

FALL 2025

# SOUTH MECK PRESS

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## FROM OUR PASTOR

**DR. MATT BROWN**

**"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."  
1 John 4:7**

Dear Members and Friends of South Mecklenburg,

It was the elder with a Jeep who came to pick me up on a Sunday morning following a massive Spring snow. It was the laughter around the dinner table after a hard day's work installing a hardwood floor for an African-American church that had been victimized by a hate-driven arsonist. It was the genius of a retired banker applied to the planning and administration of a school and health clinic in Haiti. It was the hush of a crowded sanctuary as a congregation sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in worship. It was the ebullient precociousness of a small child who boldly walked into the center of a conversation circle and matter-of-factly inquired, "What's up, guys?" It was the candlelight on Christmas Eve, the sight of someone singing courageously along with A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, the entrance and reception of someone returning to worship following the death of a spouse.

Can someone go through life never experiencing these encounters and still call it a life? I imagine so. Could I survive without that depth of community? Absolutely not. For I know that what we share together as a community in Christ is the deepest desire God has for us. We are **called to community**, and through our life together in Christ, we are a **community of the called**, beloved and energized to be a light to the world. Soak in these pages, invest in this shared life. You will not have to be told you are beloved. You will know it.

Grace and Peace,  
Matt

### WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED!

After 21 years as pastor at SMPC, Dr. Matt Brown announced his retirement, effective December 1, 2025. His last Sunday with us will be November 23, 2025. We look forward to celebrating the incredible gift Matt has been to our faith community.

To stay up to date on the pastoral transition, please subscribe to our email list, follow us on social media and /or check out our website, [smpchome.org/updates-on-pastoral-transition](https://smpchome.org/updates-on-pastoral-transition).



Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:10 am or via livestream.  
Follow us on Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian & Instagram: @southmeckpres  
[smpchome.org](https://smpchome.org)

# DOUBLE YOUR DONATION TO FRIENDS EMPOWERING HAITI

Friends Empowering Haiti has received a gift from a generous donor, which will match any individual donation up to a total of \$83,333 between now and December 31, 2025. This is an opportunity for individuals, outside of donations given through the church. This means that, for example, a \$50 gift will become \$100 and a \$250 gift will become \$500. Together, we're not just changing lives, we are helping build a self-sustaining community where hope flourishes.

Donations can be made by check, mailed to Friends Empowering Haiti, P.O. Box 34563, Charlotte, NC 28234 or via QR code.



## JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY

### Chancel Choir Adults

*Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m., Choir Room*

### Chancel Ringers Adult Handbells

*Wednesdays - 6:00 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**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**AUGUST 24, 9:00-10:00 AM, MECKLENBURG HALL**  
**ALL CHURCH SERVES - SORT & PACK SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY**

**AUGUST 24, DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP**  
**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**  
**INVITE A FRIEND!**



**AUGUST 24, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, SHEELERS' HOUSE**  
**SMPC YOUTH FALL KICKOFF POOL PARTY**

**SEPTEMBER 2 & 3**  
**SMPC PRESCHOOL'S FIRST DAY OF CLASSES**

**SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, BELOVED @ BETHELWOODS**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FALL RETREAT**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 5:00-6:30 PM, NARTHEX**  
**BIBLE AND MUSIC (BAM!) KICKOFF**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 9:00 AM, MCQUEEN ROOM OR ZOOM**  
**WORDS OF LOVE - FALL ADULT BIBLE STUDY KICKOFF**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 11:15 AM, SMPC**  
**LUNCH ON THE GROUNDS**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 5:00-6:30 PM, MECKLENBURG HALL**  
**BIG YOUTH GROUP (BYG) RESUMES**

**SEPTEMBER 19-21, LAKE TILLERY**  
**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FALL RETREAT**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 1:00-6:00 PM, SUN-CITY CAROLINA**  
**LAKES GOLF COURSE - SMPC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**SEPTEMBER 28, DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP**  
**ACTIONNEL FLEURISMA & EWO VISIT SMPC**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 3:15 PM, SMPC PARKING LOT**  
**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**



**OCTOBER 19, 1:00-4:00 PM, PROVIDENCE BAPTIST**  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

**OCTOBER 26, DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP**  
**2026 OPERATING FUND CAMPAIGN - COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

*For the most up-to-date church information, please subscribe to our weekly email. Email Cheryl Perry, cheryl@smpchome.org to be added to the list.*



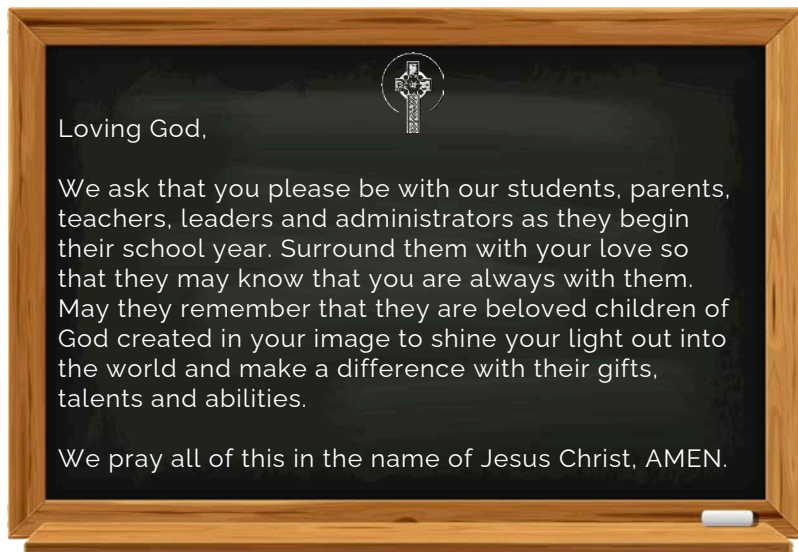
**YOU ARE INVITED!**  
**BRING A FRIEND!**

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24**  
**DURING 10:10 AM WORSHIP**

**Bring your backpack!**





## NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

Join us this fall as we explore *Words of Love: A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. This thought-provoking study reclaims the Ten Commandments not as a list of rules, but as a path toward healing, wholeness, and deeper love for God and neighbor.



Rebecca Guzman and Melissa White will guide the conversation each week, creating space for reflection, honesty, and growth. The study starts Sunday, September 14, 9:00-10:00 a.m., McQueen Room or Zoom.

Whether you've studied the Ten Commandments before or are coming to them with fresh eyes, all are welcome. Come discover how these ancient words still speak life today. Please register on Realm so we can prepare materials and space.

## NEW SMALL GROUP STARTS THIS FALL: WRITING YOUR LEGACY



A new small group starts this fall! Join us for *Writing Your Legacy*, led by SMPC member Melinda Ferguson, Mondays, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the McQueen Room or Zoom beginning September 15. Over the course of five weeks, group members will be guided in writing about family memories, history and more. Open to all. Please register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, [melissa@smpchome.org](mailto:melissa@smpchome.org).

## REGISTER FOR THE ALL CHURCH SERVES

On Sunday, August 24, 9:00-10:00 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](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org).



## SMPC PRESCHOOL WELCOMES BACK STUDENTS



Did you know SMPC is home to the best preschool in Charlotte? SMPC Preschool is a play-based preschool for ages 2 through TK. The school is welcoming this year's parents and students for Open House Wednesday, August 27 and Thursday, August 28.

We can't wait to have students back on campus! Contact: Tammy Winchip, [tammy@smpchome.org](mailto:tammy@smpchome.org).

**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 7, 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](mailto:rebecca@smpchome.org).**

 **South  
Mecklenburg**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
8601 Bryant Farms Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church



*Called to*  
**COMMUNITY**  
1 JOHN 4:7

**2026 OPERATING  
FUND CAMPAIGN  
COMMITMENT SUNDAY  
IS OCTOBER 26**

**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).*