



**South
Mecklenburg**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**A Service of Worship
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream**

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

- Prelude** *Fanfare on "Antioch"* Paul Fey
- Welcome and Concerns of the Church** Dr. Sandy Hull
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**
- Moment for Mission** Melissa Hoffmann
- Introit** *He Came Down* Traditional Cameroon
- *Call to Worship** (Isaiah 9:6) Camdyn Sheeler
- One: A child has been born for us;
a son has been given to us!
- All: Authority rests on his shoulders.**
- One: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
- All: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- One: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- *Hymn 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,



born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!



(Stanzas 1-3)

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Rev. Melissa White

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.

Assurance of God's Grace (1 Timothy 1:15)

Rev. White

One: "This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Friends, hear and believe God's good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Response of Praise**

Hymn 582, stanza 1

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. **Story Connection:** Listen to a readaloud of [Song of the Stars](#) by Sally Lloyd-Jones. This story reminds us that all creation celebrates the coming of Jesus. In John, we hear that Jesus, the Word and Light of the world, was with God from the beginning. In 2 Corinthians, we hear a blessing of the Trinity: the grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Coming Home:** Fold your house according to the instructions. Look over the instructions and think about your house, but don't start building it yet. Make the people for your house using the template, but don't place them yet. People make a house a home. There are templates for people in your kit. As you add people to your house, remember that God is building us into a people of welcome, grace, and love.
3. **Game:** Turn off the lights or dim the room and use a flashlight to play "Follow the Light". One person shines the light on a safe spot, and everyone moves toward it. Take turns leading. Afterward, wonder: "How does Jesus' light help us know where to go?" and "How can we shine God's love for others?"
4. **Wonder together:**
 - a. What do you think it means for Jesus to be the light of the world?
 - b. Where do you see God's love, Jesus' grace, or the Holy Spirit's presence?
 - c. What's one of your favorite memories from Christmas this year?



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

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Rev. White

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Second Reading

John 1:1-5

Dr. Hull

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

Sermon

"The Dancing God"

Dr. Hull

***Hymn 300**

We Are One in the Spirit

ST. BRENDAN'S



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

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

The Apostles' Creed
 Rev. Lindsey Odom

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. 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

Welcome to Our World

Chris Rice

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**

Hymn 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**

Caroline Guy

Triune God, you draw us into the dance of your love and send us into the world with your grace. From your abundance, you have given us every good gift. Bless these offerings and allow them to share your love with our neighbors near and far, especially through our Christmas in July partnership with Haiti. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Commissioning of Montreat Youth and Adults

One: Will you pray for these youth and adult chaperone leaders, supporting them throughout this journey, praying for safe travels, and encouraging them as they continue discovering God's call in their lives, trusting that wherever they wander, God walks beside them?

All: **We will. Go in faith, wonder boldly, and trust God in every step of the journey.**

***Hymn 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Stanzas 1-2)

MENDELSSOHN



1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



***Charge and Benediction**

Dr. Hull

***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

Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Adam Heron

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor
Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth & Missions/Outreach
Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate for Congregational Care &
Connection
Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist
Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation
Caroline Guy, Camdyn Sheeler, liturgists

A/V Team: Brad Alford, Luke Estes

Ushers: Mitchell Davis, Richard Franseen, Curtis Guy, Curt Ireland, Tom Klecker, Jon Myers

Welcome Team: Jane Klecker, Leanne Royster, Amy Zagora

Today we commission 22 high school youth and 10 adult leaders as they prepare to attend the Montreat Youth Conference 2026 at Montreat Conference Center. Throughout this retreat, they will worship, learn, build friendships, and explore this year's theme: "Wonder & Wander." Together they will reflect on how God calls us to live with curiosity, trust God's presence wherever life leads, and remember that we can never wander beyond God's grace.

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. 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 or 704-887-7488.

Congregational Notes (as of July 8, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- 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.
- 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

SMPC STAFF

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

sandy@smpchome.org

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

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Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate

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Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

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Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

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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

Facebook: @southmecklenburgpresbyterian; Instagram: @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!

THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & EVENTS

today

JULY 12

Christmas in July - Student Sponsorship Event for Haiti Narthex

A special one-day student sponsorship event to support two 13th-grade students at the ICB School in Bayonnais, Haiti. Look for the Angel Tree featuring \$20 angels that will help provide the students with essential school supplies, a hot meal every day, access to medical care, and the educational support needed to learn, grow, and thrive. You can also donate online via the QR code. Contact: Judy Jones, judy21jones@gmail.com.



today

JULY 12

10:10 a.m.

Coming Home: The Basics of Christianity Narthex

Our series exploring the basics of Christianity through weekly sermons, short devotionals, simple challenges, and a paper house project begins today! Each week, households will add something new to their house as we wonder together about faith, grace, welcome, and new life in Christ. Kits are available in the narthex. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org, or Rev. Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org.

tuesday

JULY 14

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

JULY 14

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.

thursday

JULY 16

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.

friday

JULY 17

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

JULY 18

5:15 a.m.

Center of Hope Breakfast 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 serve, scan QR code or go to smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lee Martin, leewilsonmartin@gmail.com.



PLEASE NOTE: The Adult Study: "Songs of Summer" will NOT meet on Sunday, July 19 or July 26. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org.

sunday
JULY 19
9:00 a.m.

SMPC Summer Pick-Up Choir
Meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. to sing in 10:10 a.m. worship, Ages 6th Grade through Adult

Ever wanted to sing in a choir? Be a part of our special SMPC "Summer Pick-Up Choir" during 10:10 a.m. worship. No prior experience necessary. Just show up, get your music, and sing in worship with us. An RSVP is appreciated but not required. Don't miss this joyful opportunity to lift your voice in praise! Contact: Zach Bowyer, zach@smpchome.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vacation Bible School and Mission Possible, Monday, July 20-Thursday, July 23, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Only a few spots remain. 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

CREATED FOR COMMUNITY



SMPC MEN'S SOFTBALL

'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 twice a month this summer.

For more than 20 years, the SMPC Men's Softball Team has been about more than just the game. It's a place where friendships are formed, community is strengthened and teammates become family. Softball leaders Michael Choren and Jimmy Galati, along with the SMPC Softball team, were gracious enough to allow us to film a quick video, so we could share how this fun-first softball team fosters community.. Scan the QR code to watch the 2-minute video.

Games are played Mondays, 6:15 p.m., and Fridays, 7:15 p.m., at the SMPC ball field (Lowe Ball Field). Even if you're not ready to join the team, spectators and cheerleaders are encouraged to attend! It's a great way to spend a summer evening with friends who feel like family. Contact: Michael Choren, michaelchoren@yahoo.com, or Jimmy Galati, jamesgalati63@yahoo.com.



FROM MISSIONS & OUTREACH: SUPPORT ROOF ABOVE

Our hearts are with our longtime mission partner, Roof Above, after its Day Services Center, known as "The Hub," sustained significant storm damage on Tuesday night. Although staff and volunteers quickly relocated some services to an adjacent building, showers and laundry services have been temporarily suspended while they determine the safest path forward.

In response, our Shelter Ministry is pausing the collection of prescription vials, body wash and boxes until further notice, as these items cannot be used while shower services are unavailable. The Shelter Ministry will also not meet in August or September. We will let you know when collections resume.

As Roof Above continues to care for our neighbors experiencing homelessness during this difficult time, the most meaningful way to help is through financial support. Monetary gifts will allow Roof Above to respond to the most urgent needs as they recover and continue serving the community. If you are able, we encourage you to make a gift to their Storm Damage Response Fund via the QR code.

Additionally, the Missions and Outreach Committee will be meeting tomorrow, July 13, to prayerfully discern how SMPC might best respond to this need, including a monetary gift and possible ways our church can offer support and opportunities through hands-on service. We encourage you to be on the lookout over the coming weeks for updates about how our congregation can join in caring for our neighbors through both monetary gifts and meaningful volunteer opportunities.

