

FALL 2023

SOUTH MECK PRESS

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FROM OUR PASTOR

DR. MATT BROWN

Dear Members and Friends of South Mecklenburg,

Go to the notes app on your phone, grab a sheet of copy paper, pull off a post-it note, open a spiral notebook, get out your diary, purchase a papyrus, or turn to the empty side of the envelope, but don't put it off for another day. In fact, it is a habit you should try to develop for each day. Write down ten things that are representative of good in your life. Is it your kid? Write the name down. Did you enjoy a few days of vacation? Write down the destination. Were you the beneficiary of an act of kindness? Put it in print. Did you do something for someone that brought you no profit but the smile of witnessing their joy? Mark it. Did you bake bread, plant flowers, or take a walk? Write it down. Did you hold your tongue instead of adding to the static noise of societal anger? Print that in bold letters.

Join us in an experiment this fall. Let's see if there is any truth in the notion that GOOD begets GOODNESS. If we are intentionally conscious of the good that has permeated our lives, will we be more inclined to be bearers of such good to others? Will we be more motivated to contribute to the common good? The Apostle Paul challenges us to "hold fast to what is good." Similarly, James offers this for us to ponder: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom."

These pages highlight opportunities to embrace goodness in a variety of ways. Shall GOOD beget GOODNESS? Let's find out together.

Grace and Peace,
Matt



Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:10 am or via livestream
Follow us on Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian & Instagram: @southmeckpres
smpchome.org

FURRY FRIENDS INVITED TO SPECIAL BLESSING THIS FALL

Bring your beloved furry friend(s) to a special Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, November 5, 3:15-4:00 p.m. on the fields behind the Palmer Building.



Please make sure your pet is properly trained and restrained (on leash or in a crate) and please stay with your pet at all times. Be mindful of your pet's ability to be in a crowd with other animals. If your pet is more comfortable staying home or if your pet has passed away, we still invite you to join us and bring a photo of your pet for the blessing. Please, no reptiles!

Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Chancel Choir
Adults

Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Choir Room (Chapel Building)

Chancel Ringers
Adult Handbells

Wednesdays - 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Jubilate Choir
Middle and High School
Sundays - 4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Jubilate Ringers
Middle and High School Handbells
Sundays - 4:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

BAM! (Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs)
Children in grades K-2 (Hosanna Choir) and 3-5 (Alleluia Choir)
Select Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST 27, 9:00-10:00 AM, MECKLENBURG HALL
ALL CHURCH SERVES

AUGUST 27, DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

AUGUST 27, 5:00 PM, SMPC
ORDINATION OF LINDSEY ODOM



SEPTEMBER 5 & 6
SMPC PRESCHOOL'S FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

SEPTEMBER 10, 9:00 AM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 10, 5:00-6:30 PM, NARTHEX
BIBLE AND MUSIC (BAM!) KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 10, 5:00-6:15 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL
BIG YOUTH GROUP (BYG) RESUMES

SEPTEMBER 16 AND 17, ON CAMPUS & CAMP CANAAN
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 17, 4:00 PM OR SEPTEMBER 18, NOON
C.A.R.E. GROUP RESUME (NEW GROUPS BEGIN IN OCT.)

SEPTEMBER 22-25, MYRTLE BEACH
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT

OCTOBER 1, 11:30 AM, MCQUEEN ROOM
BELIEVING & BELONGING WITH LUNCH

OCTOBER 8, 11:15 AM
BBQ LUNCH ON THE GROUNDS

OCTOBER 14, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, SMPC
PARENTS' MORNING OUT

OCTOBER 22, SMPC CAMPUS
CROP WALK

NOVEMBER 5, DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP
2024 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN - COMMITMENT SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 5, 3:15 PM, SMPC FIELDS
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

For the most up-to-date church information, please subscribe to our weekly email. Email Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org to be added to the list.



YOU ARE INVITED!
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

AUGUST 27
DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP

Bring your backpack!

ENGAGE AND CHANGE TOGETHER

"To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." -Micah 6

If you enjoyed reading our All Church Reads book last spring, *The Colorful Image of God* by church member Katherine Martin, and want to continue the conversation on racial equity, here are a few ideas to get you started this fall:

Conversation Around Race Equity (C.A.R.E.) Groups

Current C.A.R.E. Groups will resume meeting in September. A new C.A.R.E. Group starts this October! Date and time will be announced soon. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Visit the Birthplace of Sit-In Movement

Join other SMPC members and friends as we travel to Greensboro's International Civil Rights Center & Museum on Monday, October 2. The museum is built around the original F.W. Woolworth lunch counter where four Black North Carolina A&T students protested the store's "Whites only" policy.

We will meet in SMPC's parking lot at 7:45 a.m. and leave promptly at 8 a.m. The museum-staff-guided tour is \$20 per person and is approximately 90 minutes. Register on Realm or via the QR code. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Tune in to "Tough Topic Tuesdays"

Starting this fall, Director of Spiritual Formation Rebecca Guzman will lead discussions on Zoom on a variety of tough topics around racial equity. More information to come! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



NEW ADULT STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK STARTS THIS FALL

Join us this fall as we walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus – the Gospel of Mark. We will follow scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she examines John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables.

This six-week study, led by Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman, will meet Sundays beginning September 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the McQueen Room.

Please sign up on Realm or via the QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



LEARN MORE ABOUT SMPC & THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about SMPC, join us on Sunday, October 1 at 11:30 a.m. for Believing and Belonging. Lunch will be served!

Led by Director of Spiritual Formation Rebecca Guzman and Director of Hospitality and Connection Nancy Metzler, we will explore the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian church and how God uses our gifts to create community. Please register on Realm. Contact Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

REGISTER FOR THE ALL CHURCH SERVES FOR SMITHFIELD SCHOOL

On Sunday, August 27 at 9:00 a.m., we invite children, youth and adults to join us in Mecklenburg Hall for a school supply sort and pack for Smithfield Elementary School. Light breakfast items will be served. Stuffed backpacks will be blessed at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks in worship that morning. Please register on Realm or via QR code.



BAM! (Bible and Music) is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Pizza is served!

We kick off Sunday, September 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the narthex!

IMPORTANT: Please register on Realm by the Friday prior to each BAM! night. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

Select Sundays 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**South
Mecklenburg**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8601 Bryant Farms Road
Charlotte, NC 28277
Return Service Requested

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CHARLOTTE, NC



**EVERYTHING
GOOD**
Hebrews 13:20-21

**2024 OPERATING
FUND CAMPAIGN**

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY
IS NOVEMBER 5**



**MIDDLE & HIGH
SCHOOLERS
WELCOME**

SMPC Youth is a Christ-centered youth ministry where middle and high schoolers know they belong, can explore and grow in their faith, and feel inspired by Christ's love to go and serve. We have tons of fun events and fellowship opportunities planned for the fall.
Join us - and invite a friend!
Follow us on Instagram @smpcyouth

Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org



South Meck Press is a quarterly publication from South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church. For more worship, study, and fellowship opportunities, please visit smpchome.org.