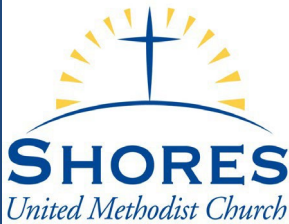
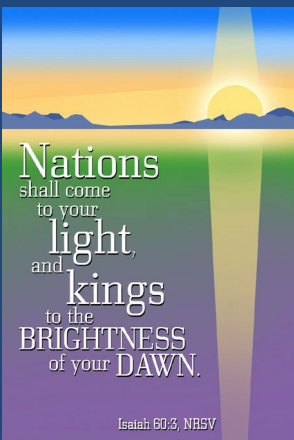


St. Augustine Shores United Methodist Church
(904) 797-4416



Email your prayer concerns to the church office at shoresumc@bellsouth.net

Online Giving is available for contributions to the Church Budget, Apportionments Food Pantry and Youth. Visit www.shoresumc.org and click "Donate" on the top right.



As you are aware there is a vote coming to decide if Shores UMC will disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. I would like to emphasize the importance of this vote; it is probably the most important vote you will be called upon to make at the church. All full Members are encouraged to attend and vote your conscience. As a special called church conference for disaffiliation based on paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline, this is to vote to determine if Shores UMC should disaffiliate (leave the United Methodist Church). Votes on January 8th will be cast by secret ballot.

There has been some confusion on what you will be asked to say yes or no too. A "yes" vote is a vote for disaffiliation – to leave the UMC. If the vote carries and upon the completion of the requirements from the Book of Discipline, Florida Annual Conference, a vote at Annual Conference and on the date set for disaffiliation Shores UMC will cease to exist and a new church will be formed. A "no" vote is a vote against disaffiliation – to remain a United Methodist Church. A 2/3 majority vote of those full members in attendance and voting is required for disaffiliation. Within this newsletter, as with the last couple of newsletters, emails, and 4 separate meetings you are being and have been provided the necessary information to make an informed decision. All information is available from the church office if you need it. Included were the links to the two meetings (one with the WCA and one UMC), offering information on both options.

I would like to reiterate that this is a heartbreaking situation. There are no winners in this vote. People will leave if the vote is to disaffiliate, and people will leave if the vote is against disaffiliation.

I must address the signed open letter and the unsigned information that came out on Christmas week. I have received many questions about these letters. No, they are not endorsed nor were they from Shores UMC. I would encourage you to disregard the unsigned letter entirely, it has many statements that are misleading, many that are false, and this document has already been addressed at council.

Please remember that we are the body of Christ, and we are called to live (even when we disagree) with respect and kindness and show the love of Christ. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Blessings, *Pastor Carolyn*

A Special Called Church Conference for the purposes of voting on disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church under ¶ 2553 of the Book of Discipline is scheduled for

Sunday, January 8th – 2pm at Shores UMC.

You must be a full member of Shores UMC and be present to vote.

You will need to present your ID at check in to receive their ballot per the Florida United Methodist Conference.

PREPARATION FOR DISAFFILIATION DOCUMENT

Should the church approve a motion to disaffiliate:

1. Disaffiliation through ¶ 2553 requires payment of financial obligations to the Florida Conference.
 - a. What is the total amount that your church would owe? *\$115,510.00*
 - b. What is the recommended way of paying that amount? *Private donation*
2. If a new church name has been determined, what will it be? *Undecided but name such as Shores Community Church*
3. Does the church plan to join with another denomination? *Independent*
 - a. If so which one? *N/A*
 - b. If not, what will be your polity or guidebook going forward?
4. Churches and Clergy have separate relationships with the annual conference.
 - a. If the vote is to disaffiliate, will the appointed pastor remain at the church following the official disaffiliation date and withdraw from the UMC, or will the pastor remain with the United Methodist Church and serve in a new appointment? *Rev. Westlake will be staying with the United Methodist Church.*
 - b. If the church does not plan to join another denomination and the pastor is withdrawing from the UMC as of the official disaffiliation date, how will your pastor be credentialed?
5. What will be your new property and liability insurance company and what will be the cost of that annual premium? *Property and liability insurance is available at an unspecified cost. An application has been received from one major company and we are in the process of getting quotes from others, including GUIDEONE. Funds are available to cover the cost for the first period by donations from individuals.*

Should the church not approve a motion to disaffiliate:

1. The church will agree to a period of time where discussion over the matter of disaffiliation will cease for the sake of the ongoing mission and ministry of the church. *Shores United Methodist Church will have no more requests for a Church Conference on this issues.*
2. Churches and Clergy have separate relationships with the annual conference.
 - a. If the vote is to remain a United Methodist Church, will the appointed pastor remain at the church and continue to serve faithfully as a UMC pastor or withdraw from the UMC? *Rev. Westlake will remain in the United Methodist Church.*

Pastor Carolyn is available for questions. Please feel free to contact her at 507-208-5842, pastorcarolyn5199@bellsouth.net or call the church office at 904-797-4416.



Happy Birthday!

8th

Linda
Bargmann

14th

Jessica Kelley

17th

Shirley Price
Earl Douglas

20th

Eileen Smith
Tom Smith

26th

Olivia Long

27th

Tim Cavacini
Kyra Liedtke

28th

Linda Hunter

29th

Sharyn Grace

Worship Attendance

We would like to share with you our worship attendance.

	Traditional Service	Contemporary Service	Online	
12/4	42	36	160	
12/11	53	28	148	
12/18	53	45	143	
12/24	4:00pm Service	78	6:00pm Service	75
12/25	10:00am Service	75		

We have plenty of room for you! Come worship with us, or continue to worship online.

Take Down Christmas Decorations

Sunday, January 8, 2023, 12pm – 1pm. If you would like to help take down the Christmas Decorations it would be appreciated.

Celebration Meal

Celebration meal for apportionments paid. Soup, bread and dessert on Sunday, January 8th at 12:30pm. Please join us in the Christian Education Building.

Thank you

Thank you for the gifts, Christmas Bonus, Christmas Cards and Christmas Wishes! Wishing you a Happy New Year ahead. May God's light guide your way in 2023. Pastor Carolyn, Roger Woods, Suzann Maass, James Jarvie, Susan Corcoran and Toni DeLoach.

Happy New Year from the Sunset Circle by Vicki Hall

Happy New Year from the ladies of the Sunset Circle. 2023! WOW! This year promises to bring big changes and the possibility of a sad ending of our dear church and its missions.

Yet, for now, our missions to be Jesus' hands and feet continue! This is our season for "Boxes of Joy" for college students and others our church cares about, who are far from home. We have 4 college students and 2 other young adults we want to surprise with a fun care package from their church. This month we will be packing boxes for Kyra, Ashley, and Franklin. If you would like to join us, you are welcome to attend our meeting on Thursday, January 12th at 6:30 pm.

We also continue to provide a nutritious lunch monthly for the residents and others at the Port in the Storm shelter. We will also be planning this meal at our January meeting.

There is lots to do to provide Christmas comfort & joy into the new year. If you have any questions, talk to Cheryl Jeffries, Holly Eadie, or Vicki Hall. We hope to see you on the 12th!!!

United Methodist Women

UMW will meet on January 26th at 12:00noon in the Christian Education Building. We will announce the Co-Presidents of UMW for 2023. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided. All women of the church are invited.

New Year's Day

January 1st we will have a Blended Worship Service at 10:00am. All our welcome.

Church Office Closed

Church office is closed on January 2nd.

Scripture/Message

1/01 Epiphany Sunday, New Year's Day, Communion Sunday
Blended Worship 10:00am

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 Message: Following the Star

1/8 Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17 Message: This is my Son

1/15 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: John 1:29-42 Message: Being Andrews

1/22 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23 Message: Cast your nets aside

1/29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Message: Boast in the Lord

Year End Finance Update by Vicki Hall

As we close out 2022, there are celebrations and concerns regarding the financial health of our church. We will finish the year in the black and intend to pay 100% of our 2022 apportionment obligation by the January deadline. We will need to dip into our endowment fund to do this. This is the 6th year in a row we have paid this shared mission obligation.

We have experienced a string of tough years due to a several issues. Although we continue to witness God at work in our church, we have had attendance & membership issues related to COVID restrictions, moves, illnesses, deaths, and dissatisfaction with the United Methodist Church.

For over two years our pledges and tithing have steadily declined, due to the reasons mentioned above and reported decisions to "wait and see" what happens. That is understandable, yet sadly, some folks have encouraged others to withhold their tithes during this waiting period. Meanwhile, the business and busy-ness of Shores UMC continued, even during the pandemic. Even with our concerted efforts to curb spending and additional giving by others, expenses increased, just as they have in your family budgets. I am grateful for everyone who faithfully fulfilled their pledged giving to our dear, local church.

In November, the Church Council passed a budget for 2023 that reflects a minimal increase over 2022. The increase comes from utilities and services. There will be no salary increases for our hard-working, devoted staff.

As we begin 2023 and with the upcoming disaffiliation vote, we may need to make some quick adjustments to get through the early months of the year. I have faith in our Lord and our congregation that He will guide us through these difficult times.

I became chair of the Finance Committee two years ago when the elected chair abruptly resigned. Months later, the global pandemic hit and the world turned upside down. It is my pleasure to serve with the faithful committee members, our competent business manager, and our amazing pastor. Please continue to pray for our church as we shift our sails to navigate rough waters.

WORSHIP
with us

Online Services visit
www.shoresumc.org

**8:45 am
Traditional
Worship
Service
Music led by
Roger
Woods &
Soloist**

**11:00 am
Contemporary
Worship
Service
Music led by
Praise Team**





January 6, which marks the end of the Christmas season or Christmastide. In the Western churches, Epiphany Day has marked the observance of the arrival of the wise men. In the earliest Christian traditions, maintained by the Eastern churches, the day began a period that celebrated the incarnation and baptism of Christ. The liturgical color for Epiphany Day is white.

January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Day 10:00am Blended Worship Service	2 Church Office Closed	3 6:30pm Praise Band	4 9:30am Pastor at Panera	5 1:00pm Shores at Food Pantry 6:30pm Chancel Choir	6	7
8 12:00pm Take Down Christmas Decora- tions 12:30pm Celebration Meal 2:00pm Special Called Church Conference for the Purpose of Voting	9	10 6:30pm Praise Band	11 9:30am Pastor at Panera 1:50pm After School Program	12 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm Sunset Circle	13	14
15	16	17 5:00pm Finance Committee 6:00pm Church Council 11:30am Leading Ladies 6:30pm Praise Band	18 9:30am Pastor at Panera 1:50pm After School Program	19 1:00pm Shores at Food Pantry 6:30pm Chancel Choir	20	21
22	23	24 6:30pm Praise Band	25 1:50pm After School Program	26 12:00pm United Methodist Women 6:30pm Chancel Choir	27	28
29	30	31 6:30pm Praise Band				



*St. Augustine Shores
United Methodist Church
724 Shores Boulevard
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 797-4416*

*Rev. Carolyn Westlake
cdjofrash@gmail.com
507-208-5842*

*www.shoresumc.org
shoresumc@bellsouth.net*

**Sunday Worship Schedule
8:45 am
Traditional Worship Service**

10:00 am Adult Sunday School

**10:00 am Sunday School
Ages 5-12**

**11:00 am
Contemporary Worship**

Advertise Your Business Card

Members/Friends of our church may place a business card size ad in our monthly newsletter for \$10.00 per month. Please contact the church office if you would your business card put in the newsletter.



Carole Vrana

Independent Sales Representative
St. Augustine, FL Phone: 904-806-1500
Email: carolevrana@hotmail.com
Web Site: cvrana.avonrepresentative.com