

Shields Scholarship

An endowment fund has been established to honor the memory of James and Marie Shields. The purpose of the fund is to provide academic scholarships to youth of the Chatham United Methodist Church.

In order to be awarded a scholarship for the first time, a high school senior must have been an active member of the Chatham United Methodist Church for at least one year, have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher, and be accepted for the upcoming school year in a college, university, or seminary recognized by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

If the first-time applicant is currently attending a qualifying institution, the applicant must have been an active member of the Chatham United Methodist Church during high school, be a current member of the United Methodist Church, have a college GPA of 3.0 or higher, and be enrolled in a qualifying educational institution for the upcoming school year.

If they meet the requirements in the preceding paragraph, prior recipients may apply for an additional scholarship, with the understanding that first-time applicants will be given the highest priority.

Characteristics to be considered in determining the awards will be moral character, promise of academic completion, and leadership potential. Involvement in community service and college religious activities (if applicable) shall also be a consideration.

To apply for this scholarship, first-time applicants must submit: (1) a letter stating their career goals, how their faith in Christ is making a difference in their life, and how their faith is impacting their career choice; (2) an official letter or transcript from their current school verifying their enrollment and GPA; (3) a copy of their notice of acceptance by their college, university or seminary (high school seniors only); and (4) a letter of recommendation from a leader in the Chatham United Methodist Church.

Prior recipients should submit a letter that describes how the prior award benefited her/his educational growth. Also, documentation of current enrollment and GPA in a qualifying institution (see above paragraph) should be provided.

Applicants may also submit a description of their community service activities and on-campus religious involvement (if applicable).

This scholarship will be announced on a designated Sunday in May and be presented by a member of the Shields family or by the pastor.

Deadline for applications will be provided in the Circuit Rider and the church bulletin every spring. Application letters and recommendations should be submitted to:

The Shields Scholarship Committee
Chatham United Methodist Church
104 West Chestnut
Chatham, IL 62629