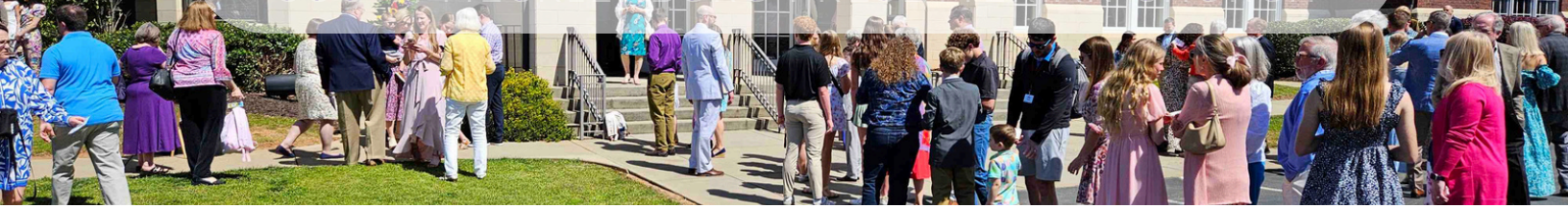


FALL 2024

# SOUTH MECK PRESS

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## FROM OUR PASTOR

**DR. MATT BROWN**



Dear Members and Friends of South Mecklenburg,

At the conclusion of the Prelude each Sunday, one of the worship leaders will step forward to greet the gathered congregation with this prayer -- The Lord be with you. The congregation responds by saying -- And also with you. Similarly, as the children gather to process to children's worship, they, too, share in a prayer with the congregation. The congregation prays -- God be with you there. The children respond, praying -- God be with you here.

Both of these blessings offer affirmation of the mutual fellowship we share in and through Jesus Christ. In scripture, this shared fellowship is understood to be the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians, we read -- "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." Correspondingly, we read in Ephesians -- "Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

What you see in worship, what you read in these pages, and what you hear in the joyously animated voices bouncing off the walls around our campus is nothing less than the living, breathing, loving, and serving body of Christ. Thus, when you hear the children pray -- God be with you here -- you can trust their prayer has been, and continues to be, answered here at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,  
Matt



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

# SHARE GOD'S LIGHT THROUGH SERVICE

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." —Matthew 5:16

This scripture passage reminds us we are called to reflect God's light and love in our world. SMPC offers many mission opportunities that allow you to serve our church, our community, and our world. We hope you will join us in serving and sharing God's light within our world.

Please scan the QR code and fill out the form if you have an interest in our service opportunities and would like more information or to sign up. Remember, friends are always welcome! Contact: Lindsey Odom, [lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org).



## JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY

### Chancel Choir Adults

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

### Chancel Ringers Adult Handbells

Wednesdays - 6:00-7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### Jubilate Choir Middle and High School

Sundays - 4:15 p.m., Choir Room

### Exultate Ringers High School Handbells

Sundays - 3:45 p.m., Sanctuary

### Gaudete Ringers Middle School Handchimes

Sundays - 3:45 p.m., Room 302

**BAM!** (Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs)  
Children in grades K-2 (Hosanna Choir) and  
3-5 (Alleluia Choir)

Select Sundays, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Meet in  
Narthex

Contact: Zach Bowyer, [zach@smpchome.org](mailto:zach@smpchome.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST 25, 9:00-10:00 AM, MECKLENBURG HALL  
ALL CHURCH SERVES - SORT & PACK SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES FOR SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY

AUGUST 25, DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP  
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS  
INVITE A FRIEND!



SEPTEMBER 3 & 4  
SMPC PRESCHOOL'S FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, ON CAMPUS & CAMP CANAAN  
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FALL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 8, 9:00 AM, MCQUEEN ROOM OR ZOOM  
FALL ADULT BIBLE STUDY KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 8, 5:00-6:30 PM, NARTHEX  
BIBLE AND MUSIC (BAM!) KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 13-15, LAKE TILLERY  
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FALL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 17, 1:00-6:00 PM, SUN-CITY CAROLINA  
LAKES GOLF COURSE  
SMPC GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 22, 3:15 PM, SMPC PARKING LOT  
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



SEPTEMBER 22, 5:00-6:30 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL  
BIG YOUTH GROUP (BYG) RESUMES

OCTOBER 6, TIME TBD, SMPC CAMPUS  
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 13, 11:30 AM, MCQUEEN ROOM  
BELIEVING & BELONGING (WITH LUNCH)

OCTOBER 20, 11:15 AM, SMPC  
BBQ LUNCH ON THE GROUNDS

OCTOBER 27, DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP  
2025 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN - COMMITMENT  
SUNDAY

For the most up-to-date church information, please subscribe to our weekly email. Email Nancy Metzler, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) to be added to the list.

**YOU ARE INVITED!  
BRING A FRIEND!**



**BLESSING OF THE  
BACKPACKS**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25  
DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP

*Bring your  
backpack!*

# SHARE SMPC THIS FALL

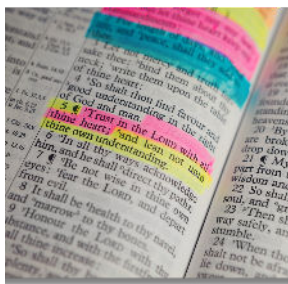
**"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." —2 Corinthians 9:11-12**

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 encourage you to invite a friend, family member or colleague to worship, connect or serve this fall. Everything we do here and around the community is an open invitation to others. Maybe you invite a friend to come to worship; maybe you invite a neighbor to your kitchen to help make bagged lunches for Roof Above; maybe you invite a classmate to BYG (Big Youth Group); or, perhaps you invite your neighbor and their furry friend to Blessing of the Animals. There are so many ways - big and small - to share SMPC. How will you extend the invitation 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!!

## NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

You hear people talk about the importance of reading the Bible in context but aren't sure exactly what that means. You have friends with journals filled with Bible reflection but have no idea how to start. You know that there are resources online but aren't sure which ones are reliable. You're interested in knowing more about the Bible but are intimidated to join a study because you think everyone will know more than you. If any of these sentences sound familiar, then **How to Study the Bible** is for you!



This four-session study, led by Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman, will meet Sundays beginning September 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the McQueen Room or via Zoom. Please sign up on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT SMPC & THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For all who are considering membership and/or would like to know more about SMPC and being Presbyterian, join us on Sunday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m. for Believing and Belonging. Lunch will be served and childcare is available.

Led by Director of Spiritual Formation Rebecca Guzman and Director of Hospitality and Connection Nancy Metzler, we will explore the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian church and how God uses our gifts to create community. Please register on Realm. Contact Nancy Metzler, nancy@smpchome.org.

## REGISTER FOR THE ALL CHURCH SERVES FOR SMITHFIELD SCHOOL

On Sunday, August 25 at 9:00 a.m., we invite children, youth and adults to join us in Mecklenburg Hall for a school supply sort and pack for Smithfield Elementary School. Light breakfast items will be served. Stuffed backpacks will be blessed at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks in worship that morning. To register or donate school supplies, please see Realm or scan the QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



**Bible and Music**

**BAM!**

Select Sundays 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**BAM! (Bible and Music) is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Pizza is served!**

**We kick off Sunday, September 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the narthex!**

**IMPORTANT: Please register on Realm by the Friday prior to each BAM! night. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.**



**South  
Mecklenburg**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
8601 Bryant Farms Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
*Return Service Requested*

NONPROFIT  
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CHARLOTTE, NC



Live into  
**HOPE**  
EPHESIANS 1:17-19

**2025 OPERATING  
FUND CAMPAIGN  
COMMITMENT SUNDAY  
IS OCTOBER 27**



**MIDDLE & HIGH  
SCHOOLERS  
WELCOME**

SMPC Youth is a Christ-centered youth ministry where middle and high schoolers know they belong, can explore and grow in their faith, and feel inspired by Christ's love to go and serve. We have tons of fun events and fellowship opportunities planned for the fall.  
Join us - and invite a friend!  
Follow us on Instagram @smpcyouth

Contact: Lindsey Odom, [lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org)



*South Meck Press is a quarterly publication from South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church. For more worship, study, and fellowship opportunities, please visit [smpchome.org](http://smpchome.org).*