



**South  
Mecklenburg**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A Service of Worship**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 28, 2026**

**10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream**

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

**We Gather**

**Prelude**                      *O store Gud/How Great Thou Art*                      Robert A. Hobby

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

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

**Introit**                      *What Is This Place?*                      Richard Proulx

**\*Call to Worship**                      Dr. Hull

One: In a world filled with many voices and many promises, we come seeking God.

**All: Speak among us, faithful God.**

One: God calls us beyond easy answers and invites us into deeper trust.

**All: Speak among us, faithful God.**

One: Remind us that you are still speaking, still shaping, and still calling.

**All: We come ready to worship and follow you.**

**\*Hymn 625**                      *O Lord My God*                      HOW GREAT THOU ART

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er  
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the  
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to  
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the \*worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I  
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from  
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then \*I shall bow in

hear the \*roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the  
 loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and  
 bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to  
 hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My

u-ni-verse dis-played:  
 feel the gen-tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to  
 take a-way my sin:  
 God, how great thou art!"

thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Sav-ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

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

Dr. Hull

**Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from following your will. We have chosen our own path rather than seeking your guidance. We have looked for you in all the wrong places and wonder why we cannot find you. We have listened to the cries of power and prestige instead of paying attention to your voice. We humbly seek your forgiveness. Help us to discern your intentions for our lives that we may delight in your purpose and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Assurance of God's Grace**

Dr. Hull

One: Through the mercy and grace of God our hearts, our lives, and our spirits are transformed and made new. Friends, hear and believe the 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:** Read or listen to *The Empty Pot* by Demi. In [the story](#), Ping tells the truth even when it is hard. This connects with Jeremiah, who reminds the people that real peace is connected to truth. It also connects with Romans, where Paul reminds us not to simply copy everyone else, but to let God shape who we are.
- 2. Game:** Play "Whole Self Freeze." Move around the room. When someone calls out a body part, freeze in a pose that shows how you can use that part of yourself for God. For hands, freeze like you are helping someone up or sharing food. For feet, freeze like you are walking toward someone who needs a friend. For heart, freeze like you are showing love or care. For mouth, freeze like you are speaking kind and truthful words. For mind, freeze like you are thinking about what is good.
- 3. Craft:** At church, children will use Play-Doh mats. At home, draw a large peace sign and fill it with pictures, colors, or words that show what real peace looks like. You might add hearts, helping hands, brave words, people listening, or signs of hope.
- 4. Pray with your whole self:**  
God, use my hands to help.  
God, use my feet to go where love is needed.  
God, use my heart to care.



God, use my mouth to speak truth and kindness.

God, use my mind to think about what is good.

Amen.

**5. Wonder together:**

- a. Why can telling the truth be hard?
- b. Can something sound peaceful but not really be true?
- c. How can we use our whole selves to help bring real peace?

**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**

Romans 12:1-2

Rev. White

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Second Reading**

Jeremiah 28:1-9

Rev. White

In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, the prophet Hananiah son of Azzur, from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the Lord, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the Lord's house, which King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. I will also bring back to this place King Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, says the Lord, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon." Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the

prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

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

Sermon

The True Prophet

Rev. White

\*Hymn 729

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN



1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;  
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart,  
In my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.



\*The Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

A Brief Statement of Faith

Rev. Lindsey Odom

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's**

commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

**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.**

**Offering Invitation** Rev. Odom

**Offertory** *We Now Implore the Holy Ghost* Dieterich Buxtehude

*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** Rev. Odom  
God of truth and peace, receive these gifts and receive our whole selves. Renew our minds, guide our words, and help us seek the peace that is rooted in your truth. Use what we offer to share your love in the world. Amen.

## **We Go Out to Serve**

**\*Hymn 741** *Guide My Feet* GUIDE MY FEET  
*(Stanza 1, 3 and 5)*

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I  
don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Rev. White

**\*Congregational Response**

Hymn 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**

*Hornpipe from The Water Music*

G. F. Handel

## Worship Service Notes

### Leading Worship this Morning

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

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

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Ann Carney, organ

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

**Ushers:** Andrew Gaul, Tom Schorr, Brett Thompson, Linda Thompson, Jim Williams, Michael Zagora

**Welcome Team:** Allison King, Nolan King, Amanda Alford, Brad Alford

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? 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 June 24, 2026)

#### **Remember in Prayer**

- Mark Volker as he recovers from surgery.
- Tom and Sarah Massey as Tom's brother, Joe Massey, entered the Church triumphant on June 21.
- Bill and Ruthie Earp and their family as Bill's mother, Dorothy "Dot" Earp, entered the Church triumphant on June 6.
- The people of Bayonnais and all of Haiti, that God would bring protection from violence, healing for the injured, provision for those in need, and strength and hope in the midst of hardship.
- 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.
- 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)

### **SMPC STAFF**

**Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor**

[sandy@smpchome.org](mailto:sandy@smpchome.org)

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

[lindsey@smpchome.org](mailto:lindsey@smpchome.org)

**Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate**

[melissa@smpchome.org](mailto:melissa@smpchome.org)

**Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music**

[laura@smpchome.org](mailto:laura@smpchome.org)

**Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist**

[zach@smpchome.org](mailto: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

**Dr. 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**

*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**

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

PO Box 79321, Charlotte, NC 28271

smpchome.org

Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian; Instagram: @southmeckpres

## WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies near Coffee Grounds. This Sunday, we are also welcoming new members from the last year! Learn more about them in the New Member booklet, and please take a moment to introduce yourself. 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

**tuesday**  
**JUNE 30**  
**10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
**SMPC Tuesday Mahjong**  
**Narthex**  
Players of all skill levels are invited to join this group, which meets weekly on Tuesdays. Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

**thursday**  
**JULY 2**  
**1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**  
**SMPC Thursday Mahjong**  
**Narthex**  
Players of all skill levels are invited to join this group, which meets weekly on Thursdays. Contact Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org, to be added to the email list.

**sunday**  
**JULY 5**  
**9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Adult Study: 'Songs of Summer'**  
**McQueen Room or Zoom**  
An eight-week series that explores familiar Presbyterian hymns and the fascinating stories behind them. Led by SMPC members Gayle and Curt Ireland. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

**The church office is closed Monday, July 6, for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SMPC Youth Summer Splash Adventure at Fantasy Lake Adventure Park, Friday, July 10, 8:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Meet at the Church, Rising 5th Graders -Graduated 12th Graders** - Join us for this fun day of swimming, slides, floating obstacle courses and more. \$75 per person Register on Realm or on smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

**Coming Home: The Basics of Christianity, Beginning Sunday, July 12** - This summer, households are invited to explore the basics of Christianity through weekly sermons, short devotionals, simple challenges, and a paper house project. Each week, households will add something new to their house as we wonder together about faith, grace, welcome, and new life in Christ. Kits will be available beginning July 5 in the narthex, and the series begins July 12. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, or Rev. Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & MISSION POSSIBLE

**Monday, July 20-Thursday, July 23, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** VBS is a FUN week of exploring the Bible through play, art, science and music! Mission Possible is our program for 5th and 6th graders that involves a week of fun and service. **Register on Realm or go to our website, smpchome.org/vacation-bible-school to learn more.**

**Vacation Bible School:** Ages 3 (Potty-Trained)-Rising 4th Graders  
**Mission Possible:** Rising 5th & 6th Graders  
**Contact:** Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org



**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.

## CREATED FOR COMMUNITY



### More Than a Meal: Finding Community Through Service at Center of Hope

*'Created for Community' is a summer series where we highlight communities founded or built by connections at SMPC. We are so grateful for the many ways our church comes together to build community! Look for this series bi-monthly this summer.*

For many volunteers at SMPC, serving breakfast through Center of Hope (COH) has become about more than preparing and serving food. COH provides breakfast for women and children experiencing homelessness in Charlotte, but for the SMPC volunteers who wake before dawn on the third Saturday of the month and meet at 5:15 a.m. to cook and serve, the ministry has also become a place where friendships deepen and community grows.

"It never feels like work," said ministry leader Lee Martin. "It feels like pure joy."

Martin believes food has a unique way of bringing people together. As volunteers prepare breakfast (freshly scrambled eggs, hot pancakes, grits, pork bacon, turkey bacon and fresh fruit) and interact with guests, relationships naturally form - both with those they serve and with one another. Alongside the hard realities guests face, there is also laughter, conversation, and genuine connection. For many volunteers, serving together creates a deeper sense of community than simply sitting together on Sunday mornings.

"To me, community means authenticity, trust and safety," Lee said. "I know I could talk to the people I serve alongside about anything, and they genuinely care."

Those bonds are often strengthened in the quiet early morning hours, when volunteers gather before sunrise with a shared purpose.

"You start your morning focused on others instead of yourself," Martin reflected. "It changes your perspective completely."

For longtime volunteer Ruby Robinson, that sense of purpose is grounded in faith. "Luke 12:48 says, 'From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required,'" she said. "I feel compelled to serve and give back."

Ruby recalled advice from former SMPC Pastor Matt Brown: focus on the place where your skills and resources intersect with the community's needs. "My passion and abilities are in feeding people who don't have enough," she said. "That's what brings me back again and again to Center of Hope and Nourish Up, another SMPC partner."

There are many "regulars" who serve with Center of Hope, and there are many who serve once or twice a year! All are invited to the kitchen! The next opportunity to serve is Saturday, July 18. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and not enrolled in a Charlotte-area school. It's an awesome opportunity for college kids home for the summer! Sign up via the QR code or contact Lee Martin, leewilsonmartin@gmail.com.



## SMPC SOFTBALL

The SMPC Softball Team (2024 Champions!) would love to have new full- or part-time players! The team plays all regular season games on the SMPC field, Mondays, 6:15 p.m. and Fridays, 7:15 p.m. Playoffs usually run through mid-August. There is a small entry fee and a team shirt will be supplied. This is a fun group of guys and a great way to build connections at church. Let's bring home the big trophy this year! Contact: Michael Choren, michaelchoren@yahoo.com, or Jimmy Galati, jamesgalati63@yahoo.com.



@southmecklenburgpresbyterian



@southmeckpres



# **New Members**

## **June 2026**

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed  
you, for the glory of God.  
Romans 15:7*

## WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



### Laura Black and Ned Slagle

Laura and Ned have two daughters, Maddie and Olivia. Maddie is a rising 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Polo Ridge, and Olivia is in her last year of preschool. Laura is a Charlotte native but lived in New York City for 10 years before moving back to the area 6 years ago. Ned is from New Canaan, CT. Laura, a trained vocalist, is a member of the Chancel Choir and serves as SMPC's Associate for Children and Music. In her free time, she enjoys music, reading and attending her daughters' activities. Ned is an insurance underwriter for The Hartford and enjoys baseball, golf and DIY renovations. The Blacks live in Hunters Gate.

Laura: [laura@smpchome.org](mailto:laura@smpchome.org); Ned: [edward.slagle@gmail.com](mailto:edward.slagle@gmail.com)



### Michelle and Austin Buchanan

Michelle and Austin Buchanan have two children, Graham, 4, and Hallie, 1. Michelle is originally from Winston-Salem, and Austin grew up in Gastonia. The couple met while attending Appalachian State University as students. They were members of First ARP Gastonia before joining SMPC. They say they were drawn to SMPC because of the strong children and youth programs and look forward to raising their children in the church.

Michelle is a stay-at-home mom who loves to travel, go to the beach, read and spend time with family. Austin is an AVP Claims Consultant with Lockton Companies. In his free time, Austin enjoys playing golf, cheering for the Carolina Panthers and taking cycling classes. The Buchanans live in Carmel Valley.

Michelle: [mbuchanan0914@gmail.com](mailto:mbuchanan0914@gmail.com); Austin: [austindbuchanan@gmail.com](mailto:austindbuchanan@gmail.com)



### Andrea and Vernon Campbell

Andrea and Vernon Campbell moved to Charlotte in February 2024, from Spartanburg, SC, where they were members of First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg. Andrea, who is originally from Toronto, Ontario, is a registered nurse, and Vernon, a Spartanburg native, is a chemist with Diversey, Inc. In their free time, Andrea and Vernon enjoy river cruising to the Netherlands and Germany and traveling to England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Since joining SMPC, the Campbells have become involved in various aspects of church life. Vernon is a member of the Chancel Ringers, Andrea serves with Nourish Up, and they both volunteer at the Center of Hope Breakfast and American Red Cross Blood Drives. The couple lives in Ballantyne.

Andrea: [talksalot3258@gmail.com](mailto:talksalot3258@gmail.com); Vernon: [vanion1962@gmail.com](mailto:vanion1962@gmail.com)



## Lee Carthage

Lee Carthage and her husband, Bob, have two college-age children, Brent and Ava. Lee joined SMPC from First Memorial Presbyterian Church in Dover, NJ. Bob is a member of St. Matthew Catholic Church.

Lee grew up in New Jersey and moved to Charlotte 15 years ago. She feels God led her to SMPC as a place to worship, give back and strengthen her faith. As an avid pianist, she was especially drawn to SMPC's Music Ministry and is a member of the Chancel Choir. Lee's greatest joy has been raising their children. She also loves the challenge and rewards of training dogs! The Carthages live in Bridal Path Estates. Lee looks forward to getting more involved in the life of the church.

Lee: leecarthage126@gmail.com



## Melissa and Andrew Cassell

Melissa and Andrew Cassell have three children, Ben, 8, Calvin, 5, and Lauren, 1. Originally from Atlanta, GA, and Irmo, SC, respectively, Melissa and Andrew moved to Charlotte 13 years ago. Melissa is a lawyer with Morton and Gettys, LLC, and Andrew is a pharmacist with Centene Corp. In their free time, the couple enjoys playing golf, being outside, cooking, watching sports, listening to music and playing with their kids. Ben and Calvin especially enjoy attending BAM! (Bible and Music) and Children's Worship. The Cassells live in Firethorne.

Melissa: melissa.cassell@mortongettys.com; Andrew: avcassell@gmail.com



## Kristen Curtis

Kristen Curtis is the mother of SMPC member Steph Becker and the grandmother of Cami and Della. She and her husband, Kevin, also have a son, Austin, who lives in Chicago. The Curtises have lived in many places across the country, but they now split their time between Charlotte and Omaha, NE. Kristen comes to SMPC from the Presbyterian Church of the Cross in Omaha. She was drawn to join SMPC when she visited with Steph and immediately felt an uplifting spirit the moment she walked in the door. When she is in Omaha, she livestreams our service. In her free time, Kristen enjoys cross-stitch, mahjong, reading, walking, traveling and being with family. Thanks to SMPC, she's also found a new interest in Chrismons! Kevin's favorite hobby is golf, and he also enjoys travel, being with family and playing cards.

Kristen: kristenc79@gmail.com



## Paul Dedinsky

Paul has two children, Aidan, a rising 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Indian Land Middle School, and Amelia, a rising 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Indian Land Intermediate School. He is the son of new members Terri and Ron Dedinsky (listed below).

Paul is a teacher with the Lancaster County School District. He grew up in New Jersey before moving to Charlotte last year. He was previously a member of the Reformed Church of Linden. He loves to cook, rock climb, play the piano and disc golf. Amelia loves attending BAM! (Bible and Music). Paul found SMPC while house hunting and says the church "just felt right."

Paul: pauldedinsky@gmail.com



## Terri and Ron Dedinsky

Terri and Ron Dedinsky, both retired, moved to Charlotte in 2025 from New Jersey, their native state. They were members of the Reformed Church of Linden, where Ron served as a Deacon and Elder and Terri served as a Sunday School teacher. They found SMPC through an internet search, and as grandparents, they were drawn to our active congregation with lots of children. They immediately fell in love with the sermons and music at SMPC. In their free time, the couple enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends. Additionally, Terri enjoys cooking and hiking!

The couple lives in Harris Mill.

Terri: [tdedinsky84@gmail.com](mailto:tdedinsky84@gmail.com); Ron: [rdedinsky@verizon.net](mailto:rdedinsky@verizon.net)



## Cheryl Earp

Cheryl Earp and her husband, Charlie, have two sons, Fletch and Cruz, both students at Rea View Elementary School. Cheryl was born and raised in the Philippines and moved to New York City in 2006, where she met Charlie. The couple moved to Charlotte, Charlie's native city, in 2016. Cheryl was drawn to SMPC because her in-laws, Ruth and Bill Earp, and Wimberly and Dave Earp, are also members. In her free time, Cheryl stays active in sports and goes to the gym. She also loves to read and travel. Fletch and Cruz enjoy going to Children's Worship and seeing their cousins at church.

The Earps live in Hunter Oaks.

Cheryl: [cherylcearp@gmail.com](mailto:cherylcearp@gmail.com)



## Elizabeth Eck

Elizabeth Eck and her husband, Tom, have three children: Brian, now grown, and Jillian and Lauren, both college students. Before moving to Charlotte a little over five years ago, the Ecks lived in Columbus, OH, and Northern, VA. Elizabeth is a former member of Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna, VA, where she often volunteered in the nursery.

Elizabeth is in prospect development with Queens University of Charlotte, and Tom is an attorney with USAA. In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys reading, crafting, taking walks, going out to eat and spending time with family. She especially loves visiting charming cities like Charleston, SC. As a lifelong Presbyterian, Elizabeth felt a sense of comfort and familiarity at SMPC and was drawn to the warmth and hospitality of the congregation.

The Ecks live in Marvin Creek.

Elizabeth: [elizabeth.j.eck@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.j.eck@gmail.com)



## Connie and Joe Flory

Connie Flory is a retired elementary school teacher with the Radford City Schools, and Joe Flory is a retired professor and administrator at Radford University in Virginia. They come to SMPC from Unity Presbyterian Church in Ft. Mill, SC, and were excited to find a church close to their new home in Brightmore. Connie and Joe have lived in ten states between them – Joe even resided in Japan for a stint! In their free time, Connie enjoys creating art, and Joe loves to read. The couple also loves to travel and have been to over 60 countries together!

Connie: [connieflory2009@hotmail.com](mailto:connieflory2009@hotmail.com)  
Joe: [jflory@radford.edu](mailto:jflory@radford.edu)



## Libby Godwin

Libby is the mother of two grown children, Jeremy (Lauren) and Joshua, and the grandmother of three: Mary Gale, Max and Griffin. She and her husband, Jerry, who passed away in 2024, previously attended First Baptist Church in St. Albans, WV, and Wallace Presbyterian Church in Wallace, NC. A retired teacher, she and Jerry moved to Charlotte 12 years ago to be closer to their grandchildren. She was drawn to SMPC because of the sermons and Music Ministry. She enjoys walking and baking in her free time.

Libby lives in Challis Farm.

Libby: [ecdgodwin@icloud.com](mailto:ecdgodwin@icloud.com)



## Brooks and Jason Herman

Brooks and Jason Hermon have two grown children, Emma and Carter. Jason is a Charlotte native, and Brooks grew up in Clinton, SC. The couple lived in Atlanta and the Twin Cities before moving back to Charlotte over 20 years ago. They were previously members of Providence Presbyterian Church and are excited to grow and reconnect in a new faith community as they take on the "empty nester" life. In their free time, Jason enjoys playing pickleball and golf, while Brooks enjoys tennis, pet sitting, and reading. The couple also loves to travel together. Jason is a risk manager at Bank of America, and Brooks, a former educator, is now a professional pet sitter.

The Hermans live in Providence Country Club.

Brooks: [brooksherman72@gmail.com](mailto:brooksherman72@gmail.com)  
Jason: [jason.f.herman@gmail.com](mailto:jason.f.herman@gmail.com)



## Alison Howey

Alison Howey has two children: Ella, a high school student, and Trey, a college graduate who is also a recent new member (see below). Alison is the daughter of SMPC members Ann and Greg Sligar. While Alison was born and raised in Ohio, she has lived in Union County for over 40 years. She is a farmer with Howey Family Farms. Alison was previously a member of First Presbyterian Church in Monroe and decided to join SMPC after witnessing the care and love the SMPC family bestowed on her parents. In her free time, she enjoys reading, tennis, photography, travel, British television, mah jongg and playing cards. Ella is also an active member of SMPC Youth.

Alison: alisonshowey@aol.com



## Trey Howey

Trey is the son of SMPC member Alison Howey and the grandson of Ann and Greg Sligar. He is a 2024 graduate of North Carolina State University and now works as a farmer for Howey Family Farms in Union County and is the owner of Howey Ranch. In addition to farming, Trey also enjoys hunting. He is a former member of First Presbyterian Church in Monroe and says his mother and grandparents led him to SMPC. He is excited to grow in his faith journey here.

Trey: treyhowey11@aol.com



## Allison and Steven King

Allison and Steven King have two children, Nolan, a rising 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Marvin Ridge High School, and Brooks, a rising 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Marvin Ridge Middle School. Allison is the daughter of SMPC member Kathy Galati and is a native Charlottean; Steven is from Winston-Salem (by way of Ohio). The couple met as students at Appalachian State University and moved to Waxhaw in 2013. Allison is a Clinical Audiologist with Palmetto Family Hearing in Waxhaw, and Steven is in Pharmaceutical Sales with ARS.

The Kings are former members of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and All Saints Anglican Church and were drawn to SMPC because of friends and family in the congregation and the deep sense of community, hospitality and God's spirit they felt here. In their free time, Allison enjoys reading and fitness, and Steven enjoys cooking and playing pickleball. The couple also loves sports and spending time with family and friends. Steven has been a member of the SMPC Men's Softball team, and Nolan and Brooks enjoy SMPC Youth activities! The Kings live in Hunter Oaks.

Allison: allisonking1014@gmail.com  
Steven: stevenglenking@gmail.com



## Helen King

Helen and her husband, David Jayne, have a blended family. David has three older children who live in Manhattan, Kansas. Noah and Natalie graduated from Kansas State and Haley will attend in the fall. Helen has twin boys, Austin and Blake Stockstill, both rising 9th graders at Ardrey Kell. Together, they have a daughter, Eden, who is almost 2. Helen is originally from Abilene, TX, and received her undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University. After living in Washington, DC, following college, Helen moved to Charlotte in 2004. Helen was most recently a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Helen, a "cradle Presbyterian," was first drawn to SMPC due to its location and knowing several current members. After visiting, she quickly realized that it was a great fit for their family.

Helen is a political science professor at UNC-Charlotte and Virginia Commonwealth University and enjoys running, cooking, reading and traveling. David, a 29-year Navy Veteran and civil engineer, enjoys running, golf, traveling and military history. Austin and Blake were confirmed at SMPC in April. Both boys enjoy SMPC Youth activities. The family lives in The Vineyard.

Helen: [helenadairking@gmail.com](mailto:helenadairking@gmail.com)



## Debi and Chris Maxwell

Debi and Chris Maxwell have two adult children, Collin and Lindsey (Grayson). Both Debi and Chris are native Texans – Chris grew up in Richardson, and Debi was raised in Deer Park. They moved to Charlotte in 2023 from Dallas where they were members of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church. Debi was a Sunday School teacher, the Mission Possible Kids Director and a member of the Bell Choir. The couple has quickly found their home here at SMPC: Debi is a member of the Chrismon Ministry, and Chris supports Scout Troop 119.

Chris is a manager for JPMorgan Chase who enjoys woodworking in his free time, and Debi is a national sales manager for The SOI Company who loves to craft and read. The couple enjoys traveling and walking together. They say they were drawn to SMPC because of its friendly, comfortable and "homey" atmosphere.

The Maxwells live in Millbridge.

Debi: [debimax@swbell.net](mailto:debimax@swbell.net)  
Chris: [csm@swbell.net](mailto:csm@swbell.net)



## Kristen and Evan Reid

Kristen (also known as "Bo") and Evan Reid came to Charlotte 7 years ago. They first lived in Orlando, FL, then Winston-Salem. They have one "furry baby," a mini Goldendoodle named Trixie. Kristen is a Curriculum Coordinator/Compliance Specialist with CMS. Evan is a former member of First Baptist Orlando and is an attorney with Redwood Trust, Inc. In addition to spending time with Trixie, Kristen is a devout Swiftie and a serious Disney fan. Evan enjoys working out and is currently learning how to DJ. The Reids love to travel and have an upcoming trip planned to the Philippines and China this fall.

They live in Darby Hall.

Kristen: khboreid@gmail.com  
Evan: evanreidlaw@gmail.com



## Sara Reeves

Sara Reeves and her husband, Peter, have two children, Samantha (Sam), a rising 6<sup>th</sup> grader at South Charlotte Middle School, and Alex, a rising 4th grader at McAlpine Elementary.

Sara moved to Charlotte in 2006 after graduating from Wake Forest. She grew up in Greensboro, NC, where she was a member of West Market United Methodist Church. Sara was drawn to SMPC after several friends shared their wonderful experiences with the SMPC community and after learning about our vibrant youth and children's programs.

Sara works for Bank of America in Regulatory Investigations, and Peter is a risk director for Wells Fargo. The couple loves cheering for their children on the baseball and soccer fields and walking their two Golden Retrievers. Sam is excited to join in on SMPC Youth activities this summer! The Reeves live in Rosecliff.

Sara: sara.v.reeves@gmail.com



## Jill and Tom Schorr

Jill and Tom Schorr have two children: Blake, a graduate of Purdue University, and Kara, a student at the University of Tennessee. Jill grew up in a suburb of Kansas City, MO, and Tom was raised in a suburb of Chicago, IL. They've lived in Charlotte for 25 years and come to SMPC from Myers Park Presbyterian Church, where they volunteered regularly. They are excited to be members of a church closer to home.

Jill is an HRIS Senior Analyst with FDRI, and Tom is Vice President, Partner Sales with Elemica. In her free time, Jill loves to read, and Tom enjoys golfing, skiing, exercising and watching baseball. The Schorrs live in Waverly.

Jill: JSchorr71@gmail.com  
Tom: Tom.Schorr01@gmail.com