



**A Service of Worship
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, 2025
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream**

We Gather

Prelude *Trumpet Voluntary* John Stanley

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Whitney Bayer

Introit *Divinum Mysterium* Plainsong

***Call to Worship** Oliver Bayer

One: With God, all things are made new.

Many: We are made new creatures in Christ!

One: The mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Many: We are made new creatures in Christ!

One: The old things have passed away.

ALL: We are made new creatures in Christ! Amen.

***Hymn 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.



Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Dr. Bayer

You have blessed us with a variety of gifts, Holy God, but we are reluctant to share. We hoard what is most valuable and make excuses for ourselves when called to share. The Spirit has blessed each of us uniquely, but we hide our light under a bushel and fail to rise to our potential. God, forgive us and embolden us. Help us to claim our gifts and put them to good use. 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

1. Don't resist the temptation to illustrate this story with some good old-fashioned Kool-Aid! They even make the kind now where you can just put a few drops into the bottom of an empty pitcher and then fill it with water, or you can use the powdered kind. Of course, this is not a miracle, but it is a lot of fun to imagine what it was like for the disciples to witness this miracle!
2. Illustrate this story. Make sure to include facial expressions for the people when they realized that Jesus had performed his first miracle! You can use anything you want to draw and color.
3. Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *Fancy Nancy and the Wedding of the Century* by Jane O'Connor. Nancy attends her uncle's wedding, and it isn't as fancy as she had hoped it would be. Still, she can share some of her own joy and creativity. Weddings are often occasions when lots of things can go wrong, but there is joy in the celebration. Why do you think Jesus' first miracle is at a wedding feast? What could this tell us about who Jesus is?
4. Journal, considering the following:
 - a) Why do you think Mary told Jesus to do something about the problem? What does he say? What is interesting about this interaction?
 - b) Share some of your favorite wedding memories, or if you are too young to have been to many weddings, ask the grown-ups in your life to share some of their wedding memories.
 - c) What would you have thought if you were a servant or guest at the wedding?



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. Bayer

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

Dr. Bayer

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Anthem

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir; Jill Deanne Fung, cello; Ann Carney, piano

*O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.
O Joy that seeks me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

Second Reading

John 2:1-11

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

More Than a Party Trick

Dr. Brown

***The Affirmation of Faith (unison)** The Confession of 1967: 9.54-55

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

Jill Deanne Fung, cello

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**

Elizabeth Glover

Generous God, just as Jesus transformed water into wine at the wedding in Cana, we ask you to bless and transform these gifts that we offer today. May they become a source of joy, hope, and abundance for those in need, reflecting the miracle of your love in our lives. Use these offerings to reveal your glory and draw others closer to you. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 850**

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



1 In a deep, un-bound-ed dark - ness, long be - fore the first
 2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant, firm,
 3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your match -
 4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad A -



light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it worked a
 and sure, faith - ful to your cov - enant prom - ise. Trust - ing
 less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us, Word made
 bra - ham; God of Mir - yam, God of Mo - ses, Fi - ery



won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy, in your
 you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es, sing - ing
 flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior, Friend and
 Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward, lead us



mer - cy, you em - braced us as your own,
 prais - es, long as heart and breath en - dure,
 Sav - ior, in whose life we glimpse your face,
 home - ward, to the love - feast of the Lamb,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Congregational Meeting

Closing Prayer

Gayle Ireland

*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.

Postlude

Sinfonia from "Solomon"

G. F. Handel

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

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Chancel Choir; Jill Deanne Fung, cello; Ann Carney, piano
Oliver Bayer, Elizabeth Glover, liturgists

Acolyte: Ryan Wooley

A/V Team: Chris Wilcox, Joe Wilcox

Ushers: Evan Mangels, Jonathan Mangels, Charlie Metzler, Jon Myers
Craig Parrish, Jim Williams

Welcome Team: Lorri Hattenhauer, Paul Hattenhauer, Kathy Rasimas

This morning, our worship is centered around the theme of the wedding at Cana, where Jesus performed His first miracle. As we reflect on this powerful moment in Scripture, our music celebrates the joy, love, and transformation found in Christ's presence through pieces normally heard at weddings. Join us as we lift our voices in worship, drawing inspiration from the biblical wedding to deepen our understanding of God's love and faithfulness.

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 Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager, adrienne@smpchome.org. Also, find us on Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres) and Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian).

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members on Sunday, January 26 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor, whitney@smpchome.org or 980-265-2835.

Congregational Notes (as of January 16, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- Rev. Lindsey Odom, as she is being treated for chronic leukemia and undergoes chemotherapy.
- All those affected by the wildfires in Southern California.
- All those involved in the continued hurricane recovery efforts.
- All those living with uncertainty in the Middle East.
- All those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti, amid the chaos that has enveloped their country.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:
prayer@SMPChome.org.

SMPC STAFF

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor

matt@smpchome.org

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor

whitney@smpchome.org

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Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

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Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

mkzagora@smpchome.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

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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 in the narthex. 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!

Please note: the church office is closed tomorrow, January 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
JAN. 19
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Legacy Heights Mission Project
Legacy Heights, 11230 Ballantyne Trace Ct, Charlotte, NC
Please join us as we play board games, create door hangers and color with residents of Legacy Heights Assisted Living. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday
JAN. 21
10:00 a.m.
Handiworkers Group
Palmer Building, Room 104
All levels of knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited. This group meets weekly to work on projects. Contact: Judy Jameson. jgjameson@gmail.com.

wednesday
JAN. 22
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 Zoom info.

thursday
JAN. 23
9:30 a.m.
Men's Breakfast Group
Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy
This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: Bob Tyler, Btyler@unitedskates.com.

saturday
JAN. 25
9:30 a.m.
Bagged Lunches for Roof Above
Drop off in front of the Palmer Building.
Roof Above provides 300 bagged lunches each day to help feed those in need. SMPC is committed to providing 100 bag lunches on the fourth Saturday of each month. Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com.



sunday
JAN. 26
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Adult Study: 'Trust the Whisper'
McQueen Room or Zoom
We are in week three of a four-week discussion on Kathy Izzard's book, *Trust the Whisper: How Answering Quiet Callings Inspires Extraordinary Stories of Ordinary Grace*. All are welcome - even if you missed the first two meetings! Contact: Melissa White, melissawhite1018@yahoo.com.

sunday
JAN. 26
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
BAM! Bible and Music
Narthex, Children in Kindergarten-5th Grade
During BAM, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various 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. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
JAN. 26
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
SMPC Youth at Sports Connection
Sports Connection, 11611 Ardrey Kell Rd
We'll bowl and play arcade games! Cost is \$25. Please bring extra spending money for food, snacks, candy, and desserts. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Evening Study Group, Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206 - The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

READ WITH US! ALL CHURCH READS 'TRUST THE WHISPER' BY KATHY IZARD

All Church Reads and Author Talk/Reflection - Sunday, February 2, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary - Read the book *Trust the Whisper* by Kathy IZard and join us for an evening with Kathy IZard. After sharing the story behind the book, Kathy will answer questions and lead a short "Find Your Whisper" exercise. Children are also invited to a special program with Director of Spiritual Formation Rebecca Guzman featuring Kathy's children's book, *Grace Heard a Whisper*. Casual reception to follow. All are welcome! Registration on Realm is appreciated but not required! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

LEARN HOW TO MAKE CHRISMON ORNAMENTS!

Beginner Chrismon Ornaments Class, Saturday, February 15, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Chapel 206, Ages 10 and Up - If you are curious about the Chrismons that adorned our tree in the narthex throughout Advent and want to learn how to make them, come to this beginner's Chrismon class! Crafting these ornaments requires a steady hand and a dose of patience - ages 10 to 100 are welcome! The cost is \$5.00 to cover materials, and you will complete a dragonfly ornament during the class. Register on Realm. Contact: Donna Brown, donnamatt89@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Room in the Inn, Sundays, February 16 and March 2, Sardis Presbyterian Church - There are spots open for food donations and volunteers to help with dinner, overnight stays or breakfast and cleanup. Sign up via QR code. *Just a thought from our Missions/Outreach Committee: February 16 is the day before President's Day and perhaps a day you have off from work, making it more doable to serve Sunday night or Monday morning?* Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



Become a Math Tutor for Smithfield Elementary School Students

Smithfield Elementary School is in need of a few more math tutors! If you are interested in learning more about this awesome service opportunity, please complete the form linked in the QR code so that we can connect with you! Tutoring at Smithfield Elementary is a rewarding way to share your time and talents. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



SAVE THE DATES FOR VBS

Vacation Bible School (Registration Coming Soon!), Monday, July 21-Thursday, July 24, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Ages 3-4th grade - Registration is coming soon for Vacation Bible School: *Road Trip - On the Go With God*. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for registration details! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can access Sunday's sermons on our website via our podcast or written transcripts? Simply go to smpchome.org > Worship > Sermons and find the list of Sunday worship services. Click on the service and find the audio and transcripts, as well as the livestream video, scripture passages and online bulletin. Please note: Sermons are uploaded by the Tuesday morning after that Sunday's worship, but occasionally written transcripts will not be available. You can also scan the QR code to access them! If you have questions or trouble finding a sermon, please contact Director of Communications Cheryl Perry, cheryl@smpchome.org.



SOUTH MECKLENBURG

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



8601 Bryant Farms Road
Charlotte, NC 28277

smpchome.org
704-544-0404

332
Average Sunday worship attendance in person

8,584
Total views in 2024 for online worship




193 Hours the Music Ministry rehearsed

181 Participants in Adult Studies

112 Units of blood collected for the American Red Cross

\$33,789
Collected through the NC Disaster Relief Fund for Western NC



1
Championship for SMPC Men's Softball

190 Gifts collected for Angel Tree families

1,331 People attended Christmas Eve services

360 Dozen desserts donated to Center of Hope

77 OFCB school children sponsored by SMPC families

153 Scouts in BSA Troops 119 and 219 and Pack 119



76% Average church email open rate

23 Animals blessed at the Blessing of the Animals




5 Eagle Scouts in Troops 119 & 219

8 Eagle Scout projects completed on campus

81 Students at SMPC Preschool

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED AT SMPC?
Contact: Adrienne Jaquith
Office and Database Manager
adrienne@smpchome.org

1,200 Bagged lunches donated to Roof Above

130 Sunday Greeters

2024 SMPC Annual Financial Report

Operating Fund Giving

386
Households gave

\$3,202
Average annual giving per household

\$1.24M
Total 2024 gifts - \$13k over budget

66%
Giving was through online giving



Building Fund Giving

\$710k
Mortgage

138
households
gave \$422,200 to the From Strength to Strength building fund campaign

94
Families have paid their building fund pledge in full - thank you!

\$300k
Building fund pledges outstanding, due by June 2025.



Outreach & Mission Giving

\$33.8k
Donations from 123 families for NC Disaster Relief

\$3.3k
One Great Hour of Sharing offering

\$22.6k
Alternative Gift Market

\$56.3k
Support of OFCB

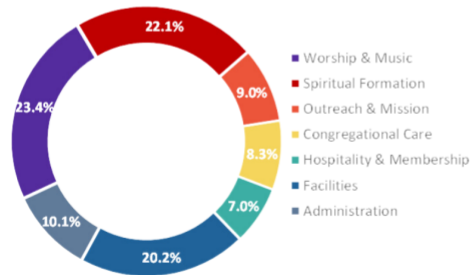
\$5.6k
Christmas Eve offering

\$37.8k
Support of local outreach agencies



Support our ministries and programs with pledges and/or gifts to the 2025 Operating Fund.

Give
online



2025 Budget and
2024 Operating
Income Statement



SMPC Staff

Dr. Matt Brown, Pastor, matt@smpchome.org

Dr. Whitney Bayer, Associate Pastor, whitney@smpchome.org

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Mary Katherine Zagora, Financial Administrator, mkzagora@smpchome.org

76 Youth attended summer or fall retreats

25 Youth helpers at VBS

20 College students attended the first annual SMPC College Christmas Party

40 Sunday worship services with a child/youth liturgist



10 Confirmants

10 Mission Projects

2 Youth advocates at Massanetta

35 Average number of youth attended a SMPC Youth event

38k Views on SMPC's Instagram posts/stories/reels from October-December 2024



181 Children/Youth in Vacation Bible School and Mission Possible

36 Average number of children in BAM! (Bible and Music)

35 Average number of children in Children's Worship each Sunday

12 Third grade Bibles presented



249 People attended a fall or spring Lunch on the Grounds

336 Pounds of bacon sizzled for Center of Hope

9 Baptisms

8,363 Vials filled with body wash for Roof Above

615 People attended Festival of Carols in person



56 Niches reserved in SMPC columbarium

39 Guests hosted at Room in the Inn (in partnership with Trinity Presbyterian & Sardis Presbyterian)



15 SMPC members who tutor Smithfield Elementary students

90 Construction workers who worked on the Bryant Farms Rd traffic circle*
*Includes contractors, management and inspection staff