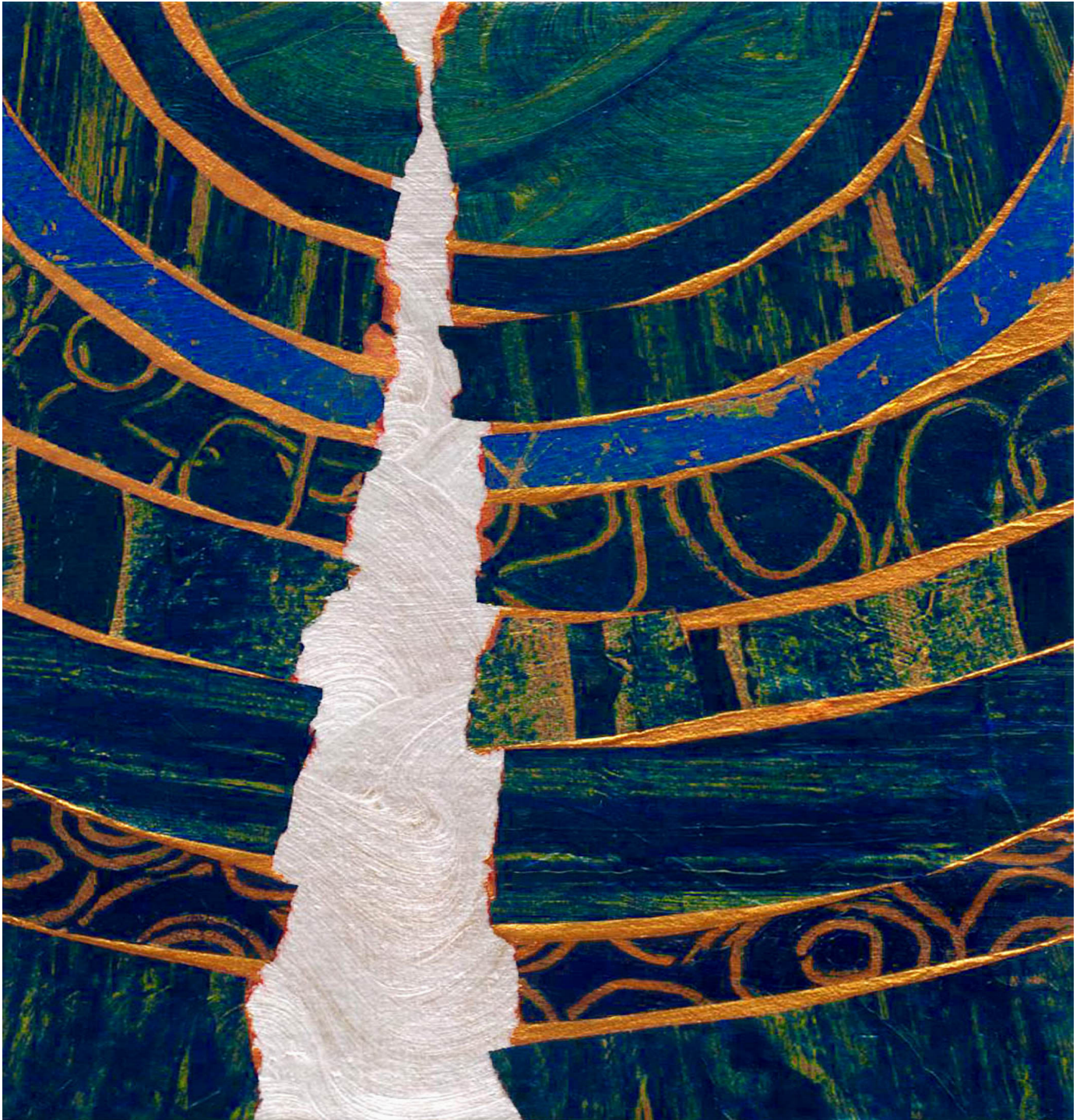




Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

The First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023 • 10:30 am



No Between, Jan Richardson

This is God's house. There is a place for you here. Welcome home.

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

AED devices — located behind the Sanctuary; use the southwest door (to the left of the Chancel)

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 104 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 with us in worship. 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-Lawson at hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org. Our child protection policy can be viewed at bit.ly/spcchildprotection.

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

The Wexford Carol

ARR. MARK HAYES

Asterisks () indicate portions of worship during which you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

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 the Advent Candle

Holly Fetner

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

ELLACOMBE

**O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air:
The light shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing away.**

Remember with us what the prophet cried out:

"O, that you would tear open the heavens and come down."

Isaiah 64:1

* Hymn 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession

April Martin

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We sing, "Come, thou long-expected Jesus."

We plead, "O come, O come, Emmanuel."

**Forgive us when we blithely invoke your name
and are too casual about all you promise.**

**Forgive us when, in our efforts to prepare trees and tables,
we forget to prepare our hearts.**

**Forgive us when, whether out of innocence or arrogance,
we fail to consider what your arrival will ask of us.**

**Forgive us when, in our eagerness to greet you,
we search for you in all the wrong places.**

Author of Hope, Prince of Peace,

Creator of Joy, Source of Love —

bring Advent fully into our lives, we pray. *(Silent prayer)*

Assurance of God's Grace

* Response of Praise

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!**

* Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Minute for Mission

*Elizabeth Crouch
and Andy Kahle*

Dr. John M. Preston Shandon Retreat for Spiritual Enrichment

Proclaiming the Word

The Word with Children

Heather Woolard-Lawson

This time in worship is designed for children up through fifth grade. Afterwards, kindergarten-aged and younger may attend extended care in Room 104. If this is your child's first Sunday in extended care, please send one parent or guardian to briefly check in with their teacher. First grade and older remain in the Sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Amelia Lutterbie

Scripture Lesson

Jen Lutterbie

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Responding to the Word

* Hymn 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
Rev. John Cook

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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

As an extension of Jesus' own hospitality, the communion bread is gluten free and the cups all contain grape juice. You are invited to come forward, tear off a piece of bread, and dip your bread in the cup.

Prayer after Communion

Offering

*You may also give by texting SHANDONPC to 73256,
on Venmo (@ShandonPres), or by visiting shandonpresbyterian.org.*

Anthem

Chancel Choir

O Come, Emmanuel

ELAINE HAGENBERG

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here,
and drive away the cloud of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall to come thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace.
O rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

* 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 one, I would do my part;
yet, what I can I give him: give my heart.**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 360

Christ Is Coming!

UNSER HERRSCHER

* Benediction

Postlude

Prepare the Way, O Zion

ARR. PAUL MANZ

Worship Notes

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY are Matthew McCall, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Amelia Lutterbie (acolyte), April Martin, Heather Woolard-Lawson, Jen Lutterbie, Rev. John Cook, the Chancel Choir, directed by Dr. Jabarie Glass, and Chase Hicks (livestream).

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ted and Amelia DesChamps Petoskey by their daughter, Julie Petoskey Smoak.

THE ROSE on the table celebrates the birth of John "Jack" Stephen Dalton, son of Chris and Alden Dalton, born October 17, 2023.

Announcements

OFFICER NOMINATIONS — Today is the deadline to submit your recommendations for individuals to serve in the role of elder, deacon, and trustee as the Class of 2027. Submit a form online at bit.ly/SPCnominations23, pick up a printed form at the church, or submit recommendations to Hugh Jacobs at hughjacobs@bellsouth.net.

SERVE AT TRANSITIONS — This afternoon and the first Sunday of every month at 4:50 pm, Shandon serves at Transitions Homeless Center on Main Street. Contact Sonja Erickson at ericksonsonja44@gmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT — The church-wide retreat is March 8-10, 2024. Rev. Austin Shelley is the featured speaker. To sign up, go to bit.ly/SPCretreat2024 or pick up a brochure at the reception desk. Financial assistance is available; contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at jmcdevitt@shandonpresbyterian.org. Today is the deadline to sign-up.

MORE JUSTICE — Shandon will host a meeting for MORE Justice Network Members on Thursday, December 7 at 6 pm in Davis Hall to build relationships with other network members, hear about progress, and begin plans for the Nehemiah Action this spring. Interested in participating in MORE Justice? Contact Rowena Nylund, Judy Medlin, Betty Gurnell, or Linda McDonald.

FAMILY PROMISE — Help Shandon's outreach ministry support Family Promise this holiday season. Your support will enable hosting, holiday meals for families, and outings. Visit bit.ly/spcfcf by December 5 to sign up for gift cards and to volunteer. Visit shandonpresbyterian.org/give to give or bring cash or check to the Business Office.

SHANDON HELPING FAMILIES — The Shandon Helping Families ministry is once again providing gifts for those served by Meals on Wheels and the Weekend Backpack Food Program. Go to bit.ly/shandonhelpingfamilies to view items needed.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET — This annual event provides an easy and meaningful way to honor your family and friends by making donations in their names. This year's supported organizations are: Free Medical Clinic, Mwandi Orphan and Vulnerable Children Centre (Zambia), and the Salvation Army. Visit bit.ly/3EfEPmz to give.

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD — During December, we are collecting 16-ounce containers of peanut butter.

CAFE JUSTO — Buy 10 bags of Cafe Justo coffee and get one free bag! Plus a free colorful Christmas gift-bag with every gift purchase. To order, contact Rowena Nylund.

FINANCIAL UPDATE — As of November 29, \$813,822.33 of \$839,601.07 anticipated pledges have been received. Actual expenses are \$1,266,410.90 against budgeted expenses of \$1,227,895.39.

Advent at Shandon

POINSETTIAS — Help us decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season while remembering or honoring a loved one. Order online at bit.ly/spcpoinsettias. Order-forms are also available at the reception desk. Order deadline is Wednesday, December 13. Take poinsettias home after the 8 pm Christmas Eve service.

ADVENT FESTIVAL — The annual Advent Festival will take place after worship today in the Activity Center. A light lunch will be provided. Activities and crafts for all ages include Advent calendars, ornaments, wreath-making, luminaries, and more. There will also be a service project assembling toiletry kits for residents of the Pallet Shelter.

A SHANDON CHRISTMAS CONCERT — On Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm, Shandon's music ministry and Capital City Brass will present a concert of seasonal music, along with favorite congregational carols. There is no cost to attend, but a retiring offering will benefit Lutheran Family Service's Circle of Welcome, one of Shandon's outreach ministries with refugee families.

BONFIRE AND CHILI DINNER — Join us on the Church Lawn, December 10 at 5 pm for chili, hot drinks, s'mores, and singing around the bonfire. If you can, bring your own chairs and blankets (but don't worry, we'll have extras available as needed). We'll provide the hot drinks and s'mores, but you provide the chili. To help us plan, please sign up at bit.ly/SPCchili if you plan to bring chili to share.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — Shandon's children will present the annual Christmas Pageant at 4 pm on Christmas Eve. There are roles available for all ages, infants (accompanied by a parent or guardian) through adults. Sign up at bit.ly/pageant24. Adults, contact Heather Woolard-Lawson at hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org to sign-up.

SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT — If you are experiencing grief, sadness or uncertainty this holiday season, join us for a quiet, prayerful service at 7 pm, Thursday, December 21, and be reminded that the light still shines, even when we can't see it. Rev. Jenny McDevitt will preach.

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE — Join us for worship on Christmas Eve!

4 pm — Family Worship Service and Children's Christmas Pageant

8 pm — Candlelight Worship Service with Choir, Rev. Jenny McDevitt preaching

11:30 pm — Welcoming Christmas Service on the Sanctuary Steps, with scripture, prayer, and carols

We will still worship at 10:30 am, but will observe the Fourth Sunday of Advent rather than Christmas Eve during that service.

This Week at Shandon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 9 am** Childcare (Room 106)
- 9:15 am** Sunday School (various locations)
- 10 am** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 10:30 am** Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 am** Advent Festival (Activity Center)
- 3 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
- 4:50 pm** Serve at Transitions (off-site)

6 pm MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 6:15 pm** Youth Basketball Practice (Activity Center)
- 6:45 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
- Boy Scouts (Davis Hall)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 10:30 am** Presbyterian Women (Room 224)
- 6 pm** Youth Basketball Practice (Activity Center)
- 6:15 pm** Session (Room 209)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 12:15 am** Staff Meeting (Library)
- 5:15 pm** Pizza for Pageant Participants (Davis Hall)
- 5:45 pm** Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm** Shandon Ringers Rehearsal (Room 223)
- 7:30 pm** Chance Choir Rehearsal with Capital City Brass (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 11 am** Prayer Shawl Ministry (Library)
- 6 pm** MORE Justice (Davis Hall)
- 6 pm** Deacons (Room 224)
- 6:15 pm** SWS Sing-Along (Sanctuary)
- 7 pm** Adult basketball practice (Activity Center)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 6 pm** Youth Basketball Practice (Activity Center)
- 6:15 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 8:30 am** Youth basketball games (Activity Center)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 9 am** Childcare (Room 106)
- 9:15 am** Sunday School (various locations)
- 10 am** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 10:30 am** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 am** Fellowship (Front Sidewalk)
- 11:45 pm** Nominating Committee (Library)
- 3 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
- 4 pm** A Shandon Christmas Concert (Sanctuary)
- 5 pm** Advent Bonfire and Chili Dinner (Church Lawn)
- 7 pm** Youth Basketball Practice (Activity Center)

The Staff of Shandon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
Rev. John Cook, Associate Pastor for Discipleship
April Martin, Pastoral Associate for Youth and Young Adults
Matthew McCall, Director of Music and Media
Dr. Jabarie Glass, Director of the Chancel Choir
Heather Woolard-Lawson, Director of Children's Ministry
Rev. Lucy Youngblood, Parish Associate
Bethany Parker, 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
Rev. Susannah Cook, Receptionist