



THE VOICE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SHANDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2025 | Volume 66, Issue 3

THE SAME OLD THING

Have you noticed how, in my column and throughout *The Voice*, we typically advertise the “Big New Things That Are Coming Up”? Isn’t that what life is all about -- “Biggest and Best,” “New and Improved,” “The Latest and Greatest”?

Or is that really what life is all about? In C. S. Lewis’ fantasy classic *The Screwtape Letters*, a senior demon (Screwtape) teaches an apprentice demon the best ways to tempt human beings. At one point, Screwtape writes, “Work on their horror of the Same Old Thing. The horror of the Same Old Thing is one of the most valuable passions we have produced in the human heart.” In another letter, Screwtape says that the main business of tempters is “preventing the formation of virtues.” And, of course, virtues – whether in morality, sports, music, or any skilled activity -- are, by definition, habits in which we learn to do instinctively “the same old thing.”

And so every year about this time I invite you to do “the same old thing”: to make the season of Lent a time for extra self-sacrifice and/or self-giving. Lent is not a “big new thing.” It is not the biggest and best, latest and greatest idea. Lent is “the same old thing” that Christians have been doing for close to 2,000 years.

When you strip away the novelty factor (“What are you giving up for Lent this year?”), the idea of Lent is beautifully simple: draw closer to God. As you prepare for Lent, ask God to show you what you need. Might it be giving up (or seriously limiting) something that clutters up your life (e.g., social media)? Might it be giving a few minutes of each day to reading the Bible? Might it be a more intentional focus on prayer? Might it be “giving alms,” i.e., giving to the poor (perhaps through our Lenten offerings at Shandon)?

Whatever you decide God is calling you to do during Lent, remember that you don’t have to do it alone. That’s what the church is for. We will have worship, Sunday School, Bible studies, service opportunities, special offerings, and fellowship opportunities waiting for you this Lent. Come join us!

Grace and peace,
Smoke



Rev. Smoke Kanipe

Senior Minister
skanipe@shandonumc.org

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: *Lent to Easter*

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Join us for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **March 4, from 5:15–6:30 p.m.** in the gym, hosted by our 5th grade Sunday school class. Enjoy pancakes, bacon, grits, fruit, and drinks. Tickets: \$9 for adults, \$4 for kids. Proceeds support Homeless No More and EMS Closet. Purchase by **March 2** at shandonumc.org/register or donate at shandonumc.org/give (select “pancake supper”).



ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us for our **Ash Wednesday Service**, on **March 5, at 6:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. We will also offer **Ashes-To-Go**, a drive-through Imposition of Ashes from **11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** in the drive-through on Adger Road.

STUDENT MINISTRY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Start your morning with prayer and fellowship this Lent! Middle and high school students are invited to a weekly Prayer Breakfast in Player Hall, with food also available for parents. Find the full schedule and details on page 12!

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.** You can also fill out an order form located in the pew rack and place it in the collection plate during worship.

SPECIAL LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for a service of music, scripture, and prayer — “Hymns and Anthems: Advent-Pentecost” — in the sanctuary at **6:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 16**. The service will feature music by the Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers, St. Nicholas Choir, Youth Singers, and organist Kipp Gill.

FAMILY EASTER EVENT

Join us on **Sunday, April 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** for a special Easter event designed for all ages! 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. If you cannot attend, you can still register, and we will prepare a set of eggs and prayer beads for you to pick up. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate the story of Easter together! Register at shandonumc.org/register.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Please donate empty egg cartons and empty egg-size plastic Easter eggs during the month of March. (Pre-filled eggs or larger plastic eggs won't work.) Donation barrels are located in the Great Hall of the Bruner building and inside the entrance of the Dunn-Smith (gym) building.

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.





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.

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: shandonumc.org/give/lent
- Text-to-give: Text SUMC to 73256, and select "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. Donations made online and by check will be included in your contribution statement

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Last year The Cooperative Ministry provided food boxes and snack packs to 2,193 people. During Lent we ask that you help meet this need by providing items for their emergency food pantry. Members of the Outreach Committee will hand out empty bags on **Sunday, March 16** and will collect the filled bags on **Sunday, April 6**.

Emergency Food Bags Include:

Grits
 Corned beef hash or beef stew
 Box of cereal
 Six cans of vegetables

Pasta Sauce
 Spaghetti noodles
 Canned chicken
 Canned tuna

Four cans of fruit
 Ramen noodle packs
 Baked Beans
 Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
 Package of dry peas or beans

LENTEN FAITH PRACTICES

Looking for a simple and meaningful way to help observe Lent this year? This year's Lenten Practice Calendar guides you through five powerful themes—Notice, Pray, Help, Wonder, and Rest—one each week. With easy daily activities, this calendar helps you pay attention, pray for others, lend a hand, ask big questions, and find moments of rest. Miss a day? No worries—just pick up where you can! Pick up your copy at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the entrances of the Sanctuary and LifeLine services on Sunday mornings.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 13: 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 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.

Easter Sunday, April 20:

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. Contemporary Service in the Gym.

Memorials and Honorariums

In Honor of Rev. Maggie Cantey
James Fordham III

In Honor of Dr. Stan Juk
Augusta Beckman Circle

In Honor of Gardner Long for the Technology Fund
Harriet Leanne Griffith
Ross Beale
Elaine Brantley
Ken and Mary Collins

In Honor of Glenda and Jim Wood
Jane Pregnall
David and Sally Seavey

In Loving Memory of Curtis Coleman on our birthday, March 5
Carolyn Coleman Thomas

In Memory of Dot Gaddis
Anonymous

In Memory of Jane Marshall
Anonymous
Jill Whitaker

In Memory of Randall Ruple
The JOY Sunday School Class

Flowers at the altar

Sunday, March 2

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

Sunday, March 9

The flowers at the altar are given in honor of **Jim and Nola Covington** for their wedding anniversary, with love by their family.

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

The flowers in the narthex are given in celebration of today's baptism of **James McConnell "Mac" White, son of Taylor and Thomas White** with love by his grandparents, Connie and Rhett Munn.

Sunday, March 16

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

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

The flowers in the narthex are given in celebration of today's baptism of **James Harris Krouse, son of Elizabeth and Paul Joseph Krouse**, with love by his grandparents, Connie and Rhett Munn.

Sunday, March 23

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

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

Sunday, March 30

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Keith and Dorethea Phillips** by Melissa Phillips Fritz and Walker Fritz Pernell.

The flowers at the altar are given in honor of **Watson Bradley** in celebration of his upcoming 1st birthday on April 4, 2025, with much love by his grandparents, Cathy and Cal Watson.

CLOTHING & BOOK SALE

FOR *Missions*

FRIDAY
SATURDAY

MARCH 14
8AM - 2:30PM

MARCH 15
8AM - 1:00PM



United Women in Faith need your help for our 4th Annual Clothing and Book Sale

Friday, March 14, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 15, 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 boxes on **March 11-12, from 8:00 a.m. – 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.
- **Volunteer:** Help with setup and organization on **March 11-12, from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**, or cleanup on **Saturday, March 15, at 1:00 p.m.** There is no need to register, just drop in. We need all hands on deck!
- **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 - jpclemsongirl@gmail.com, text (770) 301-6376 or Bobbie Moore - bobbiemoore0529@gmail.com, text (803) 728-7255.
- **Food Donations:** Carolyn Hall - mchajcek@gmail.com, (803) 422-0951.

Thank you for making this event a success!



MISSION TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

We are excited to share that the Mission trip to El Salvador will be **Sunday, July 27, through Friday, 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.

A "Journey to International Missions" will take place in Player Hall on **Sunday, March 2, at 9:45 a.m., during the Sunday School hour**. Previous El Salvador missionaries will share their journeys in the family decision-making and planning process to go on this international mission trip. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Candler Rhodes at (803) 727-0077.



VISIT THE FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Friendship Sunday School Class (Room 216, Bruner Building) invites all interested adults to join us on **Sunday, March 9, at 9:45 a.m. in Player Hall** for another opportunity to learn about missions in El Salvador from Brian Ingram and Candler Rhodes. For more information, contact Libby Kelly at (803) 807-3436 (voice or text).

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 **Thursday, March 20, 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, March 20, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Ashley Brantley.

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



SEEKERS LUNCH

Young professionals aged 23 to 30 seeking fellowship and community are welcome to join the Seekers group, which plans dates to gather for Sunday lunch **after the 11:00 a.m.** worship services. The next Seekers Lunch will be on **Sunday, March 23**, at Taziki's. Feel free to bring friends, and we hope to see you there! Rev. Maggie Cantey is partnering with this group and is seeking input regarding other interests for the group.

Please contact Rev. Maggie for a conversation or complete the interest form at shandonumc.org/seekers to be added to the group email list.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SURVEY

Health and Wellness is busy planning programming for 2025, and we want your input. So that our programming can best meet your interests and needs, please share your thoughts with us by **Sunday, March 16**, via an online survey. This survey can be accessed at shandonumc.org/hwsurvey. Thank you!





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, March 16, 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. If you still have questions, please contact Pastor James Grubb at 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, March 16, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 23, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

APPLY FOR AN EDUCATIONAL GRANT

The Allen Fund Committee is accepting applications for the Allen Grant. The number of grants awarded will depend upon the availability of funds. Shandon UMC members, children of Methodist missionaries in foreign lands that are supported by Shandon UMC, and Epworth Children's Home students may apply for such awards to the Allen Fund Committee.

The deadline for submitting an application is April 1, 2025. The application and explanation of the grant are on our website at shandonumc.org/allenfund.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Shandon will participate in a Habitat Faith Build this spring. The build will take place from March through June. The First Nail Ceremony will be held **Monday, March 24, at 1:00 p.m.** at 1531 Middle St, Cayce. As a sponsor, we hope to have four different work dates on this home. Start putting together your work group and stay tuned for more information.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLE MEETINGS

Augusta Beckman Circle

Monday after the 1st Tuesday of the month

Monday, March 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Player Hall

Contact: Diane Bruner (803) 609-0891

This month's speaker will be Amanda Malanuk from Hickory Top Farms. Amanda will share with us their program using horse therapy with disabilities, the elderly and dementia patients.

Mary Campbell Circle

2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Player Hall

Contact: Angie Moore (803) 261-4464

Our guest speaker will be Tanesha Anding. She will be sharing with us about a non-profit ministry she supports named F.I.R.E.

Naomi & Ruth Circle

We will be preparing a meal for Ronald McDonald House on **Thursday, March 6, 2025**. Anyone is welcome to participate or contribute. Please contact Sara Ruzensky for details at (803) 280-0558.

Susanna Wesley Circle

2nd Tuesday of the Month at different locations

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Tiffany Anderson (803) 479-8838

COOKIES FOR KAIROS

John Saine, a dedicated member of the Kairos Ministry team, shares how you can support the upcoming Kairos Weekend at McCormick Correctional Institution.

I am part of the Kairos Ministry team that serves MCCI in McCormick, SC. Twice a year, the team goes into the prison for a four-day weekend called a Walk, an encounter patterned after the Walk to Emmaus program. Kairos Prison Ministry is a short course in Christianity for prisoners at state correctional institutions. Expressions of Agape (God's unconditional love) are an important part of the weekend, where prisoners recognize that they are part of a global Body of Christ, and people they don't know are praying for them. Inmates sign up to attend our program with the sole purpose of receiving hot meals and unlimited cookies. However, many of them come away transformed by the Holy Spirit in just a few days. The next Kairos "Weekend" at McCormick Correctional Institution is **Tuesday, March 18, until Friday, March 21.**



Join in the Kairos Cookie Ministry!

We are known as the "cookie people" in prisons. During a typical Kairos Weekend, we distribute 4,000 dozen cookies to residents, correction officers, support staff, and volunteers. We need cookies and lots of them!

Cookie guidelines:

Acceptable types of cookies are oatmeal, peanut butter, chocolate chip, molasses, ginger, and lemon. Cookies that are uniform in size (no larger than 2 ½") are best and resist breakage. Very important: NO icing, sugar toppings, sprinkles, fruit, powdered sugar, or any coating/glaze on the outside of the cookie.

When are cookies needed? Please bring them to Wesley Hall during the week of **Monday, March 10**, but no later than **Sunday, March 16**. There will be a table in the Wesley kitchen with a KAIROS sign.

For more information, please contact John Saine at (803) 727-7296, saine59@gmail.com. Also, join others across the Kairos community who will be praying for the week (actually during the week) of March 21 – 25 in McCormick, SC.

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 to sign up as a volunteer!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MANNA

Manna is a family-friendly church fellowship where we gather for a meal and meaningful connections. Join us in Player Hall every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Meals are \$9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children, with childcare available from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. While menus are planned, substitutions may occur based on food availability.

March 5: Chicken Fingers, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, Roll, Salad, and Dessert

March 12: BBQ Pork, Pasta Salad, Baked Beans, Slaw, Roll, and Dessert

March 19: Balsamic Chicken, Rice, Roasted Vegetables, Roll, and Dessert

March 26: Lasagna, Buttered Noodles, Salad, Roll, and Dessert

Pre-orders are required, and the deadline to order is **Monday at 5:00 p.m.** at 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. 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**.

March 4: Baked Mushroom Chicken, Rice, Carrots, Roll, and Dessert

March 6: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Kale Salad, Roll, and Dessert

March 11: Baked Spaghetti, Cucumber Tomato Salad, Breadstick, and Dessert

March 13: Chicken Bog, Slaw, Roll, and Dessert

March 18: BBQ Pork, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, Roll, and Dessert

March 20: Chicken Casserole, Vegetable, Kale Salad, Roll, and Dessert

March 25: Cold Plate – Chicken Salad, Pasta Salad, Fruit Salad, Roll, and Dessert

March 27: Beef with Noodles, Baby Limas, Pear Salad, Roll and Dessert

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 a.m. 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 or (803) 466-1344. Register at shandonumc.org/register.

Sunday mornings *at* SHANDON UMC

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship (in-person)

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (in-person & online)

11:05 a.m. LifeLine Contemporary Worship

(in-person and online)

Nursery opens at 8:30 a.m.

Watch online: shandonumc.org/live

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is a space for you to grow in faith, build relationships, and engage in meaningful discussions. With classes for all ages and life stages, you'll find opportunities to explore the Bible and contemporary topics, and connect through community service and social activities. Classes meet Sundays from 9:45 until 10:45 a.m.

To get connected, contact Ruthie Taylor at (803) 318-7484 or visit rtaylor@shandonumc.org.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The St. Nicholas Choir and Cherub Choir will sing at the LifeLine Service on **Sunday, March 2.**

Cherub Choir and St. Nicholas Choir will present their spring program on **Wednesday, April 2, at 6:15 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. We will recognize each choir member for participating in our 2024-2025 choir year. Our 5th graders will receive a United Methodist Hymnal.

The Children's choirs will also sing for **Palm Sunday, April 13, at the 11:00 a.m. traditional service.**

ART EXHIBIT

Please join the Shandon UMC Arts Council for an Art Show Opening Reception featuring a collection of photographs by Jane Wilcox Salley on **Wednesday, March 12, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.** in the Patricia Beckler Art Gallery here at Shandon UMC. Everyone is invited to attend. The exhibit will be displayed from **Wednesday, March 12, to Thursday, June 12.**

IN CONCERT: EDDIE HUSS & BRADLEY FULLER

Eddie Huss and Bradley Fuller will present a concert at Mt. Zion UMC in Kingstree, SC, on **Sunday, March 30, at 4:00 p.m.** Eddie and Bradley will offer a program of classical and sacred music for the piano and organ and for one piano, four hands. Everyone is invited to attend.

HANDBELL FESTIVAL

The South Carolina Fellowship Handbell Festival was a huge success on February 22! Many thanks to bell choirs from Lancaster, Florence, Aiken, Greenwood, Beaufort, and Columbia who participated. We had a total of 78 ringers for the Festival. Also, thanks to Brian Childers, guest conductor, for his leadership. Brian is the Director of Charlotte Bronze and directs the bell choirs at Myers Park UMC in Charlotte.



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. In this 5-week series, *Big Picture*, kids will hear some of the stories Jesus shared that can help them see the big picture of a life spent following God. Kids will see that God helps us know what's true, the ways we can give back to God, how God sends us helpers, and how God gives us second chances.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 1ST GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS!

Thank you to our 1st-grade Sunday School leaders!

Lilla Ann Briggs
Rebecca Eddins
Scott Eddins
Mary Kendrick Evers
Cole Kaliher
Tracey Lynch
Elizabeth Ruff
Mollie Schmolze
Peter Schmolze



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 3 by 9/1/2024) through current second-grade students (for the 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



- 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.

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

CHILDREN'S Ministry

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, March 16, 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, March 16, 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:

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.

STUDENT Ministry

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

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 a.m. until 7:30 a.m.** Middle schoolers meet on **Tuesdays (March 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8)**, and high schoolers on **Thursdays (March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10)**.



We will also have food for parents and a separate place for you to catch up on emails or connect with other parents.

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.

March 2: What is Lent all about? All 7th through 12th-grade students and their friends will meet in the youth zone from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** for dinner, games, open gym, and Bible study on why we participate in Lent.

March 9: Spring forward to MYF as we begin our new Bible series on Old Testament people! Students and their friends will meet from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** for dinner, open gym, and a Bible lesson on Deborah from the Old Testament.

March 16: Saint Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt at church! Students will meet in the youth zone from **5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** for a special night of dinner, games, and a Bible lesson on Esther from the Old Testament.

March 23: Students and their friends will meet from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** for dinner, open gym, and a Bible lesson on Joseph from the Old Testament.

March 30: Open gym night! If 75 or more students come on March 30, there will be a special surprise as we discuss the story of Samson from the Old Testament! Students and their friends are invited to the Youth Zone from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

YOUTH BASKETBALL WRAP-UP: A SEASON TO REMEMBER!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

In 2024, Shandon donated \$160,000 to non-profit agencies through our outreach budget, Lenten and Advent offerings, and proceeds from the United Women in Faith's clothing, book, and garage sales. Think of all the people who have been blessed by your open hands and hearts.

- The Cooperative Ministry served 14,874 people last year – an increase of 14.79%.
- Senior Resources delivered 202,469 meals to 1,158 homebound seniors or the disabled.
- Homeless No More provided emergency housing to 169 families and 548 individuals.

These are just a few of the ways your giving made a difference. Below is a list of the agencies that benefited from your generosity in 2024.

- Aldersgate House
- Alston Wilkes Society
- Camp Impact
- Candyman Homeless Outreach
- Children's Garden
- Dreher High School
- E.A.R.N. the Right
- El Salvador Mission Trip
- EMS Closet
- Epworth Early Intervention Center
- Epworth Foster Parents
- Family Promise
- 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
- Kid's Chance of SC
- Killingsworth Home
- Lighthouse for Life
- Live Oak Counseling Center
- Lutheran Family Services
- MORE Justice
- Palmetto Place
- Providence Home
- Salkehatchie Summer Service
- Salvation Army of the Midlands
- Seeds of Hope
- Senior Resources – Meals on Wheels
- Sistercare
- Spartanburg Bethlehem Center
- Shandon UMC Youth Mission Project
- The Attaway and Dunlap Families – Missioners
- The Cooperative Ministry
- The Global Pencil Project
- 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

STEWARDSHIP: Thank You For Your Faithfulness!

GIFTS - OPERATING BUDGET

Month of January 2025		Year-To-Date 2025	
Revenues:	\$210,903	Revenues:	\$210,903
Expenses:	243,334	Expenses:	243,334
Net:	\$(32,431)	Net:	\$(32,431)



- 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

NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS COMMISSIONED



Six new Stephen Ministers were commissioned on Sunday, February 23, during all three services. After completing 50 hours of training over the past five months, they are now prepared to offer care and support to our church family, friends, and community. We celebrate and welcome David Adams, Lilla Ann Briggs, Patricia Cloninger, Link Graham, Hunter Griffin, and Buster Yandle as they join our Stephen Ministry team.

If you need a Stephen Minister, confidential care is available. Feel free to contact Rev. Smoke at (803) 722-1063 or skanipe@shandonumc.org.



OPEN HEARTS



Augusta Beckman Circle members assembled Tic-Tac-Toe Valentines for Good News Club students at South Kilbourne Elementary.

Photo credit: Betty Neal

DEMENTIA 101



There was a full house for the final session of the Renew and Refresh series. Tori Anderson, Dementia Care Specialist, led an insightful discussion on recognizing dementia, navigating a diagnosis, and available resources in South Carolina.

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Maintenance: Jim Morrow

Security:
David Hadley, Security Supervisor
Cedrick Finney, Lisa Gibbs, Tori Gregg, Michael White

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