



THE VOICE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SHANDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2026 | Volume 67, Issue 1

IN WITH THE NEW

"Out with the old, in with the new." That phrase is a traditional word of wisdom for this time of the year, but in fact, it is wisdom for life: the world is always moving beneath our feet, time is always flying. Here are three new things that you can anticipate at Shandon in 2026 ...



Rev. Smoke Kanipe
Senior Pastor
skanipe@shandonumc.org

Staff:

Two beloved Shandon staff members are looking forward to retiring in 2026 (even though we're not looking forward to it!). Nancy Probst has been our business administrator since early 2017, and James Grubb has served as one of our associate pastors since July 2018. We will get to enjoy these two very special friends for a few more months. Then, in late spring/early summer, we will celebrate their ministry with us, wish them well, and welcome two new staff members to the Shandon family.

Youth Mission Project:

Due to circumstances beyond our control, 2025 marks the end of Shandon's 40+ years of mission trips to Hollywood, SC. However, it does not mark the end of YMP. We are currently making plans for a 2026 YMP in another South Carolina community. Stay tuned for more details.

Facilities:

"All good things must come to an end," and so it is with the Bruner Building HVAC unit. For decades, we have repaired, patched, and pampered it, but its time has come. In January, technicians will disassemble the unit in the basement of the Bruner Building, then bring in the new unit and assemble it. (You can find details in the October Voice, our fall "Shandon Serves" stewardship booklet, and on the website.) We plan to manage the temporary disruption with portable heating units. And before you know it -- long before Nancy and James retire or our youth head to their new mission site -- we'll be "chillin"! (Contributions to the "Cool It" campaign are still welcome!)

Grace and peace,

Smoke



IN MEMORIAM

*In loving remembrance of
Shandon UMC Members...*

Naomi Monier
July 25, 1929 - June 4, 2025

Tyler Hampton Rogers, Jr.
September 24, 2025 - November 28, 2025

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR

Sunday, January 4

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **Shirley McCue Knox, Jim McCue, Jamey McCue, and Thomas P. Knox, Jr.** by the McCue family.

Sunday, January 11

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of the **Reverend William R. Cobb** by his family.

Sunday, January 18

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of **Edwin Sr. and Brian C. Martin** by Janice Martin and family.

Sunday, January 25

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **Blake Jernigan**. Given by Celia and Billy Jernigan, Amanda and JD Smith, and Karen Shaver.

The altar flowers are given in memory of **Dorethea and Keith Phillips** on their wedding anniversary by Melissa Phillips Fritz and Walker Fritz Pernell.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Robbie Bowers

Ruthie and Lawrence Taylor

In Memory of Katie Grant

Suzanne and Randy Grant

In Memory of F. M. Hood

Robin M. Hood

In Memory of Beneva Ouzts

Jane Pregnall

In Memory of Tyler Hampton Rogers, Jr.

Ruthie and Lawrence Taylor

In Memory of Tommy Sanders

3rd Sunday 8:45 Usher Team

Brenda and Billy Agerton
Daphne and Lawton Blackstone
Carey Ann and Bobby Blankenship
Anna Boyle
Janice and Harry Brown
Joseph Carney and family
Lesa Chandler
Susan Collins
Dorie and Craig Combs
Linda Connally
Kathy and Hal Crosswell
Patsy and Paul DeBorde
Cynthia and Julian Dew
Winna and Tom Ellis

In Memory of Tommy Sanders (continued)

Laurie and Duane Fuller
Suzanne and Randy Grant
Griffin Pools
Jesse Hamby
Mary Hellams
Cathy and Lex Knox
Leigh and Peter Lalous
Cindy and Tommy Lavender
Carol and David Lee
David A. Masters
Gail and Iley McLeod
Dee and Rick Morgan
Betty and Doug Neal
Rex Norris
Marianne Odom
Anne Palmer
Sandra and Joe Pappas
Judy and Butch Roberts
Donald Sanders
Sally and David Seavey
Becky Sutusky
Ruthie and Lawrence Taylor
Pamela and Raymond Wells

In Honor of John Grantland on his birthday

Yolanda Courie

In Honor of Frances M. Hood

Robin M. Hood

In Honor of Smoke Kanipe

Georgia Heath and family

IN HONOR and APPRECIATION of all the wonderful teachers and staff members who have taught our class this year—Friendship Sunday School Class



Sweet Advent

Hosted by Shandon's Children and Families Ministry, Sweet Advent was a joyful evening as children and families created candy crèches and prepared their hearts for Christmas together.





Pictured above: The Well Women's Ministry, Greening Our Faith brought women together to create wreaths and reflect on the season of Advent. **Pictured below:** The Augusta Beckman Circle gathered to celebrate Christmas.

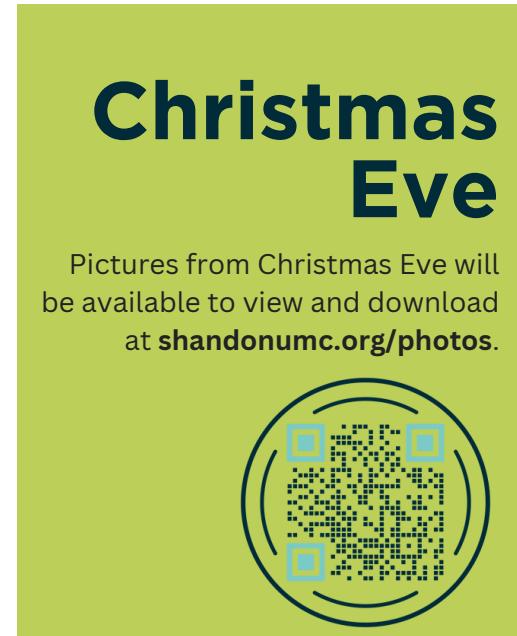




Pictured above: The Wesley Ringer Bell Choir and Chancel Choir at the Annual Christmas Music service.

Pictured below: The Children's Ministry shares the joy of the season through Christmas caroling.









Connections Christmas Party

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Each year, the United Women in Faith recognizes a Shandon UWF member as Woman of the Year. She is a woman who is making an eternal difference, giving of her time, talents, and energy to help strengthen our church, our community, and our world. She is an encourager, a mentor, and a woman who lives out her faith each and every day. Debra Rountree is the 2025 United Women In Faith Woman of the Year.

Debra has a servant's heart and consistently models the biblical mandate we have been given as Christians to serve others. Debra is active in the Genesis Sunday School Class, serving as the Cares and Concerns Coordinator. She is a Well Women's Ministry leader, Shandon Sister mentor, member of the church Board of Trustees, and a volunteer in the Toddler Sunday School Class.

Debra attends Wednesday morning Bible studies at Shandon and delivers meals to seniors weekly as a volunteer with Senior Resources' Meals on Wheels program. She is a member of the Augusta Beckman Circle and has served as Circle Leader, as well as President and Vice President of the UWF. Additionally, she assists with Garage, Clothing, and Book Sales. Debra invites others to Sunday School, Sunday worship, Bible study, circle, and other church events. She provides meals for those who are sick or have experienced loss, and as a breast cancer survivor, Debra reaches out to others who have been diagnosed with breast cancer to offer encouragement and support.

These are just some of the many ways Debra serves. We are grateful for her unwavering devotion to care for those in need and blessed to have her as part of our congregation. Thank you, Debra, for all you do for others!



Debra is pictured with her husband, Charlie, and daughters, Ashley and Rebecca.



Eddie Huss and Friends

Eddie Huss and Friends held the 14th annual benefit concert, this year supporting Camp Kemo. Performers were Owen Connolly, Bradley Fuller, Kipp Gill, Eddie Huss, and Annette Matthews.



NEW YEAR PRAYER WALK: BRING THE LIGHT

A New Year Prayer Walk will take place on **Sunday, January 4**, at 3:00 p.m., bringing together United Methodists and Christians from across downtown Columbia for a time of prayer.

Participants will gather at Columbia United Methodist Church, 1830 Main Street, and walk to the South Carolina State House steps to pray for collaboration, connection, and community in our city and state.

The prayer walk will conclude with prayer and a blessing led by Bishop Leonard Fairley of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Please wear white and/or yellow to symbolize carrying Christ's light into the world. Ribbons will be provided, and in the event of inclement weather, the gathering will remain in the sanctuary.

READING PROGRAM: "NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY"

All members of circles, Shandon UMC, and guests are invited to join United Women in Faith and Betty Neal on **Monday, January 12, 2026**, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Player Hall for a discussion of *The Woman* by Kristin Hannah. The book is available on Amazon.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

All men are invited to join us on **Thursday, January 15**, from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. in Player Hall for our Men's Prayer Breakfast. Chef Tim will be providing his usual delicious full breakfast, which will be followed by a short encouraging message. Please join us and bring a friend to be filled with food, fellowship and faith.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING LOSS

GriefShare is a support group for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. This 13-week program provides a caring and supportive environment that fosters healing and encouragement. GriefShare meets on Sundays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., **January 18 through April 19**, in the Path Finders Classroom (Knox 214). The group is led by Susan Brant and Hunter Griffin. Course materials will be provided at the first session for a \$20 donation. Childcare is available. Registration is required. To register, visit shandonumc.org/doorways.

LADIES NIGHT OUT FOR TASTING AND FELLOWSHIP

Meet us at The Crescent Olive, 2901 Devine Street, on **Thursday, January 29**, 6:00-7:30 p.m. We will taste, talk, and take time to catch up after the busy holiday season. Space is limited; make your reservation now at shandonumc.org/events, and friends are welcome. Optional dinner afterwards at Cantina. The cost is \$15 per person, which includes a bottle of olive oil of your choice. Register at shandonumc.org/events. Questions? Contact Ruthie or Susan.





JOIN US FOR MANNA

Manna Refreshed will return on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. We will continue to serve the meal each Wednesday from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in Player Hall.

- **January 21:** Salmon Filet, Whole Baked Sweet Potato, Roasted Zucchini, Mixed Green Salad, Sour Cream Biscuits, Fruit, and Dessert
- **January 28:** Make Your Own Asian Bowl – Beef Bulgogi, Ginger Chicken, Jasmine Rice, Grilled Zucchini and Onions, Mixed Green Salad, Pineapple, and Dessert

Due to the rising cost of food and supplies, the prices for meals will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations need to be made by Monday at 5:00 p.m. at shandonumc.org/manna. All are welcome.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY IN GUATEMALA

Healing Guatemala is a nonprofit organization based in the US that aims to provide physical, social, and spiritual healing to those living in Guatemala. It is operated by the Rev. Dr. Luke Rhyee, a pastor in the South Carolina Annual Conference. Medical and construction teams are needed.

If you are interested in learning more about this mission opportunity and joining a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team, please contact Jennifer Parker at jpclemsongirl@gmail.com or Sue Haddock at Ksuehaddock@gmail.com. Tentative trip dates are April 20-30, 2026, so don't delay!

TREK

TREK is Shandon's new member class for those exploring membership or wanting to learn more about Shandon UMC, its mission, beliefs, and opportunities for connection. Upcoming courses: January 11, 21, 28, and March 8, 15, 17.

Register and learn more at shandonumc.org/trek.



STEWARDSHIP: Thank You For Your Faithfulness!

GIFTS - OPERATING BUDGET

Month of November 2025	Year-To-Date 2025	Revenues:	\$280,293	Revenues:	\$2,667,526
Expenses:	251,214	Expenses:	2,966,927	Net:	\$28,080
		Net:			\$299,401

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

LIFELINE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On September 25, 2025, the LifeLine Contemporary Worship Service had its twenty-fifth birthday. While we recognized the accomplishment, we wanted to do something special to celebrate this incredible milestone. So mark your calendars now for our 25 Year LifeLine Celebration Service on **February 15, 2026**. We will be welcoming back many of the pastors, musicians, and volunteers who have played a significant role in this service's life and growth. Rev. Cam Treece, Rev. Todd Davis, and Rev. Josh McClendon will return to celebrate with us, and we hope you will join us as well. Following the service, we will have a meal to continue the celebration. In preparation for the event, please reach out to Pastor Grubb at jgrubb@shandonumc.org if you have any photos of the first or early services.



MEN'S WILD GAME DINNER

Shandon men are invited to a Wild Game Dinner on **Thursday, February 26**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Longwood Plantation. All are welcome. Participants may bring a favorite wild game dish to share, though it is not required. Registration is \$10 and is required to attend. Sign up at shandonumc.org/events.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!?

While everyone else may be celebrating a Happy New Year, you and/or someone you know may not be celebrating the arrival of a new year. There has been a death, loss of a job, or reminders from the holidays that life is just not what you envisioned it to be. The Stephen Ministers of Shandon UMC (both men and women) are here to be in a one-on-one confidential relationship to support you through this difficult time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Smoke Kanipe at (803) 256-8383 or by email at skanipe@shandon.umc.org.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Augusta Beckman Circle

Monday after the 1st Tuesday of the month (January 12) at 3 p.m. in Player Hall.
Contact: Mary Parker (843) 364-8553.

Mary Campbell Circle

2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in Player Hall.
Contact: Angie Moore (803) 261-4464

Naomi & Ruth Circle

2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in Committed Disciples Classroom (Knox building)
Contact: Sara Roberts Ruzensky (803) 280-0558

Susanna Wesley Circle

2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m. at different locations.
Contact: Jennifer Davis (803) 920-6527



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SAVE-THE-DATES

February 8	Children's Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Traditional service
February 17	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper sponsored by 5th-grade Sunday school class
March 1	Three-Year-Old Sunday School Bible Presentation
March 15	VBS/Day Camp Registration Opens
March 22	Family Lenten/Easter Event
May 24	Popcorn and Movie
May 31	VBS Volunteer Orientation Luncheon
June 1-5	VBS/Day Camp

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.



January 4: Join us as we celebrate the new year and look ahead to 2026. We will meet from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Zone for dinner, fellowship, open gym, and time to write a prayer letter for the new year, as part of our new teaching series, "All Things New."

January 11: A new year means a fresh start. Let's talk about mercy. Join us from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for dinner, open gym, and Bible study in the Youth Zone.

January 18: MYF dinner out! Join us from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Groucho's on Forest Drive. Invite a friend and bring money for dinner.

January 25: What does it mean to live in a community? Join us from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for dinner, games, and Bible study in the Youth Zone.

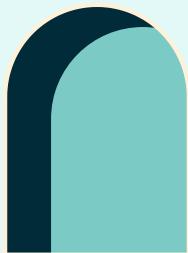
SAVE THESE STUDENT MINISTRY DATES

February 7: MYF Snow tubing day trip. For all 7th to 12th graders

Weekly Starting February 18: Lenten Breakfast Bible Study. More information to come!

May 10: Graduate Recognition Service during the 8:45 Sanctuary worship service.

June 1 through 5: Shandon UMC Day Camp



WINTER 2026 DOORWAYS CLASSES

Bible Study for Every Season of Life

Look for it! Don't miss out! That's right, it's time to register for a 2026 Winter Doorways class. Beginning the week of January 4, 2026, we will offer 12 Bible Study classes covering an array of topics, available during the day and after work, with a variety of teaching styles. Registration is available at shandonumc.org/events.



GriefShare

Leaders: Susan Brant and Hunter Griffin
Book: Materials supplied at the first class for a \$20 donation
When: Sundays, 2:30–4:30 p.m., January 18 – April 19 (13 weeks)
Room: Path Finders Classroom, Knox 214
Childcare: Yes

Loss brings deep grief. If you need a safe place to talk through sadness, loneliness, fears, anger, regrets, or questions for God, this group offers support and guidance from Shandon's Stephen Ministers.

The Chosen – Season 1

Leaders: Julie Allen and Ashley Brantley
When: Mondays, 6:00–7:30 p.m., January 5 – February 23 (8 weeks)
Location: Home of Ashley Brantley

Curious about *The Chosen*? Want a study without homework? Enjoy watching all 8 episodes with a small group of women, followed by thoughtful conversation. A light meal is provided each week. Maximum 10; waiting list available.

The Chosen – Season 2

Leaders: Linda Foy and Sue Haddock
When: Mondays, 6:00–7:30 p.m., January 5 – February 23 (8 weeks)
Location: Home of Linda Foy

Continue the journey through Season 2. Whether you're watching for the first time or returning to notice new details, you are welcome. Maximum 15; waiting list available.

Monday Men's Group – A Journey Through the Gospels

Leader: James Grubb
Book: Bring your Bible
When: Mondays, 6:00–7:00 p.m., January 5 – March 23 (12 weeks)
Room: Player Hall

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—the Gospels. Each book speaks to us in different ways, and all show us the life and teachings of Jesus. Join other men as Pastor Grubb takes you on a journey through the first four books of the New Testament. Come explore and learn together while building community with others.

Forgiving What You Can't Forget

Leader: Tiffany Anderson
Book: *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* by Lysa TerKeurst, ISBN: 0718039874, Study Guide: ISBN: 031014647X
When: Mondays, 6:15–7:15 p.m., January 5 – February 9 (6 weeks)
Room: Foundation Classroom, Knox 209
Homework: Read the Introduction and Chapters 1–2

Learn a biblical approach to forgiveness and how to quiet the emotional triggers that keep you stuck.

Prayer Group

Leader: Lilla Ann Briggs
When: Tuesdays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. (ongoing)
Location: Zoom
Join a weekly prayer gathering to lift up concerns and support one another. For the Zoom link, email Lilla Ann at forgiventoo@gmail.com or call (803) 260-0765.



Questions or help
deciding which class is
just right for you?

Call Ruthie Taylor
(803) 318-7484.

Simply Living Well

Leader: Lesli Wood

Location: Lesli's home; limited to 10 women

Book: Resources provided at the first meeting

When: Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., January 13 – February 24 (7 weeks)

Explore what it means to “live well” through faith, nutrition, movement, purpose, and community. Each week includes a simple plant-based meal and an invitation to reflect on life habits.

Lessons from a Tree Farmer

Leader: Ruthie Taylor

Book: Bring your Bible

When: Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m., January 14 –

March 4 (8 weeks)

Room: Wesley Hall

Dig into eight agricultural scriptures and learn practical lessons from God the Gardener—green thumb not required.

Ruth and Esther

Leader: Terry Goodfellow

Book: *Ruth & Esther*; LifeChange Bible Study, ISBN: 0891090746

When: Wednesdays, 6:00–7:00 p.m., January 21 – March 4 (6 weeks; skipping Ash Wednesday)

Room: Foundation Classroom, Knox 209

Childcare is available.

Study two courageous women whose faithfulness played a role in God’s larger plan.

Iron Sharpens Iron – A Journey Through the Gospels

Leader: James Grubb

Book: Bring your Bible

When: Wednesdays, 6:00–7:00 p.m., January 7 – March 25 (12 weeks; skipping Ash Wednesday)

Room: Game Room, Youth Zone

Childcare is available.

Men’s group study through the Gospels with Pastor Grubb, sharing conversation and community.

When Women Pray

Leader: Katie Dalenburg

Book: *When Women Pray* by T.D. Jakes, ISBN: 1546015582

When: Thursdays, 10:00–11:30 a.m., January 8 – March 26 (12 weeks)

Room: Parlor

Explore the stories of ten faithful women and the power of prayer in shaping lives and communities.

Matchless: The Life and Love of Jesus

Leader: Lilla Ann Briggs

Book: *Matchless* by Angie Smith

When: Thursdays, 3:00–5:00 p.m., January 8 – March 26 (12 weeks)

Location: Home of Lilla Ann Briggs

Discover the mission, message, and miracles of Jesus, whether you are new to faith or have walked with Him for years.

Behind the Scenes of the New Testament

Leader: Smoke Kanipe

When: Monthly Thursdays, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

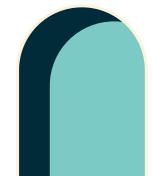
Room: Knox 209

Book & Homework: Read each book before the month’s class

Dive into the everyday lives of ordinary people in the New Testament world through historical fiction. Attend any session that interests you.

- **January 22:** *A Week in the Life of a Roman Centurion*, ISBN 0830824626
- **February 19:** *A Week in the Life of a Greco-Roman Woman*, ISBN 0830824847
- **March 19:** *A Week in the Life of the Fall of Jerusalem*, ISBN 0830851739
- **April 23:** *A Week in the Life of Ephesus*, ISBN 0830824855

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Matthew 7:7





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