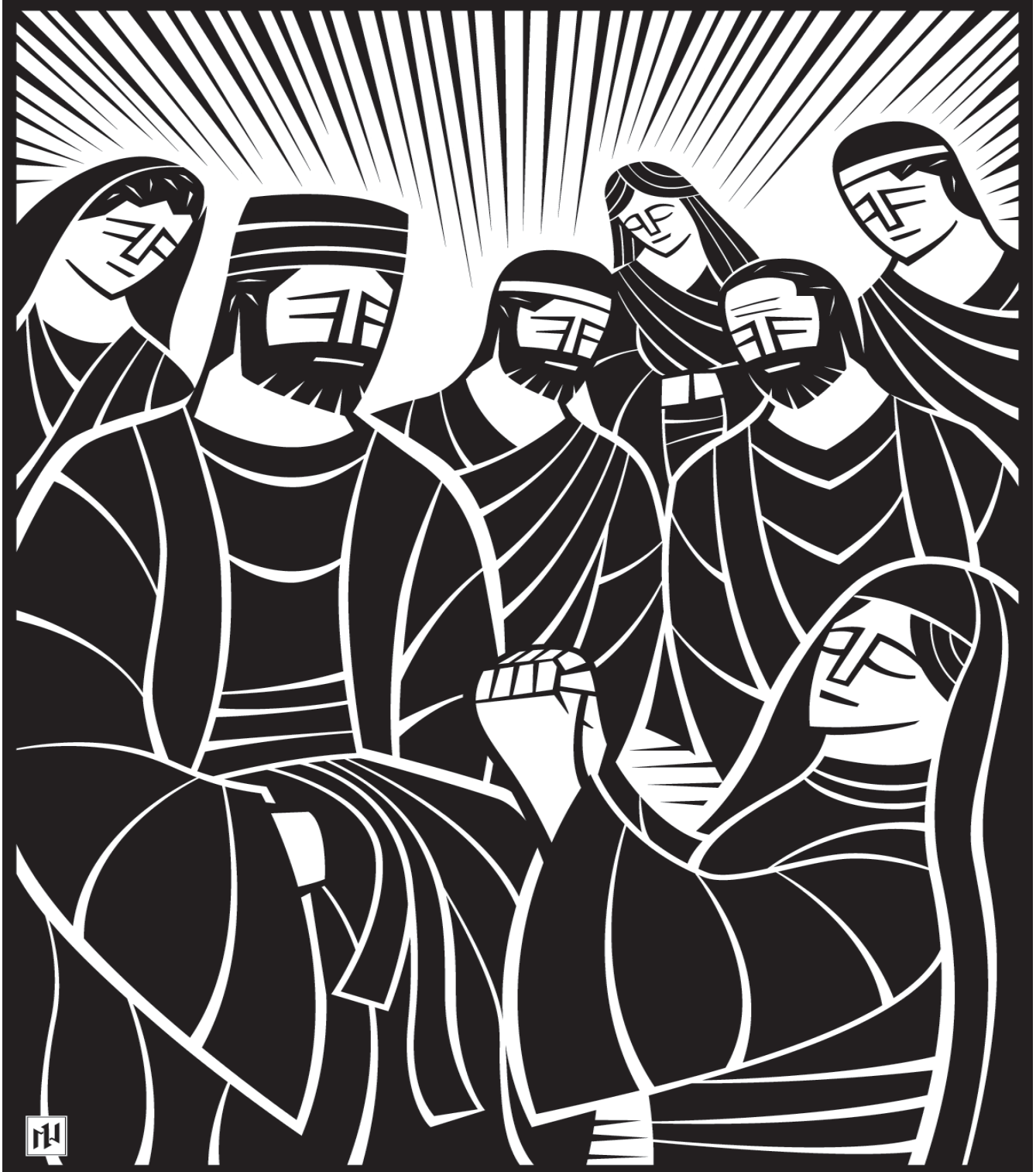




Shandon Presbyterian Church

607 Woodrow Street • Columbia, South Carolina • 29205

May 14, 2023 • 10:30 am



The Persistent Widow, Paramentics

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

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 204 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

Abide with Me

ARR. C. HUBERT H. PARRY

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.

* Call to Worship

We wait patiently for God —

adapted from Psalm 40

God who leans down

and listens to our cries for help.

God lifts us out of the mud and filth,

sets our feet on solid rock,

and steadies our legs.

Do not hold back now, God.

Let your loyal love and faithfulness protect us always.

Let all who seek you celebrate and rejoice in you.

In you, O God, we find help and rescue,

so do not wait any longer!

* Hymn 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSHER

Call to Confession

Rev. John Cook

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, forgive us.

We trust you, but not as much as we'd like.

We listen, but not as carefully as we should.

Our prayers stumble and our confidence wanes.

Our hearts are weary and our faith is fragile.

We believe in you, but are no strangers to doubt.

We love you, but our love is imperfect.

Take us as we are, but do not leave us this way.

Send your Spirit and amend our living. (Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

* Response

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

* Passing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Minute for Mission

Elisabeth Hall

Mother's Day Special Offering for Presbyterian Communities of SC

Proclaiming the Word

Anthem

*Arise and Shine
Children's Choir*

I've Got Peace Like a River

The Word with Children

Heather Woolard

This time in worship is designed for children up through fifth grade. Afterwards, kindergarten-aged and younger may attend extended care in Room 204. 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

Kenny Phelps

Scripture Lesson

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

When Prayer Remains Unanswered

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith

**Lord, you have always given
bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor,
today I believe.**

**Lord, you have always given
strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak,
today I believe.**

**Lord, you have always given
peace for the coming day;
and though my heart is anxious,
today I believe.**

**Lord, you have always kept
me safe in trials;
and now, tried as I am,
today I believe.**

**Lord, you have always marked
the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden,
today I believe.**

**Lord, you have always lightened
this darkness of mine;
and though the night is here,
today I believe.**

**Lord, you have always spoken
when the time was ripe;
and though you may be silent now,
today I believe.**

Hymn 469

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (repeat 3 times)

CHILDREN PRAYING

Prayers of the People
April Martin

Continue singing Hymn 469 as indicated.

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

Make My Life a Living Prayer

AARON DAVID MILLER

Make my life a living prayer.
May I flourish in your sight.
Make my life a living prayer.
Where there is truth and wisdom, there is love.

I am known to you in times of sickness.
I am known to you in times of feebleness.
I am known to you in times of darkness.
I am known to you in times of loneliness.
You are endless truth, endless wisdom, love beyond all fear.

* Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 816

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

* Benediction

* Postlude

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ARR. PAUL MANZ

Worship Notes

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY are Matthew McCall, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Rev. John Cook, Elisabeth Hall, the Arise and Shine Children's Choir, Heather Woolard, Kenny Phelps, April Martin, and the Chancel Choir directed by Dr. Jabarie Glass.

TODAY'S LITURGY — The Prayer of Confession was written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt. The Affirmation of Faith is from the Northumbria Community.

AFTER WORSHIP — Join us for fellowship and refreshments on the front sidewalk. A deacon will be present in the Sower's Chapel for prayer.

Announcements

SHANDON ON WEDNESDAY — Join us Wednesday, May 17 for dinner at 5:15 in the Activity Center and game night for everyone beginning at 6 pm. Play some of your favorite games with some of your favorite people. Bring a game to share or play one provided. Make your dinner reservations by 6 pm Monday. This will be the last SOW of the spring.

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING — Today, we collect the Mother's Day special offering. Since 1954, Presbyterian churches in South Carolina have marked Mother's Day with an offering to support the ministry of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. In addition to contributing to the special offering in worship, you can also give online at bit.ly/spcmothersday23.

YOUTH GROUP — Youth will not meet this afternoon. Next Sunday, May 21 at 5:30 pm, youth will meet at Bowlero in Cayce to celebrate the end of the year. Questions? Contact April Martin at amartin@shandonpresbyterian.org.

GRADUATING SENIORS — During worship on May 21, we will honor our graduating high school seniors and recognize all of our graduates in the bulletin and in prayer. Today is the deadline to submit names to April Martin at amartin@shandonpresbyterian.org.

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC — After worship next Sunday, May 21, join us on the church lawn for a picnic celebrating the end of the Sunday School year. The main course will be provided, you are encouraged to bring a side or dessert to share. We will honor our Sunday School teachers, so all current Sunday School teachers should plan to attend. In addition to good food and fellowship, Edgewire Music will provide live music for all to enjoy.

YOUNG ADULT GET TOGETHER SERIES — Shandon's young adults are invited to enjoy a series of events this summer! Kick-off the summer with a game night, Wednesday, May 31, 6-8pm in Davis Hall. On June 7, 6-8 pm, the series will continue with an evening at WECO Bottle and Biergarten in West Columbia. Childcare will be provided at the church for both events. For more information, contact April Martin at amartin@shandonpresbyterian.org.

SUMMER CHOIR — The Chancel Choir invites anyone who would like to sing to join beginning Sunday, May 28. Rehearsals will take place 9:45 am on Sundays in the Choir Room.

ART AND THE BIBLE CAMP — Shandon's Children's Ministry invites rising kindergartners through rising sixth graders to join us in practicing the spiritual discipline of creating. We will explore the intersection of Genesis 1 and the arts in order to encounter God the Creator, engage with creation, and enter into the creative process. We hope you can join us July 10-14 from 9 am-3 pm. Sign up at bit.ly/artandthebible. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Heather Woolard at hwoolard@shandonpresbyterian.org.

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM — This ministry provides supplemental food every weekend for students at AC Moore, Rosewood, and Dreher. Thank you for your financial and food contributions to this project. During May we are collecting shelf-stable milk (8 oz) and canned pork and beans (8 oz).

Upcoming Worship



We know we should pray. But prayer raises all sorts of questions. How do we pray? What should we say? How do we know if it 'worked' or not? For whom should we pray? Is there anything we *shouldn't* pray for? As we continue in the Easter season, join us as we think about prayer and how we talk with God. Rev. Jenny McDevitt will preach throughout this series.

April 30 | Teach Us To Pray
May 7 | Praying for Those You Least Want To
May 14 | When Prayer Remains Unanswered
May 21 | 'Thoughts and Prayers' Are Not Enough
May 28 | When You Just Can't Pray
June 4 | Is There Anything We Shouldn't Pray For?

This Week at Shandon

SUNDAY, MAY 14

- 9 am** Childcare (107B)
- 9:15 am** Sunday School (various locations)
- 10:30 am** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 am** Fellowship (Front Sidewalk)
- 3:30 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)

MONDAY, MAY 15

- 6:15 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
- 6:45 pm** Boy Scouts (Room 224)

TUESDAY, MAY 16

- 6 pm** SWS Open House (Weekday School)
- 6:15 pm** Session (Room 209)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

- 12:15 pm** Staff Meeting (Library)
- 5:15 pm** SOW Dinner (Activity Center)
- 6 pm** Game Night (Activity Center)
- 6:30 pm** Shandon Ringers (Room 223)
- 7:30 pm** Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, MAY 18

- 10 am** Bible Study (Library)
- 7 pm** Adult Basketball (Activity Center)

FRIDAY, MAY 19

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

SATURDAY, MAY 20

No events scheduled.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

- 9 am** Childcare (107B)
- 9:15 am** Sunday School (various locations)
- 10:30 am** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 am** Congregational Picnic (Church Lawn)
- 3:30 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Center)
- 5:30 pm** Youth Bowling (Bowlero, Cayce)

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, Director of Children's Ministry
Ann Newsome, 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