



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

We Gather

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Prelude *Fanfare on "Lasst Uns Erfreuen"* Phil Lehenbauer

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Sandy Hull

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Introit *Blest Be The Tie That Binds* arr. Lowell Mason

***Call to Worship** Blake Stockstill

One: Welcome friends and guests, we are delighted that you are here!

All: We are here to sing, to pray, to greet, to wonder, to serve, and to give thanks. We gather as a beloved community of faith to worship God,

One: to be reminded of God's goodness,

All: and our call to be a part of that goodness. With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship God!

***Hymn 327** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

rise:
 long:
 word:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's
 In cheer - ful sound all
 Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Lindsey Odom

Faithful and forgiving God, you call us to be a community shaped by your love, humility, hope, and justice. Yet we confess that we often forget who we are. We limit our worship to a Sunday morning. We gather, but are not always welcoming. We speak of love, but struggle to live it out. We cling to comfort instead of courage and choose convenience over faithfulness. Forgive us and renew us by your Spirit, so that we may once again be your holy people who live rooted in love

and faithfully follow Christ together. Amen. Assurance of God's Grace

Rev. Odom

*Response of Praise

No. 582, stanza 1

*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. **Story Connection:** Listen to [This Is the Church](#) by Sarah Raymond Cunningham. This story reimagines a nursery rhyme many of us learned as children: "Here is a building, it may have a steeple, but where is the church? The church is the people!" From the very beginning, the church has never just been a building—it has always been people who belong to God and to one another. As you listen, wonder together: how can you choose to be the church?
2. **Craft:** Use this printable craft, [The Church is the People](#). Print and cut out both rectangles. Fold the top piece where indicated and glue the bottom piece as shown. When finished, the craft opens to reveal that the church is not just a building, it is the people inside.
3. **Activity:** Gather a few items—blocks, cups, pillows, or paper. First, work together to build a "church building." Then gently remove the building and use the same materials to create a circle, path, or gathering space where people can fit. Talk about how buildings are helpful, but it is people loving, serving, praying, and welcoming that truly make the church.
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a. I wonder what it really means to be the church.
 - b. I wonder how God is calling you to be part of the church.
 - c. I wonder how our words and actions show that we belong to God.



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 40:1-5

Rev. Odom

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

Anthem

Be My Church

David Lantz

Chancel Choir; Collin Sinclair, tenor;
Ann Carney, piano

Rejoice with the rejoicing, and weep with those who mourn.

Be patient and forgiving; repair what has been torn.

Remember the forgotten; invite the stranger in.

Serve each other faithfully until I come again.

Love as I have loved you. Serve as I have served.

Give as I have given. Be my church.

Be my hands and body moving in the world.

Live your life in blessing. Be my church.

The outcast, the beloved; the powerful, the weak;

The ones caught up in battle and those who sleep in peace;

The thriving and the struggling; the greatest to the least:

My child, they are my children, so love each one of these.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Dr. Hull

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Sermon

“Here’s the Church!”

Dr. Hull

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

The Apostles’ Creed

Rev. Melissa White

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to

judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. White

. . . *(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.**

Offering Invitation

Rev. White

Offertory

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

arr. Joel Raney

Chancel Ringers Small Group

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**

No. 606

***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**

Austin Stockstill

Faithful God, with all that we are and all that we have, we offer ourselves to you. Receive these gifts as signs of our life together as your church who are called to sing and pray, to greet and to wonder, to serve and to give thanks. Use what we bring to remind the world of your goodness and to make us a living part of that goodness, as we faithfully follow Christ and serve our neighbors in love. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 309**

Come, Great God of All the Ages

ABBOT'S LEIGH

1 Come, great God of all the a - ges; make your earth - ly
 2 Come, Christ Je - sus, flesh and spir - it, sure foun - da - tion,
 3 Come, great Spir - it, in and with us, tune our ears to
 4 Come, O come, in cel - e - bra - tion, house - hold of the

mis - sion known; speak through ev - ery deed and per - son;
 cor - ner - stone; help us form the church e - ter - nal;
 hear your call; through the mov - ing of your pres - ence,
 one true God; in com - mit - ment and re - joic - ing

let your way and will be shown. Guide the church to true com -
 may your vi - sion be our own. Send a mes - sage to each
 let re - deem - ing love re - call min - is - try in ded - i -
 let us go where Christ has trod; as we act in faith and

mit - ment; give di - rec - tion now, we ask; fit us for the
 fol - lower; lead all peo - ple to your way; urge us to strong
 ca - tion, love em - bod - ied in our deeds; chal - lenge us to
 rev - erence, let us, Lord, the fu - ture see; place us in the

work of build - ing; ded - i - cate us to the task.
 faith and ac - tion as we build the church to - day.
 do your bid - ding, see your pur - pose, fill all needs.
 church tri - um - phant, now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

***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

Tuba Tune

Carson Cooman

Congregational Meeting

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

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

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate for Congregational Care & Connection

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Chancel Ringers Small Group

Collin Sinclair, tenor; Ann Carney, piano

Austin Stockstill, Blake Stockstill, liturgists

Gayle Ireland, Clerk of Session

A/V Team: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

Ushers: Dean Elledge, Mary Elledge, Richard Franseen, Andrew Gaul
Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson

Welcome Team: Jack Hess, Jennifer Hurlburt, Donna Podgorny, Donna Ramsey

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 25 at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate, melissa@smpchome.org or 704-887-7488.

Congregational Notes (as of January 15, 2025)

Remember in Prayer

- All those affected by conflict, displacement, and unrest around the

world and at home.

- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti, that God's peace, protection and justice may prevail amid the crisis, chaos, and despair engulfing their country.

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

SMPChome STAFF

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

sandy@smpchome.org

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

lindsey@smpchome.org

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate

melissa@smpchome.org

Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music

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steve@smpchome.org

Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPChome 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

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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 near Coffee Grounds. Come meet friends old and new! Registry pads are located in your pews. Please sign and pass to your neighbor and perhaps introduce yourself to someone new!

Please note: The church office will be closed tomorrow, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

JAN. 18

5:00 p.m. -

6:30 p.m.

BAM! (Bible and Music)

Meet in Narthex, Kindergarten-5th Grade

BAM! is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Please register on Realm so we know how much pizza to order! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

today

JAN. 18

5:00 p.m. -

6:30 p.m.

Middle and High School Small Group Dinners

Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers will meet for small group dinners at hosts' homes. Please register on Realm and find each dinner's location there. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday

JAN. 20

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. 21

9:30 a.m. -

10:30 a.m.

Pastor's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

McQueen Room or Zoom

Transitional Pastor Sandy Hull leads this study that meets weekly. They are discussing the book of Ephesians. All are welcome! If you would like to join by Zoom, please contact Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org.

thursday

JAN. 22

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. 24

9:30 a.m.

Bag Lunches for Roof Above

Drop Off in Front of Mecklenburg Hall

Every month we donate 100 bag lunches to our neighbors in need at Roof Above. While this month is full (thank you!), please consider signing up to bring lunches next month. Simply scan the QR code. Contact: Julie Durham, julierdurham@gmail.com.



sunday

JAN. 25

9:00 a.m. -

10:00 a.m.

Adult Study: "Second Thoughts About the Second Coming"

McQueen Room or Zoom

Join Rebecca Guzman and Melissa White for a six-week explorative study using *Second Thoughts about the Second Coming: Understanding the End Times, Our Future, and Christian Hope* by Ronald Allen and Robert Cornwall. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday

JAN. 25

5:00 p.m. -

6:30 p.m.

SMPC Youth SkyZone Event

10200 Centrum Pkwy, Pineville, NC 28134, Middle and High Schoolers

Join us for a fun night at SkyZone! Cost: \$25/youth. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Evening Study Group, Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206 - The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

Third Thirty, "How Different Is It for Those Who Don't Fit the Mold?", Sunday, February 1, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Ages 60-90 - This study meets once a month over a light lunch following the worship service. They'll explore how the Third Thirty might look different for those who don't fit the typical mold, such as those who have lost a spouse or never married, those who have no children, or those who are caring for a family member with special needs. You can attend this session even if you have not attended previous sessions. Please register on Realm in advance so we order enough lunch! Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

BAM! Bible and Music, Sunday, February 1, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Meet in the Narthex, Ages K-3rd Grade - BAM! is our Sunday evening program for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Please register on Realm so we know how much pizza to order! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

BYG (Big Youth Group), Sunday, February 1, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers - BYG provides an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and love through bible study, small group time, good food, fun games, and fellowship. Please bring 12 stuffed Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 15. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Making Space Mom's Group, Thursday, February 5, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206 - This group meets on the first and third Thursday of every month. Moms of all ages are invited for fellowship and study. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, February 6, 7:30 a.m., Chapel 206 - This group meets on the first and third Fridays of every month for study and fellowship. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com.

High School Youth Lock-In, Friday, February 6-Saturday, February 7, Sanctuary Building, High Schoolers - High school youth are invited to "Lock-In & Be Lifted," an overnight lock-in designed to step away from daily stress and busy schedules and lean into something holy that includes connection, rest, and renewal right here at our church. Together we'll learn and grow, share meaningful conversations, build fellowship through games and activities, and create space to encounter God in a way that is joyful, grounding, and holy. Cost: \$50. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

SMPC Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, February 10, 11:30 a.m., Trio Restaurant, 10709 McMullen Creek Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28226 - This group meets four times a year for lunch and fellowship. All are invited - bring a friend! RSVP to Ruth Ann Engle by Sunday, February, 8, raengle22@gmail.com or on Realm via QR code.



Room in the Inn, Sunday, February 15, Various Times, Sardis Presbyterian Church - Volunteers will help with dinner, overnight stays or breakfast and cleanup. Donations also needed. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

All-Church Retreat: 'Created for Community,' Friday, March 6-Sunday, March 8, Montreat, NC - All ages are invited to join us as we examine how God exists in community and how God designed us to be in relationships with God and one another. More information and register on Realm or via QR code. Please register by Thursday, February 5. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.



SMPC PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION UPDATES!

Registration opens Tuesday, January 20 for church members. New preschool families must schedule a tour before registering. Tours are going on now through January 16. Please contact Tammy Winchip, tammy@smpchome.org, to schedule.



@southmecklenburgpresbyterian



@southmeckpres

SOUTH MECKLENBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SMPC HIGHLIGHTS 2025 FROM OUR CLERK OF SESSION

GAYLE IRELAND

What a year at SMPC! Transition, check! Fellowship, check! Joy, check! Generosity, check! And through it all, we've felt the steady presence of God through every moment.

In 2025, we celebrated the ministry of our pastor for over two decades, Dr. Matt Brown, and offered our deep gratitude to Associate Pastor Dr. Whitney Bayer as she answered a new call. We also welcomed Dr. Sandy Hull as our Transitional Pastor, whose calm leadership and compassionate presence have already begun to guide us with clarity and excitement for what's to come.

In addition to transition, we celebrated one of the most joyful milestones at SMPC yet: we paid off the sanctuary mortgage! This is an extraordinary achievement made possible by your abundant generosity. As a church family, we continued to answer our call to serve our neighbors through community and worldwide service and welcomed all with warmth and hospitality. Through worship, service, study, and fellowship, our church grew in spirit, connection, and purpose and is ready for 2026.

As you read through last year's highlights, I hope you are reminded of the many ways God has been at work in and through SMPC, and I challenge you to get involved in some new way this year. Whether it's through study, service, worship or fellowship, there is a place for you at SMPC. I look forward to seeing where the Spirit leads us this year and am honored to be on this journey with you.

8601 Bryant Farms Road
Charlotte, NC 28277

smphome.org
704-544-0404

81 Youth attended summer or fall retreats

50 Youth attended December's Big Youth Group (BYG)

72 VBS volunteers

40 Sunday worship services with child/youth liturgist or leader



10 Confirmants

20 Mission Projects

36 New members (excluding Confirmation class)

35 Average number of youth attended a SMPC Youth event

68k Views on SMPC's Instagram posts/stories/reels from October-December 2025



141 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

7 Third grade Bibles presented



890 People attended Dr. Matt Brown's last worship service in person and online

3,600 Women and children served during Center of Hope breakfasts

11,459 Vials filled with body wash for Roof Above

758 People attended Festival of Carols in person and online



13 Baptisms

20,840 Bulletins printed



14 SMPC members who tutor students or support teachers at Smithfield Elementary

72 Backpacks filled with school supplies to Smithfield Elementary

18,988

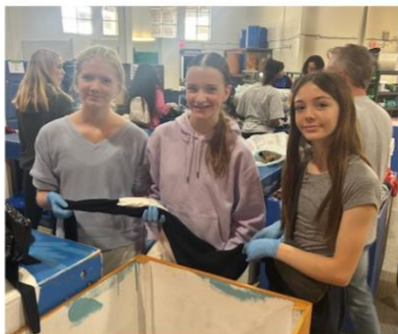
Total attendance for Sunday worship in 2025

333

Average Sunday worship attendance in person

10,835

Total views in 2025 for online worship and special services



152

Members in the Music Ministry

193

Participants in Adult Studies

525

Units of blood collected for the American Red Cross over five blood drives

\$25,841

Collected for Alternative Gift Market Agencies



1

Sanctuary mortgage paid off!



226

Gifts collected for Angel Tree families



2,139

People attended Christmas Eve and Easter services in person

360

Dozen desserts donated to Center of Hope

2,056

People subscribe to church emails

100

Hygiene kits sent to Sterling Elementary students



98

OFCB school children sponsored by SMPC families

168

Scouts in BSA Troops 119 and 219 and Pack 119



15

Eagle Scouts Awarded in 2025 in Troops 119 & 219

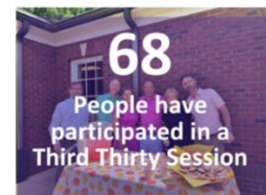


8

Eagle Scout projects completed on campus

2,108

Pounds of food collected for Nourish Up in October



68

People have participated in a Third Thirty Session

1 MILLION+

Chances to hear "God loves you."

19

International families at SMPC Preschool



INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED AT SMPC?

Contact:
Rev. Melissa White
Parish Associate for
Congregational Care and
Connection
melissa@smpchome.org

2025 SMPC Annual Financial Report

Operating Fund Giving

391
Households gave

\$3,473
Average annual giving per household

\$1.36M
Total 2025 gifts: \$102k over budget

66%
Giving was through online giving



Building Fund Giving

A look back...

5
Sanctuary Fund Capital Campaigns

17
years

452
families supported at least one capital campaign

\$0k
Mortgage balance (beginning balance: \$6.3 million)



Outreach & Mission Giving

\$51k
Support of local outreach agencies

\$2.3k
One Great Hour of Sharing offering

\$25.8k
Alternative Gift Market

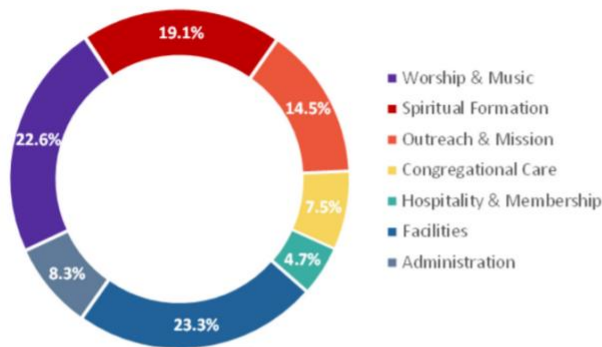
\$35.6k
Support of OFCB

\$5.9k
Christmas Eve offering



Support our ministries and programs with gifts to the 2026 Operating Fund.

Give online



2026 Budget and
2025 Operating
Income Statement



SMPC Staff

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor,
sandy@smpchome.org

Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth and
Missions/Outreach, lindsey@smcphome.org

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate for Congregational
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