

LENT 2024

SOUTH MECK PRESS

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

DR. MATT BROWN

The final utterances of Jesus before his death were offered from a cross, a torturous tool constructed by the state for purposes of capital punishment. It is not a pulpit nor a context from which anyone would hope to offer a final word. Long gone were the crowds pushing to get close to Jesus as he taught at the seaside, on the mount, or along the way. Rather, outside the walled city built by the Chosen, Jesus looked down upon a scattering of soldiers performing their macabre duties, his disconsolate mother, and maybe a couple of courageous friends who if identified could well be hanging with him on death row. Keeping a low profile wasn't so difficult for them amidst the frenetic activity of the pilgrims who swelled Jerusalem's population throughout the holy season of Passover. In fact, to the foot traffic passing by, the figures hanging at Golgotha were only a sideshow, serving as a billboard for the Roman authorities, erected to remind the Passover crowd who truly held the reins of power in the city of David.

Jesus' words from the cross are few, and yet essential. They provide flesh to the things Jesus said about love and self-giving. This Lent we will turn to the light these words offer to a broken world yearning for reconciliation -- Know, Truth, Here, Forsaken, Thirsty, Finished, Commend. Alone, they are everyday words. In context, they frame the story of redemption and the incontrovertible power of mercy.

Grace and Peace,
Matt



LENT 2024: SEVEN LAST WORDS

KNOW, TRUTH, HERE, FORSAKEN, THIRST, FINISHED, COMMEND

The seven last phrases that Jesus uttered from the cross are sometimes referred to as the Seven Last Words. This Lent, we invite you to explore these words through various experiences at SMPC. We will have a weekly printed devotional that is designed to be used by all ages. Along with the devotional, there are coloring posters and pages that coincide with each word. A new poster will be displayed in the narthex each week, and you can color the pages at home. The children will be using the coloring pages in Children's Worship as well. In addition, we are offering an adult study that will allow you to explore these words in a communal context on Sunday mornings at 9 am.

Register for the class on Realm. Pick up a devotional guide and coloring pages in the Connection Center or email Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation, rebecca@smpchome.org for electronic versions.



FIND LENTEN SERVICES,
STUDIES AND FELLOWSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES ON OUR
WEBSITE

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT SMPCHOME

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall - Bring your family and friends for a pancake feast as we prepare to journey through the Lenten season together. We will collect food donations to support our Center of Hope ministry: pancake mix, syrup, Tang drink mix and Quick Grits. \$5/person (maximum family cost of \$20) will defray meal costs. Register on Realm via the QR code. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY



Drive-Through Ashes - February 14, 7:30-9:15 a.m., Church Parking Lot Drive Thru Ashes

Worship Service - February 14, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestream

SEVEN LAST WORDS

ADULT LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



Sundays beginning
February 18
9:00-10:00 a.m.
McQueen Room or Zoom
Contact: Rebecca Guzman,
rebecca@smpchome.org

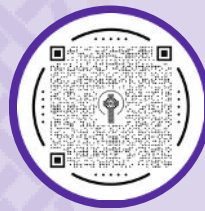


PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 10:10 a.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream



MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER & COMMUNION



Thursday, March 28, 6:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall - Join as we continue our journey through Holy Week. We will share supper and communion and remember our Lord's gathering with His disciples on the night of His arrest when they broke bread together. Register on Realm. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

March 29, 7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream



EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 31
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream





**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

American Red Cross

Blood Drive

March 9, 2024

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

The Commons

Please remember to bring your
photo I.D. or Red Cross Donor Card



Believing & Belonging

Explore the history and beliefs of the
Presbyterian church and how God uses our
gifts to create community
Led by Rebecca Guzman and Nancy Metzler

Sunday, March 10

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

McQueen Room/Narthex

Lunch Provided and Childcare Available

Register on Realm

Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smphome.org



**Sunday
March 17
5:00 - 6:30 PM
MECK HALL
REGISTER ON REALM**

**FAMILY
TRIVIA
NIGHT
& MISSION PROJECT**

**WE WILL MAKE EASTER
BASKETS AND EASTER
CARDS FOR STUDENTS AT
SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY**

**NOW REGISTERING
FOR 2024!**

**SMPC PRESCHOOL
AGES 2-TK**

smpcpreschool.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 11, 10:10 AM WORSHIP

YOUTH SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 13, 5:30-7:00 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 14, 7:30-9:15 AM, CHURCH PARKING LOT

ASH WEDNESDAY DRIVE-THROUGH ASHES

FEBRUARY 14, 7:00 PM, SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

FEBRUARY 24, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, MEET IN NARTHEX

PARENTS MORNING OUT (AGES 3-FIFTH GRADE)

MARCH 9, 8:00 AM-12:30 PM, THE COMMONS

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 10, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM, MCQUEEN ROOM

BELIEVING AND BELONGING

MARCH 17, 5:00-6:30 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION PROJECT + TRIVIA

MARCH 24, 10:10 AM WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 28, 6:00 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER AND COMMUNION

MARCH 29, 7:30 PM, SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

MARCH 31, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM, SANCTUARY &

LIVESTREAM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

APRIL 28, 11:15 AM

LUNCH ON THE GROUNDS

MAY 12, 10:10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

JUNE 25-JUNE 28

YOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT AT MASSANETTA

JULY 7-JULY 13

YOUTH HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT AT MONTREAT

JULY 22-26, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (EXTENDED DAY AVAIL.)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 9-11

**2024 MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONNECTION, MONTREAT
CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

UPDATE

CONVERSATION AROUND RACE EQUITY (CARE) Groups

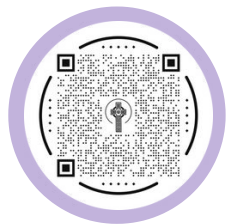
It's a great time to join our CARE Groups!

- ⇒ New study begins in March
- ⇒ Racial Equity field trip in April

Contact Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor,
whitney@smpchome.org, for more details.



Subscribe to the SMPC Racial Equity Monthly to receive an email on news and events at SMPC and in our wider Charlotte community.



Easter Sunday Worship

MARCH 31
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary & Livestream
smpchome.org