

LENT 2025

SOUTH MECK PRESS

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

DR. MATT BROWN

A young woman, unsettled by an encounter in the park and not ready to join the friends who wouldn't understand turns away from the party venue, and instead enters a dive bar across the street. "She's met by the smell of spilled beer, but no raised glances, the clientele just stare into their glass even when they speak to one another, it the sort of place where it's an act of mercy that there are no mirrors in the bathrooms." I came across this haunting quote in Fredrick Backman's novel, *The Winners*, and it struck me as illustrative of the lengths to which we will go or the depths to which we will fall to avoid the kind of honest self-evaluation that leads to the repentance, change, transformation, and work that returns words like hope, meaning, and purpose to our vocabulary.

Lent is the season for that very work -- "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." ... "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Telling the truth to ourselves may seem to great a risk, but it is in that truth that the God who loves us does God's best work. We invite you to join us during this season of self-evaluation/God-transformation called Lent, for, surprisingly, it is the journey to the cross that is the way to life.

Grace and Peace,
Matt



FIND LENTEN SERVICES,
STUDIES AND FELLOWSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES ON OUR
WEBSITE



Easter Sunday Worship

APRIL 20
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream | smpchome.org
Childcare provided for ages 3 and under

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT SMPCC

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall

- Bring your family and friends for a pancake feast as we prepare to journey through the Lenten season together. We will collect food donations to support our Center of Hope ministry: pancake mix (add water variety), syrup, Tang drink mix and quick grits.

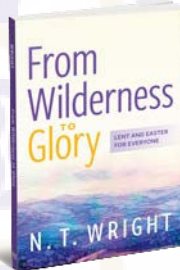
\$5/person (maximum family cost of \$20). Click [here](#) to register on Realm or scan the QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Drive-Through Ashes - March 5, 7:30-9:15 a.m., Church Parking Lot

Worship Service - March 5, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary and Livestream



FROM WILDERNESS TO GLORY

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Sundays beginning March 9, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom

Thursdays beginning March 13, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Chapel 204 or Zoom

Even if you can't join the study, we encourage you to purchase the book as a daily devotional for Lent. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org



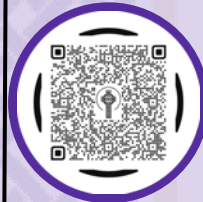
PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 10:10 a.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream



MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER & COMMUNION

Thursday, April 17, 6:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall - Join as we continue our journey through Holy Week. We will share supper and communion and remember our Lord's gathering with His disciples on the night of His arrest when they broke bread together. Click [here](#) to register on Realm or scan QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org



GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 18, 7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream



EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 20
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream



GOD'S BOUNDLESS LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE



As Christians, we are constantly striving to learn more about God and grasp his abundant love for us. During the Ladies Advent Tea last December, SMPC member Allison Reeves shared that, since becoming a mother five years ago to her son, Zac, she has experienced a glimpse into the big ways in which God loves us as his children.

These five lessons with coordinating Scriptures are a beautiful reminder - whether we are parents or not - of God's boundless love for all of us! As we study and pray over these lessons, consider your own love for your parents, children, family members and friends.

Five things I have learned about God since becoming a mother (by Allison Reeves):

1. **How much Jesus' death cost God.** - Romans 5:7-8
 2. **How much God loves me!** - Psalm 86:15
 3. **He is a trusting God.** - Deuteronomy 31:8
 4. **God is full of wonder.** - Psalms 65:8
 5. **God desires a relationship with me.** - Ezekiel 37:27
- BONUS #6! **God has endless patience.** - 2 Peter 3:9

Believing & Belonging

Explore the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian church and how God uses our gifts to create community
Led by Rebecca Guzman and Melissa White

Sunday, March 30
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

McQueen Room

Lunch Provided and Childcare Available

Register on Realm

Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org



**NOW REGISTERING
FOR 2025-2026!**
SMPC PRESCHOOL
AGES 2-TK
smpcpreschool.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 2, VARIOUS TIMES, SARDIS PRESBYTERIAN ROOM IN THE INN

MARCH 4, 5:30-7:00 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

MARCH 5, 7:30-9:15 AM, CHURCH PARKING LOT
ASH WEDNESDAY DRIVE-THROUGH ASHES

MARCH 5, 7:00 PM, SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

MARCH 8, 8:00 AM-12:30 PM, THE COMMONS
AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 8, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, MEET IN NARTHEX
PARENTS MORNING OUT (AGES 3-FIFTH GRADE)

MARCH 30, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM, MCQUEEN ROOM
BELIEVING & BELONGING

APRIL 6, 5:00-6:30 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL
SMPC YOUTH & BAM! EASTER MEAL KITS & EGG HUNT

APRIL 13, 10:10 AM WORSHIP
PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 17, 6:00 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL
MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER & COMMUNION

APRIL 18, 7:30 PM, SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM
GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

APRIL 20, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM, SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM
EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

MAY 11, 10:10 AM WORSHIP, SANCTUARY
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 18, 11:15 AM
LUNCH ON THE GROUNDS

JUNE 1, 10:10 AM WORSHIP, SANCTUARY
GRADUATE SUNDAY

JUNE 24-JUNE 27
YOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT AT MASSANETTA

JULY 6-JULY 12
YOUTH HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT AT MONTREAT








JULY 21-24, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



For the most current church information, please subscribe to our weekly email. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org

LENTEN SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

If your family is focusing on service this Lenten season, consider joining others at SMPC! Here are a few ideas! You can also go to smpchome.org/serve for more.

-  Be a child/youth liturgist during worship.
-  Volunteer or bring a food item for Room in the Inn on March 2.
-  Donate blood or volunteer at the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, March 8 in The Commons.
-  Make a dessert for Center of Hope guests and bring it to worship on Sunday, March 9 or April 12 before worship.
-  Set your alarm and serve breakfast or donate food/money to Center of Hope on Saturday, March 15 or April 19 (ages 18 and up, no students from area schools can volunteer).
-  Make bag lunches for Roof Above and bring to the church on Saturday, March 22.
-  Sponsor a child from Haiti and write an email to him/her from your family.

Honor a loved one with a donation to the Alternative Gift Market any time of year or serve at one of the many organizations we support! Click [here](#) or scan QR code for more.



Contact: Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth & Missions/Outreach, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Lenten Family Kits will be available on Sunday, March 9 in the narthex!
Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org