



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

**Bulletins for both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
services are below. SCROLL DOWN for the
11:00 a.m. service bulletin.**

9:00 a.m. Service

We Gather

Prelude

Hymn to Joy

Michael Keller

Chancel Ringers, Festival Brass

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Rebecca Guzman

One: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is Risen Indeed!

Introit

Jesus Is Alive

Cindy Berry

Clara Guzman, soprano; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Hear the joyous news today: He is risen! He is risen!

Look! The stone is rolled away. Jesus is alive!

Christ has won the victory, He is risen! He is risen!

And for all eternity, Jesus is alive!

Before that Easter morning, the world in sorrow lay.

When Jesus Christ the Lord of all died one tearful day.

They placed him in an empty tomb, but just as he had said,

On that blessed Easter morn, He rose from the dead.

Call to Worship

Adeline Bayer

One: Morning has broken, but this morning is different.

Many: The darkness is gone!

One: The joy of the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ is with us.

Many: We rejoice in the blessing God has poured into our lives.

One: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is Risen!

Many: Christ is Risen Indeed!

All: Let us worship our Risen Savior! Alleluia! Amen!

Hymn

Lift High the Cross

No. 826

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts. The lyrics are as follows:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim
till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*
till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

to Refrain

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor, the homeless, and the hungry, pass by those who are grieving, remain indifferent to calls for justice and peace, and take advantage of the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Fill us with your healing love, and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us

new, so that we may know and experience the abundant life that is given to us in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

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. Today is the last in our series of posters. Our word for Easter is "Believe" and our poster today is a mosaic from several people. What does it mean to believe? How do you feel when you are believed? How about when you are not believed?
2. One of the best books about Easter morning is *Twas the Morning of Easter* by Glenys Nellist. If you are worshiping from home, you can click [here](#) to listen to her read the story aloud. What do you think it was like to be Mary on Easter morning?
3. No matter where you are worshiping, see if you can count the number of times we say, "Alleluia!" in worship today. Alleluia means "praise God!" Every Sunday is kind of like a little Easter, because we set aside time to praise God together, but on Easter Sunday, we remember especially that love always wins, and that makes us want to have a huge celebration!
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. Who are the "two men in dazzling clothes"? What do they say?
 - b. Who did the women go tell? How did they respond?
 - c. What did you notice in this Bible passage that you have not noticed before?



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. Matthew S. Brown

First Reading

Psalm 118:1-4, 19-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the

house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Believe

Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Whitney 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 *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Anthem* Howard Helvey
Chancel Choir, Festival Brass

*Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,
cleave the skies with shouts of praise;
Sing to Him who found the ransom, Ancient of eternal Days,
God of God, the Word incarnate, whom the heaven of heaven obeys.
There, for us and our redemption, see him all his life-blood pour,
There he wins our full salvation, dies that we may die no more;
Then, arising, lives for ever, reigning where he was before.
High on yon celestial mountains stands his gem-built throne, all bright,
Midst unending alleluias bursting from the sons of light;
Zion's people tell his praises, victor after hard-won fight.
Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,
Consubstantial, co-eternal, while unending ages run.*

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.

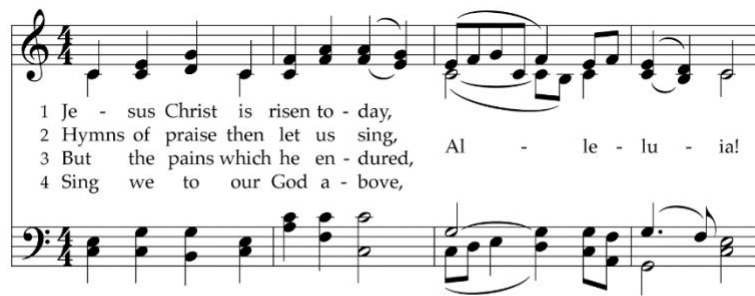
Doxology

*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 Evan Williams
Holy God, through your Son, gloriously risen, the obstacles that separate us are opened and we are drawn into communion with you. Grateful for your faithfulness, awed by an empty tomb, and trusting that we, too, will see the Risen One revealed in our love for one another and through the ministry we share, we offer our whole selves to you and to your service for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

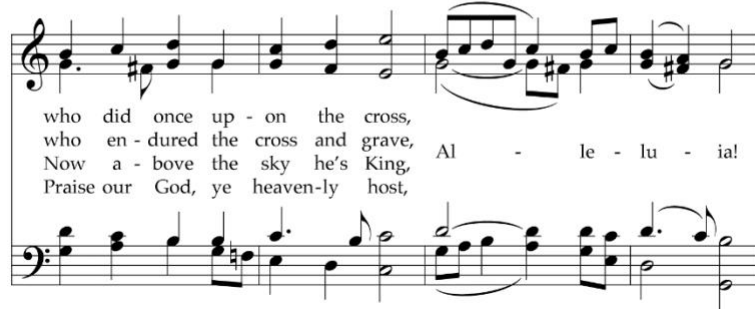
Hymn *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* No. 232



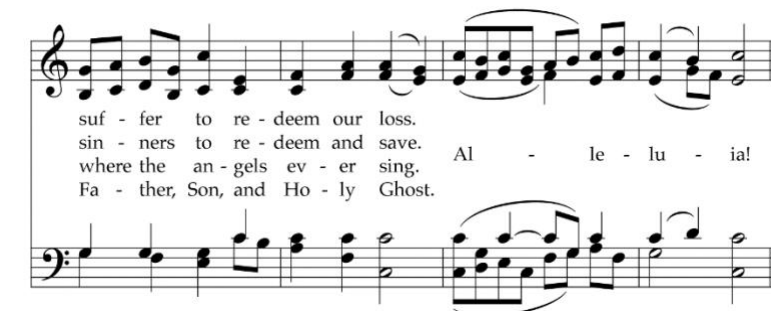
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.



who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,



suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Choral Response

Hallelujah Chorus

G. F. Handel

Chancel Choir and Friends; Festival Brass

Postlude

Symphony No. 5: "Toccata"

C. M. Widor

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Prelude

Hymn to Joy

Michael Keller

Chancel Ringers, Festival Brass

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Rebecca Guzman

One: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is Risen Indeed!

Introit

Jesus Is Alive

Cindy Berry

Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Hear the joyous news today: He is risen! He is risen!

Look! The stone is rolled away. Jesus is alive!

Christ has won the victory, He is risen! He is risen!

And for all eternity, Jesus is alive!

Before that Easter morning, the world in sorrow lay.

When Jesus Christ the Lord of all died one tearful day.

They placed him in an empty tomb, but just as he had said,

On that blessed Easter morn, He rose from the dead.

Call to Worship

Mia Smigiel

One: Morning has broken, but this morning is different.

Many: The darkness is gone!

One: The joy of the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ is with us.

Many: We rejoice in the blessing God has poured into our lives.

One: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is Risen!


Many: Christ is Risen Indeed!

All: Let us worship our Risen Savior! Alleluia! Amen!

Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today


No. 232




1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured,
4 Sing we to our God a - bove,



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
praise e - ter - nal as God's love.



who did once up - on the cross,
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King,
Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host,



suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing.
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor, the homeless, and the hungry, pass by those who are grieving, remain indifferent to calls for justice and peace, and take advantage of the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Fill us with your healing love, and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, so that we may know and experience the abundant life that is given to us in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

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

5. Today is the last in our series of posters. Our word for Easter is "Believe" and our poster today is a mosaic from several people. What does it mean to believe? How do you feel when you are believed? How about when you are not believed?
6. One of the best books about Easter morning is *Twas the Morning of Easter* by Glenys Nellist. If you are worshipping from home, you can click [here](#) to listen to her read the story aloud. What do you think it was like to be Mary on Easter morning?
7. No matter where you are worshipping, see if you can count the number of times we say, "Alleluia!" in worship today. Alleluia means "praise God!" Every Sunday is kind of like a little Easter, because we set aside time to praise God together, but on Easter Sunday, we remember especially that love always wins, and that makes us want to have a huge celebration!
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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

Rev. Odom

First Reading

Psalm 118:1-4, 19-24

Rev. Odom

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Anthem *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Anthem* Howard Helvey
Chancel Choir, Festival Brass

*Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,
cleave the skies with shouts of praise;
Sing to Him who found the ransom, Ancient of eternal Days,
God of God, the Word incarnate, whom the heaven of heaven obeys.
There, for us and our redemption, see him all his life-blood pour,
There he wins our full salvation, dies that we may die no more;
Then, arising, lives for ever, reigning where he was before.
High on yon celestial mountains stands his gem-built throne, all bright,
Midst unending alleluias bursting from the sons of light;
Zion's people tell his praises, victor after hard-won fight.
Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,
Consubstantial, co-eternal, while unending ages run.*

Second Reading Luke 24:1-12 Dr. Matthew S. Brown

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Believe Dr. Brown

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) The Apostles' Creed
Dr. Whitney 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

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Craig Curry

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;

praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend, to us He'll condescend;

His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Alleluia! Come, all Christians, join to sing: Alleluia!

Alleluia! Sing your praise to Christ, our King: Alleluia!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,

singing forevermore: Alleluia! Sing Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

Christians join to sing: Alleluia, Amen!

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

Blake Randle

Holy God, through your Son, gloriously risen, the obstacles that separate us are opened and we are drawn into communion with you. Grateful for your faithfulness, awed by an empty tomb, and trusting that we, too, will see the Risen One revealed in our love for one

another and through the ministry we share, we offer our whole selves
to you and to your service for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn

Lift High the Cross

No. 826

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and G major. The lyrics are: "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim
till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. Fine
till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.
1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:
the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Choral Response

Hallelujah Chorus

G. F. Handel

Chancel Choir and Friends; Festival Brass

Postlude

Symphony No. 5: "Toccata"

C. M. Widor

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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

Jubilate Choir

Chancel Ringers

Festival Brass: Kyle Gavagan, trumpet I; Patrick Butler, trumpet II; Rosy Faires, horn; Justin Austenfeld, trombone I; Austin Vogelsang, trombone II; Charles Smith, timpani

Blythe Kinsey, piano

Mia Smigiel, Blake Randle, liturgists

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Ushers: Dan DeChant, Gena DeChant, Phil Eatherton, Bjorn Hansen, Linda Nagle Hanson, Michael Zagora

Welcome Team: Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker, Kathy Rasimas

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](#) and Instagram: [@southmeckpres](#).

Congregational Notes (as of March 28, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Scott Snyder, as he prepares for surgery on April 1.
- 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, in the midst of the chaos that has enveloped their country.

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

Happy Easter!

March 31, 2024

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! We hope you will consider joining one of our many classes, events, ministries or groups this spring. For the most up-to-date list of events, please subscribe to our weekly email or go to our website, smphome.org. Contact: Nancy Metzler, nancy@smphome.org.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, a donation to One Great Hour of Sharing provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Scan the QR code or use the envelope provided to donate.



STUDY

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown

Wednesday, April 3, 9:30 a.m. McQueen Room or Zoom

Join us every Wednesday as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. Contact for the Zoom ID#: Matt Brown, matt@smphome.org.

Invitation to the Old Testament

Sundays, April 14-May 5, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room

Picking up where we left off before Lent. Prior attendance not necessary. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smphome.org.

Conversations Around Race Equity (CARE) Group

Monday, April 15, 12:00 p.m., Zoom

All are welcome in this six-week study of a video series, *The Color of Compromise* by Jamar Tisby. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smphome.org.

SERVE

For more opportunities and to sign up, go to smcphome.org/serve

Shelter Ministry

Thursday, April 11, 9:00 a.m., Mecklenburg Hall

This ministry meets to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

Desserts for Center of Hope Shelter for Women and Children

Sunday, April 14

Bring desserts on the second Sunday of every month for us to deliver to Center of Hope. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

Breakfast for Center of Hope

Saturday, April 20

On the third Saturday every month SMPC prepares and serves breakfast for residents. Servers, food and monetary donations are always needed. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons

Contact: Bill Ramsey, jonbillramsey@gmail.com.

EVENTS

SMPC Family Playdate

Saturday, April 13, 1:00-2:30 p.m., SMPC Playground, Ages 3-1st Grade

Family fun on the SMPC playground. Siblings welcome! Snacks and drinks will be provided for the children. Contact: Kaitlin Gaul, kaitlin.slanina@gmail.com.

Hops and Vine Around Town

Saturday, April 13, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Kit's Trackside Crafts, Pineville

Fun and fellowship! Contact: Frank Graham, Frank.Graham@forvis.com.

Conversations Around Race Equity (CARE) Group Charlotte Walking Tour

Sunday, April 21, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Polk Park, 501 N. Tryon Street

A two-hour walking tour that explores how stories of exclusions and invisibilities have been written into the Charlotte cityscape. \$20/person. Register on Realm. Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smphome.org.

Lunch on the Grounds

Sunday, April 28, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Join us for fellowship and delicious food from Brown Bag! \$12 per adult, \$6 ages 5-10, free for ages 4 and under. Register on Realm. Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com.

SMALL GROUPS

Handiworkers Group

Tuesday, April 2, 10:00 a.m., Palmer 104

All knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited. Meets weekly. All levels. Contact: Judy Jameson, jgjameson@gmail.com.

Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, April 5, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Chapel 204

Meets on the first and third Fridays of the month. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, April 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m., McQueen Room

For those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Meets monthly on the second Tuesday. Contact: Dr. Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

Men's Evening Study

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206

Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays every month and welcomes new participants. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, April 11, 9:30 a.m., Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy.

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. All are welcome. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

Food for Thought Book Group

Thursday, April 11, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room

We'll discuss *Funny Farm: My Unexpected Life with 600 Rescue Animals* by Laurie Zaleski. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

Making Space Mom's Group

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., McQueen Room

Moms of all ages are invited to join us for study, service and fellowship. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

CHILDREN

BAM! (Bible and Music)

Sunday, April 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

BAM! is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Register on Realm.

Vacation Bible School/Mission Possible

Monday, July 22 - Thursday, July 25, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Extended day avail.),

VBS: Ages 3 - 4th grade, Mission Possible: Rising 5th & 6th grades

Register on Realm.

Contact for Children's Ministry: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

YOUTH (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL)

Big Youth Group (BYG)

Sunday, April 14, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

Bible study, small group time, good food, fun games and amazing company.

Youth Mission Project

Sunday, April 21, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

We'll be writing letters to Haitian students. Lunch provided.

More youth events: smpchome.org/youth. Contact for Youth Ministry: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

MUSIC

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Do you enjoy leading worship through song? Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

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SMPC Easter Flower Cross Brightens our Faith Community

Note: Parts of this article were first published as part of SMPC's 25th anniversary in 2016.

Culminating our collective journey toward the cross each Lenten season at SMPC is the beautiful Easter flower cross. For years, we have invited everyone to bring a spring flower to worship on Easter Sunday to adorn the wooden cross outside the Sanctuary.

The sturdy cross, constructed using a red cedar from our church property, was handcrafted by Pat Hopkins more than 25 years ago.



"I was on the worship committee at the time when the idea was suggested," said Pat. "There were a couple of red cedars on the back of our property. I actually made two crosses – one surrounded with chicken wire for the flowers and one that we used in worship."

While Pat was the carpenter, his late wife, Renee, and charter member Ruthie McLaughlin – aka "the flower lady" -- shared their love of gardening with the project. Ruthie, who died in 2005, provided many of the flowers from her own garden to make certain there were no bare spots. Renee helped to promote SMPC's flower cross by writing this for the bulletin: "From birth to death to everlasting life, the Easter Cross symbolizes the prophecy fulfilled."

As we celebrate the risen Christ this Easter, we remember and give thanks for our earliest church members' creative gifts and for our current church members who keep these gifts alive in our faith community today.

We hope you're able to snap a photo of your family in front of the cross this year. We know you'll cherish the photo for years to come! We'd love to see your photo! You can email it to Director of Communications Cheryl Perry, cheryl@smpchome.org, or tag us on social media (facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian or instagram: @southmeckpres).