



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

We Gather

Prelude *Partita on "Ein Feste Burg": IV. Ayre* Michael D. Costello

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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit

Call to Worship Katie Conerly

One: As we gather together, we remember that we are not alone in our faith, for...

Many: God is our companion.

One: Though the way is not easy, and thoughts of the future may begin to daunt us,

Many: God is our comfort.

One: When anger fills our hearts and grief crushes our spirits,

Many: God is our counselor.

One: When we commit sin and turn away from the ways and will of God,

Many: God makes a way when there is no way, carries our burdens, and lifts our spirits.

All: All that we have and all that we are is a gift from you, and for this, we continually give thanks, O God. Amen.

Hymn 396 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* HOLY MANNA

1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.
 2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis - ter aid - ed him.
 3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
 4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?
 Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?
 Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
 Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.
 Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.
 Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!
 Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.

Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
 Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
 Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.
 Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Holy God, you call us to live in mystery and to walk by faith. You call us to feel the mystery of life and marvel at the power of your love; yet it's not easy to accept what we don't understand and what we cannot always see or feel. You call us to accept others and embody the loving kindness that you have taught us; yet we disconnect ourselves from each other through judgement, close mindedness, and fear of discomfort.

It's hard to walk by faith, O God. Have mercy when we devalue the power of community and refuse to put in the time and energy to bring people together. Pull us into you and to one another, O God. Bring us together so that we may encourage one another along our journey with you. Give us another chance to walk and live more faithfully until we become the people you created us to be. 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

Kaitlyn Gaul

We are focusing on scriptures that we explored at Vacation Bible School!

Our final VBS lesson: [Acts 8:26-40](#)

1. Hear the story by watching [this video](#) (skip to 21:52) or reading the scripture passage.
2. Learn about Ethiopia. Here's a [link](#) to the Britannica Kids page. Make sure you look at the flag and the pictures. If you are a little older, you might click the button that says to view the article for students instead of kids.
3. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson. What do the two girls learn about each other? How is this similar to Paul and the Ethiopian? What can people who come from different cultures teach each other? Why is it important to get to know people who have different experiences than you?
4. This story is illustrated in one of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Can you find it?
5. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. What do you think the Ethiopian thought and felt when Philip came to him?
 - b. What do you think Philip thought and felt when the Ethiopian asked to be baptized?
 - c. Who is a teacher to you? To whom are you a teacher?



Children's Liturgy

Kaitlyn Gaul

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

Galatians 6:7-10

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the

Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Second Reading 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 22-27

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

As Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant warriors. The men of the city came out and fought with Joab; and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite was killed as well. So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us, and came out against us in the field; but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall; some of the king's servants are dead; and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead

also." David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab, "Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword devours now one and now another; press your attack on the city, and overthrow it.' And encourage him." When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

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

Sermon The Tipping Point Dr. Brown

Hymn *What Does the Lord Require of You?* arr. Mark Miller

Leader: *What does the Lord require of you?*
What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you, I want to know, I want to know.

All: *Justice! Kindness! Walk humbly with your God!*
Justice! Kindness! Walk humbly with your God!

The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) The Confession of 1967, 9.12-13
Rev. Odom

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. Wise and virtuous men and women through the ages have sought the highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the light of God’s love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest and hostility. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without God’s forgiveness. Thus everyone falls under God’s judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment than those who assume that they are guiltless before God or morally superior to others.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer Rev. Odom
. . . (*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, Thou Fount* arr. Molly Ijames
Ann Carney, recorder

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at smpchome.org 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

Savannah Brown

Redeeming God, your love is so amazing and so divine. It calls forth the offering of our lives, hearts, and all that we are. May our lives demonstrate your love, as revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, for the world and for the people you have made. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

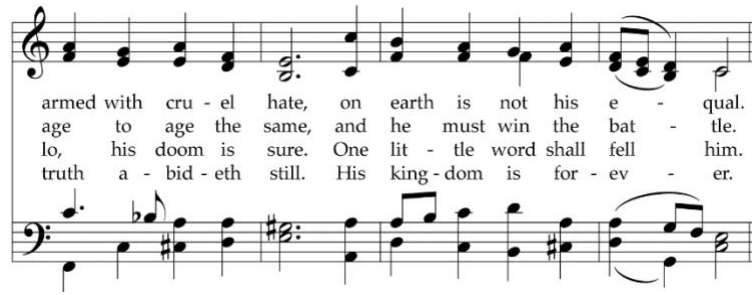
EIN' FESTE BURG

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's



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

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

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

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Ann Carney, recorder

Kaitlyn Gaul, Children's Spiritual Formation committee

Katie Conerly, Savannah Brown, liturgists

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Deacon/Elder of the Day: Dave Gaines

Summer Organ Sidekick: Julia Greeson

Ushers: Dick Engle, Tom Klecker, Jon Myers, Craig Parrish, Alice Tyler, Michael Zagora

Welcome Team: Jennifer Hurlburt, Kasia Hurlburt, Barb Malo, Pat Malo

We light a candle in worship today celebrating the birth of Emma Catherine Stenvall on July 19. Congratulations to mom, Meghan Stenvall, and grandparents, Debbie and Warren Stenvall!

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](#).

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 25, 2024)

Remember in Prayer

- Shirley Lyons, as she recovers from a procedure.
- 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, in the midst of the chaos that has enveloped their country.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org.

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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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!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

tuesday
JUL 30
1:00 p.m. -
3:00 p.m.

SMPC Youth Serving at Crisis Assistance Ministry
500-A Spratt St, Charlotte, NC 28206, Rising 6th Graders-
Graduated 12th Graders

We hope you will join us for this mission project. Drop off and pick up at Crisis Assistance. High schoolers can drive and meet us there if their parent approves. Please register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

thursday
AUG 1
10:00 a.m. -
11:00 a.m.

Beginning to Ring Sanctuary

Learn to play the handbells! Every Thursday this summer. All are welcome. No RSVP or experience required. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

friday
AUG 2
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 reading the book *For the Glory: The Untold and Inspiring Story of Eric Liddell, Hero of Chariots of Fire* by Duncan Hamilton. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SMPC Youth Devo at Dunkin', Monday, August 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m., 16131 Lancaster Hwy, Charlotte, NC 28277, Rising 6th Graders through Graduated 12 Graders - Join us for a donut, devotion and fellowship. Bring a friend! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, August 10, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons - The American Red Cross is in great need of blood. **Bonus: During the month of August, the Red Cross will email donors a \$20 Amazon gift card!** Please bring your donor ID card or driver's license. **We are also in need of volunteers for this month's drive.** Go to smpchome.org/serve-our-community or scan QR code to donate blood or volunteer at the drive. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.



JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY!



SMPC offers dynamic music programming for all ages that focuses on praising God through joyous song, the playing of instruments and engaging fellowship. We are always striving for musical excellence, but we have a ton of fun along the way! We start back up in late August. Scan the QR code to fill out the Music Ministry Form. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.



FACES OF FAITH

This week's Faces of Faith is a bit different - we've got a short video for you! We interviewed two SMPC couples: Karen and Steve Williams and Heather and Mark Briganti. The connection between these families began outside of church, but grew into something bigger when Karen and Steve invited Heather and Mark to join them at SMPC.

We've titled this week's Faces of Faith "Share SMPC" for a reason! We know that many of our members and friends arrive at SMPC because of a personal invitation from a friend or loved one, and we LOVE that. There is so much beauty in making this kind of connection. We hope you enjoy hearing how the invitation to SMPC transpired and what its impact was on both families' faith journeys. We also hope this inspires you to invite a friend, neighbor or colleague to SMPC this fall (SMPC pro tip: Blessing of the Backpacks is Sunday, August 25 during 10:10 a.m. worship - it's the perfect opportunity to invite a friend!!).



Names: Karen and Steve Williams

Family: Son, Evan, 17

Years at SMPC: We joined in November 2011.



Names: Heather and Mark Briganti

Family: A 12-year-old son

Years at SMPC: We joined in February 2020.

Watch the 3-minute video here.



STAY CONNECTED TO SMPC

Sign up for our weekly emails! You'll hear from SMPC twice a week - we promise they'll be worth the read.

- Tuesday Mornings: **Dr. Matt Brown's Weekly Devotional** offers a thoughtful reflection on a Bible verse.
- Thursday Mornings: **SMPC Now** gives you all the news and events at church.

Scan the QR code or email Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org, to be added to the list.

