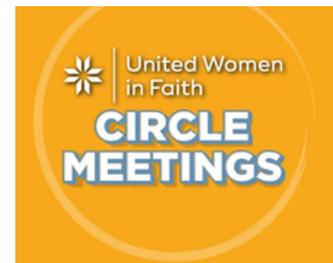
2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in Committed Disciples Classroom (Knox building)

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



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH READING PROGRAM

All women of Shandon UMC, members of United Women in Faith circles, and guests are invited to join Susan Brant on **Thursday, March 25**, from 10:30–11:30 a.m. in the Parlor for a discussion of *Women Rise Up* by Katey Zeh. *Women Rise Up* shares the stories of biblical women and connects them to contemporary issues. This gathering is part of the United Women in Faith Reading Program with a focus on social action.



SAFE SANCTUARY REMINDER OF THE MONTH - POTTY-DIAPER PROCEDURE

A staff member or volunteer must announce to another adult in the room that he/she will be changing a child's diaper or assisting a child in the bathroom.

HANDBELL FESTIVAL HOSTED AT SHANDON



The Fellowship of Worship Arts sponsored a Handbell Festival at Shandon UMC on February 14. Six church handbell choirs from across South Carolina participated. David Harris of the Raleigh Ringers served as Festival Director

PARKING REMINDERS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

We ask everyone to be careful and considerate in our parking habits. A few friendly reminders:

- The lot beside the church is especially important for those with mobility challenges, families with young children, and first-time visitors. Please pay close attention to handicap parking signs, including those designated for handicap-accessible vans.
- The lot across Devine Street is our largest parking area. On most Sundays, an off-duty police officer is present to assist with crossing. When an officer is unavailable, please use the crosswalks.
- We are grateful to Dreher for sharing their front lot with us. Please do not park on the grass anywhere on the Dreher property.
- There are additional parking spaces along Adger Road. Please do not park along any yellow-painted curbs on Adger Road, especially near the intersection, as these areas must remain clear for safety and visibility, and emergency vehicles.



The new sanctuary air conditioning unit has been installed, and work is almost complete. This project represents a significant investment in the long-term care of our sanctuary, with a total cost of approximately \$800,000. Thanks to your generosity, nearly **\$171,512** has already been given toward this work.

Gifts to support the project may be made online at shandonumc.org/give under "Cool It" or by check with "Cool It" written in the memo. We appreciate your patience as this work continues.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

In 2025, Shandon donated \$141,000 to the following non-profit agencies through our outreach budget, Lenten and Advent offerings, and proceeds from the United Women in Faith's clothing and book, and garage sales. Think of all the people who have been touched by your open hands and hearts.

- Aldersgate House
- Alston Wilkes Society
- Camp Impact
- Candyman Homeless Outreach
- Children's Garden
- Dreher High School
- E.A.R.N. the Right
- EMS Closet
- Epworth Early Intervention Center
- Epworth Foster Parents
- Family Promise
- F.I.R.E.
- Free Medical Clinic
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hannah House
- Harvest Hope Food Bank
- Helping Hands – Shandon Cluster
- Homeless No More
- Jeremie Haiti Missions
- Jubilee Academy
- Keepin' It Real
- Killingsworth Home
- Leeza's Place
- Lighthouse for Life
- Lutheran Services Carolinas
- Midlands Orphan Relief
- MORE Justice
- Palmetto Place
- Providence Home
- Ronald McDonald House – Pack a Smile Program
- Salvation Army of the Midlands
- Seeds of Hope Farmers
- Senior Resources - Meals on Wheels
- Sistercare
- Spartanburg Bethlehem Center
- SUMC Youth Mission Project
- The Dunlap Family Missioners
- The Cooperative Ministry
- The Therapy Place
- The Women's Shelter
- Toby's Place
- Transitions
- Turn 90
- United Methodist Church's Native American Ministry
- Wallace Family Life
- Washington Street UMC Soup Kitchen

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Thank You! Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a great success! Over 300 people came out to help our 5th-grade Sunday School class raise more than \$2,000 for Epworth. Thank you to our 5th graders, their teachers, parents, all pancake eaters, and all who made donations! If you missed it but still want to help, donations may be made at shandonumc.org/give - choose "Children's Ministry" from the dropdown list.



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

The Cooperative Ministry's Food Bank is low, so please consider donating non-perishable food items. There are designated containers in the Great Hall and in the entrance of the Dunn-Smith Center.

POWER IN CHANGING

The Journey Sunday School class is collecting donations of diapers and wipes to benefit Power in Changing, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving women and families in the Midlands. This organization works to empower families and provide essential supplies for women and babies. Please bring donations to the collection station in the foyer outside Player Hall on Sundays through March 29.



INTERESTED IN SERVING AT SHANDON?

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

DONATE COOKIES FOR KAIROS

The Kairos Ministry team serves McCormick Correctional Institution in McCormick, South Carolina. Twice a year, the team enters the prison for a four-day event called a Walk, an encounter patterned after the Walk to Emmaus program. Kairos Prison Ministry is a short course in Christianity designed for residents of state correctional institutions.

Expressions of Agape, God's unconditional love, are an important part of the weekend. Through letters, prayer chains, and tangible reminders of support, participants are reminded that they are part of the global Body of Christ and that people they have never met are praying for them. While some sign up simply for hot meals and unlimited cookies, many leave deeply moved and transformed by the Holy Spirit in just a few days. The next Kairos Weekend at McCormick Correctional Institution is March 17-20, 2026.



Help us share Christ's love in a simple but powerful way by baking cookies for Kairos. Inside the prison, we are known as the "Cookie People." A typical Kairos Weekend uses more than 5,000 dozen cookies, which are shared with residents, correctional officers, support staff, and volunteers.

Cookie guidelines: We need homemade cookies. The impact you will make on the residents with homemade cookies is overwhelming. Cookies that are uniform in size (no larger than 2 ½ ") pack best and resist breakage.

Very important: Be sure to pray over the cookies and for those who will be receiving them. No icing, sprinkles, or powdered sugar. Cool cookies completely before packaging. If possible, roll the cookies on their sides (like a row of Ritz crackers) in wax paper or Saran Wrap, and twist the ends to close. No staples, tape, or twist ties to seal. Please bring them to Wesley Hall **starting March 9, but no later than Sunday, March 15.** There will be a Kairos sign there where you can place the cookies. Please email John Saine at saine59@gmail.com for more info.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE

The student ministry would like to thank our Shandon UMC church family for their generosity last Sunday during our Souper Bowl of Caring Collection.

With your charitable support, we raised more than \$2,300 for the Scorpion Cares Closet at Southeast Middle School.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School at Shandon UMC is coming (Monday, June 1, to Friday, June 5), 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! Volunteer roles available include science, crafts, Bible story, recreation, snacks, and more. 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 to sign up as a volunteer.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LIFELINE WORSHIP

On February 15, 2026, we celebrated 25 years of our LifeLine Contemporary Worship Service with gratitude and joy. We are thankful for the committee, volunteers, attendees, musicians, and pastors who made the day so meaningful, and for the powerful worship and celebratory meal we shared together.







TRACKERS

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade boys are invited to join us for Trackers, a small-group Bible study. This study is designed specifically for boys who enjoy engaging, lively games. The group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. in the 5th-grade classroom (DuBose Room 202). For more information, please reach out to Cari at ctreece@shandonumc.org.

FAMILY LENT LAB: CREATE, PRAY, PREPARE

Families with children are invited to join us for our Lent and Easter family event this year on **Sunday, March 22**, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the gym. Activities are planned for children ages 3-year-old preschool to 5th grade, but younger children may follow along with parents. Childcare will also be available upon request for infants through 2-year-olds.

Our event will include the following rotating stations:

- Praying with Pretzels
- Lent in a Box
- Prayer Cubes
- Cookie Decorating

Please remember that children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration is required: shandonumc.org/events. For any inquiries, feel free to reach out to Cari Treece at ctreece@shandonumc.org.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 15

Join us for Vacation Bible School on **Monday, June 1, to Friday, June 5**, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day. This year's theme is "Snowball Mountain Challenge", an exciting winter sports event, where children will find their strength in God through frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith.

Mountain Motto (Theme Verse): "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13, NRSV)



Who: VBS is open to children who have completed 3-year-old preschool (age 3 by September 1, 2025) through children who have completed 2nd grade in the 2025–2026 school year. IF YOU ARE A VOLUNTEER with a younger child, you must register for childcare on the days you volunteer.

Fee: \$25 per child (non-refundable). 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. Register at shandonumc.org/register.

Space availability varies by age group.

Don't miss this exciting journey of faith! We can't wait to see you there!



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. in the Youth Zone at church. However, please refer to our schedule below to see what special events we have planned for each night.

March 1: Is pride a good thing or a bad thing? Let's talk about that in our series "Less of Me" during Lent. Don't miss games, dinner, open gym, and Bible study in the youth zone from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

March 8: How can silence be so loud? Invite a friend and join us as we talk about the distractions of our lives and the good instructions God gives us. Students will meet in the Youth Zone from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for games, dinner, open gym, and Bible study.

March 15: Join in on March Madness as we make brackets for important things like pizza toppings, best places to eat, and funniest Disney movie! Students will meet in the Youth Zone for games, dinner, open gym, and Bible study from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

March 22: How do we keep focused on our faith in a world of distractions? Let's explore what the Bible says about distractions. Invite a friend and join us from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Zone for games, dinner, open gym, and Bible study.

March 29: The fruit of the Spirit is not a watermelon! We all know the song, but let's look a little deeper. Students will meet in the Youth Zone for games, dinner, open gym, and Bible study from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST

Lent can be a powerful season for followers of Jesus 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 the Youth Zone Game Room from 6:50 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. Middle and high school students will continue to meet on **Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2**, throughout Lent. Each Thursday morning, we will gather for fellowship, Bible reading, and prayer. We will also provide food for parents and a separate area for you to catch up on emails or connect with other parents (maybe even coordinating carpooling).

YOUTH USHER SUNDAY

On **Sunday, March 29**, 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.

DAY CAMP: REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 15

Students who have completed any of the grades 3rd through 12th by the summer of 2026 are invited to join us for Shandon UMC Day Camp, held on the Heathwood Hall School campus from **Monday, June 1, to Friday, June 5**. Students are invited to join us for the week as we enjoy art, music and 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 open from Sunday, March 15, to Wednesday, April 15.
- Registration cost is \$125 per camper (grades 3rd-7th)
- Shandon UMC members receive priority registration. Non-members will be placed on a waitlist and will receive spots based on grade-level availability at the close of registration.
- Register at shandonumc.org/register



Congratulations to our 4th and 5th grade girls, coached by Joel Hughes and Donnie Fetner, on winning the CYBL Championship for their age level!



On January 29, the Well Women's Ministry gathered at The Crescent Olive for an evening of olive oil tasting, fellowship, and connection.

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Maintenance:
Jim Morrow