



# South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## A Service of Worship

### Day of Pentecost

May 24, 2026

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

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

### We Gather

**Prelude** *Come Holy Ghost, Lord God* Dieterich Buxtehude

**Welcome and Concerns of the Church** Dr. Sandy Hull

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

**"Paws" for the CAT** Shelby Ullman

**Introit** *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD

**\*Call to Worship** Elizabeth Glover

One: Come, Holy Spirit of God! Come with rushing wind and holy fire.

Fill this place with your presence and your power.

**All: Rush through our spirits, O God. Send us out to proclaim your mighty works.**

One: Long ago, when the day of Pentecost had come, your people were gathered, wondering, watching, waiting, and praying.

**All: And your Spirit came, not to keep them still, but to send them out to the world to tell your story.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit of God! Light the fire of your love within us.

**All: Holy Spirit, make us brave and ready to be your helpers wherever we go.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit of God! Be with us in our worship.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit of God! Be with us in our living, today and always. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 289**

*On Pentecost They Gathered*

MUNICH

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,  
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed  
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,  
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,  
 a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.  
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.  
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.  
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.  
 A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,  
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?  
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.  
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,  
 and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.  
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.  
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.  
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

**Prayer of Confession**

Dr. Hull

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**Assurance of God's Grace (Titus 3:4-5)**

Dr. Hull

One: "When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Friends, hear and believe God's good news!

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

**\*Response of Praise**

No. 581

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.***

## **We Hear and Respond to the Word**

### **Church Family Moment**

Rebecca Guzman

1. **Story Connection:** Today is Pentecost! Listen to [The Day When God Made Church](#) by Rebekah McLeod Hutto. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church.
2. **Celebrate the Church's Birthday:** Sometimes on Pentecost, churches celebrate with birthday cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to the church! You might celebrate at home with a special treat, candles, or decorations.
3. **Consider the Holy Spirit:** The Bible describes the Holy Spirit in different ways. Fly a kite or hang a windsock and think about how the Holy Spirit is like wind. Light a candle and think about how the Holy Spirit is like fire. [Make an origami dove](#) and think about how the Holy Spirit brings peace and comfort.
4. **Learn a New Language:** In the Pentecost story, people spoke many different languages but were still able to understand one another. Watch [this video](#) to learn how to say "I love you" in a new language!
5. **Wonder Together:**
  - a. I wonder what it was like to be a disciple on Pentecost.
  - b. I wonder what it would feel like to suddenly speak another language.
  - c. I wonder how we hear God speaking to us today.
  - d. I wonder how we see the Holy Spirit at work in the world 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. Melissa White

### **First Reading**

Numbers 11:24-30

Rev. White

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

**Second Reading**

Acts 2:1-21

Dr. Hull

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**

"The Church's DNA"

Dr. Hull

**\*Hymn of Response**

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ  
our King; heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,  
faithfully now God's praises we sing.  
Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ  
our King; one with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Evan Robert Reid**

**Presentation by the Session**

Jon Myers

**Profession of Faith**

**\*The Apostles' Creed**

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.

**The Act of Baptizing**

**Congregational Affirmation**

Jon Myers

One: Let us, in the name of the whole church of Christ, express our welcome and promise our support.

All: **Evan, with joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church; for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you and to share the good news of the Gospel with you. Together, we will seek to serve our Lord Jesus and to share his love in word and deed with all people.**

**Charge**

**Baptismal Response** *(seated)*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of  
Christ our King; born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

**Litany for Pentecost**

Rebecca Guzman

One: Christ has gathered the church in unity through the Spirit.  
With sure hope, let us pray.

Maker of all things,  
in the beginning, you created heaven and earth.  
In the fullness of time, you restored all things in Christ.  
Renew our world, in this day, with your grace and mercy.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: Life of the world,  
you breathed life into the flesh you created.  
By your Spirit breathe new life into the children of earth.  
Turn hatred into love,  
sorrow into joy,  
and war into peace.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: Lover of concord,  
you desire the unity of all Christians.  
Set aflame the whole church with the fire of your Spirit.  
Unite us to stand in the world as a sign of your love.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: God of compassion,  
through your Spirit you supply every human need.  
Heal the sick,  
comfort the distressed,  
befriend the friendless,  
and help the helpless.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: Source of peace,  
your Spirit restores our anxious spirits.  
In our labor, give us rest;  
in our temptation, give us strength;  
in our sadness, give us consolation.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: Faithful God,  
your Spirit empowered the first disciples  
to be witnesses to your truth.  
Empower us and all who believe  
to speak your word and do your will,  
that the world may know its true and only light,  
Jesus Christ our Lord, even as we pray the prayer he taught us:

**All: 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**

Rebecca Guzman

**Offertory**

*Down Ampney*

David Blackwell

*As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at [www.smpchome.org/give](http://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**

**Holy and generous God, you poured out your Spirit with wind and fire and sent your people out to share your good news. Receive these gifts and let them shine by the power of your Spirit, that they may bring light, hope, justice, and love beyond these walls. Amen.**

## **We Go Out to Serve**

**\*Hymn 307**

***God of Grace and God of Glory***

CWM RHONDDA



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our



bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.



**\*Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

**\*Congregational Response**

No. 748

***Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.***

**Postlude**

*Come God, Creator, Holy Ghost*

J. S. Bach

## Worship Service Notes

### Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate for Congregational Care &

Connection

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir

Ann Carney, organ

Elizabeth Glover, liturgists

**A/V Team:** Mary Katheryne Zagora, Michael Zagora

**Ushers:** Dick Engle, Charlie Metzler, Donna Podgorny, Gwen Volker, Bob Williamson, Michael Zagora

**Welcome Team:** Abby Mitchell, Hallie Mitchell, Debi Wheeler, Reyn Wheeler

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).

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? To learn more about membership and the process of joining, contact Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate, [melissa@smpchome.org](mailto:melissa@smpchome.org) or 704-887-7488.

### **Congregational Notes** (as of May 20, 2026)

#### **Remember in Prayer**

- 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**

*We photograph and record worship services and events for church use. We may use these materials in church communications. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-735003. All rights reserved.*



**South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church**

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

## 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!

### TALK TO THE PAW! HAVE YOU TAKEN THE CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT TOOL (CAT) SURVEY?

Thank you to everyone who has taken the CAT survey! This survey is an opportunity to share your experiences and priorities for our congregation. If SMPC has your email, you should have received emails from the church with a link to the survey. We estimate that it will take about 20 minutes to complete, and it must be completed in one sitting. Computers and paper copies are available in the church office or Connection Center. You can also scan the QR code to complete the survey on your phone. If you love SMPC and are 13 years or older, we want you to participate! Please complete the survey by Sunday, May 31.



We also want to hear from our children! *CAT for Kids* is a survey specifically "tailored" for children. There is one for ages 9 and under and one for ages 10-12. The surveys can be found at the Connection Center. Please return your completed *CAT for Kids* to the basket at the Connection Center through Sunday, May 31.

**OF NOTE: The church office is closed tomorrow, May 25, for Memorial Day.**

## THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

**tuesday** **Handiworkers Group**  
**MAY 26** **Palmer Building, Room 104**  
**10:00 a.m.** All levels of knitters, needlepointers, quilters, cross-stitchers and crocheters are invited. This is the last meeting before the group takes a summer break. Contact: Judy Jameson, [jgjamason@gmail.com](mailto:jgjamason@gmail.com).

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**tuesday** **SMPC Tuesday Mahjong**  
**MAY 26** **Narthex**  
**10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** All levels of mahjong players are invited to join this group that meets weekly on Tuesdays. Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, [mkzagora@smpchome.org](mailto:mkzagora@smpchome.org), to be added to the email list.

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**tuesday** **Men's Evening Study Group**  
**MAY 26** **Chapel 206**  
**7:30 p.m.** The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, [jonmyers2@gmail.com](mailto:jonmyers2@gmail.com).

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**wednesday** **Pastor's Wednesday Morning Bible Study**  
**MAY 27** **McQueen Room or Zoom**  
**9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Transitional Pastor Sandy Hull leads this study that meets weekly. The group is studying the last twelve books of the Old Testament. May 27 is on Haggai. All are welcome! If you would like to join by Zoom, please contact Adrienne Jaquith, [adrienne@smpchome.org](mailto:adrienne@smpchome.org).

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**thursday** **Men's Breakfast Group**  
**MAY 28** **Big View Diner, 6637 Lancaster Hwy**  
**9:30 a.m.** This group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month to enjoy breakfast and conversation. **It will be their last meeting before taking a break for summer. They will meet again beginning Thursday, September 10.** Contact: Bob Tyler, [Btyler@unitedskates.com](mailto:Btyler@unitedskates.com).

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**thursday** **SMPC Thursday Mahjong**  
**MAY 28** **Narthex**  
**1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.** All levels of mahjong players are invited to join this group that meets weekly on Thursdays. Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, [mkzagora@smpchome.org](mailto:mkzagora@smpchome.org), to be added to the email list.

**saturday**  
**MAY 30**  
**11:00 a.m. -**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Nourish Up Warehouse Service Opportunity**  
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.



**saturday**  
**MAY 30**  
**4:00 p.m. -**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Hops and Vine Around Town**  
OMB - Ballantyne Bowl  
Join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship! All are welcome. Contact: Frank Graham, frank.graham@us.forvismazars.com.

**sunday**  
**MAY 31**  
**9:00 a.m. -**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Slow Theology**  
McQueen Room or Zoom  
A class where we 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. This last session of this class is June 7. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SMPC College Student Summer Gathering, Thursday, June 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Hicks' Home** - College students who are home for the summer, join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and food! Register and event details are on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, June 5, 7:30-8:30 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.

**Graduate Sunday, June 7, 10:10 a.m. Worship** - We can't wait to celebrate our high school and college graduates! Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**Third Thirty - BONUS!, Sunday, June 7, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Ages 60-90** - In this session, we'll have a panel discussion about aging gracefully. You can attend this session even if you haven't attended previous sessions. A light lunch will be served. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.

**A Caregiver's Journey, Tuesday, June 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m. McQueen Room** - Finding meaning and purpose as you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Kathy Garner, kathygarner15@gmail.com.

**SMPC Youth School's Out Scoops at Cold Stone Creamery, Wednesday, June 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Cold Stone Creamery, Blakeney, Middle and High Schoolers** - School's out for the summer! Let's celebrate with ice cream! Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

## MISSION STORIES: SHELBY ULLMAN

This month, we are pleased to share a video clip from an interview with Shelby Ullman as she reflects on her 2012 SMPC mission trip to Bayonnais, Haiti. Her powerful insights and vivid storytelling bring to life the people, relationships, and moments that left a lasting impact.

Scan the QR code to watch the short video. Thank you to Judy Jones and Donna Podgorney for their hard work on these Mission Stories!



**New! SMPC now texts!** If you would like to receive occasional texts from SMPC, including updates on the pastoral transition, scan QR code. Please note: if you signed up for the Lenten devotions via text, you will also need to opt in to this! Contact: Cheryl Perry, cheryl@smpchome.org.



