



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 6, 2023

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* Charles Callahan

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rebecca Guzman

Introit *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Harold Friedell

Call to Worship Rebecca Guzman

One: To those who are hungry, Jesus says:

Many: "Come and eat! There's more than enough for all!"

One: To those who are thirsty, he says:

Many: "Come and drink! It's free for the taking!"

One: Stop wasting your money on food that doesn't satisfy.

All: Come to me, and you will find everything you need!"

Hymn *All Who Hunger Gather Gladly* No. 509

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rebecca Guzman

Generous God whose giving knows neither measure nor end, we confess that all too often we have kept our own hearts, hands and minds firmly closed. Forgive us for those times when our own wants and wishes have filled the horizon to the exclusion of all else, and made us overlook the needs and concerns of others. Forgive us for those moments when the fear that sharing what we have will lead to our own impoverishment has kept us silent and still when those around us are in need. Forgive us, God. Help us to transcend self-centeredness, greed and fear, and to always feel, think and act as those who know the hope that is rooted in the generous giving of God.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rebecca Guzman

Response of Praise

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Lindsey Odom

1. Look at the [illustration of the Gospel story](#) by Jesus MAFA. Jesus MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings. First find Jesus, then notice what various people in the painting are doing. Where are the disciples? What color are they wearing? What do you think this event was like for the different people who were there?
2. One way that people have been talking about the way that people think in recent years is called “scarcity vs. abundance.” Even though this is a newer way of thinking, it is based on a very OLD way of thinking—one that we see in the Bible story today! Basically, people who have a scarcity mindset think that there’s not enough to go around—not enough food, opportunities, justice, etc. So then they have to get what they need first, before others get to it. People with an abundance mindset know that there is enough to go around. There is enough food, enough opportunity, enough justice, enough everything, as long as we share it. Which mindset do you think Jesus has? Especially considering this story, what makes you think so? Do some googling about these two ways of thinking about the world and consider what Christians might be called to do.
3. [Loaves and Fishes](#) is an organization here in Charlotte that helps people who don’t have enough to eat. Why do you think they chose this name? Click the link and learn more about this Mission Partner and how you might be helpful to them!
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What questions does this story bring up for you?
 - b. This is a well-known story. What did you hear differently this time?
 - c. This is a miracle story. What miracles have you witnessed in your life?
 - d. Where or what are you being fed that you did not expect to be fed?

Children’s Liturgy

Rebecca Guzman

As the children four years old through third grade gather for Children’s Worship, the congregation is invited to sing (hymn no. 19):

***God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.***

Congregation: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

The children will return to join their families following the sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 55: 1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 14: 13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Compassion

Dr. Bayer

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Bayer

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he

rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

Adagio on Beach Spring

John Karl Hirten

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at www.smpchome.org/give or texting SMPC to 73256.

Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,
all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Bayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Rebecca Guzman

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .**

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.

The Words of Institution

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram), take the elements, and return to your seats. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Bayer

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

No. 498

(stanzas 1-3)

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat

1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your

(D) F (Bm) Dm

le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their
 room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you
 gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: "I am
 name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that

(G) B \flat (D) F (A) C

food for - ev - er - more.
 came as Light from Light. By your bod - y bro - ken
 with you; do not fear!"
 tell your love and care.

(Bm) (F \sharp m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
 Dm Am Dm B \flat C F

for us, by your wine of life out-poured, Je - sus, feed a -

(Bm) (G) (D)
 Dm B \flat F

gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Bayer

Congregational Response

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

No. 498

(stanza 4)

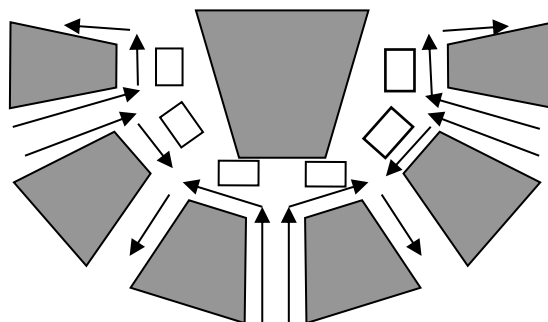
Postlude

Festive Postlude

Paul Fey

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Communion Diagram



Main floor: Ushers will direct by row; please follow the arrows.
Balcony: Ushers will direct worshippers to a communion station.

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Lindsey Odom, Director of Youth Ministry
Ann Carney, organist

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Bob Cushman, Mitchell Davis, Craig Parrish,
Gwen Volker, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Kathy Rasimas, Chad, Allison and Zac Reeves

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Aubrey and Avery Allegetti's eleventh birthday by their grandparents, Laurann and Blake Robertson.

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! If you are joining us in person or online, are a first-time visitor, a long-term member, or anything in between, we are glad that you are worshiping with us and we want to stay connected with you. To receive our emails, sent on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org. Also, find us on Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres) and Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian).

A note to parents: We are so delighted that you and your children are here! Children are an integral part of our faith community, and we strive to support parents during worship. Here are some helpful things to know:

- Children are welcome in worship. We understand that means wiggles!
- We provide blue worship totes in the Narthex to help children engage in worship. Please return the totes after the service.
- There is a nursery located in the Palmer Building with dedicated staff who are happy to keep your infant - three year old safe.
- Children's Worship is provided for children ages 4 through 3rd grade. The children gather after the Church Family Moment and return after the sermon. During this time, they will explore the story interactively and engage with their peers.
- A glider and changing table are available in Room 302 for mothers who wish to have privacy while nursing.
- During worship, the service is broadcast to the parlor, where there is more space to move around if your little one becomes restless.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, August 27 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, nancy@smpchome.org or 980-265-2839.

Congregational Notes (as of August 2, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- All those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org.



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies outside between the sanctuary and chapel buildings. Come meet friends old and new!

Registry pads are located on your pew. Please sign and pass to your neighbor and perhaps speak to someone you haven't met! If you would like more information about SMPC or have prayer concerns, please complete a Welcome Card located in the pew rack.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
AUG. 8
1:00 p.m. -
2:30 p.m.

A Caregiver's Journey
McQueen Room

Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Facilitated by Kathy Garner (SMPC Faith Ambassador through the Alzheimer's Association).
Contact: Dr. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

tuesday
AUG. 8
7:30 p.m.

Men's Evening Study Group
Chapel 206

This new group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. We are studying the book *Courage* by Tom Berlin. All are welcome. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

thursday
AUG. 10
9:00 a.m.

Shelter Ministry
Mecklenburg Hall

This ministry meets to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Empty Rx vials are always needed.
Contact Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

thursday
AUG. 10
10:00 a.m.

Beginning to Ring
Sanctuary

Learn how to play the handbells while having tons of fun. Ages high school and up are welcome. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

thursday
AUG. 10
1:00 p.m.

SMPC Golf Tournament
Carolina Lakes Golf Club

Rescheduled from June. For all levels. Join us! Register on Realm.
Contact Ron Morgan, rbmorgan943@aol.com.

thursday
AUG. 10
12:30 p.m.

Food for Thought Book Group
McQueen Room

We are reading *Surviving Savannah* by Patti Callahan. All are welcome! Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

saturday
AUG. 12
8:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Mecklenburg Hall

Please bring your donor I.D. card or driver's license. Register with QR code. Contact: Tierra Sandeen, tierrad@hotmail.com.



Blood Drive

sunday
AUG. 13
8:00 p.m.

Become a Reading or Math Buddy for
Smithfield Elementary

Learn more on this Zoom call. No prior tutoring or teaching experience needed! Please register on Realm or the QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



Zoom Call

NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Now through August 20 we are collecting school supplies for the students of Smithfield Elementary School. You'll find bins in the narthex for donated school supplies. Additionally, you can purchase items on their Amazon wishlist. Scan the QR code for more info.



Supplies for
Smithfield

All Church Serves - Sort and Pack Backpacks for Smithfield Elementary School

Sunday, August 27, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Children, youth and adults are invited sort and pack backpacks with donated supplies for Smithfield Elementary School. Light breakfast items will be served. We will bless the backpacks in worship that morning at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Register for the All Church Serves on Realm or via the QR code.



Register for All
Church Serves

Donate Bagged Lunches for Roof Above

Saturday, August 19

If you're looking for a summer service opportunity the whole family can be a part of, please consider making bagged lunches for our Roof Above neighbors who are experiencing hunger and homelessness. Our next delivery date is Saturday, August 19, and we are in need of bagged lunches! Please see more details and sign up via QR code.



Bagged Lunches

Important Update on SMPC Missions/Outreach

Thanks to the generosity of SMPC members and friends, we were able to quickly respond to two important missions and outreach needs in the last week!

SMPC responded immediately to Charlotte's food insecurity crisis with a \$1,000 donation to Loaves and Fishes. In addition, SMPC collected 324 pounds of food for Loaves and Fishes from Vacation Bible School/Mission Possible donations! Our Mission Possible youth delivered the food as part of their week of service.

Also last week SMPC funded a critical need for our friends at OFCB Ministries, a church/school in Haiti. SMPC sent \$3520 to help fund school operations and school food for the month of August. This is in addition to the normal funding to OFCB from our SMPC Mission Budget.

FACES OF FAITH

This summer we've launched a weekly series called "Faces of Faith" where we spotlight SMPC members and learn about how their faith and involvement in the church have impacted their lives. This week is Richard Franseen!

Name: Richard Franseen

Family: My wife, Dolores, and I moved to Charlotte in 2007 to be closer to our daughter and son-in-law, Loren and George Brown, and their five children. Dolores passed away in 2021.

Years at SMPC: I joined in April 2022



What are some of your favorite ways to connect with other active adults at SMPC? Anything to do with food! You can find me at Coffee Grounds after worship – I enjoy engaging in conversation with other members there. Keeping with the food theme, I also attend the International Dining Group and Thursday morning the Big View Diner fellowship breakfasts. It's great trying out new restaurants in the area while getting to know other SMPC members. I've also really liked attending the Tuesday Evening Men's Study Group led by Jon Myers and various study sessions led by Rebecca Guzman. Another way I've been able to connect at SMPC is through the Boys Scouts Troop 119. I became an Eagle Scout in 1954 and am so glad to be able to volunteer in various capacities with the troop here.