



South Mecklenburg

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship

Graduate Sunday

June 7, 2026

10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Morceau Symphonique* Alexandre Guilmant
Judah Estes, trombone; Kevin Estes, piano

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Rev. Lindsey Odom
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

“Paws” for the CAT Greg Hobby, Walton Price

Introit Waving Flag Energizer

Call to Worship Haley Davis, Caroline Guy

One: See what love God has given us,

All: that we should be called children of God.

One: And that is what we are, both now and as we step into what is next.

All: For each of us are created

One: with gifts to share,

All: to reflect God’s goodness,

One: and to live as signs of God’s hope, peace, love, and justice—

All: just as we are.

One: Because just as we are,

All: God names us and claims us beloved.

One: Just as we are,

All: God nourishes us for the journey ahead.

One: Just as we are,

All: God sends us into the world to love and to serve.

One: Wherever we go,

All: God goes with us!

One: In the eyes of God,

All: we are endlessly enough! Let us worship God, Amen!

***Hymn 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON**

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Elizabeth Glover

God of love, you call us your children and name us beloved. Yet we confess that we do not always live like people who belong to you. We forget who we are, measuring our worth against others and giving in to pressure, fear, and insecurity instead of trusting your grace. As we step into new beginnings and new seasons, we rely on ourselves more than on you, resisting the transforming work of Christ within us. Forgive us, O God. Cleanse us and shape us by the hope and humility of Christ. Remind us that we go forward not alone, but as your beloved children.

We confess these things trusting not in ourselves, but in your abundant love. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Judah Estes

One: The good news is that God has claimed us as beloved children and that does not change as we grow, or as we step into what is next. We are created with purpose and are endlessly enough in God's sight. God knows us fully, goes with us wherever we are called, and never gives up on us. When we confess our sin, our gracious and loving God forgives and sets us free. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***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

Haley Davis, Camdyn Sheeler

- 1. Celebrate:** Today we celebrate our high school and college graduates! In Psalm 34, we are invited to "taste and see that the Lord is good," and in 1 John 3, we are reminded that we are called children of God. As our graduates step into new seasons, we remember that God is good, God's love goes with them, and they never walk alone.
- 2. Story Connection:** Listen to a [readaloud](#) of *When God Made You* by Matthew Paul Turner. This beautiful story reminds us that every person is uniquely created and deeply loved by God. As you listen, think about the ways God has made you special and the people who remind you that you belong.
- 3. Activity:** If you are attending children's worship this morning, you will receive a paper picture frame. Inside the frame is a space that represents you. You can draw yourself, write your name, or leave it blank. Around the border of the frame, use words, pictures, colors, or patterns to show what comes to mind when you think about God's love. You might draw hearts, light, family, church, nature, or anything else that reminds you that you are loved by God. At home, you can recreate the activity by drawing a picture frame on a piece of paper and following the same instructions.
- 4. Journal, considering the following:**
 - a) Where have you "tasted and seen" that God is good?
 - b) What does it mean to you to be a beloved child of God?



- c) Where have you experienced God's love through another person?

Anthem *A Jubilant Song* Victor Johnson
Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Children's Liturgy Rev. Odom

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 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 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. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3 Rev. White

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

Reflections Lacey Cook
Addison Fraser
Katie Gravender
Lily Claire Jacobus

***The Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) Nicene Creed
Dr. Sandy Hull

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering Invitation

Dr. Hull

Offertory

Find Your Wings

Mark Harris

Mark Janney, tenor; Blythe Kinsey, piano

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.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Odom

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Odom

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise. (Pastor's prayer)

. . . (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.

The Words of Institution

Rev. White, Rev. Odom

The Bread and the Cup

You are invited to come forward (see diagram) to receive the elements of communion by intinction. When receiving the elements by intinction, you are invited to take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and return to your seat. If you are not able to come forward, you will be served at your seat. Servers with gluten-free elements are located at the back of the sanctuary.

Communion of the People

Clair de lune

Claude Debussy

Kendal Colson, piano

The Prayer after Communion

Rev. White

We Go Out to Serve

Recognition of the Graduating Seniors

One: Families of these graduates, at baptism, the Church promised to help you guide and nurture your children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful disciples as they grow in ministry. We upheld that promise when, at Confirmation, we watched your sons and daughters move beyond the faith you gave them to claim their own faith journey.

One: Graduates, you have grown up here on the stories of God. We have told them to you, sung them to you, acted them out—hoping to teach them to you. With gratitude, we have listened to you tell them to us, sing them, act them out — teaching us in return.

All: We have prayed for you more than you know, both in frequency and in urgency. Amidst our prayers, we give thanks for you. And today we celebrate your achievement, with pride in what you've done, and in what we see you becoming.

One: We pray that the stories of God's truth and grace, of God's love, and of the redeeming of all creation will continue to sustain you, encourage you, challenge you, and transform you, wherever you go, whatever you do. These are the stories we pray you will continue to hear, continue to live toward, continue to live into.

All: Each one of you is a special part of this congregation. We are proud of you, and we promise to support you with our love, our counsel and prayers, and to continue to walk with you on your journey of faith.

Blessing of the Graduates *(unison)*

May God's blessing rest on each one of you. May God's light shine on you and make your path clear. May you ever grow more fully into the person God wants you to be, and may you discover the incomparable joy of living lives that bring honor and glory to God. Carry this blessing with you, as a sign of the unwavering care and support of this congregation and the steadfast love of Christ. Amen.

***Hymn 543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* GREEN TYLER**



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

***Charge and Benediction Rev. Odom**

Benediction Response

May the Road Rise to Meet You

Lori True

Jubilate Choir; Judah Estes, baritone; Blythe Kinsey, piano

Postlude *Toccata on Grosser Gott* Matthew H. Corl

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

Ann Carney, organ

Jubilate Choir; Blythe Kinsey, piano; Mark Janney, tenor; Judah Estes, baritone, trombone; Kevin Estes, piano; Kendal Colson piano

Senior Speakers: Lacey Cook, Addison Fraser, Katie Gravender, Lily Claire Jacobus

Liturgists: Haley Davis, Judah Estes, Elizabeth Glover, Caroline Guy, Camdyn Sheeler

Acolyte: Blair Choren

A/V Team: Kari Case

Ushers: Mitchell Davis, Frank Graham, Curtis Guy, Judy Jones, Donna Podgorny, Bob Williamson

Welcome Team: Lorri Hattenhauer, Katherine Kuszmar, Lisa Kuszmar

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.

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 or 704-887-7488.

Congregational Notes (as of June 3, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- The family and friends of Marlene Parmele, as she entered the Church triumphant on Saturday, May 30.
- Our mission partners in Bayonnais, 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.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org

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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

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

GRADUATE SUNDAY

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Recognition of the Graduating Seniors

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*Blessing of the Graduates (unison)

May God's blessing rest on each one of you. May God's light shine on you and make your path clear. May you ever grow more fully into the person God wants you to be, and may you discover the incomparable joy of living lives that bring honor and glory to God. Carry this blessing with you, as a sign of the unwavering care and support of this congregation and the steadfast love of Christ. Amen.



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!

YOU'RE THE CAT'S MEOW!

Thank you to everyone who completed the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey! Your participation and input are helping us discern where God is calling us and what qualities we seek in our next senior pastor. To celebrate reaching our goal of over 400 surveys completed and to thank you for your support, we invite everyone to join us outside after worship to enjoy ice cream compliments of the Mission Study Task Force.

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today
JUNE 7
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Third Thirty - BONUS!
The Commons, 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.

tuesday
JUNE 9
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.

tuesday
JUNE 9
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
A Caregiver's Journey
McQueen Room
A support group focused on finding meaning and purpose while caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Kathy Garner, kathygarner15@gmail.com.

wednesday
JUNE 10
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
SMPC Youth School's Out Scoops
Cold Stone Creamery, Blakeney, Rising 6th Graders through Graduated 12th Graders
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.

thursday
JUNE 11
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
SMPC Youth River Tubing
Catawba River Outdoors, Rising 6th Graders through Graduated 12th Graders
Come rock the river with us through some river tubing! We'll meet at the church and drive together. Transportation, snacks, and ice cream are provided. Cost is \$20. Register on Realm or on smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

thursday
JUNE 11
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.



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sunday
JUNE 14
9:00 a.m. -
10:00 a.m.

New! Adult Study: 'Songs of Summer'
McQueen Room or Zoom

Join us for an eight-week series exploring familiar Presbyterian hymns and the fascinating stories behind them. Each week, we will look at the history and meaning of a beloved hymn, connect it to Scripture, and share in thoughtful discussion about what these songs mean to us personally and spiritually. Led by SMPC members Gayle and Curt Ireland. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
JUNE 14
10:10 a.m.

Center of Hope Desserts
Drop off before worship in the narthex

On the second Sunday of every month, we provide sweet treats for the women and children who temporarily call the Center of Hope home. Sign up via QR code. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryg@carolina.rr.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Message and Macarons, Monday, June 15, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Amelie's at Carmel Commons, Rising 6th-Graduate 12th Graders - Join us for a short devotional and sweet treat! Register on Realm or at smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

Friday Morning Men's Group, Friday, June 19, 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.



Center of Hope Breakfast, Saturday, June 20, Meet at SMPC at 5:15 a.m. - On the third Saturday of every month, SMPC prepares and serves breakfast for Center of Hope guests. To donate or sign up to service, scan QR code or go to smpchome.org/events. 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & MISSION POSSIBLE

Monday, July 20-Thursdays, 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.