

SHandon CARES

CHILDREN • COMMUNITY • FAITH • GENEROSITY



SHandon
UNITED METHODIST

A 6x3 grid of 18 photographs capturing various moments from the 2023-2024 school year. The images show a large group of students and staff in front of a church, a choir of children in blue robes, a family with a baby, a woman in a blue suit, children playing, a man and woman working outdoors, two boys in a kitchen, a group of people outdoors, a man and woman with a child, a group of people hugging, a group of people outdoors, a woman and child walking, a family with children, a group of people outdoors, a couple in wedding attire, a group of people outdoors, and two men talking.

Through it all, Shandon cares—
nurturing and supporting each of us on
our journey.

Dear Shandon Friends,

I'm very excited about this stewardship mailing. Just look at all the people! Children, youth, and adults -- all worshiping, learning, serving, and growing together. Shandon UMC is alive! The Holy Spirit is at work among us!



As I celebrate the breadth and depth of ministry at Shandon, I am also reminded that those ministries don't just happen. It takes talented staff, dedicated volunteers, and outstanding facilities to make Shandon what it is. And, of course, all of that has a price tag. A few examples...

- Do you like to cross the street safely on Sunday morning? Last year, we paid \$8,650 to our crossing officers.
- Electric, gas, water, and phone? \$160,000.
- The cost of maintaining a neatly manicured campus? \$40,000.
- What about child care during worship and programs? \$26,000.
- Background checks on workers and volunteers to keep our children safe? \$6,000.

These, of course, are not the ministries themselves. But they are examples of the essential support services that allow us to come to Shandon, where we learn, play, serve, and grow together.

Friends, it is your faithful stewardship that allows God's work to happen at Shandon UMC. Thank you. At this important season of the year, I ask you to take stock of how you are supporting Shandon with your gifts and service. Ask God to show you what God wants from you. Is it to tithe (10%) your income for God's work -- or to take a serious step in that direction?

Thank you in advance for pledging your support to God's work at Shandon in 2025 by making your pledge on the enclosed pledge card or online. May God bless you, your family, and Shandon UMC!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Smoke





CHILDREN

DEVELOPING & NURTURING FROM CRIB TO COLLEGE

At Shandon, we nurture children from infancy through high school. Programs like *Created By God*, *Treasured*, Day Camp, VBS, and the Christian Youth Basketball League help them grow in faith, build friendships, and make a difference.

We equip our children and students to carry God's love into their schools and communities, inspiring them to impact the world locally and globally.



Our yearly mission trip to El Salvador focuses on building relationships while improving lives through activities like Vacation Bible School, construction projects, and providing food and supplies to families.



120+

Children and students attend Sunday School weekly.



20

Number of years the 3-Year-Old Sunday School team has taught together.



155,000

Goldfish crackers served by our Children's Ministry each year.



3,500

Dr. Peppers consumed by the Student Ministry each year.



100+

Families with children received supplies and food during this year's El Salvador missions trip.



120

Toiletry kits assembled and given to Oliver Gospel Mission by the Student Ministry.



140

Bags of pet food collected during Vacation Bible School for Senior Resources.



During Vacation Bible School and Day Camp, we served **285 children and students** who enjoyed a week full of fun, adventure, and faith.

CULTIVATING YOUNG HEARTS WITHIN OUR WALLS AND BEYOND



We invest over **2,930** staff hours each year caring for children in our nursery.



32 students were confirmed in 2024.



We gift more than **130** Bibles a year to 3-year-olds, third graders, confirmands, and high school graduates.



It takes over **75 volunteers** to lead Sunday School for 2K - 12th grade.



Shandon United Methodist Preschool and Kindergarten serves over **180 children** each school year, giving 39 church families and 98 community families a safe place to "Learn Through Play."



Through our partnership with Good News Club, our volunteers share the gospel with **30 children** from the community each school year.



Volunteers serve meals and offer prayer and a devotional to the Dreher High School football team before every home game.



11 schools are represented by the Student Ministry. Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) students begin each school year praying for their schools.



COMMUNITY

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

At Shandon, we cultivate a strong sense of community through events like Live on the Lawn, Shandon Cup, Coffee in the Courtyard, Triple T, and Manna, as well as through sacred moments like weddings, baptisms, and funerals. These gatherings unite us, deepening our bonds and our shared faith.

The Bible tells us to care for others, and we live out this calling by partnering with organizations like Community Resources, The Red Cross, Seeds of Hope, MORE Justice, Family Promise, and Habitat for Humanity to make a meaningful impact locally and globally.



The Older Adult Ministry provides meaningful activities and connections, nurturing friendships, and a strong sense of community among older adults.



224

Crafts the women's ministry made together over the last year.



225

Participants in our Fall and Winter Doorways Classes.



3,255

Number of grief support books sent to members and their families from the Stephen Ministry since 2012.



10,000+

The number of chocolate chip cookies our kitchen serves each year.



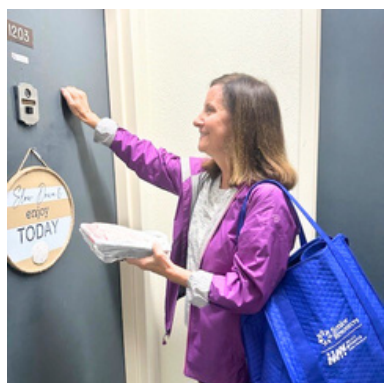
When Sunday School classes, circles, and small groups serve the community together, they strengthen their bonds and experience the deep rewards of living out their faith. This shared service impacts the community and everyone involved, creating a powerful ripple of connection and purpose.



NURTURING BONDS AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE



We nurture a deep sense of community through meaningful gatherings like Live on the Lawn, Coffee in the Courtyard, the Monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast, and The Well Women's Ministry events, where friendships are strengthened, faith is shared, and fellowship flourishes.



Guided by our faith, we are dedicated to spreading God's love in our community and beyond. We demonstrate this commitment through our quarterly blood drives, hands-on work with Habitat for Humanity, and efforts to address senior hunger and isolation by delivering Meals on Wheels.

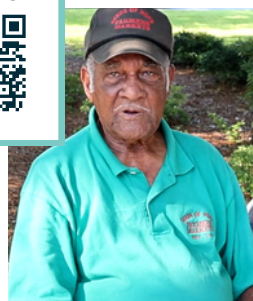


“Shandon United Methodist has been an invaluable partner and neighbor to Senior Resources, from volunteers delivering meals to homebound seniors to contributing financially to our Meals on Wheels program. And the congregation steps forward in other ways like organizing pet food drives for seniors at Vacation Bible School and supporting our various events to raise awareness of the needs of seniors in our community. We are deeply thankful for the congregation's unwavering support and commitment to our mission to keep our community's seniors healthy and independent.”

Andrew Boozer
Executive Director of Senior Resources

SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE

WATCH MORE



“Seeds of Hope is a big help to the small farmer. By having these markets, I can sell my produce at a fair price.”

Louis Reid
Seeds of Hope Farmer

Watch Louis' story and discover what Seeds of Hope means to him and the volunteers:

shandonumc.org/cares.



FAITH

FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE

At Shandon, we nurture our faith through Confirmation, Doorways to God classes, Men's Prayer Breakfasts, Discipleship Groups, Women's Retreats, Sunday School, and worshipping together each Sunday.

We are committed to sharing our faith with others. We put this commitment into action through serving others, such as our annual work with Youth Mission Project, support of Epworth Children's Home, and our partnership with The Methodist Student Network of USC, to name a few. We are dedicated to growing and living out our faith and making a meaningful impact within our community and beyond.



Apart from our operating budget, we donated \$250,000 from the Shandon UMC Foundation Trust Funds to support the creation of Asbury Hills' first Worship Center.



14

Infants baptized this year.



175

Loaves of bread served this year during communion.



1,000

Glow sticks used during our Christmas Eve family services.



57

New members who have joined our church family this year.



52,800

Biscuits shared at the LifeLine Contemporary Service since it started in 2001.

DID YOU KNOW?



Our Stephen Ministers provide compassionate, confidential support by walking alongside those facing difficult times. They undergo **52 hours of training** to listen, care, and offer support, embodying the love and presence of Christ in every interaction.

“Sometimes too much of a good thing is still too much. I needed someone to talk to. I was feeling very overwhelmed...”

Watch Irene's story about her time with a Stephen Minister: shandonumc.org/cares.



WATCH MORE



CONNECTING IN PRAYER AND CARE



"Ashes to Go" offers members and the community a convenient opportunity to receive ashes and a blessing as they begin their Lenten journey.



During our annual Blessing of the Animals service, we blessed **18 animals** (15 dogs, a cat, and two Guinea pigs).



Shandon Sisters offers young women a chance to connect with mature women for fellowship, conversation, and shared wisdom each month.



770 worshippers join the Sunday services each week, either online or in person.



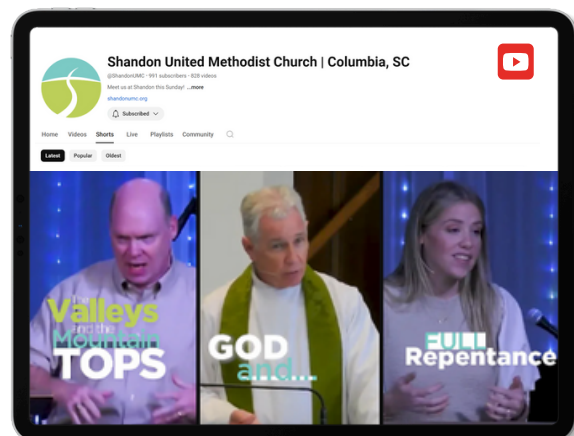
Our choir sang for the final morning worship service at the 2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS



We participated in a Richland County Coroner's ceremony to honor unclaimed community members who passed, ensuring they received a proper burial.

REACHING THE WORLD



This year, we've reached more than **50,000 people worldwide** through our 60-second sermon clips on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



GENEROSITY

INSPIRED TO GIVE,
COMMITTED TO SERVE

At Shandon, our generosity goes beyond financial giving; it's reflected in the countless hours our members dedicate to serving our church and the wider community. Whether volunteering as ushers, chaperoning student trips, teaching Sunday School, or participating in community service projects, we believe that sharing our time and talents is a powerful way to live out our faith.

Through these acts of service and generosity, we support and uplift our community and strengthen the bonds within our church family.

THE MISSION HOUSE



Since purchasing The Mission House on Adger Road in 2022, we've hosted three refugee families fleeing persecution, helping them on their journey to self-sufficiency.



15,200

Combined hours our choir members spend yearly rehearsing between Chancel Choir, Celebration Choir, Wesley Ringers, and the children's choirs.



2,025

Volunteer hours between the annual Clothing and Book Sale and annual Garage Sale.



550

Hours we open our doors to host community groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, and Scouts, and traveling youth groups each year.



\$300,000

Amount Shandon contributes annually to support the ministries of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.



Twice a year, Shandon members fill our gym with donations for our Clothing & Book Sale and Garage Sale. Over the past twenty years, **more than half a million dollars** has been donated to organizations like Harvest Hope, Cooperative Ministries, SisterCare, Family Shelter, The Free Medical Clinic, and Killingsworth Home.

HEARTS UNITED, HANDS OUTSTRETCHED



WATCH MORE



Youth Mission Project: For more than 40 years, youth, college students, and adult volunteers have served in Youth Mission Project, renovating homes for economically challenged families in Petersfield, SC. Each year, the church invests nearly **\$15,000** to cover building supplies and essentials for the homeowners. Watch the volunteers in action at 2024 YMP at shandonumc.org/cares.



“Through many decades, Epworth has enjoyed a very special partnership with Shandon United Methodist Church. Not only is Shandon our neighbor, it is also aligned with Epworth in tremendous service to children and families in the Midlands. From the church's long-standing financial support of Epworth's programs and services, to tireless volunteers from the church who through the years have provided their time and effort to improving Epworth's campuses, to the very direct way that members of Shandon UMC have worked in person with many of the children Epworth serves, a relationship has been forged and nurtured that has enriched the mission that Shandon United Methodist Church and Epworth share—to bring support, hope, and love to children and families whose lives need to be uplifted and nurtured.”

Beth Williams
President & CEO of Epworth Children's Home



Last year, we partnered with interns from USC's Center for Disability Resources to provide Thanksgiving meals to community members in need.



For over 50 years Shandon has been a major supporter of the Medical Clinic in Jérémie, Haiti, helping to offer much needed medical services to those in need.

Stewardship FAQs

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a financial commitment to Shandon UMC to be paid in 2025. Pledges help us anticipate our operating budget and plan our ministry year.

Who should pledge?

Everyone. If you are a member of Shandon UMC, we ask that you pledge each year.

When should I turn in my pledge?

We ask that you submit your pledge as soon as possible. On Sunday, October 27, we will observe Commitment Sunday. If you've already submitted your pledge or pledged online, pick up an "I Pledged" card from the ushers to symbolize your commitment.

I donate but don't pledge. What's the difference?

Pledging is intentional. It reflects a plan you have prayerfully considered and allows Shandon to be intentional when planning worship, ministries, Christian education, and programming for 2025. Donations that are unplanned and unknown to Shandon make it more difficult to include them in our budget planning.

What if my circumstances change?

Life is unpredictable. You may increase or decrease your pledge anytime through the Realm App or by contacting our Business Administrator, Nancy Probst, at (803) 722-1037 or nprobst@shandonumc.org. All financial conversations are confidential.

Can I include Shandon in my estate plans?

Yes, although this is different from pledging, Shandon members often include the church in their estate plans. We are always available to provide information to you and your financial advisors. Please contact the Business Administrator at (803) 722-1037 for more info.

PLEDGING AT A GLANCE

100%

of Pledges Support the
Operating Budget

291

of Pledge Units in
2024

(individuals and households who
submitted pledges)

6

Age of our
youngest pledger

97

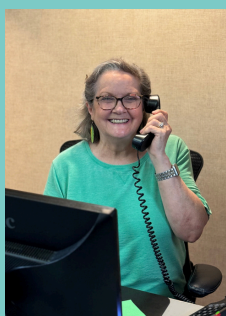
Age of our most
senior pledger

WAYS TO SERVE

- Answer phones during the week
- Assist with Sunday live-stream
- Become a greeter
- Chaperone Student Ministry trips
- Hold babies in the nursery
- Join the choir
- Organize and stock pew pockets
- Serve meals for the Dreher High football team
- Take event photos
- Teach or assist with Sunday School
- Use your gardening skills to help maintain the Biblical Garden
- Usher on Sundays
- and many more!

If you would like to get involved in any way, please visit shandonumc.org/participate or contact Lesli Wood, Director of Christian Education and Programs, at (803) 722-1043.

ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE



When Frances Tompkins mentioned the need for volunteer phone receptionists, Gera Singletary felt called to serve. A 45-year member of Shandon, Gera believes loving the church means serving, and she's grateful her retirement allows her to help more.

"We are called by God to love one another, and that includes loving our church. One way we show that love is through service."



PASTORAL CARE MOMENTS

4,020

Moments of care, prayer, and service our ministers have extended since January include praying with individuals, hospital visits, offering support during times of loss, and making supportive phone calls to those in need.



CARDS OF CARE

100

Susan Curran, our Director of Older Adult Ministries, sends around 100 handwritten cards each month to adults 55+ in our congregation. Whether it's for a birthday, anniversary, the birth of a grandchild, or a note to our shut-ins, Susan's personal touch brings joy and connection to these important milestones. "Every card is a small reminder that no one in our church family is ever forgotten."



BITES OF BLESSING

1,500

That's how many pounds of chicken salad Tim Scott, our Kitchen Director, estimates he serves each year. Tim has been at Shandon through two senior ministers and two major kitchen renovations. Between Tim's Tuesday and Thursday Takeout, Wednesday Manna, church meetings, class parties, funerals, Youth Mission Project, and receptions, he estimates that he serves almost 26,000 meals for Shandon each year.



FLOWERS THAT KEEP GIVING

1,200

When members donate flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, those flowers not only grace our sanctuary on Sundays but are also shared with those on our prayer list and brighten our staff offices throughout the week. On Monday mornings, volunteers lovingly transform the larger floral arrangements into smaller ones—over 1,200 arrangements are made yearly. Volunteers then deliver these flowers to someone on our prayer list, spreading joy and comfort.

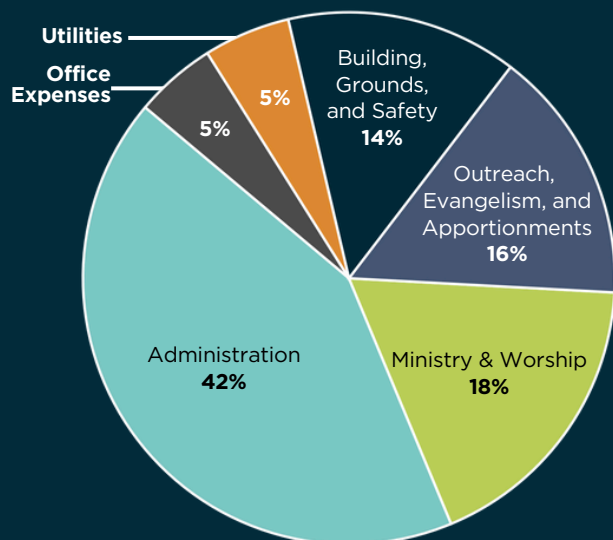
“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”



A FAITHFUL STEP UP

As we all know, rising costs affect us in every area of life, and the church is no exception. This year, our expenses have exceeded the contributions we've received. In order to continue supporting our ministries and expanding the reach of our mission, we ask that you prayerfully consider growing your giving. Your generosity plays a crucial role in sustaining the work we do together. Every contribution makes a difference.

2024 BUDGETED EXPENSES



2024 Total Budgeted Expenses:
\$3,055,000

GROW YOUR GIVING

Monthly Gifts

Annual Income	12%	10%	8%	5%
\$20,000	200	167	133	83
\$40,000	400	333	267	167
\$60,000	600	500	400	250
\$80,000	800	667	533	333
\$100,000	1,000	833	667	417
\$150,000	1,500	1,250	1,000	625
\$200,000	2,000	1,667	1,333	833

Will you join us in taking a
FAITHFUL STEP UP in 2025?

Sustaining the Church We Cherish



Cost to upgrade tables and chairs in the 1st-6th grade classrooms of the DuBose Children's Building:
\$66,000



Cost to replace the roofs for the Dunn-Smith Building and the DuBose Children's Building:
\$440,000



Cost to modernize the elevator in the Bruner Building:
\$175,000



Cost to replace the HVAC in the Sanctuary and Gym:
\$450,000

Cooling Innovation: Did you know we used to slide huge ice blocks down the church stairs to keep cool in the 1950s? Discover the creativity and teamwork behind this unique cooling system—watch Don Tudor, chair of our Property Committee, tell the story: shandonumc.org/cares.

PRAY PLEDGE PARTICIPATE

PRAY

- Pray for our congregation, staff, and leaders.
- Pray for our ministries within the church and in our community.
- Pray for yourself and guidance from the Holy Spirit as you faithfully discern your financial contribution to Shandon's 2025 budget.

PLEDGE

Please make a pledge to Shandon's 2025 budget by...

- bringing the enclosed Commitment Envelope to worship on **October 27, 2024**.
- mailing your Commitment Envelope to the church office.
- using our online pledge form at **shandonumc.org/pledge**.

PARTICIPATE

- Connect with a small group: Sunday School class, women's circle, men's group, Bible study, choir, etc.
- Please fill out the Ministry Involvement Questionnaire to let us know your interest in serving at **shandonumc.org/miq**.
- Serve in a ministry or mission project. Visit **shandonumc.org/participate** for more information.



At Shandon, stewardship is a threefold commitment: Pray, Pledge, and Participate. We pray to seek God's guidance in how we can best use our gifts to serve others. We pledge our financial support to ensure the church can continue its mission and ministry. And we participate by giving our time and talents, actively engaging in the life of the church and community. Together, these actions strengthen our faith and help us make a lasting impact, reminding us that stewardship is about more than giving—it's about living out our faith in meaningful ways.



PLEDGING MADE EASY!

You can pledge online at **shandonumc.org/pledge**, on the Realm App, or by scanning the QR code.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving provides a convenient, secure way to make financial contributions.

- Give Online: at **shandonumc.org/give**
- Text-to-Give: Text SUMC TO 73256
- Give via the Realm App



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10



3407 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205

shandonumc.org