



A Service of Worship
Day of Pentecost
June 8, 2025
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

Prelude *Tongues of Fire (Pentecost Dance)* Alfred V. Fedak

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rev. Lindsey Odom

Introit *I'm Gonna Sing!* arr. Terry D. Taylor

Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs

I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says "sing,"

And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

Over my head, there is music in the air.

God's love reaches everywhere.

I'm gonna shout when the Spirit says "shout,"

And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

There is music everywhere!

***Call to Worship** Natalie Guy

One: Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit.

Many: Inspire our worship with your truth.

One: Stir in our hearts, Holy Spirit.

Many: Fill us with your love.

One: Strengthen us, Holy Spirit.

Many: Move us to act with your power.

One: Breathe in us, Holy Spirit.

Many: Receive our prayers and praise.

***Hymn 280** *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* EBENEZER

1 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; come with
 2 We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the
 3 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us

Pen - te - cos - tal power; give the church a
 grace of yes - ter - years; for to - mor - row's
 words of fire and flame. Help our fee - ble

strong - er vi - sion; help us face each cru - cial hour.
 un - known path - way, hear, O Lord, our hum - ble prayers.
 lips to praise you, glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name.

Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion, Je - sus Christ, the
 In the church - 's pil - grim jour - ney you have led us
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One: what

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Rev. Odom

Lord God, the Spirit calls each of us, but we are often reluctant to heed the call. The wind of the Spirit blows, at times fiercely, and draws us onward. Yet, we cling to the fragile familiarities, to securities, and to safety. Help us to risk letting go and to stand free as your servant people. Help us to capture visions of the future, so that we can truly be the church. Walk with us, O God, and give us the courage to follow the way that is lit by the fire of your Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

*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

Rebecca Guzman

1. Today is Pentecost! Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *The Day When God Made Church* by Rebekah Hutto. There are lots of ways we can celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church, like....
2. Celebrate the church's birthday. Sometimes, since this is the day when God made church, we have birthday cake and sing happy birthday to the church!
3. Consider the Holy Spirit. Maybe you will fly a kite or hang a windsock and think about how the Holy Spirit is like wind. Maybe you and your family will light a candle or have a fire and think about how the Holy Spirit is like fire. Maybe you will [make an origami dove](#) and think about how the Holy Spirit is like a dove.
4. Learn how to say "I love you" in a new language. In the story, the people were speaking different languages, but they were able to understand each other! This [video](#) teaches you how to say, "I love you!" in 60 languages.
5. Journal, considering the following:
 - a. I wonder what it was like to be a disciple that day.
 - b. I wonder what it would have been like to be able to speak another language all of the sudden.
 - c. If this happened today, I wonder what our reaction would be?
 - d. How do we hear God speak to us today?
 - e. How do we see God acting through the Holy Spirit today?

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

Rev. Odom

First Reading

Psalm 104:1-4

Rev. Odom

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

Anthem

African Spirit Song

Victor Johnson

Chancel Choir; Brett Parrish, soloist

*Come, Holy Spirit, lead us with Your mighty power,
Fill now our hearts and souls with Your consuming fire.
Come, Holy Spirit, lead us with Your mighty power,
Come, Holy Spirit, O Holy Spirit, come!
O Spirit of the living God, O light and fire divine,
Descend upon your church once more, and make it wholly Thine.*

Second Reading

Acts 2:1-21

Dr. Matthew S. Brown

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon

to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

Sermon "you ride on the wings of the wind" Dr. Brown

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) A Brief Statement of Faith, 52-76
Rev. Odom

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* arr. Kevin McChesney
Chancel Ringers

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** Felix Jaynes

Holy Spirit of God, we dedicate our lives to love and service through the giving of our gifts and offerings. May the bold wind of your Spirit magnify and multiply our gifts to further your work of peace, justice, and compassion for all. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The music features various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes, as well as rests and ties. The piano accompaniment includes chords and single notes.

*Charge and Benediction

Dr. Brown

*Congregational Response

No. 408, refrain

*Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.*

Postlude

Partita on "Ebenezer": V. Toccata

Benjamin M. Culli

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Matthew S. Brown, Pastor
Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Chancel Choir
Hosanna and Alleluia Choirs
Chancel Ringers
Brett Parrish, soloist
Natalie Guy, Felix Jaynes, liturgists

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Luke Estes

Ushers: Bob Cushman, Mitchell Davis, Mary Elledge, Curtis Guy, Jonathan Mangels, Evan Mangels

Welcome Team: Jimmy Galati, Kathy Galati

There are several options to remember or honor a loved one with the SMPC Flower Ministry! Find more details and sign up to reserve a Sunday via the QR code. Contact: Karen Malmut, karenmalmut@yahoo.com.



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 and Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members Sunday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Rev. Melissa White, Director of Hospitality and Connection, melissa@smpchome.org or 704-887-7488

Congregational Notes (as of June 5, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- Melissa White and her family as her mother, Pat Bryant, entered the Church triumphant on June 4.
- Aimee Gravender and her family as her father, Thomas Richard Smith, entered the Church triumphant on May 30.
- All those affected by conflict, displacement, and unrest around the world and at home.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti, as they navigate the chaos and challenges engulfing 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

Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth & Missions/Outreach

lindsey@smpchome.org

Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music

laura@smpchome.org

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

zach@smpchome.org

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

rebecca@smpchome.org

Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager

adrienne@smpchome.org

Cheryl Perry, Director of Communications

cheryl@smpchome.org

Steve Stevenson, Facility Administrator

steve@smpchome.org

Rev. Melissa White, Director of Hospitality and Connection

melissa@smpchome.org

Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

tammy@smpchome.org

Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

mkzagora@smpchome.org

Church Office Hours:

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

Friday: Closed

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,
License #A-735003. All rights reserved.*



South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

8601 Bryant Farms Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, 704-544-0404

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

SMPC WEEKLY

JUNE 8, 2025

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies outside. 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

Please note: *Believing and Belonging*, originally scheduled for today, was cancelled. We will reschedule for a later day! Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

today
JUNE 8
4:00 p.m.

An Unsurpassed Alleluia: A Festival of Hymns Sanctuary & Livestream

The SMPC Music Ministry invites you to this special event that is part of the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' Summer Recital Series! Through robust congregational singing, thoughtful meditations, and stirring music, we will explore the deep truths of our faith. Come sing, reflect, and be renewed. Free to attend and all are welcome. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

tuesday
JUNE 10
1:00 p.m. -
2:30 p.m.

A Caregiver's Journey McQueen Room

Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Kathy Garner, kathygarner15@gmail.com.

tuesday
JUNE 10
3:30 p.m. -
5:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth Summer Celebration at Starbucks Stonecrest, Middle and High Schoolers (Rising 6th through 12th graders)

Let's celebrate the start of summer! Drop in when you can! Please let Lindsey Odom know you're coming, lindsey@smpchome.org.

wednesday
JUNE 11
9:30 a.m.

Conversations with Dr. Matt Brown McQueen Room or Zoom

Join us as we discuss the scripture for the coming week's sermon. All are welcome! Contact Matt Brown, matt@smpchome.org, for Zoom info.

wednesday
JUNE 11
10:00 a.m.

City of Charlotte's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Bryant Farms Road Extension Phase 1 Project Southwest Corner of Bryant Farms Rd and Elm Ln

The City of Charlotte is hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of the Bryant Farms Road Extension project, which includes our beloved traffic circle! Guests are asked to park at SMPC, so heads up the church parking lot might be busy that morning! If you have SMPC-related questions, please contact Steve Stevenson, steve@smpchome.org.

thursday
JUNE 12
8:00 a.m. -
4:00 p.m.

SMPC Youth River Tubing on the Catawba River Catawba River Outdoors, Marion, NC, Middle and High Schoolers (Rising 6th through 12th graders)

Transportation, snacks, and ice cream are provided. We will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. to drive together. Cost is \$20 to tube. Please bring extra money for lunch. Register and pay on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

sunday
JUNE 15
9:50 a.m.

Summer Organ Sidekick (SOS) Various Sundays, Beginning June 15, Rising 2nd Grade to Rising 6th Grade

Children are invited to sit next to Director of Music and Organist Zach Bowyer at the organ to experience what it's like to lead music during worship! Please arrive by 9:50 a.m. We'll have one "sidekick" per Sunday. Please sign up for only one Sunday to allow everyone a chance to participate! Scan QR code for more information and to sign up. Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, June 20, 7:30 a.m. Chapel 206 - This group meets on the first and third Fridays of every month. They are reading the book *Life Is Hard. God Is Good. Let's Dance.: Experiencing Real Joy in a World Gone Mad* by Brant Hansen. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

Center of Hope Breakfast, Saturday, June 21, Meet at SMPC at 5:15 a.m. - On the third Saturday of each month, SMPC preps, cooks and serves breakfast for guests at the Center of Hope. Food donations are due Thursday, June 19. Monetary donations are always welcome. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Bob Williamson, bobwill31@hotmail.com.



Food for Thought Book Group, Thursday, June 26, 12:30 p.m., McQueen Room - This group will discuss *Indigo Isle* by T.I. Lowe. All are welcome! Contact: Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com.

The Third Thirty - "Retirement Home, Your Home, or Your Children's Home," Sunday, July 13, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Commons, Ages 60-90 years old - The fourth session in a 12-session study! This study meets one Sunday a month over a light lunch after worship. Come to as many sessions as your schedule allows! Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

Join the SMPC Men's Softball team! Games are held on Mondays and Fridays throughout the summer and most are played on the SMPC field. The team won the championship last year and has moved up to the league's top division this summer (the 2024 trophy is in Chapel 206!). Contact: Michael Choren, michaelchoren@yahoo.com.

Vacation Bible School, Monday, July 21-Thursday, July 24, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., VBS: Ages 3-4th grade; Mission Possible: Rising 5th and 6th Grade - Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



SUMMER SERVICE

SMPC Ushers Needed! We are looking for new members to join our Usher Team! Usher responsibilities include arriving 30 minutes prior to worship, handing out bulletins before worship, collecting the offering, guiding church members up to communion and cleaning up after worship. Ushers typically work one time a month or every other month. This is a great way for all generations to serve. Contact: Nancy Parrish, cnparrish@bellsouth.net.

IMPORTANT STAFF UPDATE

We have been truly blessed to have Dr. Matt Brown serve as pastor of SMPC for 21 years! With both gratitude and sadness, we share that Matt announced his retirement, effective December 1, 2025. If you receive the church-wide weekly emails, you should have received Matt's email on Sunday, May 27, 2025. His final Sunday preaching at SMPC will be November 23, 2025.



You can find Matt's message to the congregation via the QR code to the left, along with a link to the letter from Personnel Committee Chair Janet Morgan, which expresses heartfelt thanks to Matt and his wife, Donna, and outlines our transition plan. If you would like to be added to the church's email list, please contact Director of Communications Cheryl Perry, cheryl@smpchome.org.

WHAT'S NEXT

We have compiled some frequently asked questions about the church's next steps, which can be found in the QR code on the right. We'll continue to update it as the process unfolds. We are blessed with a vibrant faith community and strong lay and clergy leadership at SMPC! We trust God's guidance and look forward with hope to what lies ahead!



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:
Dr. Matt Brown, Pastor, matt@smcphome.org, 980-265-2834
Janet Morgan, Personnel Committee Chair, janetmackeymorgan@gmail.com, 704-577-3202
Gayle Ireland, Clerk of Session, gaylei93@gmail.com, 704-451-4706