



**South
Mecklenburg**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *God of Grace* Paul Manz

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Matthew S. Brown
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit *Lift Every Voice and Sing* J. Rosamond Johnson

Call to Worship Rev. Lindsey Odom

One: Show us your ways, O Lord!

Many: Lead us in your truth and teach us.

One: Open our eyes, minds, and hearts to know your will and to follow it.

Many: Reveal your vision for us,

One: and keep us focused and faithful to what you would have us do.

**All: Bring us together to worship and work for your purpose and
move us forward into your future. Amen.**

Hymn 2 *Come, Thou Almighty King* ITALIAN HYMN

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful,
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing; help us to praise:
 might - y Lord, our prayer at - tend.
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.
 prais - es be, hence ev - er - more!

Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come, and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Odom

Faithful and loving God, we confess that we have not lived in faith and love. You claim us as your own people, but we forsake your holy covenant. You offer us the gift of prayer, but we forget to lift our hearts to you. We do not live as we ought. We do not trust the love that surrounds us. We do not enact the justice you call us to, and we forget that the Good News of the gospel is meant for all. Forgive us, God of grace. Give us the courage to change. Help us to live our lives in Christ, rooted and grounded in our faith and growing each day in your love, through Jesus Christ our 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

Crystal Myers

For the next five weeks, we will focus on scriptures that we will explore at Vacation Bible School! This week: [Ruth 1](#)

1. Watch a [video](#) that tells the story of Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi. Naomi has two sons. Her sons are married. Both of the sons die. Their wives (Orpah and Ruth) tell Naomi they will stay with her. Naomi tells them she could never ask them to do that, and Orpah goes back home to live with her family, but Ruth decides to stay with Naomi and take care of her.
2. On a piece of paper, draw a large heart for each person who lives in your family with you. Inside the heart, write or draw a prayer for that person. Maybe you will draw a good memory or a way that you are going to be more helpful to them. Show it to your family later!
3. Play an obstacle course game! If you are worshiping at home, you can set up an obstacle course and think about what it would have been like to be Ruth and Naomi. What makes an obstacle course easier or harder? What kind of person would you want to be with on a long and hard journey? If you can't set up an obstacle course, play [this one](#) online!
4. After reading the story, think about these questions:
 - a. What do you think it was like to be Ruth? Naomi? Orpah?
 - b. Why do you think Ruth decided to stay with Naomi?
 - c. Why would it have been so scary for Naomi to be alone? What would have happened to her?
 - d. Was it wrong for Orpah to go back to her family? Are there sometimes two right choices?



Children's Liturgy

Crystal Myers

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. Brown

First Reading

John 10:11-16

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

The Nicene Creed

Dr. Whitney Bayer

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We

**look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Offertory

Amazing Grace
Laura Schelhammer, flute

arr. Anthony Evert

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.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Brown

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Bayer

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise . . .

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.

The Words of Institution

Rev. Odom, Dr. Brown

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram) and receive the elements: cup your hands to receive a cracker, then take a cup. Communion cups may be placed in the cup-holders in the pews or the racks in the balcony. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat. Gluten-free elements are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Brown

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

Congregational Response

TALLIS' CANNON

***Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
 through this and every coming day,
 that in your Spirit strong and true
 our lives may be our gift to you.***

Postlude

The Liberty Bell

John Philip Sousa

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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 & Missions/Outreach
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist
Crystal Myers, Children's Spiritual Formation committee
Laura Schelhammer, flute

A/V Team: Kari Case, Xander Case

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Gayle Ireland

Summer Organ Sidekick: Reese Earp

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Frank Graham, Curt Ireland, Judy Jones, Craig Parrish, Nancy Parrish

Welcome Team: Chuck Griffiths, Lina Griffiths, Amy Zagora

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 Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres) and Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian).

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 Sunday, July 28 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 July 3, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Sondra Patton, as she recovers from surgery.
- Cathy Janney, as she recovers from surgery.
- Andy Burke as he undergoes treatment.
- Bill Brown, as he undergoes treatment.
- Carol Morgan, as she recovers from a broken ankle.
- Our senior high youth and chaperones, as they leave for Montreat.
- Rebecca, Rafael and Clara Guzman, as they enjoy rest and respite while on Rebecca's sabbatical.
- 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.

Vacation Bible School at SMPC!



Monday, July 22 -

Thursday, July 25

9:00a-12:00p

VBS: Ages 3-4th grade

Register on Realm or via QR code. Volunteers also needed. Please contact: Adrienne Jaquith, smpcvbs@gmail.com



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!

UPCOMING CLASSES & EVENTS

sunday
JUL 7

Youth Conference at Montreat High Schoolers

Please pray for our high schoolers and adult chaperones and volunteers as they journey to Montreat Sunday, July 7- Saturday, July 13!

monday
JUL 8
6:15 p.m.

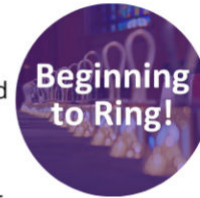
SMPC's Men's Softball SMPC Fields

The SMPC Men's Softball team plays about twice a week through July. Check the church calendar for more game dates. If you would like to join in on the fun this summer, contact Jimmy Galati, jamesgalati63@yahoo.com.

thursday
JUL 11
10:00 a.m.

Beginning to Ring! Sanctuary

Join us on Thursdays this summer to learn to play the handbells! Led by Director of Music and Organist Zach Bowyer and SMPC Chancel Ringers Member Gayle Ireland, you will learn a ton and have so much fun along the way. No need to RSVP - just come! Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.



saturday
JUL 13
9:30 a.m.

Bagged Lunches for Roof Above In front of the Palmer Building

Each month SMPC brings 100 bagged lunches to our neighbors at Roof Above who are unsheltered. A bagged lunch feeds a neighbor who is experiencing homelessness! Slots are available to donate in July. Go to smpchome.org > Serve our Community to sign up. Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com.

saturday
JUL 13
**10:30 a.m. -
12:00 p.m.**

SMPC Family Playdate on the Playground SMPC Playground, Ages 3-1st grade

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

sunday
JUL 14
9:00 a.m.

SMPC Summer Pickup Choir Meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. to sing in 10:10 a.m. worship, Ages 6th Grade through Adult

Ever wanted to sing in a choir? Be a part of our special SMPC "Summer Pickup Choir" during 10:10 a.m. worship. No prior experience necessary—just show up, get your music, and sing in worship with us. An RSVP is appreciated but not required. Don't miss this joyful opportunity to lift your voice in praise! Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

sunday
JUL 14
10:10 a.m.

Desserts for Center of Hope Drop Off Before 10:10 a.m. Worship

Every month we collect desserts for the women and children who temporarily call the Salvation Army Center of Hope home. Center of Hope provides emergency housing to women and children in need. Sign up at smpchome.org > Serve our Community. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, July 16, 1:00-2:30 p.m., McQueen Room -
Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Facilitated by Kathy Garner (Alzheimer's Association). Contact: Whitney Bayer, whitney@smpchome.org.

SMPC Youth Waffle Cone Wednesday, Wednesday, July 17, Cold Stone Creamery, Blakeney, Rising 6th through Graduated 12th Graders - Join us for a short devotional and ice cream! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Food for Thought Book Group, Thursday, July 18, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room -
We're discussing *Edge of Summer* by Viola Shipman. All are welcome. Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.



Breakfast for Center of Hope, Saturday, July 20 - We cook and serve breakfast to Center of Hope guests on the third Saturday of every month. Go to smpchome.org > Serve our Community to sign up or scan QR code. Food and monetary donations and servers are needed! Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.

FACES OF FAITH

Enjoy getting to know SMPC member Adrienne Jaquith!



Name: Adrienne Jaquith

Family: Married to husband, Chris, for 22 years and have 2 children, Zach (19) and Emily (16)

Years at SMPC: Almost 20! How is that possible?! I became a member just prior to Zach's baptism around his first birthday.

What brought you to SMPC? I started visiting churches when I was pregnant as I knew I wanted a church home once I had children. Although SMPC was right down the road from our house I held off on visiting until I saw a sign that there was a new pastor and my mom encouraged me to attend. I knew after my first Sunday that SMPC was where I was meant to be. It reminded me of the Presbyterian churches I grew up attending – a little traditional, incredibly welcoming and it just felt “right”. I love that the overwhelming message at SMPC is one of welcome and acceptance.

How have you found connection at SMPC? I initially got involved with the Membership Committee thanks to another longtime church member, Leisa Lackey, who invited me to attend a meeting. My involvement on Membership led to so many other opportunities for involvement including chairing the Stewardship Committee, becoming an Elder, teaching Sunday School and volunteering for VBS.

You're coordinating this year's VBS. What do you love about this ministry and how can we get involved? What's not to love about VBS?! It's the best week of the summer! I love that VBS is for ALL children, not just the children of church members. I love that our VBS volunteers are ALL ages, from our devoted, youth, to parents and even grandparents. I love that we have volunteers that don't even have children attending VBS but want to be a part of the fun. It's an exhausting week but it is the BEST week and is a week that children carry with them into adulthood. I bet many adults who attended VBS as a child still remember the fun they had and the love they felt during VBS.

If you want to be a part of VBS this year, scan the QR code on the bottom left to see where you can volunteer or send an email to smpcvbs@gmail.com. We are especially in need of volunteers and drivers for Mission Possible for our 4th and 5th graders. (check out the first tab on the signup genius). You won't regret the time you spend helping to make VBS a success!

Vacation Bible School at SMPC!



Volunteer

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Thursday, July 25
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
VBS: Ages 3-4th grade

smpchome.org/vacation-bible-school



Register for VBS