



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

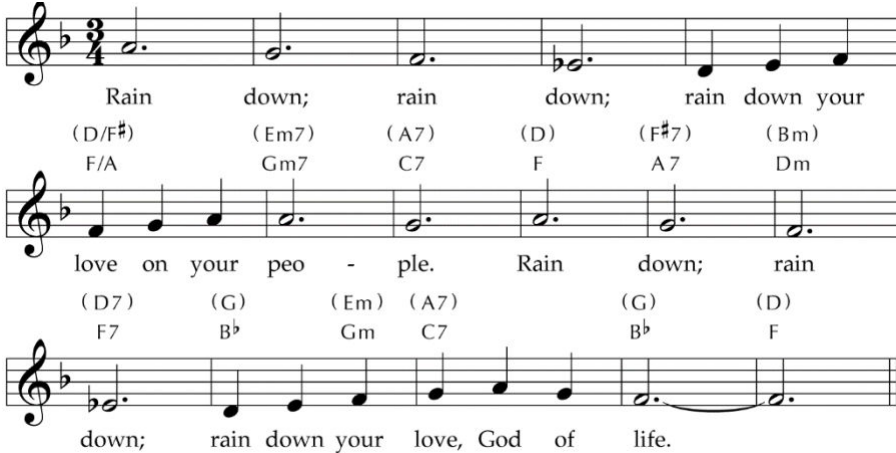
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Pastorale* Douglas Wagner

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Matthew S. Brown

Introit *Rain Down* No. 48
(1st time: Cantor, 2nd time: choir, 3rd time: all)



Rain down; rain down; rain down your
 (D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D) (F#7) (Bm)
 F/A Gm7 C7 F A7 Dm

love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain
 (D7) (G) (Em) (A7) (G) (D)
 F7 B^b Gm C7 B^b F

down; rain down your love, God of life.

Call to Worship Brooke Hicks

One: I cried out to the Lord out of my distress,

Many: and God answered me.

One: Out of the belly of She'ol, I cried,

Many: and God heard my voice.

One: The water closed in over me,

Many: and the deep surrounded me,

One: but then I remembered the Lord,

Many: and my prayer came to you, O Lord,

One: into your holy temple.

All: For deliverance belongs to the Lord! Let us worship God. Amen.

Hymn

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

No. 23



1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan - ets, fill the seas and
2 You have called us to be faith - ful in our life and
3 God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to

(D) (A) (D) (Bm) (G) (D) (G) (A) (D)
E^b B^b E^b Cm A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b



spread the plain, mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth
min - is - try. We re - spond in grate-ful wor-ship joined in
life made new. Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's

(G) (D) (A) (D) (G) (D) (A)
A^b E^b B^b E^b A^b E^b B^b



sun - shine, wind, and rain. We, cre - at - ed in your im - age,
one com - mu - ni - ty. When we blur your gra - cious im - age,
work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all dis - tor-tion.

(D) (Bm)(F#m) (G)(A) (D) (G)
E^b Cm Gm A^b B^b E^b A^b



would a true re - flec - tion be of your jus - tice,
fo - cus us and make us whole. Healed and strength - ened
Pol - ish us with lov - ing care. Thus, new crea - tures

(D) (G) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A) (D)
E^b A^b B^b E^b A^b Fm E^b B^b E^b



grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us free.
as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.
in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

Loving God, you desire to gather us together in community. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. (*silent confession*) Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Dr. Bayer

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

Rebecca Guzman

1. Jonah makes a “U Turn” in our passage today. He turns around and makes a different decision. Color [this page](#) that says, “U Turns Allowed” and think about a time when you were doing something that you knew was wrong and chose to make a different decision. Hang your sign up as a reminder that God always offers us the chance to turn things around.
2. Play hide and seek! When you get tired of playing, discuss whether or not we can hide from God. Why or why not? Why do you think Jonah tried?
3. Pretend you are Jonah, and write a journal for each day that he spent inside the big fish. What does he see? Hear? Smell? What is he thinking about? What happens each day?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. How do you think Jonah felt inside the fish?
 - b. Why do you think this story is in the Bible?
 - c. Have you ever tried to hide from God? What happened?
 - d. Have you ever turned around and made a different decision? What was that like?

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. Bayer

First Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:15-24

Dr. Bayer

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Anthem

Come to the Water

arr. Lynda Hasseler

Chancel Choir; Collin Sinclair, soloist; Diane Carrouth, piano

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.

*And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
without money, without price.*

Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.

*And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
without money, without strife.*

Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.

*And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
all who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest,
except for the Lord?*

And let all the poor, let them come to the water,

*Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
bring the children without might.*

Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.

Second Reading

Jonah 1: 17- 2:10

Dr. Brown

But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, "I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, "I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?" The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God. As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!" Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Fish Camp

Dr. Brown

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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Dr. Bayer
... (unison) **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.**

Offertory *Call of the Water* Kathleen Wissinger
Chancel Ringers; Xander Case, percussion

This compelling piece evokes dawn at the shoreline and the promise of a day on the water – gentle pastel ripples at first, then fresh air and invigorating spray, and finally soft sunset on the water at the end.

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.***

Prayer of Dedication James Martin
Gracious God, we thank you for pouring your blessings out upon all your children. Bless these gifts and offerings that they might bring hope to the hopeless and peace to those who are tossing and turning with uncertainty. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* No. 721

1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore look - ing
 2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat
 3 You need my hands, full of car - ing, through my
 4 You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er

nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones; you on - ly
 car - ries no gold and no weap - ons; ¶ you will
 la - bors to give oth - ers rest - ant and con - stant
 longed for by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing

asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
 find there my nets and la - bor.
 love that keeps on lov - ing.
 friend, as thus you call me:

Refrain / Estribillo

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while
 Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do g los o - jos, son - ri -

smil - ing have spo - ken my name; now my
 en - do has di - cho mi nom - bre, en la g -

boat's left on the shore - line be - hind me. By your
 re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca, jun - to g

side I will seek oth - er seas.

Congregational Meeting

Leisa Lackey

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response *Rain Down*
(all sing twice)

No. 48

Rain down; rain down; rain down your
 (D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D) (F#7) (Bm)
 F/A Gm7 C7 F A7 Dm

love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain
 (D7) (G) (Em) (A7) (G) (D)
 F7 Bb Gm C7 Bb F

down; rain down your love, God of life.

Postlude *The Lord Is My Light* Mary McDonald

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Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor
 Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor
 Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist
 Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
 Chancel Choir
 Chancel Ringers
 Collin Sinclair, soloist
 Diane Carrouth, piano
 Xander Case, percussion
 Brooke Hicks, James Martin, liturgists

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Dick Engle, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson, Jim Williams, Bob Williamson, David Wooley

Welcome Team: Kathy and Jimmy Galati, Bjorn Hansen

The flowers in worship this morning are given by Terry and Dave Gaines to the glory of God and in memory of Terry's mother, Nancy Hansford.

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. These emails contain a weekly devotion and information about upcoming worship services and church activities. Also, find us on Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian) and Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres).

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.
- 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, September 24 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 September 14, 2023)

Remember in Prayer

- All those affected by the flooding in Libya and the earthquake in Morocco.
- 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

today
SEPT. 17
&
monday
SEPT. 18

C.A.R.E. (Conversations Around Race Equity)
Sunday, September 17, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Chapel 206, and Monday, September 18, 12:00
p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Zoom
Current C.A.R.E. Groups only. If you would like to join a new group starting this fall, please scan the QR code for more information. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.



today
SEPT. 18
8:00 p.m. -
8:30 p.m.

Follow-Up Meeting for Smithfield Reading/Math Buddies and Tutors
Zoom
You do not have to have attended the initial Zoom meeting. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday
SEPT. 19
10:00 a.m.

Handiworkers Group
Room 104, Palmer Building
All knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters (beginners, experts, and anything in between) are invited. We meet weekly to work on projects (to keep and to donate). Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.

wednesday
SEPT. 20
9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Matt Brown
Chapel 206 and Zoom
We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Evening session resume date to be determined. Contact: Matt Brown for the Zoom ID#, matt@smpchome.org.

thursday
SEPT. 21
12:30 p.m.

Food for Thought Book Group
McQueen Room
We are reading *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb. Everyone is welcome! Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

thursday
SEPT. 21
6:00 p.m.

International Dining Group
Waldhorn Restaurant, 12101 Lancaster Highway, Pineville, NC
This group loves to eat out! RSVP by Tuesday, September 19 to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com.

SCOUT TROOPS 119 & 219 ANNUAL BBQ & CHILI SALE

Troops 119 and 219 are selling BBQ and veggie chili in the church parking lot today! You can also order online and get more info on BBQ and chili pickup by scanning the QR code.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Believing and Belonging, October 1, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., McQueen Room - For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about being Presbyterian and SMPC, join us for Believing and Belonging! Led by Rebecca Guzman and Nancy Metzler, we will explore the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian church and how God uses our gifts to create community. Lunch will be served and childcare will be available. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.



SMPC Field Trip to Greensboro's International Civil Rights Center & Museum, Monday, October 2, Meet in SMPC Parking Lot at 7:45 a.m., Depart at 8:00 a.m. - 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. The museum-staff-guided tour is \$20 per person and is approximately 90 minutes. Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.



BBQ Lunch on the Grounds, October 8, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., The Grounds at SMPC - Join us after worship for a BBQ lunch on the grounds catered by The Q Shack. We'll enjoy barbecued chicken and pork with a choice of sauces along with mac and cheese, salad, buns, hushpuppies, tea and lemonade. Adults: \$12; Children ages 4 - 10: \$7; Children under 4: Free. Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com.

Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, October 10, 11:30 a.m., Ted's Montana Grill, 7404 Waverly Walk Ave. - Join friends old and new! Everyone is invited | RSVP by Saturday, October 7 to Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.



Parents' Morning Out, Saturday, October 14, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Meet in the Narthex - All children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are welcome to join us for Parents' Morning Out! We will play games, do crafts, watch a Bible story movie, and have a fun snack! The cost is \$10/child to cover the materials. Sign up on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Two Upcoming Opportunities to Serve Our Haitian Friends Friends Empowering Haiti (formerly Friends of OFCB) is raising money to purchase food for the school in Bayonnais, Haiti. The school provides lunch each day for the 2,500 students who are enrolled in the four campuses, and it is often the only food the students receive that day. Donate via the QR code or under "Give" at smpchome.org.



Mark your calendars! On **Sunday, October 8** at the start of worship, a representative from Ewo and Pastor Actionnel Fleurisma, founder of OFCB, will be sharing their excitement about student sponsorships in Bayonnais, Haiti. We hope you will drop by the table in the Narthex to learn more and prayerfully consider changing the life of a Haitian student through sponsorship.

Contact: Judy Jones, judy21jones@gmail.com.



2023 CROP Hunger Walk Date Announced - Join the Team or Donate Now!

We will host our own walk on the SMPC grounds on October 22. We'll gather at 2:00 p.m. and walk at 2:30 p.m. We hope you'll join us! Contact: Bob Cushman, rtcushman@yahoo.com.

A Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing elders and deacons will be held on Sunday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. Nominations put forth by SMPC's Nominating Committee follow.

Nominations for the Office of Elder



Dave Gaines and his wife, Terry, joined SMPC in 2004. Dave is an ordained elder and has previously served on the Session at SMPC. Dave has served as chairperson for the Stewardship Committee and two capital campaigns. Dave currently serves on the Funds Management Committee. Dave has volunteered for years with BSA Troop 219, which meets at SMPC. Dave and Terry have two adult children, Natalie and Eric, who grew up at SMPC. Dave is a retired banking executive and enjoys traveling, hiking and fishing.



Gayle Ireland and her husband, Curt, joined SMPC in 1994. Gayle is an ordained elder and has previously served on the Session at SMPC. Gayle has chaired and served on the Outreach, Stewardship and Capital Campaign committees. She has also taught adult Sunday School and co-chaired the last Music Director Search Committee. She is a member of the Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers. Curtis and Gayle have one son, Parker, who grew up at SMPC and lives in Charlotte with his wife, Amanda. Gayle is CEO of Vocci, LLC, a market research firm (and is looking forward to retirement in the next few months!).



Lisa Kuszmar and her husband, Ed, joined SMPC in 2016. Lisa has served on the Capital Campaign Committee and currently serves on the Stewardship Committee. She recently joined the Chancel Choir and often makes meals for new mothers at SMPC. Lisa and Ed have two children, Katherine (8th grade) and Courtney (5th grade). Lisa is senior vice president of marketing at Amwins and enjoys spending time with her family (all members of SMPC - parents, Kurt and Rose Weinheimer, and sisters, Kristen Angerer and Jenny Gates), as well as reading and making soup.



Lillian McAnally has attended SMPC since her birth in 2007. Lillian is an active member of the SMPC Youth Group and has attended several youth retreats including Massanetta and Montreat. Lillian has served as youth representative on the Children's and Vision Planning Committee for 3 years and is a confirmation mentor this year. Lillian is a junior at Ardrey Kell High School and is on the cross country team. She rides and shows horses under the dressage discipline and will be participating on the Virginia Interscholastic Equestrian Association team this winter.



Jon Myers and his wife, Crystal, joined SMPC in February 2015. They have two boys, Grayson (8) and Caeden (6). Jon leads the Tuesday Evening Men's Group and serves on SMPC's Membership Committee. Jon works in healthcare administration in a leadership role at Atrium Health in the Medical Group Division.

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Nominations for the Office of Deacon



Michael Choren grew up at SMPC and has been a member since he was confirmed in 1999. Michael and his wife, Marla, have two daughters, Blair (5) and Brooke (2). Michael serves on the Stewardship Committee, and has played on SMPC's Men's Softball Team for over 10 years. Michael, Blair and Michael's mom (church member Lina Griffiths) can often be spotted on Sunday mornings serving on the Welcome Team!



Richard Franseen joined SMPC in 2022. Richard and his late wife, Dolores, came to Charlotte from Houston in 2007 to be near their daughter's family. Their previous church home was Westwood Baptist Church in Springfield, VA, where Richard served as a deacon and taught Sunday school. Richard received first communion as a youth in the Catholic Church in New Orleans, earned Eagle Scout at 14 in Dallas, holds BA and BSME degrees from Rice University, served as an Army Lieutenant during Vietnam years, and retired from federal service in 1995. His second full-time career as a professional engineer ended in 2015, and his third as a consulting engineer is ongoing.



Susan Hicks and her husband, Wyatt, joined SMPC in 2008. She previously served as chairperson of the Board of Deacons. Susan has also served as a VBS volunteer, chairperson of the Missions/Outreach Committee, and member of the Nominating Committee. She currently serves on the Food and Transportation ministries and as a confirmation mentor. Susan and Wyatt have three daughters, Brooke (17), Addison (17) and Emery (13). Susan works as a nurse with Novant Health and enjoys attending her daughters' sporting events, reading and spending time with family and friends.



Marge Kruse and her late husband, Dick, joined SMPC in 2012. Marge has enjoyed being the snack lady for VBS for a few years, sings in the Chancel Choir and volunteers on the Hospitality Committee. Marge is retired from Bank of America, and she enjoys family time, reading, traveling and pool workouts.



Tom Massey and his wife, Sarah, joined SMPC in 2016. Tom has participated in Matt Brown's Wednesday Morning Bible Study for years and served as a greeter pre-Covid. Tom is an ordained elder, and in a previous congregation he taught Confirmation, wrote welcome letters to visitors, and inaugurated and managed in-home communion for home-bound church members. Tom and Sarah have one son, Tom Jr., who lives in Aberdeen, NC, with his wife, Kristen, and their two daughters, Payton and Rebecca. Tom is a retired Air Force pilot, instructed US Airways pilots, and taught High School English. He enjoys golf, aviation, guitars and writing.



Crystal Myers and her husband, Jon, joined SMPC in 2015. They have two boys, Grayson (8) and Caeden (6). Crystal is a member of the Rain or Shine Mom's Group. She has served on the Nominating Committee, assisted with Common Ground, and led the Baby Ministry in the past. Crystal is a physical therapist and the founder of an independent practice - Meaningful Movement.