



“The Messenger”

July 2026

www.sheffieldmc.com

Email: info@sheffieldmc.com



Declaration Separation and Allegiance

Two-hundred and fifty years ago representatives from thirteen colonies said “It is time for us to separate from Great Britain and the King...” In the Declaration of Independence, they state some core beliefs regarding government, human beings, and their Creator. Then they list a history of repeated injuries and usurpations by the king.

For those reasons, the representatives declared that “These United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES... Absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown...”

As I’ve been thinking about our freedom and significant events that factor into our freedom, I have been drawn back to our spiritual bondage and allegiance; and to the fight for our freedom and life. In 1739 Charles Wesley wrote the following verse to one of my favorite hymns: “*Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature’s night; Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flames with light; my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*” Every spring, we celebrate Jesus breaking the chains of “The Fall”; the chains of sin and guilt. And on Easter we celebrate the total victory of freedom over the grave.

This may sound strange, but as I read the Declaration of Independence, I was reminded of another declaration many of us have made; a declaration made at an altar, with water. When I was baptized, and maybe when you were baptized, we made a declaration of separation and a declaration of allegiance. Here’s the statements in our Global Methodist Baptism Vows: “Do you renounce the devil and all his works, and reject the evil powers of this world?” “**I renounce them.**” “Do you repent of your sin, turn to Jesus Christ, and confess him as your Lord and Savior?” “**I do.**”

As you celebrate our nations 250th birthday give God thanks. Also thank Jesus for our spiritual salvation and freedom. And when you hear words of the Declaration of Independence, remember the declaration of separation you made, and your declaration of allegiance to Jesus, your Savior and Lord.

Bart

PS: If you’ve never made those declarations, those vows; contact me. Let’s talk.



Prayer requests

What can we pray for together?

Pray for those who are shut-in and those in nursing homes:

Frances Bryson, Margie Taliaferro, Charlene Wages, Eve Espinoza

Pray for those who are sick or in need of prayer for other things:

Dee Munger, Pam Hemphill, John & Cindy Adams, Beth Estes Denton, Howard Jagers, Carla Hamm, Kruz Davenport and his family, Randy & Mendy Gray, Thomas Sledge, Liz Wyers, Tom & Shirley Watson, Janice Nix, Amy Maxwell, Elizabeth Wright, Sylvia Ingram, Wesley Williams, Jim Murphy, McCoy Eastman (son of Savannah Eastman), Debby Tuten

General Fund June 2026

Offerings—\$35,817.02
Expenses—\$16,031.92

Our church family offers sincere condolences to the families and friends of **Howard Fay Watson** (Amanda Baker's Dad), **Wayne Percalle** (Angie's Dad, Connor's Grand dad) and **Mary Jo Morrow**. Please keep them in your prayers.



SHEFFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
PRAYER GROUP
TUESDAYS
9:30AM
JAGGERS CLASSROOM
WELCOM

Isaiah's Call
Mission 50

We need muffin mixes, granola bars, and crackers. If you would like to contribute, please bring by the church or call/text Shelley Jones 256-710-6243

Thank you for your contributions!

We will start back in August!

Small Groups for ALL ages!
Wednesday Nights @ 6pm
come join a group that suits your age group! Children's, Youth, Ladies and Men's Groups! Great time for fellowship and worship right after sharing a meal!



COMMUNITY HARVEST

— INITIATIVE —
Growing • Gathering • Giving

A faith-driven effort to provide fresh food, support, and sustainable resources to our community. ♥

Together, WE GROW. WE GIVE. ♥

JOIN US Be a part of our mission!
VOLUNTEER Serve your community
DONATE Help us grow and give

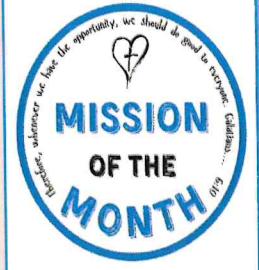
SHEFFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
701 N Montgomery Ave
Sheffield, AL 35660

"Whatever you do for one of the least of these, you do for me." MATTHEW 25:40



Mission of the Month: July 2026

Colbert Caring Center: Patriotic Jelly Drive



Our successful drive last year was so appreciated by the Colbert Caring Center team that we agreed to coordinate another drive this year. The center cannot get jelly/jam from the local food bank for distribution, so we will focus our efforts on stocking their shelves with jellies and jams. Celebrate our country's 250th birthday and put your patriotism on display by donating your favorite:

Red jelly/jam (any brand, any size)

Blue jelly/jam (any brand, any size)

Which team will be the winner? Red or blue? Please place donated items in the marked area in the sanctuary or in the Missions room across from the church office by **Sunday, August 2nd**.

Stay tuned to church announcements for more ways to participate, including helping the Mission team deliver donations at the end of the month. If you prefer to donate funds, feel free to donate any amount to the church with a designation for this project/Mission of the Month.

- July 6– Cindy Kirsch
- July 8–Ryder Taylor
- July 11– Eve Espinoza
- July 14–Howard Jagers, Jordan Pack
- July 16–Sammy Carter
- Mike Flanagan
- July 19–Matt Jones



COMMUNITY OUTREACH/SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Join the Missions team as we partner with the Church of the Highlands Serve Day Ministry in updating the landscaping on North Montgomery Avenue in downtown Sheffield.

What: Volunteer opportunity to help clean out planters, spread new mulch, and plant fresh flowers along N. Montgomery Ave.

When: Saturday, July 11th at 8:00 a.m.

Where: Meet outside the Sheffield Public Library on N. Montgomery Ave.

Wear: Your SMC t-shirt if you have one and comfortable work clothes.

Bring: Suggested to bring work gloves if you have a pair, but extras will be available.

Want to do more? Volunteers are welcome to stay on and help with cleaning, painting, and planting new flowers at the Michael Center in Sheffield.





701 N. Montgomery Ave.
Sheffield, Alabama 35660
Phone: 256-383-2124
www.sheffieldmethodist.com
Sheffield Methodist Church



Sheffield Kids/YOUTH Life

KINGDOM LIFE

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Sheffield, AL 35660

PERMIT NO. 34

Address Correction Requested

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Nursery Workers:

Morgan Dodson, Anna DeMorse,
Manning Bowlin

Our Weekly Schedule



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
IN THE SANCTUARY**

10AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for Online Worship. Please join us on
Facebook Live Sunday mornings at 10am.

You may go to our Webpage & click on the link.

Sunday School — 9AM all ages!



Wednesday Evenings

***No Wed. Meals until school starts
Youth, Kids, Adult Small Groups-6pm***

Chancel Choir Practice -7pm

JULY

2026 SMC Event Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p></p> <p>5 9am Sunday School (All ages!) 10am Worship Service</p>			<p>1 10:30am Games, Dominos 5:30 Kids-MOVE 6pm Small Groups- all ages 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	2 2:30pm Shoals Order of St. Luke	3 Church Office Closed	4  Community Serve Day in Sheffield
<p>6 9am Sunday School (All ages!) 10am Worship Service</p>	7 9:30am Prayer Group		<p>8 10:30am Games, Dominos 5:30pm Kids-Move 6pm Small Groups- all ages 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	9 2:30pm Shoals Order of St. Luke	10 Church Office Closed	11 Community Serve Day in Sheffield
<p>12 9am Sunday School (All ages!) 10am Worship Service</p>	14 9:30am Prayer Group		<p>15 10:30am Games, Dominos 5:30pm Kids-Move 6pm Small Groups- all ages 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	16 Kids Camp attendees leave	17 Church Office Closed	18 Church Office Closed
<p>19 9am Sunday School (All ages!) 10am Worship Service 4:30pm Youth Game Night</p>	21 9:30am Prayer Group 6pm Shoals Emmaus Cluster-North Wood United Methodist		<p>22 10:30am Games, Dominos 5:30pm Kids-Move 6pm Small Groups- all ages 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	23 Kids Camp attendees leave	24 Church Office Closed	25 Church Office Closed
<p>26 9am Sunday School (All ages!) 10am Worship Service Kids Camp Return Choir sings @Grace Epis. for Handy Week</p>	28 9:30am Prayer Group		<p>29 10:30am Games, Dominos 5:30pm Kids-Move 6pm Small Groups- all ages 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	30 Kids Camp attendees leave	31 Church Office Closed Lock in- Youth	



The authors of the new book, *Reaching Generation Alpha*, conducted a survey between February and April 2025 to better understand the challenges facing Generation Alpha (children born roughly between 2010 and 2024). The 714 individuals were given eight options and asked to pick the top three cultural influences they believe are influencing Gen Alpha the most. Here are the top three:

1. Social Media and Technology
2. Cultural Agenda
3. Elevation of Feelings over Facts

Questions for Parents & Guardians to Consider:

- Do you agree with the above survey results?
- Is one of the top three more influential in your child's life?
- Which one is hardest for you to address with your child?

What's Happening in July?



- KiDs Summer Program, *MOVE: Active Games for Active Faith***, each Wednesday at SMC 6-7pm, 5:30 meal
- July 12**, SMC KiDs selling lemonade with Community Harvest at 2pm
- July 23-26**, SMC KiDs travel to Student Life Kids Camp

** This information comes from *Reaching Generation Alpha: A Ministry Guide for Discipling the Church Beyond the Screen* by Shane Pruitt and Shelly Melia.