



THE VOICE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SHANDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2025 | Volume 66, Issue 7

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SUMMER!

Thank you! Thank you for all you do to help make Shandon UMC the great church that it is. Recently I was talking with one of our members in the hall. She said, "I just love Shandon!" Well, there is a lot to love, isn't there? There's a lot to love because of you!



Rev. Smoke Kanipe
Senior Pastor
skanipe@shandonumc.org

Because of you, we've had a great summer ...

- 170 children and youth at Day Camp and 81 children at Vacation Bible School. That doesn't happen without lots of adult volunteers, lots of donated supplies, and, in the case of Day Camp, lots of teenage volunteers.
- A great Live on the Lawn concert (plus one that got rained out!). Thank you to our Evangelism Committee for their hard work.
- A packed gym for "Faith and Freedom." Thank you to our singers, musicians, and everyone who helped with setup and takedown.
- Three outstanding Summer Soul presentations, planned and organized by Health and Wellness.
- A great time of fellowship at our Shandon Cup summer sports program.
- A whole smorgasbord of children and youth events.

None of these programs and ministries would be possible without you – you sharing your time and talents, and you giving generously to Shandon so that we can fund events like these.

And let's give a big shout-out to the world's greatest staff. None of this would be possible without them. Shandon has a staff filled with energy, talent, creativity, and dedication. They love serving God by serving you, and it shows through in everything they do!

And now for the really good news ... the fall is going to be even better! I hope you are already thinking and praying about how you can become more involved this fall – by investing your time, talent, and treasure in God's work at Shandon UMC!

Grace and Peace,

Smoke Kanipe

PICK UP A 2025 FALL EVENTS CALENDAR



Discover upcoming classes, worship services, special events, and ways to serve.

Pick up a printed copy today in the lobby of the Bruner and Dunn-Smith Buildings or scan the QR code to download.

In Memoriam

Here we remember, with love and gratitude, those who have gone before us.

Joseph Winston Lemon

June 20, 1985 - July 9, 2025

Walter Rogers Duncan

March 20, 1948 - July 25, 2025

Richard Maxwell Sasnett IV

August 11, 1968 — July 23, 2025

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Jay Blair

Peter and Marie Buyck
Sheila Davis
Ruthie and Lawrence Taylor

In Memory of Annie Blencowe

Nancy Probst

In Memory of George Ray Brown

Harry, Janice, and Kyle Brown

In Memory of Steve Brown

Augusta Beckman Circle
Dianne and Terry Barnes
Anna Boyle
Harry, Janice, and Kyle Brown
Lucy Coleman
Cathy and Charlie Cook
Ralph and Brenda Davis
Gessner Dunn
Tom and Winna Ellis
Steve Garriss
Lee Gray
Kay Jordan
Pam Meacham
Men's Church Basketball League
Sandra Pappas
Shandon Book Club
Mr. and Mrs. WB Walkup
Ruthie and Lawrence Taylor

In Memory of Bill Dunn

Gessner Dunn

In Memory of Rebekah Ellis

The JOY Class

In Memory of Grandpa

Pearson DiBiase

In Memory of Michael Guffee, Jr.

Buncombe Street Methodist Church
Susan Carter
Susan Collins
Kathy and Hal Crosswell
Steve and Sally Garriss
Cecelia and Harold James
Kay Jordan
Nancy Kelley
Mr. and Mrs. Marion Knox, Jr.
Jennie and Scott Lambe
Pam Meacham
Doug and Betty Neal
Sandra Pappas
Troy and Michelle Roberts
Janet Sandifer
Henry Stuckey, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. WB Walkup
James and Betsy Young

In Memory of Shirley Arlene Kennedy

Bonnie Mullis
Holly Neuffer
Nancy Probst
David and Gera Singletary

In Memory of Anne Lavender

Kay Jordan
Sandra Pappas

In Memory of Jim Lybrand

Elaine Brantley
Lucy Coleman
Tom and Winna Ellis
Kay Jordan
Pam Meacham
Sandra Pappas

In Memory of Jim Wood

Ronald and Catherine Boozer
Karl and Gail Clegg
Jerry and Janna Davis
Leanne Griffith
Julie McClendon
Pam Meacham
Denny Peebles
Sally and David Seavey
Ruthie and Lawrence Taylor
John Wood

In Honor of Rev. Dr. James Adams

Lorraine Conrad

In Honor of Gardner Long for the Technology Fund

Neal and Mamie Atkinson
Bill and Darrell Brannon
Kenneth and Mary Collins
Generations Sunday School Class
Sara Nalley

In Honor of Bobbie Moore

Ruthie and Lawrence Taylor

In Honor of Elaine Moses

Mr. Albert Moses

In Honor of Marigene Player Simmons

Mansfield Simmons

FLOWERS *at the* altar

Sunday, August 3

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of **John William (Billy) Garrett** by his family, who miss him very much.

Sunday, August 10

The flowers at the altar are given in honor of **Leanne and Sonny Jarrett** for their wedding anniversary by their children, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter, with love.

The flowers at the altar are also given in loving memory of **Betty Livingston Bruner** by her nieces and nephews.

The flowers in the narthex are from the wedding of **Kathryn Huntley and Michael Gallagher**, who will marry on August 9, 2025. They were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Huntley, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Edwin McCuen by Harry and Kathy Huntley.

Sunday, August 17

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Mark Virgil Dickinson** for his birthday on August 20, by the Porter family.

Sunday, August 24

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Bud Foy** by Linda Foy for the years shared together.

Sunday, August 31

The flowers at the altar are from the wedding of **Bess Watson and Will McDow**, who will marry at Shandon UMC on August 30, 2025, and are given with love by her parents, Cathy and Cal Watson.

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Travis Brown, Willie Brown, Sr., Tori Gregg, Rocky Flowers

Security:
David Hadley, Director of Custodial/Security Staff
Cedrick Finney, Lisa Gibbs, Tori Gregg, Michael White

Maintenance: Jim Morrow

20TH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE FOR MISSIONS

Start clearing out those attics, drawers, garages, and storage spaces! Donate your gently used household items, tools, décor, toys, kitchenware, and more, and let your treasures support missions. It's a win-win for you and for the many local nonprofits this sale supports.

Donation Drop-Off

- **Saturday, August 2 | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, August 3 | 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.**
(Drive-thru assistance from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.)
- **Monday, August 4 | 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Last day!)**

Please note: We cannot accept clothing, jewelry, books, large appliances, or children's car seats.

Sale Dates

- **Member Preview Sale: Wednesday, August 6 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Public Sale Day 1: Friday, August 8 | 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**
- **Public Sale Day 2: Saturday, August 9 | 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

This is a cash-only event. All proceeds benefit missions and nonprofit partners across the Midlands.

How You Can Help

- Volunteers are needed from **Saturday, August 2, through Saturday, August 9**, to assist with sorting, pricing, set-up, and more.
- Carolyn Hall is coordinating lunch donations for volunteers. To purchase lunch for volunteers, contact her at mchajcek@gmail.com or (803) 422-0951.

ALL HANDS ON DECK 100+ VOLUNTEER GOAL – Saturday, August 9 at 1:00 p.m.

- Pack up unsold items for donation to HIS House
- Return display pieces to storage
- Reset the gym for worship

Bring your friends, neighbors, civic groups, and small groups—many hands make light work!

Questions?

Jennifer Parker – jpclemsongirl@gmail.com | text (770) 301-6376
Bobbie Moore – bobbie.moore0529@gmail.com | text (803) 728-7255

SEEDS OF HOPE + BAKE SALE FOR ALDERSGATE

Every **Saturday morning through October 11, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** on the front lawn, stop by Seeds of Hope, our weekly farmer's market featuring fresh produce from local farmer Louis Reid of Greeleyville. Alongside the market, the Committed Disciples Sunday School Class hosts a bake sale to benefit the Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. All proceeds will support the purchase of a new home for adults with special needs.

Come shop, support, and serve! To volunteer, donate baked goods, or learn more:

- Seeds of Hope: Brian Stricklin at (267) 243-2030, or Holly Neuffer at (803) 727-3634
- Bake Sale: Jason Snyder at westhamunited@myyahoo.com or (803) 528-0997





MEN'S NIGHT AT THE FIREFLIES

All men are invited to join us for a night of fun, fellowship, food, and baseball at Segra Park for the Fireflies game on **Tuesday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m.** We have reserved two Concourse Suites, which include private seating, cover, and an all-you-can-eat buffet of burgers, hot dogs, pulled pork, chicken, sides, peanuts, and soft drinks. The cost is \$30. **The deadline to register is August 4**, so don't wait; register today at shandonumc.org/men.

This is an adults-only event designed to further build community within our Shandon's Men's Ministry. Please contact Pastor James Grubb at jgrubb@shandonumc.org with questions.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

All men are invited to join us on **Thursday, August 21, from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m.** in Player Hall for our Men's Prayer Breakfast. Chef Tim will provide a delicious full breakfast, followed by a short program. Please join us and bring a friend to be filled with food, fellowship, and faith.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for one volunteer to serve in the toddler nursery on the 2nd Sunday of each month and teachers and helpers for 2nd and 6th grade. When you join a teaching team, you rotate with others, so you don't serve every week. It's a wonderful way to build community, grow in faith, and make a lasting impact on the lives of our children. Please contact Cari Treece at ctreece@shandonumc.org if you are interested in volunteering.

SERVE MEALS: DREHER HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

We are honored to support the Dreher High School football team by serving pre-game meals again this year. Volunteers are needed to serve meals **from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. on Fridays: August 22, September 5, 12, 19, 26, and October 3, 10, 17, 24.** Join us in encouraging and uplifting these student athletes! Sign up at shandonumc.org/events.



PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Help us spread the Word. The Preschool currently has openings in our part-time 2s, 4s, and 5K classrooms for the 2025-2026 school year. For questions or more information, please call 803-256-1498. You may also find additional information about the Preschool on our website, sumpk.org.

STEWARDSHIP: Thank You For Your Faithfulness!

GIFTS - OPERATING BUDGET

Month of June 2025		Year-To-Date 2025	
Revenues:	\$238,527	Revenues:	\$1,420,315
Expenses:	271,300	Expenses:	1,621,375
Net:	\$(32,327)	Net:	\$(201,060)



- 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

DOORWAYS - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

Doorways is Shandon's spiritual formation pathway, designed to help you grow in your relationship with God and others. This fall, explore a variety of groups and classes including Bible studies, parenting support, grief care, creative workshops, and thoughtful conversations about healing, prayer, and Christian living. There's something for every season of life. Classes begin in September. To register and view a full list of classes, visit shandonumc.org/doorways. If you have questions, contact Ruthie Taylor at rtaylor@shandonumc.org.



SHARE YOUR GIFTS - TAKE THE MIQ

Our Ministry Involvement Questionnaire (MIQ) is a quick way to share your gifts and interests with the Shandon family. Just as we commit to nurturing your spiritual growth, we want to help you find your place to serve. Take a moment to prayerfully complete the MIQ at shandonumc.org/MIQ. Your response helps us plan ministry with you in mind.



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OPEN HOUSE

Adults are invited to the open house of our new Faith and Fellowship Sunday school class at **9:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 17**, in the Knox building, Room 208. Join us to deepen your relationship with Christ and connect with other believers in their 40s and 50s. Find support, encouragement, and friendship in this class. Connect with our community through Sunday morning scripturally-based discussions and ongoing opportunities for fellowship and service as we grow together. Our current study, *Christian Character*, by Andrea Stark, includes scripture outlining Christian character and engaging questions for group discussion. Contact Katie Free at (803) 206-4505 or Cindy Cameron at (803) 767-8554 for additional information.

BLOOD DRIVE

Give the gift of life at our next blood drive on **Sunday, August 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** in Player Hall. Sign up at shandonumc.org/redcross or scan the QR code. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments will be taken first. Teens, 16-18, can donate with parental permission. Bring a friend and their parent! All successful donors will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice.



In addition to hemoglobin and blood pressure, A1C testing will also be offered at the blood drive, an important tool for screening prediabetes and diabetes.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS: GET CONNECTED

Young professionals ages 22 to 30 are invited to join the Seekers group for upcoming opportunities to connect and build community:

- **Lunch at Taziki's – Sunday, August 24.** Meet us after 11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary) or 11:05 a.m. (LifeLine) worship services for lunch and fellowship at Taziki's Mediterranean Café.
- **Fireflies Baseball Game – Thursday, August 28 at 7:05 p.m.** We'll gather at Segra Park (1640 Freed Street) for a night of baseball and fun. Tickets are \$11. Bring a friend! Register online at shandonumc.org/events.

Questions? Want to be added to the Seekers email list? Contact Rev. Maggie at mcantey@shandonumc.org.



CHRISMON WORKSHOP

Join us around the table on **Sunday, September 7, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** in Room 223 of the Bruner Building for our third quarterly Chrismon Workshop. While getting to know fellow church members, you'll learn the meaning and craft of Chrismon making. In this session, we'll create one new Chrismon and help you finish any Chrismon from earlier workshops. If you haven't attended before, we'll provide materials for you to complete two Chrismons from past sessions. All materials are provided, but space is limited. Sign up at shandonumc.org/events. For questions, contact Susan Curran at scurran@shandonumc.org or (803) 466-1344.



PARENT ORIENTATION FOR 6TH GRADE CONFIRMATION

Parents of 6th graders are invited to join us on **Sunday, September 7, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** in the Bruner building, Room 220, for our Parent Orientation for 6th Grade Confirmation. Each year (January-April), our church guides 6th graders through reflecting on their faith while learning more about a life of Christian discipleship and the history and traditions of the United Methodist Church. This process culminates in April as students are invited to consider joining the church through their profession of faith in worship. At this orientation for parents, we will review the content and schedule of the Confirmation Preparation classes and share ways parents may invest in the process with the group.

TREK NEW MEMBER CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

Are you ready to become a full member of Shandon UMC? TREK is Shandon UMC's pathway to membership. Our next course is set to begin on **September 14, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.** It is designed to help you connect with our ministers and staff, our ministries, and one another. For complete details and 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.

If you are already a Shandon member and know of someone interested in joining, please share this information with them.

Schedule of Sessions

- Session 1 – Sunday, September 14, 3:30–5:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall
- Session 2 – Sunday, September 21, 3:30–5:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall
- Session 3 – Wednesday, September 24, 6:00–7:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall

SAVE THE DATE - FALL WOMEN'S EVENT

Join us on **Wednesday, October 1, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** (Childcare will be provided) or **Thursday, October 2, 10:30-12:00 p.m.** in Wesley Hall as Rev. Maggie Cantey teaches us the art of felting. During our time together, materials will be provided for you to create several fall items such as pumpkins, mushrooms, acorns, etc. Felting is fun and easy, and we look forward to seeing your handiwork. Register at shandonumc.org/events.

For questions, contact Susan Curran at scurran@shandonumc.org or (803) 466-1344.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLE MEETINGS

United Women in Faith Circles are small groups of women who meet regularly for fellowship, spiritual growth, and mission-focused service. Each Circle has its own meeting time and style, but all are committed to supporting women, children, and youth through faith and action. All women are invited to join a Circle and get involved.

Circle Meetings will resume in September. If you have questions or would like to get involved, please see the schedule and contact information below:

- **Augusta Beckman Circle**
Meets: Monday after the 1st Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in Player Hall
Contact: Diane Bruner, (803) 609-0891
- **Mary Campbell Circle**
Meets: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in Player Hall
Contact: Angie Moore, (803) 261-4464
- **Naomi & Ruth Circle**
Meets: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Committed Disciples Classroom (Knox 201)
Contact: Sara Roberts Ruzensky, (803) 280-0558
- **Susanna Wesley Circle**
Meets: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in various locations
Contact: Tiffany Anderson, (803) 479-8838

MORE JUSTICE GATHERING

You are needed to support MORE Justice in Columbia!

Please join us for a kickoff meeting on September 23, at 6:00 p.m. in Player Hall.

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

Shandon is involved in many ministries that “love mercy.” Our partnership with MORE Justice gives us the opportunity to comply with God’s directive to “do justice.” We join 27 congregations in the Columbia area to address serious community-wide problems.

Shandon members involved with MORE Justice have decided to concentrate our efforts on affordable housing. Thousands of families in our community pay more than they can afford in rent and utilities, resulting in evictions, unsafe living conditions, and poor health and academic outcomes.

MORE Justice has made progress in the affordable housing campaign, and our own Sue Kanipe has played an integral role in this progress by serving on the Affordable Housing Committee. Richland County has allocated \$4 million to address this concern, and County Council has created a new committee to explore homeownership and rental affordability programs. **Much more progress is needed.** One great need is the creation of an affordable housing trust.

We need you! Politicians respond to **numbers of individuals** who collectively voice their concerns. Please talk to Biff Sowell, Claire Manning, Sue Kanipe or Rev. Smoke Kanipe if you have questions, and please join us for this important meeting.

HELP RESTORE OUR TOLLING BELLS

The four tolling bells in our Bell Tower need repair. They were originally designed to swing approximately 90 degrees in each direction, allowing the clapper inside to strike and produce their distinctive sound.

Tolling bells mark the hour and ring out in celebration of weddings and special church events. They are a treasured part of our church's identity and tradition.

Recently, lightning damaged the small electric motors that power the bells, and they can no longer swing as designed. The total cost to restore all four bells is \$36,000.

If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to Shandon UMC with "Carillon Repair" in the memo line.

More information will be shared in the September newsletter. Thank you for helping preserve this meaningful part of Shandon's story.



PAT BECKLER ART GALLERY

On **Sunday, August 17, at 12:00 p.m.**, Arts at Shandon will host a special dedication ceremony in the Pat Beckler Art Gallery on the 1st floor of the Bruner Building. This gathering will celebrate Pat Beckler's meaningful impact on the arts at Shandon and unveil a plaque for the gallery named in her honor. All are invited to attend.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP – CHOIRS AT SHANDON

Rehearsals begin in August and September, and all are welcome to join! If you would like to share your gift of music, please contact Eddie Huss at ehuss@shandonumc.org.

Chancel Choir: Resumes Wednesday rehearsals beginning August 20, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Youth Choir (Grades 6–12): Begins Sunday, September 7, 4:30–5:15 p.m.

Wesley Ringers: Begins Monday, September 8, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Celebration Choir: Begins Wednesday, September 10, 5:45–6:45 p.m. (This choir meets every other Wednesday.)

St. Nicholas Choir (Grades 2–5): Begins Wednesday, September 10, 6:00–6:45 p.m.

Cherub Choir (K5–1st Grade): Begins Wednesday, September 10, 6:00–6:30 p.m.

ORGAN RECITAL

Join us on **Sunday, September 28, at 5:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary as our Organist and Music Associate, Kipp Gill, presents a special organ recital. A reception will follow on the East Lawn. More information about Kipp and the recital program will appear in the September newsletter.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last date of combined Sunday school will be Sunday, August 3. On Sunday, August 10, children in K4–5th grade will return to their regular classrooms for a final celebration with their current 2024–25 Sunday school teachers. This special time together will mark the end of their year before Promotion Sunday kicks off the new school year on Sunday, August 17.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Children are invited to bring their school backpacks to any of our three worship services on **Sunday, August 10**. During worship, the congregation will offer a special blessing to all students for the upcoming school year. Students will also receive a backpack tag as a reminder of our support and prayers. Join us as we celebrate the new school year and show our encouragement for the children in our church.



PROMOTION SUNDAY CELEBRATION

On **Sunday, August 17**, we invite you to join us for a special event. It is an exciting day as we introduce children to their new grade-level Sunday school classes and their new teachers. To celebrate this milestone, children from K4 to 6th grade will enjoy delicious ice cream sundaes in their new classes. Sunday school classes, tailored to each grade level, run from **9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.** Do not miss out on this wonderful celebration!

- 1st floor Knox Building: Infants, toddlers, 2-year-olds, and 3-year-olds
- 1st floor DuBose Building: K4 & K5 students
- 2nd floor DuBose Building: 1st-6th grade students

BIBLE PRESENTATION TO STUDENTS IN THIRD GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our congregation will present Bibles to our 3rd-grade Sunday school students on **Sunday, August 24, at 11:00 a.m. Traditional and 11:05 a.m. LifeLine services**. If you have a child entering third grade this fall, please complete the registration form at shandonumc.org/events so we may prepare a Bible for them.

POPCORN AND MOVIE SUNDAY

Children's "Popcorn and Movie" will be offered during the Sunday School hour for our 4-year-old through 5th-grade Sunday School classes on **Sunday, August 31, from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.** Children may be dropped off and picked up in Player Hall.

FAMILY BINGO

Join us for bingo, prizes, and dinner on **September 12, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Player Hall**. All families are invited. Bring your friends, too! Chicken fingers and french fries will be served – \$6 for adults, \$3 for children (2 & under eat free). Registration is required. No childcare is provided. Register online at shandonumc.org/events.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Join us on **Sundays, September 14, 21, and 28, during the 11:00/11:05 a.m. worship services** as we embark on the Children's Chapel Series. This special series is designed for families with 4-year-old Preschool, K5, and 1st-grade children. Sessions, while different, are stand-alone. Immediately after the Children's Sermon in worship, participants are invited to join Cari Treece in Player Hall to learn about worship in age-appropriate activities. Parents are to attend these sessions with their children.



SAFE SANCTUARY MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

Shandon's Child & Youth Abuse Prevention Procedures Reminder of the Month: "Requirements Prior to Working with Children & Youth"

Before working with children or youth, all volunteer church workers must:

- Be a Shandon UMC member or actively involved at Shandon UMC for at least six months.
- Complete training and sign a statement that they have been trained, have read, understand, and will abide by this Policy and the Procedures to Reduce Risk and Abuse for both children and youth.
- Pass a National Background Check, a Social Security Verification Check, and a SLED criminal records check. Rechecks will be every three years.
- Complete and sign a Volunteer Application listing three non-related references.

2026 VBS AND DAY CAMP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Vacation Bible School and Day Camp will be held **June 1–5, 2026**. Registration will open for Shandon UMC members on **March 15, 2026**, and will close on **April 15**, or when the programs are full. Please save the dates and stay tuned for more details.

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. We usually meet on **Sundays, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in the Youth Zone at church. However, please refer to our schedule below for special events and to see what we have planned for each night.

- **August 3:** For MYF, our students will team up with the United Women in Faith by helping with Shandon's annual Garage Sale from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Students are asked to meet at the gym to help unpack and organize the items from the garage sale. We will have snacks and drinks for our student volunteers. Please email Mandie Ingram, our Student Ministry Assistant, at mingram@shandonumc.org if you have any questions.
- **August 10:** Our students are set up for a fun night playing Four on a Couch (an MYF favorite) and studying the book of 2 Timothy. We will have dinner, snacks, and drinks. See you there!
- **August 17:** Invite a friend to meet you at church for our Back to School Bash! We will have inflatables, dinner, ice cream, and drinks! Bring a friend and forget about school from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in the gym.
- **August 24:** We will return to our regular schedule and split into high school and middle school groups during MYF. We will continue our study of the book of 2 Timothy. Dinner, snacks, and drinks will be provided! Bring a friend to the fun and fellowship!
- **August 31:** Meet us out for dinner at Groucho's on Forest Drive from **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Bring a friend and money for food.

GARAGE SALE CLEAN-UP

We are calling all Shandon UMC students to help with the clean-up of our UWF garage sale! We need all hands on deck on **Saturday, August 9, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the gym to help move any unsold items to trucks for donations and to break down tables so the gym can be set up for LifeLine on Sunday! This is a fun time as well as a great volunteer opportunity.

PROMOTION SUNDAY IN STUDENT MINISTRY

As the school year begins, don't miss out on making Sunday School a part of your middle or high schooler's routine. **Promotion Sunday is on August 17.** Don't miss out on meeting the new Sunday School teachers and enjoying fellowship time with students from Shandon UMC in the same grade.

If your student hasn't been plugged into a Sunday School class, now is the perfect time. Sunday School is THE place where students can share their lives with students who care about them, as well as be challenged in their faith walks. Please review the different classes we offer at Shandon for students below, and email Andy Morris, Director of Student Ministry, at amorris@shandonumc.org if you have questions.

- 7th grade: Dunn-Smith Room 207, taught by Sue Kanipe and Bonnie Henneman
- 8th grade: Dunn-Smith Room 216/217, taught by Carter and Elizabeth Jeffords, Darren Foy, and Candler Rhodes.
- 9th and 10th grades: Dunn-Smith Room 210, taught by Montague Laffitte, Hank and Ashlee Davis, Ashlee Buchanan, and David Adams.
- 11th and 12th grades: Dunn-Smith Room 204/205, taught by Carolyn Fields, Casey Fields, Charles Reid, and Rob Tyson.

YOUTH USHER SUNDAY

On **Sunday, August 31, at our 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. traditional worship services**, our middle and high school students will serve as ushers. In this role, they will distribute bulletins before the service and assist in 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.



24 HOURS OF INSANITY

Students gathered July 15–16 for 24 Hours of Insanity, an epic overnight event packed with games, food, off-site adventures, and unforgettable memories to kick off the school year.