



Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 18, 2022 • 10:30 am



John's house, imagined (on display in the Sower's Chapel)

Welcome to Shandon Presbyterian Church

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-time member . . .

Whether you are familiar with our traditions or still find it all a bit strange . . .

Whether you grew up Presbyterian or Baptist or Jewish or agnostic . . .

Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged . . .

Whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here. We take seriously Jesus' instructions to love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. We don't all look alike, act alike, or think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions and carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we worship together as one unified community.

Our worship style is traditional and true to our Reformed heritage. At the same time, we seek to bring our faith into conversation with the world around us and the events of our lives. We sing with joy and we pray with honesty.

Hospitality is important and friendship is holy. That's why we gather for fellowship, cookies, and lemonade outside after worship. Please join us. We think you'll find us to be a warm, approachable group of people trying our best to live like Jesus teaches. If you're looking for a perfect church, we aren't it. We're real people, and we do the very best we can, but we don't always get it right. We understand how much we all need grace in our lives. And we believe that God's love, which never gives up and never lets go, is for everyone. Including you.

There is a place for you here. Welcome home.

Rev. Jenny McDevitt
Senior Pastor

Building Hospitality

Our building is a wonderful resource. It can also feel like a labyrinth when you are learning your way around. A few key locations that may be helpful to you:

Accessible restrooms — located behind the Sanctuary; use the southwest door (to the left of the Chancel)

All gender restrooms — located beneath the Sanctuary; use the stairs from the Narthex (main entrance)

Elevator — located just beyond the southwest door (to the left of the Chancel)

Nursery & extended care — located on the first floor of the Education Building; use the southwest door and the elevator, following directional signs

Hearing-assist devices — located at the southwest door, or ask an usher to provide you with one

Ushers are always willing to assist you in finding your way or answering other questions.

Welcoming Children

Just as Jesus welcomes the little children to come, so we welcome children of all ages in our worship services. We are better when all members of our family are here! In order to make the worship service as welcoming for our littlest ones as possible, we provide engaging worship bags and a Word with Children every time we gather. After the Word with Children, kindergarten-aged children and younger may leave for extended care in Room 107B or stay for the remainder of worship. The first time your child attends extended care, please accompany them to sign them in (then feel free to return to the Sanctuary). It is always a joy to have your children and all the wiggles, giggles, questions, noises, and insights they bring. If you have any questions about how to enhance your child's worship experience, or if you're looking to get involved with our children's and family ministries, please contact Heather Woolard at hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org.

Interested in Joining?

If you'd like to be here in a more official capacity, we'd love for you to join SPC as a member. Everyone who is part of our community is treated the same. Joining isn't about special treatment, but rather about a commitment you make to following Jesus alongside others trying to do the same. New member gatherings take place several times a year. If you are interested in learning more, contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org.

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

Matthew McCall

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ARR. WILBUR HELD

Welcome

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Please sign the friendship folder located along the inside aisle of each pew and pass it to those seated near you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mary Rogers

People, Look East

BESANCON

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

* Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Call to Confession

Rev. John Cook

Prayer of Confession

**Incarnate God, forgive our faulty memory.
In the dark crevices of our hiding,
we forget how you said, "Let there be light."
In the lonely corners of our living,
we forget how prophets foretold, "Unto us a child is born."
In the doubt-filled moments of our hoping,
we forget how the angel said, "Nothing is impossible with God."
Remind our hearts of the truth that has been spoken
since the beginning of time. (Silent prayer)**

Assurance of God's Grace

* Response

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

* Passing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Proclaiming the Word

The Word with Children
Heather Woolard

Prayer for Illumination
Garrett Humphries

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

This is the Word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem
Dr. Tina Stallard

Love Is Christmas
SARA BAREILLIS

Sermon
Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Christmas at John's House

Responding to the Word

* Hymn 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

*You may also give by texting SHANDONPC to 73256
or visiting our website, shandonpresbyterian.org.*

Anthem
Chancel Choir

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
PAUL MANZ

* Response

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANAHM

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

* Benediction

* Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. BACH

Worship Notes

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY Matthew McCall, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Mary Rogers, Rev. John Cook, Heather Woolard, Garrett Humphries, Dr. Tina Stallard, and the Chancel Choir.

TODAY'S LITURGY — The Advent Candle liturgy and Prayer of Confession were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Garrett and Jordan Humphries in honor of their anniversary and with gratitude for being married at Shandon.

THE COVER IMAGE features what "John's house" might have looked like according to the way he tells the Christmas story: small and efficiently designed, so that a little light goes a long way. Sometimes it's hard to be John's neighbor, because it's never entirely dark at his house. Even in the middle of the night, he keeps a light shining. A variety of houses are on display in the Sower's Chapel throughout Advent. Four of them have been tagged as "gospel houses." Take a look at all of them. Do any of them represent Christmas the way you celebrate it? How so?

AFTER WORSHIP — Join us for cookies and fellowship on the front sidewalk. A deacon will be present near the baptismal font to receive prayer concerns or pastoral updates.

Announcements

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING — The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the PC(USA) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century. The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. You can make a contribution online at www.shandonpresbyterian.org/give/joy or in today's offering.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday School classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 8 at 9:15 am.

SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT — The carols proclaim that it is "the most wonderful time of the year," but for any number of reasons, the holidays can be heavy and hard, too. If you are experiencing grief, sadness or uncertainty that leaves you feeling like you're wandering in the dark, join us for a quiet, prayerful service at 6 pm, Wednesday, December 21, and be reminded that the light still shines, even when we can't see it. Rev. Jenny McDevitt will preach.

LESSONS AND CAROLS — Sing the season with us one more time at 10:30 am on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25. Wear your cozy pajamas or your Christmas finery (or anything in between). Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will be available afterward!

EPIPHANY — This year, we celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 1 — a wonderful way to celebrate the hope and promise of a new year. Join us as we tell the story of the Magi who journeyed to meet the baby Jesus following a star. Everyone will receive a "star word" to help guide them through the year ahead. This service is a mix of an old story and new traditions. Come see where the light will lead us!

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET — This annual event provides an easy and meaningful way to honor your family and friends by making donations in their names. Three organizations will benefit this year: Live Oak Counseling Center, the Cooperative Ministry, and Sistercare. For details about how to participate, go to bit.ly/spcagm2022.

MONTREAT COLLEGE CONFERENCE — Shandon college students, join UKirk SC and 1,000 other students at Montreat College Conference, "Keep Going," January 2-5. This conference is similar to the youth conferences, but tailored for college students. We will stay at the South Carolina Inn with students from other campus ministries around the state. Cost is \$200. Contact Rev. John Cook at jcook@shandonpresbyterian.org for more information or to register.

HYMN FESTIVAL — Micah 6:8 instructs us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Join us Sunday, January 22 at 3 pm to sing the way of justice and celebrate the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. This event will be led by Shandon's music ministry and community friends.

CAFE JUSTO GIFT SPECIAL — Buy ten bags of fair-trade, organic Cafe Justo coffee and receive one bag free! Each purchase comes with free holiday gift bags made by Bella Stakely, Mary Ann Brearley, and Katrina Portwood. To order, contact Rowena Nylund at 803-743-7122.

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM — December collection items include shelf-stable milk (8 oz.) and individual servings of Chef Boyardee Pasta.

This Week at Shandon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

10 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
11:30 am	Fellowship (Front Sidewalk)
3:30 pm	5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
4 pm	Basketball Practice, Grades 8-9 Boys (Activity Center)
5 pm	Youth Group Christmas Party (Rev. McDevitt's Home)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:15 pm	Basketball Practice, Forest Lake (Activity Center)
6:15 pm	5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
6:45 pm	Boy Scouts (Room 224)
7 pm	Basketball Practice, Forest Lake (Activity Center)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:15 pm	Basketball Practice, Grades 4-5 Girls (Activity Center)
6:15 pm	Session (Room 209)
7 pm	Adult Basketball Practice (Activity Center)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

12:15 pm	Staff Meeting (Library)
6 pm	Service of the Longest Night (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:15 pm	Basketball Practice, Grades 8-9 Boys (Activity Center)
7 pm	Basketball Practice, Grades 10-12 Boys, McLean (Activity Center)
8 pm	Basketball Practice, Grades 10-12 Boys, Hillman (Activity Center)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:15 pm	5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4 pm	Family Worship (Sanctuary)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
8 pm	Candlelight Communion Worship with Choir (Sanctuary)
11 pm	Candlelight Communion Worship (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 am	Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)
11:30 am	Fellowship (Front Sidewalk)
3:30 pm	5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)

Advent Worship



Observing traditions is part of what makes our Advent and Christmas seasons so powerful. This is true at church and, most likely, in your homes as well. Whether it's food, decorations, songs, candles, travel, or something else entirely, we all have certain ways we celebrate. This is the case for each of the gospel writers, too. Each of them has a certain way of telling the Christmas story. Join us this Advent as we visit each one of them "at home" in their gospel. Mark is too busy to decorate, but he understands the true meaning of the season. Matthew has a house overflowing with family and friends. John is partial to Christmas lights of every sort. And while Luke has the best music playing in the background, he's missing one of the essential items you keep on hand when you're expecting a special guest. What about you? How are you preparing to celebrate?

November 27 — Christmas at Mark's House

December 4 — Christmas at Matthew's House

December 11 — Special Music Presentation — "Christmas Oratorio," by Camille Saint-Saens

December 18 — Christmas at John's House

December 21 — Service of the Longest Night, 6 pm

December 24 — Christmas at Luke's House

Christmas Eve Worship

4 pm — Family Worship Service

8 pm — Candlelight Communion Service with Choir

11 pm — Candlelight Communion Service

The Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

Rev. John Cook, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Matthew McCall, Director of Music and Media

Dr. Jabarie Glass, Director of the Chancel Choir

Heather Woolard, Director of Children's Ministry

Colby Mason, UKirk Intern

Dr. Robert Walker, Church Administrator

Catherine Teal, Financial Manager

Brittany Young, Office Manager

Sandie Stillinger, Bookkeeper

Carolyn Bennett, Childcare Coordinator

Gerald Taylor, Facilities Manager

Georgia Shaw, Receptionist

Johnnie Floyd, Receptionist