



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## A Service of Worship

Second Sunday in Lent

Camp & Retreat Sunday

February 25, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

### We Gather

**Prelude**                      *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*                      arr. Carol Tornquist

**Welcome and Concerns of the Church**                      Rebecca Guzman

**Moment for Mission**                      Joel Winchip

**Introit**                      *Sanctuary*                      Thompson/Scruggs  
*(1<sup>st</sup> time, Choir; 2<sup>nd</sup> time, All)*

**Call to Worship**                      James Martin

**One:** If we come here hoping you will confirm all our beliefs and values,

**Many: Convict us that our thoughts are not Your thoughts.**

**One:** If we come here uncertain we are welcome,

**Many: Embrace us in Your loving arms.**

**One:** If we come here longing for your word,

**Many: Open our ears to hear it.**

**One:** If we come here merely out of habit,

**Many: Meet us as we are and transform us into what you call us to be.**

**All: How ever we come here, let us now worship God!**

**Hymn**    *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*                      No. 385

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he  
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

God of the spirit of kindness, in the glory of earth and sea and stars, in the kaleidoscope of color and shade and shapeliness, in the patterns of humor and tenderness and touch, we celebrate your generosity. Forgive us when we forget the gift in our every breath, the care that sustains our every moment, the grace that can transform our every day. Set us free from the prison of grudging hearts, mean desires, resentful spirits. Give us the courage to act with justice and generosity, and draw us into love that does not calculate or keep scores. (*Silent prayer*) Amen.

**Assurance of God's Grace**

Rev. Odom

**Affirmation of Mercy**

No. 447

***We are forgiven, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
 We are forgiven, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

**We Hear and Respond to the Word**

**Church Family Moment**

Rebecca Guzman

1. Today is Camp and Retreat Sunday! One of the youth group's favorite energizers that they learned at the Massanetta Springs and Montreat

youth conferences is called “Revolution.” We’re going to learn it in Children’s Worship today. [Here](#) is a version with instructions and [one](#) from Montreat.

2. This is an Alphabet Psalm. Each lettered verse is a separate prayer within the larger prayer. Make an acrostic prayer! Maybe you will use a name for God, like Savior, Shepherd, or Creator. Maybe you will use your own name and talk about what God is like for you.
3. Our Lenten word for today is “Truth.” Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *Ruthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie*. Ruthie was a lover of teeny tiny things. Ruthie finds a teeny tiny camera on the playground at school and when the real owner asked her to return it, she claimed that it was hers. She lied to the teacher when she was asked if she was the owner. Ruthie learns why lying is a bad choice. Why is it important to tell the truth?
4. Journal, considering the following:
  - a. What spiritually formational experiences have you had at camps, retreats, and conference centers? How have they impacted you?
  - b. What is the truth? How do we know the truth?
  - c. What’s important about telling the truth?

#### **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. 399):*

***God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God’s love is strong and it never ends. God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God’s love is strong and it never ends.***

**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**

Rev. Odom

#### **First Reading**

Psalm 25:1-10

Rev. Odom

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

**Anthem**

*Lead Me, Lord*

arr. Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir; Laura Schelhammer, flute; Ann Carney, piano

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, longing for their Lord,  
for God's coming kingdom shall be theirs.*

*Blessed are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled,  
and the meek shall come to rule the world.*

*Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth  
to seek and to find the narrow way.*

*Be my way; be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, today.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs,  
and the pure in heart shall see their God.*

*Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill,  
for I say they shall be satisfied.*

*Blest are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace;  
all will call them children of the Lord.*

*Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life,  
for in heaven, great is your reward.*

**Second Reading**

Luke 23:43

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Truth

Dr. Brown

**The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

Dr. Whitney Bayer

From: The Theological Declaration of Barmen

*Written by representatives of Lutheran, Reformed, and United churches of Germany in 1934 to oppose any accommodation of German Christians and churches to the Nazi regime of Adolph Hitler.*

**Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.**

**We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation.**

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.**

**We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords—areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.**

**The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer** George Elledge  
... *(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** Daniel Barta  
*Lead Me in Your Truth*  
Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs; Ann Carney, piano  
*Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
For you are the God of my salvation.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
On you I wait all the day.  
Lord, lead and teach me,  
On you I wait all the day.*

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

**Doxology**  
*O suff'ring Jesus, in these forty days.  
We view your sorrow, share in your distress.  
Our Lenten songs are filled with muted praise;  
Yet by your passion, we are truly blessed.  
We praise the Father! We praise you, the Son!  
We praise the Spirit, our God, Three in One.*

**Prayer of Dedication** Caroline Guy  
**Creator of all things, everything on earth is yours. We have nothing that can make you richer, for it all comes from you in the first place. What we have we bring. Receive and bless these gifts for your holy work, and bless those who offer them to you. Amen.**

**We Go Out to Serve**



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;  
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;  
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;  
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response

No. 616

***Our God is an awesome God  
who reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, power, and love;  
our God is an awesome God!  
(1<sup>st</sup> time, Choir; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> time, All)***

### Worship Service Notes

#### Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth and Missions/Outreach

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs  
Laura Schelhammer, flute  
Ann Carney, piano  
James Martin, George Elledge, Caroline Guy, liturgists

**Acolyte:** Claire Overcash, Olivia Overcash

**A/V Team:** Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

**Deacon/Elder of the Day:** Adrienne Jaquith

**Ushers:** Don Ayers, Bob Cushman, Mitchell Davis, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson, Michael Zagora

**Welcome Team:** Dana Hefner, Wells Hefner, Jack Hess, Leanne Royster

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](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org). These emails contain a weekly devotion and information about upcoming worship services and church activities. Also, find us on Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](#) and Instagram: [@southmeckpres](#).

Our liturgists today all have a connection to camp and conference ministry in some way. Ask them about it after worship!

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 301 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 today at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.

**Congregational Notes** (as of February 22, 2024)

### Remember in Prayer

- Cindy Fisher and her family, as her sister, Carolyn Sue Goodwin Schorr, entered the Church triumphant on February 15.
- Katie Gravender, as she recovers from surgery.
- All those caught in the crossfire of warfare in Israel and Gaza.
- 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](mailto: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](http://smpchome.org)



## WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies in Coffee Grounds, located in the narthex. 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!

### THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today  
**FEB. 25**  
5:00 p.m. -  
6:30 p.m.

**Laser Tag and Bowling**  
**Sports Connection, 11611 Ardrey Kell Road**  
**Middle and High Schoolers**  
We'll meet at Sports Connection and have fun with laser tag and bowling! Cost is \$25/person. Please bring extra spending money. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

tuesday  
**FEB. 27**  
10:00 a.m.

**Handiworkers Group**  
**Room 104, Palmer Building**  
Knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited - all levels! Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.

tuesday  
**FEB. 27**  
7:30 p.m.

**Men's Tuesday Evening Study Group**  
**Chapel 206**  
This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. They are watching a video series called *Strange Book of Books* that dives into the origins of different stories in the Bible. All are invited. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday  
**FEB. 28**  
9:30 a.m.

**Conversations with Matt Brown**  
**McQueen Room and Zoom**  
We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Contact: Matt Brown for the Zoom ID#, matt@smpchome.org.

thursday  
**FEB. 29**  
7:00 p.m.

**Walters State Community College Chamber Choir Concert**  
**Sanctuary**  
The Chamber Choir from Walters State Community College in Morristown, TN will perform at SMPC during their stop in Charlotte for their spring tour! No cost to attend and all are invited! Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

friday  
**MAR. 1**  
7:30 a.m. -  
8:30 a.m.

**Friday Morning Men's Group**  
**Chapel 206**  
This group meets on the first and third Fridays of every month. They are starting a new book: *The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing What Matters Most* by Matthew Kelly. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

sunday  
**MAR. 3**  
9:00 a.m. -  
10:00 a.m.

**Lenten Adult Bible Study: Seven Last Words**  
**McQueen Room and Zoom**  
This study explores the seven last phrases Jesus uttered from the cross as seen and heard by those who stood near. This six-week study, led by Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman, concludes on Palm Sunday, March 24. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



### "SEVEN LAST WORDS": LENT AT SMPC

We hope you'll join us this Lenten season for worship, study, service and fellowship. Register for events and find out more on our website. Pick up a Lenten devotional in the Connections Center or email Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BAM! Bible and Music, Sunday, March 3, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Meet in Narthex, Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade** - During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. They occasionally sing, play instruments, or display their creations during Sunday worship. We end with a pizza dinner and free play time. BAM! is a great way for children to form friendships with other kids at church. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

**BYG (Big Youth Group), Sunday, March 3, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers** - BYG is held on the first Sundays of each month during the school year. BYG provides an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and love through bible study, small group time, good food, fun games, and amazing company. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**Men's Breakfast Group, Thursday, March 7, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy** - This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, March 9, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons** - Please sign up to donate blood or volunteer at the drive. Scan QR code to find our *Serve our Community* page and links to donate or volunteer. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.



**SMPC Campus Workday, Saturday, March 16, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** - Many hands make light work! Contact: Collin Sinclair, collinbsinclair@gmail.com.



**Intergenerational Trivia and Mission Night, Sunday, March 17, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall**- All are invited to SMPC's Family Trivia & Mission Project Night! We will have some fun trivia and assemble Easter meal kits and make Easter cards for students at our partner school, Smithfield Elementary. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

## OF NOTE

**Registration for the 2024-25 school year at SMPC Preschool is now open.** Children ages 2 through TK. Contact SMPC Preschool Director Tammy Winchip, tammy@smpchome.org, for more information.

**Support the SMPC Preschool by linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to the school.** Simply visit the Harris Teeter Together in Education website or scan QR code and follow the link instructions. The preschool's link number is 4902. Contact: Tammy Winchip, tammy@smpchome.org.



**Support SMPC Youth by purchasing a SMPC t-shirt!** Funds go to the SMPC youth program and youth trips. **Deadline to order t-shirts is Wednesday, February 28.** Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** Saturday, March 9, 8:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

**Desserts for Center of Hope:** Sunday, March 10

**Room in the Inn:** Wednesday, March 13

**Center of Hope Breakfast:** Saturday, March 16



# SMPC CAMP & RETREAT SUNDAY!

FEBRUARY 25, 2024



Today, we are celebrating Presbyterian camps, retreats, and conference centers! The PC(USA) has a wide variety of outdoor ministries, but the ones that are closest to our hearts at SMPC are the five listed below. We are also blessed to have Joel Winchip, the executive director of Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association, as a member here.

## BETHELWOODS

The mission of Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center is to be a place set apart to encounter God's love through creation and community as we grow in Christian faith.

Bethelwoods, located 19 miles away in York, SC, is a ministry of two presbyteries in South Carolina, but it is the closest Presbyterian camp to our church, which makes it a perfect first camp experience for SMPC kids! Through fellowship, recreation, and worship, campers learn how to live in community with one another and with God's creation. Campers and staff can feel safe to be themselves, to learn something new, and to have fun - all in an atmosphere that affirms Christ's love for them. Register for camp at [www.bethelwoods.org](http://www.bethelwoods.org).



## CAMP GRIER



Camp Grier has been providing opportunities for connection, service, renewal, and celebration to all since 1952. Camp Grier is located on 655 acres in the mountains of western NC. This year, we have partnered with Camp Grier to reserve five spots in their Discoverers program for rising 4th-6th graders.

*You're learning your place in the world. Who are you? What are your limits? What are you really made of? It's time to discover that you can do incredible things!*

Discoverers will camp one night away from their cabin on Camp Grier's 650-acre campus and enjoy a week of worship, art, canoeing, hiking, swimming, and games throughout the week. Contact Rebecca Guzman, [rebecca@smpchome.org](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org), for a link to register for camp.

# MASSANETTA SPRINGS

Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference welcomes hundreds of middle school students and their leaders from all over the country each summer. Participants attend keynotes, recreation, workshops, and worship designed by the Advocates, who are high school leaders. Encounter Groups provide an opportunity to reflect and learn alongside youth from other places and are led by the Advocates. Massanetta transforms the faith journey of our middle school students. Our eighth graders often come back from this retreat feeling inspired, energized, and passionate to apply to become an Advocate and craft an amazing experience for other middle school students, just like they had at Massanetta. Registration for Massanetta for the summer of 2024 has closed. Catch you in 2025!



# MONTREAT

Montreat Youth Conference affirms youth in their calling to be Christ's faithful disciple, to nurture and grow in their faith, and to make a difference within our world today. Montreat is a place where authenticity, community, connection, and God's Word thrive.

Through daily worship, keynote, recreation, and small groups with hundreds of other young people of faith, Montreat provides opportunities for encountering God and helps youth form intentional relationships with God, themselves, and others. It is the perfect time for our current high schoolers to explore their faith and consider how they will live out the love, justice, and peace of Christ. Registration for Montreat for the summer of 2024 has closed. Catch you in 2025!



# MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONNECTION



Montreat Women's Connection 2024 is a time for women to connect with old and new friends, a time to care for yourself; a time for space and Sabbath. This is done through powerful and authentic worship led by women, space for honest and faithful conversation, and allowing time for discernment and renewing rest. The hope is for women who come to experience spiritual nourishment, inspiration, and discernment. This year's Women's Connection will be August 9-11. Visit [montreat.org](http://montreat.org) for more information.