



The Hebrew alphabet in watercolor

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 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 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.

## **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	When in Our Music God is Glorified Arr. ROBERT A. HOBBY
	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.
Introit	
Chancel Choir DR. JABARIE GLASS, DIR.	I Sing the Mighty Power of God JOANNE BROWN-LEDOUX
* Call to Worship	
Rev. Lucy Youngblood	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
	God was the Word. God is the Word. All other words falter.
	And yet we strive with our imperfect language to communicate something of that which is Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.
	First and last, Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, and everything in between.
	Let us worship God! Let us be lost in wonder, love, and praise!
* Hymn 366	
	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Hyfrydol, arr. John Maynard
Call to Confession Rev. John Cook	
Prayer of Confession	
-	Gracious God, We confess we do not always know how to speak of you. We stumble over our words. Our voices lack conviction. Even worse, sometimes we do not speak of you at all.
	We hide our faith.

We give in to gossip.

	Speak a word of restoration over our lives, O God. Call us toward compassion, wisdom, and peace. (Silent prayer)
Assurance of God's Grace	
* Response of Praise	Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me GLORY TO GOD
	Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
* Sharing the Peace of Christ	The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! And also with you!
(Gianna), Justin Drafts and (Teddy), Bill McConnell, Be	l and Sarah Burtt (Henry, George, and Amelia), Michael and Terese Coseo Graeme Moore (Henry), John and Lauren Grimes, Abhi and Maggie Haritha eth and Brian Moore (Kat, Grace, and August), Julie Mitchem, Bethany and Jesse ey, Cameron and Samantha Queen (Camson), Linda Short, and Chance Taylor
	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 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 Stacey Brennan	
Scripture Lesson	John 1:1-4
beginning with God. All th	Vord, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the ings came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
	John 21:24-25
is true. But there are also n	estifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony nany other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I elf could not contain the books that would be written.
	This is the Word of God for the people of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>

Sermon

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

The Alphabet of Faith

## **Responding to the Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith

In the beginning was the Word. The words of our faith are not exhaustive; God is immortal and invisible, incomprehensible and inexhaustible. Nevertheless, we affirm:

font side:	abundance, acceptance, awe baptism, belonging, bread community, creation, covenant
pulpit side:	discipleship, doubt, dreams embodied, enough forgiveness, freedom, friendship
higher voices:	generosity, goodness, gospel, grace heaven, history, holiness, home, hope imagination, incarnation, inclusion
lower voices:	journey, joy, justice kindness, knowledge laughter, learning, light, love
older voices:	memory, miracle, mission, mystery neighbor, newness, nurture openness
younger voices:	peace, people, play, praise, prayer questions relationships, resurrection
right-handed:	sabbath, sacrament, sanctuary, servant-hood spirit, steadfast, story, study thanks, theology, time, tradition, truth
left-handed:	unity vocation water, welcome, wine, wisdom, worship
all:	yʻall

Words can build up and break down, create and destroy. We commit ourselves to using words for good. We commit ourselves to the Word beyond all Words.

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise** ST. DENIO

Prayers of the People April Martin	
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, on Venmo (@ShandonPres), or by visiting shandonpresbyterian.org.
Anthem <i>Chancel Choir</i> DR. JABARIE GLASS, DIR.	The Word Was God ROSEPHANYE POWELL
	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. By him, all things were made that have been made. Nothing was made he has not made. All things were made by him.
* 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 546	Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing SICILIAN MARINERS
* Benediction	
Postlude	Festive Trumpet Tune David German
	Following the Postlude, we will take a congregational photo. Children from Extended Care will return during the Postlude.

## **Worship Notes**

**LEADING WORSHIP TODAY** are Olivia Pavy and Gus Winburn (acolytes), Matthew McCall, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, the Chancel Choir directed by Dr. Jabarie Glass, Rev. Lucy Youngblood, Shandon Ringers, Rev. John Cook, Heather Woolard-Lawson, Stacey Brennan, and April Martin.

**TODAY'S LITURGY** — The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith were written by Rev. Jenny McDevitt.

**THE ROSE** on the table celebrates the birth of Elizabeth Louise "Ellie" Yarbrough, born to Frances and Tyler Yarbrough. Johnny and Laura Timmons are proud grandparents.

**THE OPENING HYMN** was arranged for handbells, organ, and congregation, especially for Rally Day by Shandon member John Maynard.

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

## Announcements

**YOUTH GROUP** — Youth group officially begins on September 17 with a trip to the Jump Park. Parents of 6th-12th graders, please join April Martin and the youth advisors from 5-6 pm in the McDonald Youth Center this evening at 5 pm for an important orientation. Questions? Contact April at amartin@shandonpresbyterian.org.

**SHANDON ON WEDNESDAYS** — Beginning this Wednesday, September 13, join us at 5:15 pm in Davis Hall for dinner, followed by programming for all ages at 6 pm. Dinner will cost \$8 per person; children fifth grade and younger eat for free. Make reservations on Realm or by calling the Church Office by Monday at noon.

**ACOLYTES** — Serving as an acolyte is a great way for children and youth to be involved in worship leadership! Visit bit.ly/shandonacolytes to sign up.

**SMALL GROUPS** — Before ongoing small groups launch in the new year, join us for occasional, one-time small group meetings. A variety of days and times are available the week of September 24. Sign up at bit.ly/ spcsmallgroups by September 17.

**MORE JUSTICE** — Shandon will host MORE Justice listening meetings on Thursday, September 14 at 6 pm and Sunday, September 17 at 11:30 am. For more information contact Rowena Nylund at rnylund@sc.rr.com or Rev. John Cook at jcook@shandonpresbyterian.org.

**ARTS AT SHANDON** — Arts at Shandon invites you to the first presentation of the season, Sunday, September 24 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. This program will feature Limited Time Only Chamber Choir, South Carolina's top choral ensemble. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door or at https://limited-time-only.square.site.

**OUTREACH RETREAT** — Mark your calendar for Saturday morning, September 30 for Shandon's Outreach Retreat at UKirk. We will retreat to ponder where we have been, where we are, and where we are going in mission, justice, and service as a church. Questions? Contact Rev. John Cook at jcook@shandonpresbyterian.org.

**FRONTERA DE CRISTO** — Shandon's mission study to Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico is set for January 27–February 2, 2024. Join us for an interest meeting, Sunday, September 24 at 11:45 am, in the Library. For more information and to sign up, go to bit.ly/frontera24.

**SHANON WEEKDAY SCHOOL** — Shandon Weekday School is turning 65! Everyone is invited to celebrate on Friday, September 29, 5-6 pm on the Church Lawn and in the newly-renovated classrooms.

**WEEKEND BACKPACK SUMMER SWEEPSTAKES** — During September, we are collecting Jif-to-Go peanut butter (box of 8 individually packaged cups) and shelf-stable milk.

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER** — On World Communion Sunday, October 1, we will gather in the Activity Center to package 20,000 meals. Sign up to serve and complete the required waivers at bit.ly/ShandonRise.

## This Week at Shandon

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

- 8:40 am Shandon Ringers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
  - 9 am Childcare (Room 106)
  - 9 am Rally Day (Activity Center)
  - **10 am** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- **10:30 am** Worship (Sanctuary)
- **11:30 am** Fellowship (Front Sidewalk)
  - 2 pm LTO Chamber Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
  - **3 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Ctr.)
  - 5 pm Youth Parent Meeting (McDonald Youth Ctr.)

#### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

- 6:15 pm 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Ctr.)
- **6:45 pm** Boy Scouts (Davis Hall)

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

- 9 am Finance Ministry (Zoom)
- 6:30 pm Worship and Music Ministry (Room 224)
- **6:30 pm** Palmetto Mastersingers Rehearsal (Choir Room)

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- 9:30 am Quilt Group (Room 210)
- 12:15 pm Staff Meeting (Library)
- 5:15 pm SOW Dinner (Davis Hall)
- 6 pm SOW Programming (various locations)
- 6:30 pm Shandon Ringers Rehearsal (Room 223)
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

#### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

- 6 pm MORE Justice Listening Meeting (Room 224)
- 7 pm Adult Basketball Practice (Activity Center)

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:15 pm 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Ctr.)

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

No events scheduled.

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 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)
- 11:30 am MORE Justice Listening Meeting (Room 224)
  - 2 pm LTO Chamber Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
  - **3 pm** 5th Tradition AA (McDonald Youth Ctr.)
  - 5 pm Youth Group (Altitude Trampoline Park)

## 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 Johnnie Floyd, Receptionist