

Sharon Methodist Church

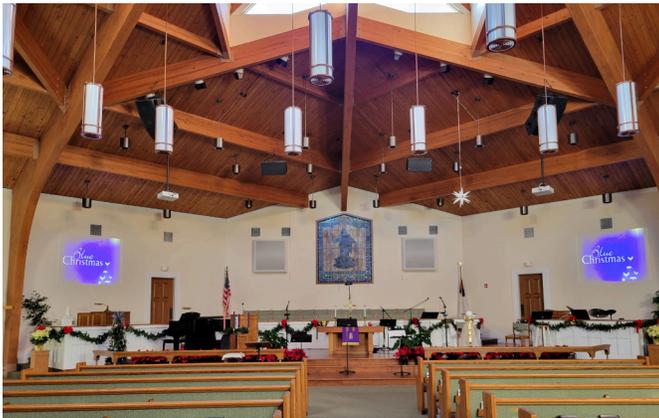
MARCH NEWSLETTER



MISSION STATEMENT

Sharon Methodist Church is a Spirit-filled family of disciples of Jesus Christ who love God, each other, and our community.

We are part of the new Global Methodist denomination and are committed to traditional family values, a high view of Scripture and serving our neighbors in love. Strategically located in a rural, but growing, area close to the Atlantic Ocean, Sharon Church attracts a mix of long-time locals and new transplants from other parts of the United States. We are a dynamic, kingdom-focused church.



Following the roots of Methodism, our church is devoted to putting faith and love into action (practical divinity, as John Wesley called it) and our primary mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Therefore, we believe we have a responsibility to reach out and listen to you, to accept you as a sister or brother, to share the Good News with you through both word and action, to invite you into our family of faith, to joyfully receive you when you respond, and to continue to encourage you on your spiritual journey.





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UPCOMING DATES

- March 4 Taste of Sharon (6:00PM)
- March 7 Drive Through Prayer (10:00AM-12:00PM)
- March 7 Wagon Pull (10:00AM-12:00PM)
- March 11 Taste of Sharon (6:00PM)
- March 14 Drive Through Prayer (10:00AM-12:00PM)
- March 16 Finance Team Meeting (6:30PM)
- March 18 Taste of Sharon (6:00PM)
- March 21 Drive Through Prayer (10:00AM-12:00PM)

Church News



Gene & Martha Leagon and Pastor Paul help our latest group get started on their Wooden Easter project. Come and have fun with us!

IMPACT! For Kids is up and running!

6-8pm every Wednesday thru March 25.

We are having a limited-edition run of our new Kids' Program between now and Easter. At the end of our time together, the kids will be doing an Easter play and Egg Hunt! Watch for more details as we near April. Each night starts with the Taste of Sharon for everyone at 6:00PM. The kids break away from 6:30-8:00PM for fun, music, crafts, Bible stories and more!

We have room for many more!

Register FREE at
Tinyurl.com/SMCImpact2602



Worship Focus: Can YOU See Jesus?

These are troubled times. We live in a world where people hear of Jesus, but don't know him. Or where people are confused, looking for Hope, and don't know where to find it. Division. Disappointment. Violence. Confusion. Jesus can be tough to see- but he is here, and He invites you to learn to trust him to make your lives brand new!

All this month in Worship, we are looking at people in the Bible who were with Jesus, sometimes really close, and still couldn't see him or understand him. We will be looking at the Woman at the Well (John 4), the man born blind, Lazarus & his sisters, and the people of Jerusalem at Palm/Passion Sunday... all leading to RESURRECTION SUNDAY! And each Sunday, we'll talk about how, when they really SAW JESUS for who He is, their life was changed- and how ours can be, too!

Bring a friend, and come and see for yourself: Now We See JESUS!!



April 2, Maundy Thursday, Sharon will be presenting a live portrayal of the Last Supper.



The men of our church will be portraying the disciples coming together with Jesus for the passover meal, reflecting on their lives as impacted by Jesus, and their reaction to the astonishing revelation that one of his close friends was about to betray Him. Come join us as we lean into this experience in the life of Christ and His disciples. Come with family and friends, bring a neighbor . . .

New Additions



Freda Baxter - Administrative Assistant

Freda and her husband Mark, reside at Ocean Isle Beach. They retired to this area in May of 2025 for the same reasons many seem to have moved here. This was their vacationland during the summers while their children were growing up. So it held many good memories and felt like home before it was home. They have twin daughters, Ruth and Paige, who live in Raleigh.

Freda had a long career in retail, in corporate office management, her specialty was in Learning and Development, Training Program Design for Store Management, and Leadership Development for Corporate Management. When her girls were in middle school, she made the life-changing decision to leave that profession and work with the school system – in a high school cafeteria. She saw her girls every day, took them to school, attended all their sporting events, and toured many colleges over the summer before they made their decision.

This was a life-defining moment in her walk with Christ as she trusted Him completely to provide for them when all the budget numbers on paper, for their household livelihood, made no sense at all. God showed up in so many ways, and she never looked back, with regret, on that decision.

With her children returning to college, Freda returned to a career in an office environment and worked for a small church in Statesville, and then a larger church in Statesville. She spent several years in a church administrative asst. role before making the decision to retire. After moving to OIB and settling in, she found herself with the desire to get back to work. Working in a church was her favorite job, which is why she sought out Sharon Methodist after seeing the posting for the job here.

“I love my job at Sharon. I love the people at Sharon. I especially love seeing the work that God is doing at Sharon and feel blessed to take part in it, in a small way.”

Freda and her husband are members of River of Life Baptist Church in Sunset Beach.

New Additions

Margaret (Maggie) Ruckman - Media Coordinator

Maggie and her husband, Ryann, reside in Warren, Ohio, with their three daughters, Carolyn, Haelend, and Sylvia.

They have been attending our church during their vacations to Holden Beach, visiting family, since 2014.

Ryann serves as a police officer for Warren, Ohio, and also as a School Resource Officer for the inner-city schools of Warren. Their oldest daughter, Carolyn, is an avid artist and actively participates in the church nursery on Sunday mornings. Haelend, who is fond of kittens, has recently made it her mission to persuade Ryann to allow her to adopt one. She has also taken up hockey and enjoys every moment of it. Sylvia, the youngest of the three, is the most energetic. She shares her sister's interest in hockey, and is an enthusiastic admirer of panda bears and flamingos. Maggie currently works from home in addition to homeschooling their three



daughters. She also assists in caring for a young couple's three-month-old daughter while they are at work during the week.

Prior to prioritizing her family's needs, Maggie worked in the corporate office of a prominent real estate developer. She brings over eight years of corporate experience and nine years of small business design work to our team. Her expertise encompasses graphic design, web design, social media management, branding, and other related fields. She is eager to utilize her talents to contribute to God's kingdom through Sharon Methodist Church.

"I find inspiration in the Holy Spirit's presence within the church and the positive influence of Sharon Church and its members. Whether a visitor or a regular attendee, one always leaves feeling welcomed. I am also inspired by the church's commitment to supporting its members and the community. I am eager to contribute to the church's mission."

MISSIONS OUTREACH

Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not people. Ephesians 6:7

Your Missions/Outreach Team has taken SERVE to a new level in February! Although the inclement weather caused us to postpone our Partners luncheon, we distributed our annual monetary gifts to each one personally. How wonderful it is to hear how the Lord is working within each organization to fulfill needs and desires! We will be talking more about this at our March Missions meeting.



Our amazing, dedicated Prayer Shawl Group donated handmade hats and scarves to both StreetReach and Suds of Love bringing warmth and tender loving care to those most in need.

Drive Thru Prayer continues to be an incredible blessing not only to those being prayed over, but to the faithful volunteers praying with each person driving or walking in! We had several individuals in need of prayer who had come by last year! What an honor to hear how their lives have changed, to share praises with them and be able to pray, once again, for their needs.



AND, how about the new signage!!! Many, many thanks to Jerome Munna @ The Sign Shoppe for making us so much more visible to passersby! Folks can definitely find our Emergency Pantry much more easily as well!



Saturdays kick off of the Wagon Pull was met with much enthusiasm and excitement as our extremely well stocked wagons were loaded in the church bus, along with Pastor Paul and his band of merry volunteers, as they headed to the Seashore Hills neighborhood. So much love flowed from these wagons and volunteers as connections were made, prayers were raised and days were brightened. Doors were knocked on and opened, at homes and hearts, that hadn't been in a long while.

We have a tentative date for our Serve Day with the StreetReach showers and Mobile Laundry for April 17th, a Friday, 10-2. More details to come!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our donors in supplying the items for our wagons, for much needed yarn, the Food Pantry & Blessing Boxes, the unexpected items for our OCC Shoeboxes, for all the servants hearts who show up to each ministry outreach and most importantly, for your prayers!

May God bless you and keep you,

Lori Minor

Mark Minor & His Mission Trip to New Orleans

Mark Minor has no problem talking about his experience in New Orleans last month but especially telling you how God worked through his experience to bring him back to Supply, NC, a changed man.



Mark told me “God is still writing my story but he wrote this trip into my story 2 years ago when I happened to give my card to a person, at a Samaritan’s Purse

event, who became a contact for me to get started with Barnabus Camp.

Mark Minor’s trip to New Orleans consisted of working, in ministry, in small groups of 6, that were within larger groups of 86, totaling 261 people who converged on New Orleans during Mardi Gras. I can’t think of riper fields than New Orleans during Mardi Gras.



Each day they were presented with the opportunity, at 5:00 AM, to pray over the path that they would be taking that day.

During the day they would spread the seed, then at night you carried the cross up through the middle of Bourbon Street and took turns switching off in getting underneath the cross and carrying it. You then separated at each intersection assigned for the evening, as you walked up the street, and continued to spread the seeds. Then you would depart for the evening.



“It was an amazing experience! We are all praying for those seeds that were planted and hoping that they are watered. Maybe one day we will see some of these people face to face in heaven because of the work that was done by God, through these men on this trip.”



Community Wagon Pull Prayer Walk

The Wagon Pull Ministry was rolled out on Saturday morning, February 21, 2026.

Fourteen people arrived ready to serve. Some loaded our wagons with generous donations.

We split into two groups; one stayed at the church for the drive-thru prayer ministry and the other eight traveled to a nearby neighborhood to spread the love of Christ. Although rain threatened, we prayed and God was gracious and opened a 2-hour window for our ministry. Amen!!



Many homes were visited and prayers were very well received. We visited a couple of homes where young fathers answered the door and came out to talk and to receive prayers. We visited an older gentleman who had lost his wife three years earlier and was still suffering great grief. He barely leaves his home and just can't find peace. We prayed with him and encouraged him to join our SMC family for the

community dinner or church services. We let him know that love awaits.

We were a bit of a nuisance appearing to clog a road with wagons and people, which of course God used to bring a woman who needed to be reminded of the love of Christ. She was driving very slowly, hopefully to avoid hitting any of us, and when she got close she rolled down her window to find out what was going on. We apologized (sort of) and told her that we were praying for people in the community. She started crying and immediately pulled over.

She shared some of her story. She had hurt her back and was not able to work. There had been a fire in her kitchen and she was not able to get water. Her financial situation was not good. She desperately needed prayer and a hug, which the team was happy to give.



There are several other stories and testimonies to God's timing and love.

Continued on the next page ...

MISSIONS OUTREACH



This community outreach is not only a way to meet our neighbors and to shine Christ's light, but an opening to really come alongside those in need and to disciple them. There will be ways to serve as this ministry grows.

- Follow-up calls or visits
- Assistance with "home improvement"
- Targeted discipleship for parents, youth, children, marriage, singles, elderly,
- Emergency Financial assistance
- Donations of supplies for our "welcome wagons"



And more

Reaching into our community was very heartwarming. Serving with others in our SMC family and getting to know them was a blessing. Knowing that our Father must have been smiling upon us was affirming.

The biggest need we have is more people so that we can cover more ground. Please pray about joining in on one of the Saturday Wagon Pull Ministry times. Each of you has so much to share and God has, or will, equip you for this ministry.



Valentines Day Dinner

A great thanks to all who participated in this year's Valentines Day celebration. We had a great turnout, actually a capacity crowd in the fellowship hall! We served a delicious dinner consisting of baked chicken, pork tenderloin, both from Jerome's restaurant, smashed potatoes with cream cheese and shallots, green beans, croissants, Robb salad and chocolate parfait. Thanks to all who provided our dinner. Also, thanks to the young people who served the tables with drinks, dinner and cleanup. We also want to give a great round of applause to Sean O'Connor and his band for providing great music enhancing further a wonderful ambiance. Dancing was also a highlight for those hopeless romantics! Thank you again Sean. Also, thanks to Debbie Kirby for decorating the fellowship hall with the beautiful table center pieces and all the Valentines décor. A great time was had by all and we look forward to next year's celebration.



News From The Rose

It has been a challenging few months at The Rose. With the disruptions due to our expansion construction, lack of display and storage space, not to mention the weather. If you haven't been to The Rose in the last month, you don't know that our trusty overflow tent bit the dust (or should I say 'the snow'). She just wasn't strong enough to carry the weight of the major storm last month.

The expansion continues to move along. Sharon volunteers have primed and painted the entire space and lights are now installed. By the time you read this we should have gutters and carpet.

Volunteer Needs:

Once we receive the Certificate of Occupancy Tina will need more help, which means more volunteers. You won't be sorting or pricing donations, as we will not be able to accept any during our transition period.

Here is what we will need help with:

- Assembling clothing racks
- Taking down shelving from the current store and installing in the addition
- Installing new shelving and wall displays
- Moving large shelving units
- Patching and painting dry wall in the current store
- Hanging signs and mirrors
- Arranging merchandise on new shelves and racks
- And - additional duties as assigned
- Pastor Paul has used retail counters that we will be using in the store. These are currently stored

near his previous church. So, we will also need help transporting those to the store and installing.



Thank You:

As always, to of our dedicated volunteers.

Also, to the Methodist Men for disassembling and removing the tent, and two of our husband/wife teams (you know who you are) for shoveling all the snow from the Rose walkways and painting.

We at The Rose wish you all a blessed Easter season. We hope to see you all soon.

Kathy Rudnicki
Rose of Sharon Board, Chairperson

We're in the Bible App.

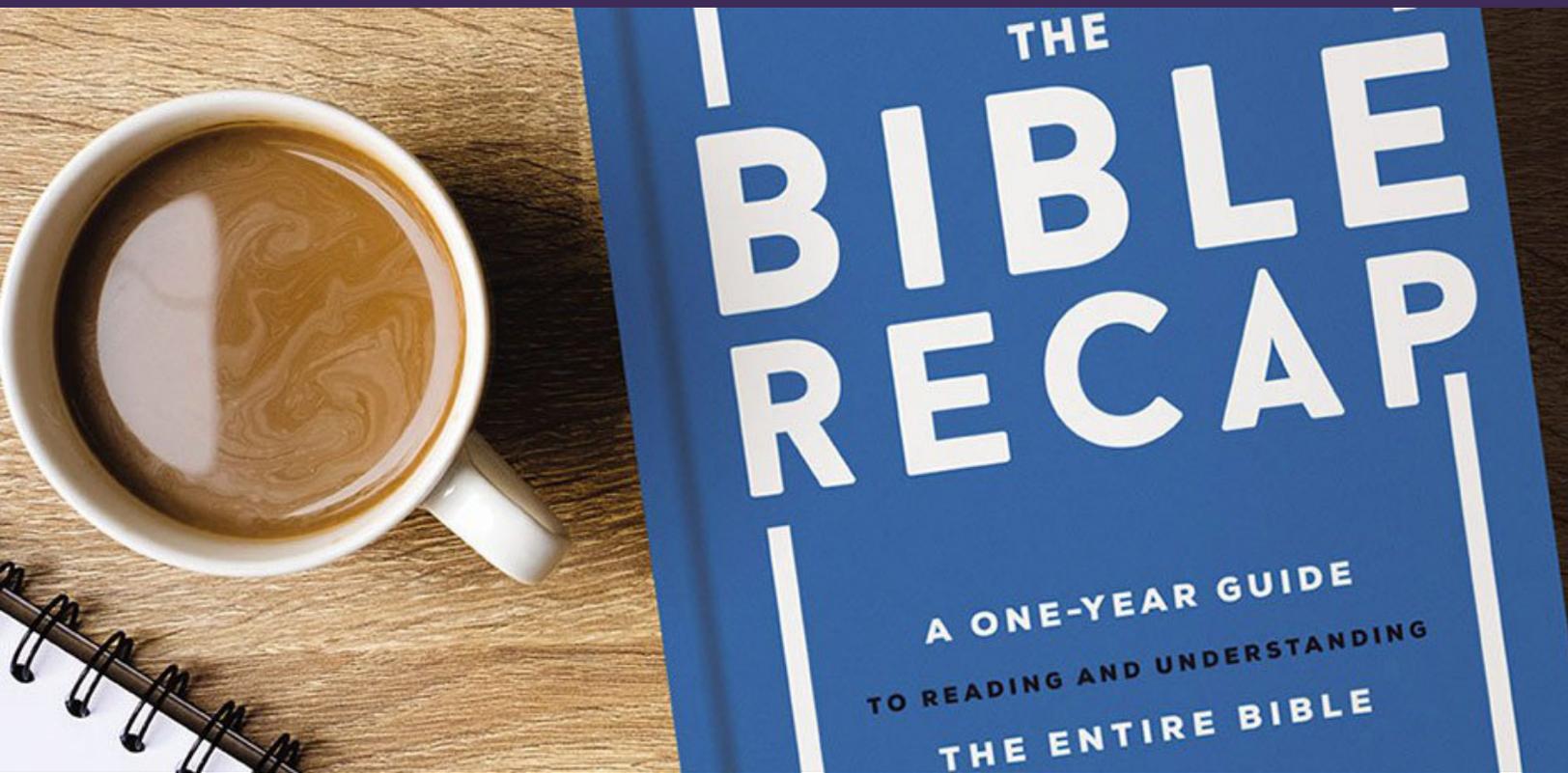
 Follow along

 Take notes

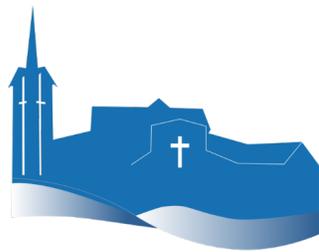
 Reference the Bible



Download the latest version of the Bible App.



On the go in the Bible App



Sharon Methodist Church

2030 Holden Beach Road
Supply, NC 28462

Admin@sharonmethodist.org
(910) 842-2929