



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A Service of Worship**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 26, 2026**  
**10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## **We Gather**

**Prelude**                      *Sheep May Safely Graze*                      J.S. Bach

**Welcome and Concerns of the Church**                      Dr. Sandy Hull  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

**"Paws" for the CAT**                      Whitney Gann

**Introit**                      *Kum ba Yah*                      African American Spiritual

**\*Call to Worship**                      Bryson Gann

One: Make known the deeds of the Lord among the people.

**All: Give Thanks to the Lord! Call on his Name!**

One: Tell of all his wonderful works.

**All: Sing to the Lord! Sing praises to his Name!**

One: Remember the wonderful works he has done.

**All: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in his Holy Name!**

One: Let us continually seek his presence.

**All: Worship the Lord! Let us worship in his name now and forever.**

**\*Hymn 238**                      *Thine Is the Glory*                      JUDAS MACCABEUS

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con- quering Son; end - less is  
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness  
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Rev. Melissa White

**God of infinite power, you raised Jesus to life again, the mighty victor over sin and death. Forgive us for not living boldly in the light of his triumph. We have allowed fear to control our decisions. We have**

hoarded instead of sharing, looked down on others instead of lifting them up. We have gone along with the ways of the world, condoning injustice and passing by those in need. Have mercy on us, and by your Spirit make us new, living each day as faith-filled followers of the risen Lord. Amen.

**Assurance of God's Grace** (Ephesians 1:7-8)

Rev. White

One: "We have redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us." Friends, hear and believe God's good news:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**\*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

- Act It Out:** Today's scripture tells the story of the risen Jesus surprising his disciples while they're fishing. They've caught nothing, until Jesus tells them to try the other side of the boat. Suddenly, they catch so many fish they can barely carry them! Peter is so excited he jumps out of the boat to swim to Jesus. Try acting out the story at home with paper fish, a blanket "boat," and someone playing Jesus on the shore. How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus again?
- Have a Snack:** Share a simple fish-themed snack together—goldfish crackers, Swedish Fish, fish sticks, tuna salad, salmon, or even a favorite seafood dish. As you eat, remember that Jesus prepared a meal for the disciples on the beach after the miraculous catch. Use this time to talk together: What do you notice about this story? Why do you think Jesus chose to meet the disciples with food?
- Create:** Create a picture of a full fishing net. Use a paper plate or a piece of paper and draw a large net using crisscross lines. Then fill the net with as many fish as you can draw. Add waves, a boat, or the disciples if you like. You might also write, "Try the other side!" or "Jesus helps us." As you create, remember how the disciples' empty nets became full when they listened to Jesus.
- Journal, consider the following:**
  - Why do you think Jesus used the big catch of fish to get the disciples' attention?
  - Why do you think the disciples caught fish after they listened to Jesus?



- c. What do you think it was like to have breakfast on the beach with Jesus?

**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. White

**First Reading**

Psalm 34:1-10

Rev. White

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want. The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

**Anthem**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

arr. Craig Curry

Chancel Choir; Sarah Abushakra, piano

*Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!*

*Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!*

*Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;*

*praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!*

*Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!*

*Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!*

*He is our guide and friend, to us He'll condescend;*

*His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!*

*Alleluia! Come, all Christians, join to sing: Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Sing your praise to Christ, our King: Alleluia!*

*Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!*

*Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!*

*On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,*

*singing forevermore: Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Amen!*

*Christians join to sing: Alleluia, Amen!*

**Second Reading**

John 21:1-14

Dr. Hull

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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

**Sermon**

"Gone Fishing"

Dr. Hull

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

Rev. Lindsey Odom

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering, so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.**

**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,**





1 Lord, make us more ho - ly; Lord, make us more ho - ly;  
 2 Lord, make us more lov - ing; Lord, make us more lov - ing;  
 3 Lord, make us more pa - tient; Lord, make us more pa - tient;  
 4 Lord, make us more faith - ful; Lord, make us more faith - ful;



Lord, make us more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain:



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.



**\*Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

**\*Congregational Response**

No. 543, stanza 1

*God, be the love to search and keep me;*

*God, be the prayer to move my voice;*

*God, be the strength to now uphold me:*

*O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

**Postlude**

*Rondo*

John Bull

## 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

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir  
Sarah Abushakra, organ and piano  
Ann Carney, recorder  
Alayna Calderwood, Bryson Gann, liturgists

**A/V Team:** Kari Case

**Ushers:** Bob Cushman, Richard Franseen, Andrew Gaul, Curtis Guy, Craig Parrish, Gwen Volker

**Welcome Team:** Kathy Garner, Elizabeth Rose, Lydia Rose

The cat is out of the bag! The Mission Study Task Force is asking all SMPC members and frequent visitors, ages 13 years and up, to take the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey. The survey will be live on Sunday, May 10. More information is coming soon!



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 Thursday mornings, contact Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager, [adrienne@smpchome.org](mailto:adrienne@smpchome.org). SMPC uses Realm as a church directory and for event registrations. If you are new to Realm or have questions about it, please contact Adrienne Jaquith, and she will be happy to help!

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? Our Session will gather to welcome new members today at 11:30 a.m. To learn more, contact Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate, [melissa@smpchome.org](mailto:melissa@smpchome.org) or 704-887-7488.

## **Congregational Notes** (as of April 22, 2026)

### **Remember in Prayer**

- Barbara Goodman as she recovers from surgery.
- Zach Bowyer, Director of Music and Organist, as he enjoys time for rest, reflection and spiritual renewal while on sabbatical.
- All those affected by conflict, displacement, and unrest around the world and at home.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, Haiti, that God's abundant love, grace, and mercy would bring peace and protection, provide daily bread, and grant safety, justice, and hope amidst ongoing crisis in their country.
- That God would guide us to serve others with compassion, justice, and mercy within our church, our community, and our world.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

[prayer@SMPChome.org](mailto:prayer@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**

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[smpchome.org](http://smpchome.org)

Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian); Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres)



# smpc

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The SMPC Hospitality Committee is always looking for new faces, new ideas, talents, energy and extra hands to pull off our churchwide events!

### **What does the SMPC Hospitality Committee do?**

**The Hospitality Committee is an impactful way to serve SMPC. Our mission is to make everyone who walks through our church doors feel welcome. We strive to create community, inclusivity and FUN.**

### **We plan events for you, our congregation, such as:**

- Lunch on the Grounds (twice a year in the spring and fall)
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Maundy Thursday Dinner
- Ladies Advent Tea
- Receptions for Commitment Sunday, Confirmation Sunday, staff member retirements, ordinations, special recognitions and more.
- And what does SMPC truly love?...

## **CAKE!**

Every time you're treated with cake after church, it has been provided by the Hospitality Committee!

We hold monthly committee meetings that are open to everyone!

### **What is the commitment?**

#### **Level 1: Serve on the Committee**

- Attend monthly committee meetings
- Help plan for events
- Plan to volunteer at most of our events throughout the year

#### **Level 2: Be a Committee Volunteer**

- Could be one time a year!
- Help set up, clean up events, cut cake after worship
- Bake treats

If you're interested in learning more, come see us at the table in the narthex or contact Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs Leanne Royster, [leanneroyster@gmail.com](mailto:leanneroyster@gmail.com), or Jeana Lee, [fivelees@carolina.rr.com](mailto:fivelees@carolina.rr.com). We can't wait to see you!

# WE SMPC!



## WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies near Coffee Grounds. Registry pads are located in your pews. Please sign and pass to your neighbor and perhaps introduce yourself to someone new!

### THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

**APR. 26**

4:00 p.m. -  
5:30 p.m.

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bowling and Arcade  
Spare Time Bowling, Pineville**

Join us for bowling, pizza and arcade fun! Cost is \$25. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

today

**APR. 26**

5:00 p.m. -  
6:15 p.m.

**SMPC Youth TCBY Night  
TCBY Blakeney**

Frozen yogurt, a short devotional and fellowship! Hope you can join us. Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

monday

**APR. 27**

10:00 a.m. -  
12:30 p.m.

**Writing Your Legacy  
McQueen Room**

Led by SMPC member Melinda Ferguson. Participants receive guidance in writing about family memories and history. Open to everyone. Register via QR code. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.



tuesday

**APR. 28**

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.

tuesday

**APR. 28**

10:30 a.m. -  
12:30 p.m.

**SMPC Tuesday Mahjong  
Narthex**

All levels of mahjong players are invited to join this new group that meets weekly on Tuesdays. Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

tuesday

**APR. 28**

7:30 p.m.

**Men's Evening Study Group  
Chapel 206**

The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com.

wednesday

**APR. 29**

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. The group is discussing the book of Ephesians. All are welcome! If you would like to join by Zoom, please contact Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org.

thursday

**APR. 30**

1:15 p.m. -  
3:15 p.m.

**SMPC Thursday Mahjong  
Narthex**

All levels of mahjong players are invited to join this new group that meets weekly on Thursdays. Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

friday

**MAY 1**

7:30 a.m. -  
8:30 a.m.

**Friday Morning Men's Group  
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.

**saturday**  
**MAY 2**  
8:00 a.m. -  
12:30 p.m.

**SMPC American Red Cross Blood Drive  
The Commons**

The need for blood is great. Register, roll up your sleeve and donate. Donors receive a \$15 Amazon e-gift card from the Red Cross! Sign up to donate or volunteer at the drive via QR code. Contact: Bill Ramsey, bill.john.ramsey@gmail.com.



**sunday**  
**MAY 3**  
9:00 a.m. -  
10:00 a.m.

**Adult Study: 'Slow Theology'  
McQueen Room or Zoom**

An 8-week class where we'll practice slowing down, asking deeper questions, and listening more carefully to Scripture, tradition and one another. This is not about having the right answers, but about growing in curiosity, trust, and faith. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

**sunday**  
**MAY 3**  
11:30 a.m. -  
12:30 p.m.

**Third Thirty, Sunday  
The Commons, Ages 60-90**

In this session, the group will explore wills and estate planning. You can attend this session even if you haven't attended previous sessions. A light lunch will be served. Register on Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

**sunday**  
**MAY 3**  
5:00 p.m. -  
6:30 p.m.

**BAM! Bible and Music  
Sanctuary, Ages Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

During BAM!, children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, and explore various instruments in peer age groups. Pizza is served. Register on Realm. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

**sunday**  
**MAY 3**  
5:00 p.m. -  
6:30 p.m.

**May BYG (Big Youth Group)  
Mecklenburg Hall, Middle and High Schoolers**

Fifth graders are invited to May BYG! They'll be paired with a youth mentor. We can't wait to see them! Register on Realm. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, May 5, 11:30 a.m., The Office Craft Bar and Kitchen, Stonecrest** - This is an informal group that meets four times a year. All are welcome - invite a friend! Register on Realm or via QR code. Contact: Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com.



**Making Space Mom's Group & Rain or Shine, Thursday, May 7, 7:30 p.m., Chapel 206** - These two small groups are meeting together until the end of May for a study called *Parables* by Josh Scott. Moms of all ages are invited to join in - new faces are always welcome at the table! Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

**Desserts for Center of Hope, Sunday, May 10, Before 10:10 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary** - Every month SMPC donates desserts to Center of Hope, a residence for women and children. Let's make their Mother's Day extra special! Sign up at smpchome.org/serve-our-community. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.

**Ballantyne Families Helping Families In Need Pantry Tour & Service Project, Sunday, May 17, 9:00-9:50 a.m., Community House Middle, All Ages** - A tour of the facility and a hands-on service project using donated food items. Register and more info on Realm or QR code. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



**Lunch on the Grounds, Sunday, May 17, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mecklenburg Hall and Church Grounds** - Everyone is welcome! Join us after worship for a delicious lunch on the grounds catered by Brown Bag. More information and register via QR code or Realm. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

**Nourish Up Warehouse Service - Saturday, May 30, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Nourish Up Warehouse, 901 Carrier Drive, Ages 13 years and older** - Volunteers will support food distribution efforts. Register via the QR code, then follow the instructions there to register with the Nourish Up. Space is limited. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.



