



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestreamed

## We Gather

**Prelude** *Partita on "Azmon"* Alfred V. Fedak

**Welcome and Concerns of the Church** Dr. Whitney Bayer  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

**Introit** *Come and Worship* Karen Marrolli

**\*Call to Worship** Camdyn Sheeler

One: Come, all who are eager to be touched by the healing hand of Jesus.

**Many: We are called here this morning to learn of Christ's healing love.**

One: Help us, O Lord, to learn your lessons of compassion.

**Many: Every day, there are many ways in which we can offer help to others. So, help us, O Lord, to be ready to reach out to all those who are in need.**

One: Come, let us worship the One who prepares us for service.

**Many: Let us sing our songs of praise to the One who has healed us.**

**ALL: Lord Jesus, keep our hearts, minds, and spirits open to your healing and life-changing love for all. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 610** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my  
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and  
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new  
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -  
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my  
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the  
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en  
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the  
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.  
 to re - jice; the poor in heart be - lieve.  
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

**Holy God, although we honor you with our words and worship, our hearts are often far from you. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others. Amen.**

**Assurance of God's Grace**

Dr. Bayer

**\*Response of Praise**

No. 582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
 and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
 and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

**We Hear and Respond to the Word**

## Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

Scripture: Mark 7:24-37

1. Watch [this video](#) of the scripture for today from the Gospel of Mark. Pay close attention to what Jesus does. How does hearing and seeing the story in this way help you to think about what happened?
2. Print out a copy of [this paper](#). Think about and pray for those you know who need healing, or even people that you don't know. Color in the heart. Maybe you will write the names of people who need healing on Band-Aids and stick them onto your paper. This can be a way of praying for healing.
3. Act the story out. Maybe you will just act it out with all the characters, or maybe you will have someone pretend to be a reporter who is interviewing different people from the story. What do you think the woman thought when Jesus changed his mind? How about the man whose tongue was touched with Jesus' spit?!
4. Journal, considering the following;
  - a. What do you remember the most from the stories you read?
  - b. Why do you think Jesus changed his mind?
  - c. Why do you think he didn't want to heal the little girl at first?
  - d. Why do you think Jesus took the deaf man to a private place to heal him?
  - e. What can you take from these stories?



## Sacrament of Baptism

**Emma Catherine Stenvall**

Daughter of Meghan Stenvall and sister of Hannah,  
Granddaughter of Debbie & Warren Stenvall

Representing the Session: Ann Whitlock  
Representing the children: Adeline Bloszinsky

## Baptismal Response

***Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.  
Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.  
The children will return to join their families following the sermon.***

## Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Bayer

## First Reading

Dr. Bayer

Proverbs 19:20; James 3:17; Colossians 2:2-3

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**Anthem**                      *The Beauty of This Sacred Place*                      James Biery  
Chancel Choir

*The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow.  
We sing with love, bestowed by grace; from God all richest blessings flow.  
The meal, the word, the art, the song, are but a glimmer of the whole;  
With joyful hearts sing all day long, God's blessings satisfy the soul.  
We look into each person's eyes and see such longing hunger there.  
Respond with love to others' cries; our neighbors' burdens gladly bear.  
So many struggle and despair, we hear their silent voices plead;  
Our actions show how much we care, extending help to those in need.*

**Second Reading**                      Mark 7:24-30                      Dr. Matthew S. Brown

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

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

**Sermon**                      Who knows? You may learn something.                      Dr. Brown

**\*The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)                      The Confession of 1967 - 9.32  
Dr. Bayer

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences**

of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

**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** *I Dream of a Church* Mark Miller  
Brett Parrish, tenor

*As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at [smpchome.org](http://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** Adeline Bloszinsky  
God of all good gifts, in the midst of challenging news from the world, and difficulties all round, your mercy, compassion, and healing love abound. Help us to know the transformational power of your love so that we can go into our world as faithful witnesses in all that we say and do. We ask that you receive these gifts, tithes, and offerings, multiply them for good, and put them to use. Please accept our desire to honor you with what we've given and help us celebrate the ways this offering will become a source of hope for others. Amen.

## We Go Out to Serve

**\*Hymn 762** *When the Poor Ones* EL CAMINO  
*(stanza 1: Sandra Carr - Spanish; then All sing stanzas 1-4 in English)*



1 When the poor ones who have noth - ing share with strang - ers,  
 2 When at last all those who suf - fer find their com - fort,  
 3 When our joy fills up our cup to o - ver - flow - ing,  
 4 When our homes are filled with good - ness in a - bun - dance,

1 Cuan - do el po - bre na - da tie - ne y aún re - par - te,  
 2 Cuan - do un hom - bre su - fre y lo - gra su con - sue - lo,  
 3 Cuan - do cre - ce la a - le - grí - a y nos i - nun - da,  
 4 Cuan - do a - bun - da el bien y lle - na los ho - ga - res,



when the thirst - y wa - ter give un - to us all,  
 when they hope though e - ven hope seems hope - less - ness,  
 when our lips can speak no words oth - er than true,  
 when we learn how to make peace in - stead of war,

cuan - do un hom - bre pa - sa sed y a - gua nos da,  
 cuan - do es - pe - ra y no se can - sa de es - pe - rar,  
 cuan - do di - cen nues - tros la - bios la ver - dad,  
 cuan - do un hom - bre don - de hay gue - rra po - ne paz,



when the cri - pled in their weak - ness strength - en oth - ers,  
 when we love though hate at times seems all a - round us,  
 when we know that love for sim - ple things is bet - ter,  
 when each strang - er that we meet is called a neigh - bor,

cuan - do el dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta - le - ce,  
 cuan - do a - ma - mos, aun - que el o - dio nos ro - dé - e,  
 cuan - do a - ma - mos el sen - tir de los sen - ci - llos,  
 cuan - do "her - ma - no" le lla - ma - mos al ex - tra - ño,

Refrain / Estribillo



then we know that God still goes that road with us,  
 va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Brown

**\*Congregational Response**

***Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,***

***I can feel his mighty power and his grace.***

***I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face.***

***Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. Amen.***

**Postlude**

*Toccata Concerto No. 1 (Azmon)*

Franklin D. Ashdown

## Worship Service Notes

**Leading Worship this Morning**

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Brett Parrish, tenor; Sandra Carr, soprano; Mark Janney, guitar

Camdyn Sheeler, Adeline Bloszinsky, liturgists

**A/V Team:** Brad Alford, Luke Estes

**Ushers:** Andrew Brown, Bob Cushman, Judy Jones, Jonathan Mangels,  
Evan Mangels, Charlie Metzler

**Welcome Team:** Kathy Rasimas

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given by Meghan Stenvall to the glory of God and in honor of all grandparents and in celebration of Emma Catherine's baptism.

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 15 at the close of the 10:10 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing officers.

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](mailto: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](#).

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members Sunday, September 22 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Metzler, Director of Hospitality and Connection, [nancy@smpchome.org](mailto:nancy@smpchome.org) or 980-265-2839.

## **Congregational Notes** (as of September 5, 2024)

### **Remember in Prayer**

- Tony Castle, as he recovers from surgery.
- Marlene Parmele, as she recovers from a fall.
- 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](mailto:prayer@SMPChome.org).

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**South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church**

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[smpchome.org](http://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

today  
**SEPT 8**  
5:00 p.m. -  
6:30 p.m.

#### **BAM! Bible and Music Kickoff!**

##### **Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade**

During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various musical instruments in peer age groups. They occasionally sing, play instruments, or display their creations during Sunday worship. We end with a pizza dinner and free play time.

BAM! is a great way for children to form friendships with other kids at church. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

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tuesday  
**SEPT 10**  
10:00 a.m.

#### **Handiworkers Group**

##### **Palmer 104**

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

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tuesday  
**SEPT 10**  
1:00 p.m. -  
2:30 p.m.

#### **A Caregiver's Journey**

##### **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.

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wednesday  
**SEPT 11**  
9:30 a.m.

#### **Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown**

##### **McQueen Room or Zoom**

We will discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. All are welcome! Contact Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org, for the Zoom ID#.

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thursday  
**SEPT 12**  
9:00 a.m.

#### **Shelter Ministry**

##### **Mecklenburg Hall**

This ministry meets on the second Thursday of every month to fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above, a men's homeless shelter. Contact: Carol Morgan, morgancc43@aol.com.

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thursday  
**SEPT 12**  
9:30 a.m.

#### **Men's Breakfast Group**

##### **Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy.**

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

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friday  
**SEPT 13**  
sunday  
**SEPT 15**

#### **High School Youth Fall Lake Retreat**

##### **Lake Tillery**

All high school youth are invited! Please register on Realm by today, September 8. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

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saturday  
**SEPT 14**  
9:30 a.m.

#### **Bagged Lunches for Roof Above**

##### **In front of the Palmer Building**

SMPC provides 100 bag lunches a month for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Sign up on smpchome.org > Serve Our Community. Contact: Shelby Ullman, shelby.ullman@gmail.com.



**sunday**  
**SEPT 15**  
**9:00 a.m. -**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**How to Study the Bible - Adult Bible Study**  
**McQueen Room or Zoom**

All are welcome to join us as we dive into how to study the Bible in this approachable, four-session class led by Melissa White and Rebecca Guzman. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SMPC Golf Tournament, Tuesday, September 17, 1:00 p.m., Sun-City Carolina Lakes, 23012 Kingfisher Dr, Indian Land, SC** - For all levels, men, women & youth. Captain's Choice Scramble with warmups beginning at 12:00 p.m. and a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. More info and register on Realm. Contact: Brett Thompson, bathomp1971@yahoo.com, or Ron Morgan, colronmorg@gmail.com.

**International Dining Group, Thursday, September 19, 6:00 p.m., Ming Fu, 8139 Kensington Dr., Waxhaw, NC 28173** - Join us for good food and great fellowship! RSVP to Alice Tyler, rrt1317@aol.com, by Monday, September 16.

**Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, September 20, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Chapel 206** - Meets on the first and third Fridays of the month. They are reading the book *He Leadeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament of Faith* by Daniel L. Flaherty. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

**Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, September 22, 3:15 p.m., In Front of the Palmer Building** - Furry and feathery friends are welcome to join us for this special blessing! Please make sure your pets are on leashes or in crates or cages and are OK with fellow animals! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**Men's Evening Study, Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206** - This group meets on the the second and fourth Tuesdays every month and welcomes new participants! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

**Making Space Mom's Group Fall Kickoff, Thursday, September 26, 7:30 p.m., The Office Craft Bar & Kitchen, Stonecrest** - Moms of all ages are invited to join us for fellowship as we gear up for fall! This group is a combination of study, social, and service. If you are looking to get connected, this is an excellent way to do so! New and returning faces are welcome! Register on Realm (for restaurant headcount). Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Breakfast for Center of Hope, Saturday, September 21, Meet in church parking lot at 5:15 a.m., back at church by about 9:00 a.m.** - Every month we cook and serve a hot breakfast to the women and children that temporarily call Center of Hope home. Servers, food donations and monetary donations are needed. Please go to [smpchome.org](http://smpchome.org) > Serve our Community to sign up. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.



**CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, October 6, Meet at 1:45 p.m., Walk at 2:00 p.m., Start in SMPC Parking Lot** - We hope you'll join the SMPC team and walk to end hunger! Benefits Nourish Up, the Crisis Assistance Ministry and Second Harvest Food Bank. Scan QR code to donate or join the team! Contact: Leisa Lackey, leisa.lackey@atriumhealth.org, or Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**Smithfield Elementary Tutoring** - If you are interested in learning more about this awesome service opportunity, please scan the QR code and complete the form so that we can connect with you! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



### Scout Troops 119 and 219 BBQ & Veggie Chili Sale!

There are a couple of different ways to place an order: Scouts are here today taking order and will be back next Sunday, September 15 OR you can order online via the QR code! Pick up is at the church on Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 22, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Contact: Roy Bivens, troop119clt@gmail.com.

